British Parachute Association skydivethemag.com April 2014

skyDIVE

the mag

1964-2014



INSIDE: MEET THE NEW BPA COUNCIL MEMBERS **IS BASE JUMPING A SEPARATE SPORT?** FIRST AID FOR SKYDIVERS **BECOMING A JUDGE** SAFETY ZONE BUMPER SPECIAL **DZ FOCUS RETURNS** NEW DZ AT SKYDIVE ST GEORGE **PLUS ALL THE LATEST NEWS, IDEAS AND EVENTS**

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It may be the start of the season, but there's plenty going on! The UK has just hosted one of the biggest events on the international calendar, with more than 100 teams converging on Bedford for the World Challenge (full report next issue). The sequential FS world record almost fell in Eloy with an unofficial 2-point 119-way, and February cover star Ernesto Gainza has just landed what is effectively a single bedsheet! Whatever your jumping plans are, big or small, I'd like to borrow a favourite phrase from the late great Martin Williams: "Stay safe, have fun, learn something – in that order!"



Liz Ashley



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Cover: BPA Freefly coach Dan Guest flies a tube over Dunkeswell, by Richie Taylor

Welcome and Contents: 4-way team Lowabusa *over Langar, by Gary Wainwright*



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SOME OF THE PHOTOS IN THIS MAGAZINE MAY SHOW SKYDIVERS WITHOUT HELMETS OR ALTIMETERS, OR OTHERWISE NOT OBEYING THE BPA OPERATIONS MANUAL, IN WHICH CASE THEY WERE TAKEN ABROAD. IN THE UK IT IS MANDATORY TO WEAR A HELMET AND ALTI FOR OBVIOUS SAFETY REASONS. STUDENTS WITHIN THE MAG ARE COMPLYING WITH BPA REGULATIONS.

SKYDIVING TRAINING AND SYSTEMS VARY IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES. IF YOU ARE CONSIDERING TAKING A SKYDIVING COURSE OR QUALIFICATION ABROAD, WE RECOMMEND YOU FIRST ESTABLISH ITS RELEVANCE IN THE UK, THROUGH YOUR CCI.

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

Deadlines you need to know:

Issue	Copy deadline	To reader
June 2014	April 22	June 04
August 2014	June 17	July 29
October 2014	August 26	October 07
December 2014	October 21	December 02


Skydive St George from the air

New BPA DZ

Check out Club Zone on page 52 for the first Club News from the new kids on the block, Skydive St George! Based at Durham Tees Valley Airport in the north east of England, they open their doors to fun jumpers at the beginning of April. They have already been testing the waters with some staff jumping and, fingers crossed, it should be all systems go by the time you read this!

This is exciting news for the UK, as new DZs don't come along every day. In fact, the last totally new BPA DZ was Skydive South Coast in Salisbury, which opened in 2008. Skydive St George will be operating using an Airvan and the CCI is George McGuinness.

skydivestgeorge.co.uk

New CP Distance Record

NZ Aerosports athlete Nick Batsch has done it again. The long-time holder of the World Distance Record in Canopy Piloting has broken his own record yet again and the world record now stands at 166.69 metres. This is Nick's eighth consecutive World Record in this event – does anyone else stand a chance? This latest world-beating swoop happened downwind at the fourth Dubai International Swoop League competition on March 30.


World Record holder Nick Batsch, by NZ Aerosports

World's smallest canopy

Skydive the Mag February cover star Ernesto Gainza made history on April 5 when he landed the smallest canopy ever – a 35 square foot JVX prototype made by NZ Aerosports. This breaks the previous World Record that had been held since 2008 by Luigi Cani when he landed a 37.5 square foot canopy.

Ernesto had downsized progressively through sizes 46, 39, 37 and finally 35, flying each canopy at least 20 times and landing each one at least five times. The project was launched at the Dubai International Parachuting Competition in December 2013 when he landed the VX 46 twice in front of more than 1,000 spectators.

A 45-minute feature film is in production, following Project XCF from start to finish. It will be a movie about skydiving rather than a skydiving movie, aimed at bringing understanding to the general public and creating publicity for the sport.


JFTC 2009, by Willy Boeykens

Women's World Record

The current female FS World Record is a 181-way set in 2009, which also raised more than $900,000 for breast cancer charities. A 200-way (or perhaps 201?) is planned for October 12-18 at Skydive Perris, California. There will also be an unofficial men's world record running alongside the main event.

p3skydiving.com

Radio Skydive UK

Everyone loves a top notch podcast and this isn't – yet. The first 20 seconds cracks everyone up, but this new skydiving podcast for the UK and European scene has got bags of potential and presenters Craig Poxon and Brian Cumming are working on it.

You can find it on online or on iTunes. Note the unexpected stereo 'feature' on Episode One means you'll need both earplugs in to hear both of them. Episode Two is now also out and features an interview with Paul Mayer, the owner of Bodyflight Bedford, about the World Challenge in early April.

The plan is to release a new episode every fortnight, but that schedule will be stretched if it's sunny and they're jumping.

radioskydive.co.uk

2016 Mondial

It has been announced that the next Mondial will be held at Skydive Chicago on September 9-23 2016. A Mondial is the closest we get to a Skydiving Olympics. It includes our usual World Championships, which are held every two years, but features all disciplines at one monster event instead of separate World Championships at different times around the world. The first Mondial was in Gap, France in 2003 and the second was Dubai 2012. Skydive Chicago will be the third.

Get Busy Living

You can now watch the trailer for the forthcoming *Get Busy Living* movie, featuring the story of Nick Fener. Perris instructor Nick broke his back and suffered catastrophic lower leg injuries when his canopy collapsed at low altitude in May 2011. He spent eight days in a coma before waking up and deciding to amputate both lower limbs, then had many months in hospital before moving to a rehab facility. He not only defied doctors by learning to walk again on prosthetics, but he has also jumped solo again since.

Throughout his ongoing recovery, his constant drive to make the most of life can be summed up by his motto: 'Get Busy Living'. Nick and girlfriend Lindsay's story has inspired many people and now it has inspired a feature film. Check out the trailer at **getbusylivingmovie.com/trailer.html**



Mini Maktoum, by Vania Da Rui

World Challenge Winners

The Bodyflight World Challenge tunnel competition took place as this Mag went to press and was the biggest and best yet. More than 100 teams entered from more than 25 different countries for a total prize pot of more than £20,000. As usual, the most popular discipline was 4-way, now with all four categories from Rookie to AAA. Winners were *Hayabusa* (Belgium) in AAA, *French Girls* in AAA Female, *Equal Pay 4 Women* (UK) in AA, *Bahrain* in A and *HF Chicks* (Czech) in Rookie – well done to all teams.

Artistics saw competitors able to make a choice between competing in either traditional Freefly or Dynamic. This year saw the introduction of a new entry-level Dynamic 2-way event, which was won by *VossVind Berserk* (Norway). The Freefly 2-way was won by *Hurricane Factory 1* (Czech).

AAA was made particularly exciting by the reunion of Brit team *XL*. They switched between third and fourth place for much of the competition before finishing in a jump-off for silver. The dive was a random burner (A-B-E-O-9) and they finished a point ahead on 46, the highest score of the competition. They've still got it!

WELL DONE KATIE!

Langar-born skydiver Katie Woods continues to enjoy a meteoric rise to 4-way success and she's not finished yet! After winning the British Nationals with *Satori* in 2009 and 2010, she moved to America and then Canada to pursue her dream of skydiving excellence. Now competing for Canadian National team *Evolution*, she has been coming up with some impressive results.

Her team took bronze at the Paraclete XP indoor meet, an international event with all of the world's very best teams. They scored an incredible 28.2 average, just half a point behind silver medallists *Arizona Airspeed*. Belgians *Hayabusa* were the overall winners, but *Evolution* matched them on round six (A-21-1 with a score of 28) and beat them on round nine (P-17-M-14, *Evolution* scored 31)

Proving that they can skydive as well as tunnel fly, all three teams were present at the annual Shamrock Showdown in Deland, Florida, the next big event on the international 4-way calendar. *Hayabusa* were unfortunately unable to compete due to illness, leaving *Evolution* and *Airspeed* to battle it out. *Airspeed* took gold with a 25.4 average and *Evolution* were impressively close behind with 24.4, putting Katie among the best 4-way competitors ever to come out of the UK. Congratulations Katie, we're all cheering you on!


Katie Woods and Evolution about to launch into the tunnel. By Vania Da Rui

New Flight-1 courses

Canopy control market leaders Flight-1 are pleased to announce a number of additional courses to their product line for 2014.

In light of the increased canopy dangers at our increasingly busy dropzones, Flight-1 is launching the Flight-1 103 Airmanship Course. Flight-1 recognises that canopy training traditionally focuses on flying alone in a controlled environment. Afterwards, the skydiver goes back to normal jumping. The 103 course applies the skills learned in previous courses to the busy skydiving environment and develops personal skills in areas of equipment and successfully dealing with canopy collisions. Flight-1 will also be adding the 300 series to the sports portfolio.

The Flight-1 301 Precision Performance Course is the course for experienced pilots who want to develop their turns and high performance landings. It introduces a logical progression to increasing power and bringing accuracy into landing, ready for courses and gates.

The Flight-1 302 Competition Canopy Piloting Course covers the fundamentals of competing we all need when new to the competition environment. It helps the pilot focus on what is important and how to manage personal skills and tactics to ensure best performance.

Finally, Flight-1 is also launching its exciting flagship Sport Air to Air Program in 2014.

The Flight-1 201A Flying Relative Course teaches essential control when flying relative with each other. The student must pass each level in order to progress to the next set of more complex manoeuvres.

The Flight-1 202A Team Flying Course takes the student into dynamic team flying and landings. Again on successful demonstration of team skills, the pilot is taken into advanced team formations and turns. This is the ultimate wind tunnel for canopy pilots.

As with the previous courses offered by Flight-1, these new products have been developed from the vast experience of the *PD Factory Team*.

flight-1.com/sport


Flight-1 coach Brian Vacher, by JC Colclasure

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WIN A SOLO AUDIBLE ALTI!



By Paul Dewey

FEBRUARY'S WINNER



By Milko

Winner: "Anastasia caught a glimpse of the stealthily approaching assailant in the reflection of her alti and, with her well-trained reflexes, she aimed a deadly karate blow at his neck."

Dr Tom Dolphin

Runner-up: "Good position, except... damn, I can't remember the hand signal for 'Your tail is too far to the left'."

Gabe Thompson

CAPTION COMPETITION – WIN A SOLO AUDIBLE ALTI!

THE JUMPSHOP

Win a Larsen & Brusgaard SOLO audible alti, courtesy of The Jump Shop! To enter the competition, just send your caption to compzone@skydivethemag.com and include your name so we can let you know if you've won! The closing date for entries will be **May 15 2014**



Read *Skydive* your way

APP

The *Skydive the Mag* App is compatible with iPhones, iPod touches and iPads and is optimised for the iPhone 5 (through Apple Newsstand) or for all Android devices (through Google Play). All you need to do is search for 'Skydive the Mag' in Newsstand in the App Store or in Android Apps, find the *Skydive the Mag* App version you want and download. For non-members, the App is just £2.99 for one month or £14.99 for a whole year's subscription.

BPA MEMBERS' FREE APP ACCESS

To access either version of the App free of charge, simply give the BPA members-only login details when prompted. The updated details can be found in the BPA e-Newsletter or on the address label that came in the post with this mag!

ARCHIVE

BPA members can also access the Archive of *Skydive The Mag* back issues via the *Skydive The Mag* website at skydivethemag.com. The *Starter* Mag is absolutely free to access in the dedicated *Starter* section, and regular issues can be accessed free of charge using the same BPA members' login details as the App.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

BPA members get *Skydive The Mag* free as part of their membership. Also, if you take out a magazine subscription and subsequently join the BPA as a full member, your magazine cost is deducted from your BPA membership fee so you don't pay any extra.

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Martin Shuttleworth

Renewal reminder

To those members who have renewed, thank you! To those who haven't, last year's subscriptions expired on 31 March and must have renewed to jump on or after 1 April.

A renewal form (BPA Form 101) was in the February issue of the Mag. You can download the form from the BPA website – enter '101' in the forms search box or telephone the BPA Office to ask for a form by post. Members aged over 18 without ratings and with UK or BFPO addresses may renew online and you can also update contact details (even if you have ratings). If you haven't yet activated your online BPA membership account, click on the login tab on the menu bar on the BPA website and follow the instructions.

Early indications are that online renewals are a massive success already, with more than 500 renewals being made online in the first four weeks alone before the 1 April rush!

The June Mag will be sent only to those current on the membership database when we print the labels in mid-May.

bpa.org.uk – 0116 278 5271

Most jumps ever

2013 was the BPA's biggest year yet, with a record total of 261,951 jumps made across all BPA DZs. This smashes the 2012 record of 250,620, which in turn was the first time we reached more than a quarter of a million.

1,000 new A licences

2013-14 was a record year for new skydivers, with the thousandth A licence of the BPA year being issued in early March. This is the first time the office has issued more than 1,000 new licences within 12 months – do they owe beer for that?

Read all about it

There's lots going on at Council and its Committees. You can keep up at bpa.org.uk/minutes

Camera Coaching Roadshow

There will be a dedicated weekend of camera coaching by multiple National Champion cameramen Dave Head (*Satori*) and David Butterell (*MicroClim8*) on 5-6 July at Hibaldstow.



Sam Bemment filming Hyrrokkin, *by Chris Cook*

This event is primarily aimed at cameraflyers filming FS teams or interested in doing so. You do not have to have a team to benefit. All experience levels can be catered for, from those just thinking of trying cameraflying through to experienced cameraflyers.

There is a full wet-weather seminar plan which includes: Overview of cameraflying; Equipment, Safety and Requirements (good for anyone thinking of adding a camera to their skydiving in any discipline); FS Cameraflying Technique; Training to be a cameraflyer; Cameraflying in teams; Competitions; The Judges' Perspective (with BPA Judges' Coordinator Kate Charters); 'Dive Doctor' and an Open Forum.

The two Daves can coach team cameraflyers and fun jumpers as they video jumps over the weekend. They can also follow out cameraflyers filming teams or groups and offer one-on-one for people new to jumping a camerasuit.

Some of the seminars would also be of interest to other team members looking to work with their cameraflyer better and keep their score-cards clean, or to understand 'how competitions work' better.

For the Dive Doctor element, cameraflyers are welcome to bring their own footage for feedback and coaching.

Camera coaching will also be available at both the Sibson (May 17-18) and Langar (July 12-13) UKSLs, courtesy of Dave Curtin from *Kaizen*.

BPA Stars

It's time to start BPA Star-spotting again! Nominations are now open for BPA Stars 2014, the BPA's award for excellence in customer service to A licence holders and above.

Nomination texts for 2013 Stars are now up on the BPA website, so check out the reasons why people thought last year's Stars shone so brightly: Ally Milne, Pete Stone, Stu Ferguson and Stacey Canning.

You can find out how to make a new BPA Star shine at **bpa.org.uk/star**



2013 Stars Ally Milne and Peter Stone

VFS 2-way trial event

The BPA 4-way Nationals 2009 introduced VFS as a test event and it has proved to be a huge success, with team averages rocketing in the five years since. However, the skill level to get involved is particularly high as head down is an advanced body position and doing it around three other people is more advanced still! There will be a 2-way competition trial event at Hibaldstow on 12-13 July which hopes to encourage FF2 flyers into VFS competition. It will be supported by Brit team *QFX*, so come along and get involved!



QFX, by Ewan Cowie

Opening heights

There are changes afoot which affect all jumpers. Tony Butler, BPA Chief Operating Officer, explains: "At the STC meeting of 6 February 2014, it was agreed that the height at which main canopies should [be] fully deployed by has gone up from 2,000ft AGL to 2,500ft AGL." See this issue's Safety Zone on page 42 for further details.

FS COACHING ROADSHOWS

Three BPA FS coaching roadshows have now been confirmed, with fingers crossed for a fourth at Peterlee on top.

· 3-4 May at Sibson with *Isis* (World Cup bronze and European silver 2013)

· 7-8 June at Beccles with 8-way National Champions Martin Soulsby and Phil Hartree of *MicroClim8*

· *NEW* 21-22 June at Chatteris with 2014 British female team *Kaizen*

There will also be free coaching available at all three UKSL meets, from *Kaizen* at Sibson on 17-18 May, *Isis* at Netheravon on 14-15 June and *Kaizen* at Langar on 12-13 July.

Speed World Cup

Speed Skydiving just had a turbo fitted. The IPC have recognised it as an official discipline and the first Speed Skydiving World Cup will take place in the Czech Republic from 24-31 August.

There will be six places up for grabs to represent the UK. Anyone interested in competing should contact BPA Speed Rep Mikey Lovemore (speedskydiving@hotmail.co.uk) or Helen Lucas at the BPA Office. The places will be awarded on merit so, depending on who's interested, it could be you going!

You don't need to have competed previously in Speed. Come to a Speed Skydiving roadshow this year and then get yourself to the first ever FAI Speed Skydiving World Cup.

BPA Speed Skydiving Roadshows with Mikey Lovemore
24-25 May at Sibson
26-27 July at Hibaldstow



Speedy Mikey, by Claudio Troncoso

WINGSUIT NATIONALS DEMO EVENT

After two successful years of holding a national wingsuit comp, Netheravon is proud to invite all wingsuiters and trackers to the BPA's Wingsuit Nationals Demonstration Event 2014 on 23-26 May 2014.

Events will be held in Performance (intermediate and senior, dependent on suit size), Artistics (two flyers plus camera) and Tracking. Artistic rules can be found at wingsuitcompetition.com/rules.php with huge amounts of training information and tips on flylikebrick.com.

Get training NOW! You can view statistics from wingsuiters around the globe participating in the Paralog challenge at paralog.net/ppc/showalltracks.php. The results are recorded with a GPS logger and are evaluated in a 3,300ft window between 9,850ft and 6,550ft AGL. The numbers are just amazing.

CURRENT RECORDS

Time: Helmut Tacke – 91.7 seconds
Distance: Scott Callentine – 4.007 km
Speed: Marc Hauser – 291.8 km/hr

The BPA have nominated this competition as a Nationals demonstration event ahead of the first World Meet planned for 2015. All competitors are welcome – National and International. This is a big step for the wingsuit community towards having the competitive side of our discipline acknowledged on the world stage.

Please pre-register via the Facebook event page or by contacting BPA Wingsuit Rep Jackie Harper.

jackie.harper1@gmail.com



Paul Cain and Freddy Heeden race their Jedei wingsuits



Martin Shuttleworth

ARTISTIC AND VFS COACHING ROADSHOWS

Roadshows have been confirmed for the following dates. Remember, coaching is free (you just pay your coach's slot).

- Langar, June 21-22: VFS coached by team *QFX*, Freefly coached by *Euphoria Freefly* and Freestyle coached by *Euphoria Freestyle*.
- Beccles, August 2-3: coaches Paul Cooper and Gary Crisp, world and Euro record holders and members of VFS team *QFX*.
- Chatteris, August 9-10: coaches Steve Howes and Joel Strickland of *Varial Freefly*.

All of the coaches above are world level competitors, so what are you waiting for?



Getting ready to start the 2014 BPA AGM

AGM to return to Nottingham

Your feedback from BPA AGM Day 2014 held at the East Midlands Conference Centre, Nottingham, was mostly very positive – except that you wanted more bar staff for faster service. The Nottingham location proved to be popular and there were suggestions we should return. Adrian Bond, BPA Communications Chair, is exploring a three-year deal with the venue, so we may indeed go back again (although don't expect a repeat of the 'typing error' special offer at the bar!). This was our first time at a purpose-built conference centre with a super new hotel next door and the outstanding facilities helped to take our event to the next level – especially with a theatre for the AGM.

BPA helps coaching in Canada

BPA has been pleased to agree to a request from our sister body in Canada, the Canadian Sport Parachuting Association (CSPA), for them to reproduce, with due acknowledgement, the BPA Canopy Piloting Training Manual and BPA Wingsuit Training Manual for use in the not-for-profit training and education of their new coaches. Burk Reiman of the Coaching Working Committee of CSPA says, "We have found that your BPA manuals keep coming up as a references all the time. They are very well put together... why reinvent the wheel?"

CF coaching roadshows

Get these dates in your diary while they're hot!

- April 12-13: Sibson
- May 3-4: Hibaldstow
- June 14-15: Langar
- July 19-20: Chatteris

For more, please see skydivethemag.com/events-calendar/

NEW RATINGS

CSBI
Richard Hughes
Jon Bradley
Andy Tyrrell
Charlie Lambert
Andrew Reid
Lawrence Prior
Christopher Williams
Nicholas Ellis
Phillip Kimpton

AFFBI
Shell Meakins

TBI
Lee Crudgington
Trevor Davies
Tony Timlett
Chris Griffin

CSI
Ed Petrie
George Kakkis

Advanced Instructor
Nick Brownhill

Advanced Packer (T)
Andy Hughes



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New FACES

THE BPA COUNCIL IS MADE UP OF 15 ELECTED MEMBERS, AS VOTED FOR BY YOU. WITH FOUR NEW FACES FOR 2014, WE MEET THEM AND ASK WHO THEY ARE, WHY THEY STOOD FOR COUNCIL AND WHAT THEY WANT TO ACHIEVE

Alex BUSBY-HICKS (Buzz)



PHILOSOPHY: It's nice to be important, but it's more important to be nice.

JUMP NUMBERS: 3,800

CLUB: Tilstock

DESCRIBE YOURSELF IN THREE WORDS: The Fun Police

JOB: CCI at The Parachute Centre, Tilstock, hence the previous answer.

FIRST JUMP: Netheravon in 1989, did 20 jumps before work got in the way, then started again in 1996 at Nethers.

JUMPING INTERESTS: CP, WS, FF and camera.

OTHER INTERESTS: Cycling on- and off-road, and I have just started on the path to becoming a Rigger.

WHY DID YOU STAND FOR COUNCIL?
I want to help move the sport into the 21st century – I sometimes feel that we are a 1960s organisation trying to manage a 2014 sport. We need to update our policies and performance and bring our sport up to date.

WHICH COMMITTEES HAVE YOU JOINED?
Communications – because I want to see the Association embrace new methods of communicating with the membership. Development – to see if we can find new ways to promote the sport and retain our new jumpers.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO ACHIEVE THIS YEAR ON COUNCIL?
There are a few things I'd like to achieve. Broadcasting of meetings/video conferencing for Council members, greater attendance of the AGM by new members by means of a BPA Safety Day and assistance for newer members to progress more easily in the sport are among them.

WHAT CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE?
I hope that I can offer an unbiased view on issues around the table and be able to see issues from both sides – something that can be very difficult with emotive issues.

WHO DO YOU ADMIRE?
I admire many people for different reasons.

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THE BPA DEVELOPING OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS?
I would like to see an end to the perception of Council being an old boys' club, with greater transparency and scrutiny of our processes and performance.
I would also like to have five-, 10- and 15-year plans in place to set targets for the future.

EMAIL: alex@bpa.org.uk

Meet the BPA Council

Brian CUMMING



PHILOSOPHY: Excellence is not a skill, it is an attitude.

JUMP NUMBERS: 1,500

CLUB: Bit of a nomad, but I did most of my jumps at Hib and Langar last year.

DESCRIBE YOURSELF IN THREE WORDS: I'm the Messiah.

JOB: Financial Analyst (Insolvency and Administration)

FIRST JUMP: Chatteris on a round in 1997. First freefall: AFF with the BCPA in Elsinore, 2003.

JUMPING INTERESTS: After nine years of 4-way FS with *Escondido* and big-way FS as a load organiser with *Skydive Choreography*, I can no longer hold back my belief that the sky is really, really big and that the ultimate goal of FS is to be as efficient as possible and, therefore, use as little sky as possible. I want to use ALL of the sky. In 2014, I'm looking forward to more wingsuiting, more CF, more CP and more freeflying.

OTHER INTERESTS: Sports, nearly all of them – even curling. But not badminton. I really don't get badminton...

WHY DID YOU STAND FOR COUNCIL?
I was on very strong drugs at the time. Now I'm off them, I want to represent the 90 per cent of skydivers who aren't Instructors, CCIs or DZOs. I sometimes wonder if they get forgotten.

WHICH COMMITTEES HAVE YOU JOINED?
Communications, because most of the things I've complained about in the past may have been prevented by improved communication.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO ACHIEVE THIS YEAR ON COUNCIL?
To work towards everyone realising that, as a member, they are the BPA and can have a say in how the BPA is run. Greater communication, greater transparency, better decisions.

WHAT CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE?
Common sense and a challenge to what could be described as institutionalism on Council.

WHO DO YOU ADMIRE?
Clever people from all walks of life, people who can see the bigger picture and not get caught up in the minutiae.

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THE BPA DEVELOPING OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS?
More jumps with fewer incidents through greater education, not restriction of activities.

EMAIL: brianc@bpa.org.uk

Meet the BPA Council

Ian ROSENVINGE



PHILOSOPHY: Fairness and determination
JUMP NUMBERS: 3,600
CLUB: Peterlee
DESCRIBE YOURSELF IN THREE WORDS: Considerate, resourceful, determined
JOB: DZ Operator
FIRST JUMP: Netheravon, 1977
JUMPING INTERESTS: Running a DZ, coaching Students (AFF and CS) and aspiring Instructors when running DZ allows.
OTHER INTERESTS: Family, golf and football.

WHY DID YOU STAND FOR COUNCIL?
While content that much of what Council do is without doubt beneficial, I felt that fair practice was not being observed in some areas and that, without being in a position to reason why or to set in place fair procedures, there remained the potential for such to happen again; be it in the same (or, indeed, other) areas. I was not in agreement with how we as an Association were dealing with the transition to operate under EASA Regulations and I wished/continue to wish to have more input into that.

WHICH COMMITTEES HAVE YOU JOINED?
Communications – because I was asked to. Development – while a logical decision, given that I had also agreed to join Communications, I am genuinely interested in Development and wish to be able to make a fundamental contribution.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO ACHIEVE THIS YEAR ON COUNCIL?
- To be able to consider and, where appropriate, to question BPA policy.
- Where there appears to be a need to seek to introduce, or further amend, our procedures and processes.
- DZs to be able to affiliate under a single Category operating to a single set of EASA Regulations.

WHAT CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE?
A fair assessment, and an initiative and determination to strive for better.

WHO DO YOU ADMIRE?
Within the sport – Geordie Laing, *Symbiosis*, *Mounting Men*, Helmut Cloth.

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THE BPA DEVELOPING OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS?
I would like to see a more inclusive organisation, with more member consultation on key issues that may directly affect their participation in the sport.

EMAIL: ianr@bpa.org.uk

Meet the BPA Council



Brian VACHER



PHILOSOPHY: Never to be philosophical.
JUMP NUMBERS: 9,500
CLUB: No fixed abode
JOB: Professional skydiver
FIRST JUMP: Netheravon, 1993
JUMPING INTERESTS: CP, CReW, FF and FS.
OTHER INTERESTS: Enduro dirtbiking, golf.

WHY DID YOU STAND FOR COUNCIL?
I wanted to get involved and to see if I could help out.

WHICH COMMITTEES HAVE YOU JOINED?
Development Committee. I'm definitely a systems guy.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO ACHIEVE THIS YEAR ON COUNCIL?
Difficult to say, as I am new to the game, but definitely to have a look from the outside and try to help where I can.

WHAT CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE?
I travel a lot with my career, so I get to see how many different countries tackle the same problems we all face in the sport. I can bring ideas from other federations and people outside the BPA which could be useful to our members, especially in the area of canopy flight.

WHO DO YOU ADMIRE?
All my teammates on the *PD Factory Team*.

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THE BPA DEVELOPING OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS?
I would like the BPA to be recognised more for the foundation it gives to our sport in the UK. At the same time, I would like to see the BPA lead the world in embracing the constant changes in our sport and the technologies surrounding it.

EMAIL: brianv@bpa.org.uk

Meet the BPA Council



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WOULD YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO?



IF YOU BELIEVE THE TABLOIDS, SKYDIVING IS A DAREDEVIL SPORT WHOSE CRAZY PARTICIPANTS RISK LIFE AND LIMB ON EVERY JUMP. WE ALL KNOW THAT THIS IS A TWISTED VERSION OF THE TRUTH, BUT WE ALSO KNOW THAT WHEN THINGS GO WRONG, THEY CAN GO WRONG QUICKLY

The BPA Council is made up of three Committees – Development, Communications and Competitions – who, between them, drive the BPA forward by means of annual Action Plans. The Development Committee's Action Plan has recently included a target to roll out first aid courses to DZs in the hope of making our sport even safer. This is in addition to any courses that DZs are already organising independently.

Courses have already been held in 2013 at Netheravon, Chatteris, Langar and Hibaldstow DZs. 2014 will see further courses at Black Knights, Peterlee and Bridlington and, of course, many skydivers already hold first aid qualifications through work, other sports or their own self-development interests. The BPA course was designed with the help of Max Hurd, an experienced skydiver and paramedic with the London Ambulance Service, who researched our injury and fatality statistics and came up with the following scenarios. How would YOU respond?

***1** Bernard Devine, Clem Quinn and Del Hopkins receive their BPA Certificates of Merit from BPA Vice Chairman Craig Poxon and BPA Chairman Martin Soulsby for their actions in saving Dave Coveney's life*

SCENARIO ONE

A tandem pair landed heavily due to turbulence. The tandem instructor is unhurt but the tandem student, a 54-year-old female who is slightly overweight, is complaining of lower back pain and right leg/foot pain. She is conscious and talking to you without difficulty. On examination, her right ankle is swollen and tender and she cannot move her foot without excruciating pain.

SCENARIO TWO

A 32-year-old female AFF student on her third skydive flared high and off the wind line on landing. She landed heavily on her left side and did not get up and collapse her canopy straight away. When you get to her, she is winded and breathless and saying her arm is broken. On examination, her left wrist is deformed and she is unable to straighten it. She is in a great deal of pain.

SCENARIO THREE

A 19-year-old tandem student appears ➔

to have dislocated his left shoulder. He says it happened soon after exiting the aircraft. He supported himself using his good arm during the canopy flight and the tandem instructor has made a safe landing. He explains to you that this is a known problem for him since a mountain biking crash two years ago and he is waiting for an operation on his shoulder to stop it happening again. On examination, his shoulders are obviously asymmetrical. He is not in a great deal of pain as long as he holds his arm in a comfortable position.

SCENARIO FOUR

A 27-year-old experienced skydiver has miscalculated his swoop landing and has hit the ground at high speed in the landing area, impacting with knees first, then chest and head as he somersaulted. You witnessed the incident and ran over immediately. When you get to him, he is lying face down, unresponsive and does not appear to be breathing. His legs are resting at unnatural angles. He is also wearing a full-face helmet.

> **“It was obvious that he had suffered a heart attack. His eyes were open and he was as white as a sheet”**

SCENARIO FIVE

The DZ is hosting a SOS (Skydivers Over Sixty) weekend. One of the elderly male skydivers complains of chest pain while packing after a skydive. You are called over and see he is pale, sweaty and obviously in pain. He is sitting in the packing area and he tells you he has been suffering episodes like this several times recently but has not seen his GP about it. While you are talking to him, he appears to faint. He is then unresponsive and is not breathing. ●



***2** Stevie Doran captures his own shadow on the bottom skin of his Competition Velocity 71 several thousand feet above Cark. If you're going to do this near the ground, you'd better know your stuff!*

REAL LIFE – **HEART ATTACK AT HEADCORN** BY DEL HOPKINS

We had a full load of five tandems, three cameramen and one solo jumper – Dave Coveney, a veteran of 1,600 jumps – on board our Cessna Caravan. I had a tandem attached to me and was near the back of the plane.

As we approached 12,000 feet and did our final checks, Dave was by the closed door on his knees. Without warning, he fell unconscious onto Bernie (one of the cameramen). Bernie rolled him over and it was obvious that he had suffered a heart attack. His eyes were open and he was as white as a sheet. “He has gone,” I said to Bernie. Bernie started getting some air into him. One of the other cameramen came to the rear and I said “Start CPR”, but he just looked at me. I asked him if he could do CPR and he said “No”. I made the decision to unhook my tandem student, climb out of my kit and move her back to where I had been sitting, then I started CPR on Dave. A message was relayed to Drew (the pilot) about what was happening and he radioed for an ambulance and the defibrillator as he descended.

Dave had fallen into the boot area of the plane, which was fortunate as it was the only space where we could have carried out CPR. Bernie and I continued to work on Dave throughout the descent. Once on the ground, Drew stopped the plane at the side of the runway where all the other tandems got out.

We then moved Dave out of the boot and onto the floor inside the plane so we could get to him more easily. Pete Sizer arrived with the defibrillator and some scissors so we could cut off his jump suit and T-shirt. On opening the defibrillator, it talked to us. All of the full-time staff are first aid trained and have been instructed on the use of the defibrillator – it was idiot proof, however! Once the pads were on Dave’s chest, it analysed him and advised giving a shock, which we did. It then told us to carry on giving CPR. Clem Quinn also helped with the CPR and, over a period of almost 30 minutes, we shocked him four times and did CPR. Once the ambulance arrived, we took him out of the plane and onto the ambulance stretcher. They hooked him up to the ECG machine and said he had a pulse. He was then rushed to William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. He had a triple heart bypass and a pacemaker fitted, but he has made a full recovery.

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BEHIND THE SCENES

ONE OF THE BPA'S NEWEST JUDGES EXPLAINS HOW SHE JOINED THE JUDGING FAMILY AND WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT

WORDS RUTH FERRIS

Most people don't really think of the judges or about becoming a judge while competing. I certainly didn't until my actual jumping ended abruptly with a bump (literally) and I realised that I might not be jumping out of planes again. I couldn't imagine not having skydiving in my life in some respect, so I had to consider my options about how to remain involved in the sport. If I couldn't improve on my own skills, at least I could work towards helping others through judging.

In my first few years post-AFF, I knew nothing about the judges except that they were in a room somewhere at the various FS competitions and somehow judged teams using the camera footage. I had the usual gripes about the final grips on freeze-frame, how I DEFINITELY had that leg grip and queried why we hadn't been awarded that extra point (when perhaps I didn't actually have the grip and my hand was just hovering). I also knew that there were a couple of Scottish judges, a red-headed judge and a judge with the same name as me.

As I invested more in my competitive 4-way, I began to appreciate the calibre of the UK judges – especially when, at one UKSL event, Kate Charters (one of the Scottish judges and, as it turns out, the UK head judge) called my 4-way team to the judges' room and told us to get rid of our cameraman as he was losing us more points than we were scoring! The moment is etched on my memory as she didn't mince her words then and, as those who know her know, she doesn't mince her words now. It was then that I realised there was a lot more to judging than I'd previously thought. I did more 4-way and, as I did, I learned more about the judging process. I discovered there was a rule book (yes, there is!) and that the judges didn't make up random rules to reduce my competition average like I'd previously thought.

I also realised why judges can be important to an event when I heard of the team *Deland Fire* who, at the 2006 Shamrock Showdown in Florida, achieved what would have been a world record, except the achievement wasn't considered official because there were not enough FAI judges present to ratify the record. Without the official judges on site when it happened, there could be no official record.

JUDGEMENT CALL

People become judges for various reasons. There are, like me, competitors who get injured. Others are partially or completely retired from jumping but still wish to give back and remain involved in the sport. There are partners of jumpers who judge to share the experience. Also, there are the others who are curious and get sucked in.

Judge progression is a straightforward process: you start off as a trainee judge, judging alongside the qualified judges with a judging mentor. This process usually takes between one and two years. Once the head judge is satisfied with your ability, you'll be signed off for your National rating. After another one to three years, you'll have the opportunity to attend a course to get your FAI rating which will allow you to judge at the World Championships and other international events, to certify world records and even to train/mentor newer judges.

FULL THROTTLE

All judges are rated by discipline. The disciplines are: Accuracy landing, Artistic events, Canopy Formation, Canopy Piloting, Formation Skydiving, Wingsuit, Speed Skydiving, Freestyle and Freeflying. It is possible to specialise in only one discipline or to be a judge in as many disciplines as you wish.

Anyone who has been to a BPA FS Nationals knows that the judges appear around first lift and can still be in the judging room long after the competition is finished for the night. It's not uncommon to work a 10- to 14-hour day judging in a hot (or cold) room, staring at the TV screens. There are definitely times when the Haribo sugar rush starts to wear off, you're feeling tired and could happily throttle the judge sitting next to you for the most irrelevant reasons like

1 Chief Judge Kate Charters (centre) with four of her fabulous team, by Simon Brentford

2 Live 4-way judging on huge screens at the World Meet, by Bruno Brokken

3 Watching the scoring at ESL with anticipation, by David Rodgers

4 Judges lining the landing area ready to score Chris Lynch's touchdown, by Guy Wells

5 Tools of the trade for CP, by Bruno Brokken

2



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clicking a pen or simply shuffling around in their chair.

JUDGING RULES

The camaraderie of the judging group keeps the same judges coming back year after year, though. There is a sense of family and teamwork that comes from working with a group of people who are determined to get the best possible score for the teams. No judge ever wants to deny a team that one point that might, along the course of the competition, cost them a medal.

There is also an immense sense of satisfaction when you see teams progress over the year(s); you know that they're training hard, you've judged their training videos throughout the season and seeing them have that 'Eureka!' moment when it all comes together and they accomplish a personal or team goal is a wonderful feeling. Sometimes knowing the rules intimately – like Rule 8.1.3.1.2 – can assist a team who, due to unforeseen circumstances, thought they might not be able to compete at Nationals at all.

Another plus is that, once you get your judge's rating, your BPA membership is waived so all you have to do is to remain current by continuing to judge and you'll keep getting your BPA membership at no cost to yourself. If you're interested in any aspect of judging, contact Kate Charters or me, Ruth Ferris, and we can give you the relevant answers you need. ●

"Teamwork is important in judging because of the long days. Just as important is to work with the teams to give them the best results possible. Any team who wants to come to the judging room at a convenient time to ask or review their jumps are more than welcome. To all teams out there, whatever discipline you are doing: if you are not sure of something, please ask or send video clips. We know you are spending a lot of money on your training camps and we want you to get the best results possible."
Kate Charters, Chief Judge

SKYDIVE Hibaldstow



2014 began with a **BANG!**

Here's what happens next...

12-13 Apr	- Blackjack 14-Way FS Competition
	- Tracking & Angle Flying With Paul Cooper
18-21 Apr	- Funshop With Liz Boniface
	- Flight1 course with Brian Vacher
26-27 Apr	- Freefly With Adam Dare
03-05 May	- Load Organising With Stubert
	- Walk Up Freefly With Liz Boniface
10-11 May	- VFS Workshop With Paul Cooper
	- Wingsuiting With Dave Butterell
17-18 May	- Dynamic Group Flight With Steve Howes
24-26 May	- 28-Way FS With Dave West
	- Freefly With Adam Dare
31-01 June	- Bigway Freefly Skills Camp With Paul Cooper
07-08 June	- Load Organising With Stubert
	- Walk Up Freefly With Liz Boniface

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IS BASE JUMPING A SEPARATE SPORT?

AN OPINION PIECE BY **SIMON BRENTFORD**, AN ACTIVE SKYDIVER AND BASE JUMPER **PHOTOS** DARREN BIRKIN

It's a catchy title for a BASE jumping article in a skydiving magazine, isn't it? Where skydiving is from aircraft, BASE jumping is from fixed objects such as buildings, antennas, bridges and cliffs. Ever since the first BASE jumps took place in the UK in the '80s, many people have considered it to be the rogue brother within the world of skydiving. After all, they both involve parachutes, freefall, accuracy, tracking, canopy skills and Gucci equipment. However, there are many differences, not all obvious. Let's start with the official BPA stance. BASE jumping is not considered to be 'sport parachuting' and the only mention in the Ops Manual is as follows:

BPA Operations Manual (Section 1, paragraph 5): "Activities such as Paragliding, Fixed Object Jumping etc. do not come within the provisions of the BPA Operations Manual. The BPA does not associate them with Sport Parachuting."

Nearly 30 years ago, being caught BASE jumping in the UK could get you a lifetime ban by the BPA for bringing the sport into disrepute.

***1** A great body position is important for stability in the still air*

***2** Demo jump into Cardiff's Millennium Stadium before a Wales vs South Africa rugby match*

2





Simon Brentford

NEW SKILLS

Fortunately things have eased nowadays and attitudes have mellowed. The two sports have kept out of each other's way. Where the BPA does a good job regulating skydiving, the world of BASE jumping is completely unregulated. It is true that to become a BASE jumper, you first have to start as a skydiver; but it's also the case ➔

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Dave Lewis Big Ways

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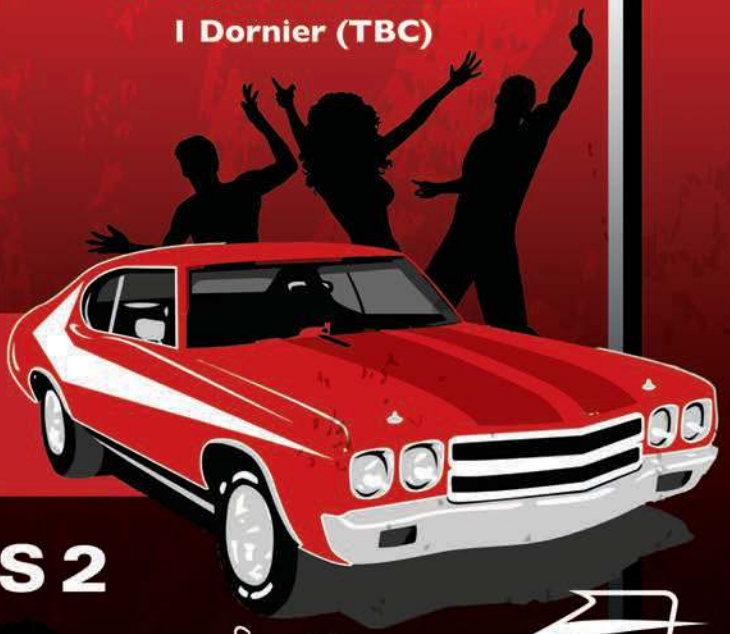
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“Ever since the first BASE jumps took place in the UK in the ’80s, many people have considered it to be the rogue brother within the world of skydiving”



3



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that you will need a lot of extra skills as well. For instance:

- Working with still sub-terminal air.
- Packing very neatly so that your one and only parachute works every time!
- Using your Mark 1 Eyeball as an altimeter to determine pull height.
- Landing in rough terrain and being accurate because you have to be.
- Looking out for each other in a much more in-depth way.
- Other skills such as object evaluation, climbing, rope work, first aid, meteorology, rigging, pilot chute assists, static line setup, jumping at night and much, much more.

***3** Past the point of no return on an ‘E’ (earth or cliff)*

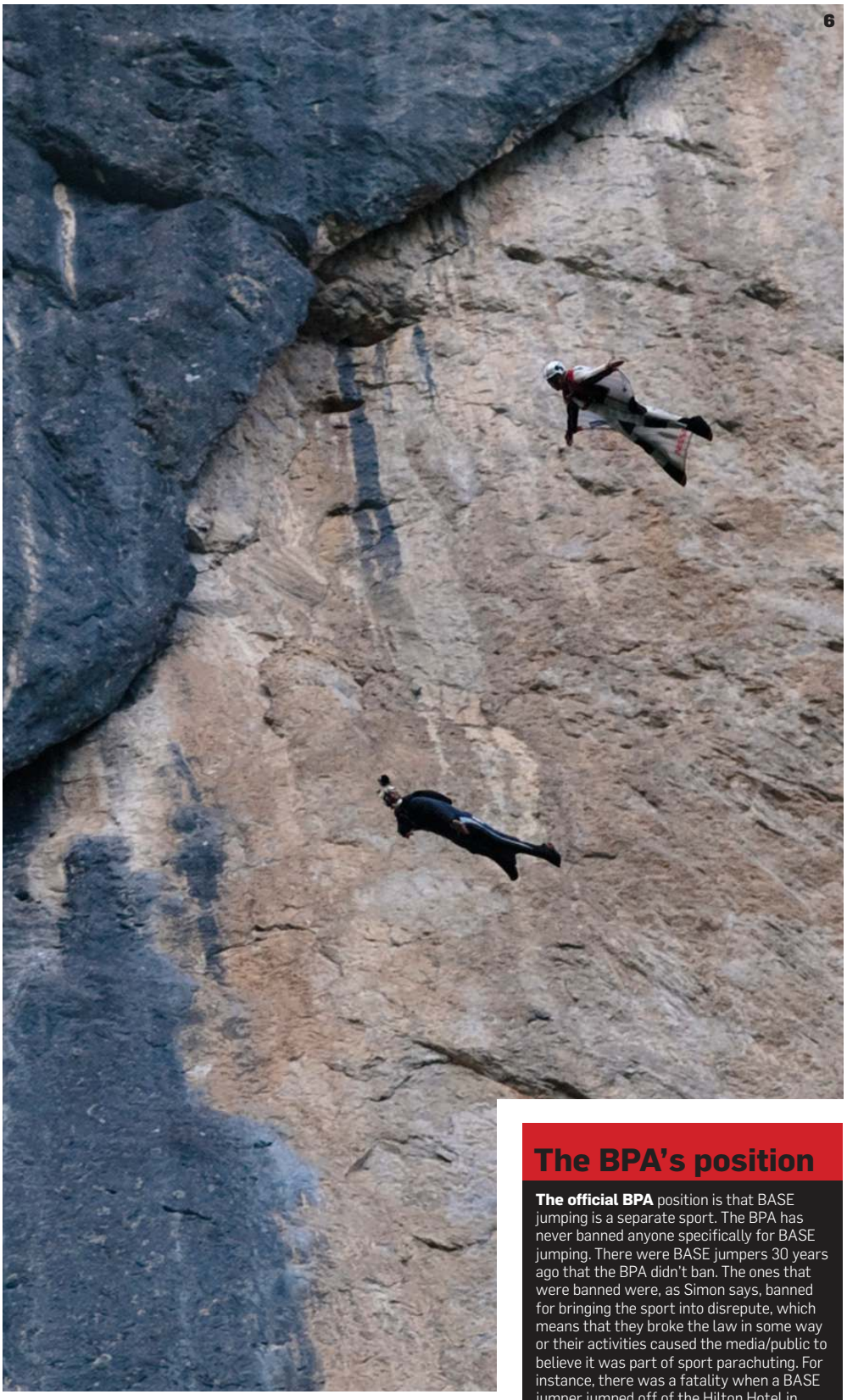
***4** 3-way wingsuit exit in Switzerland*

Traditionally, the sport has been difficult to enter due to its unstructured nature and lack of a governing body. The path for skydiving is clearly defined - AFF skydiving course, CH1, CH2, JM1, FS1 or FF1, teams, boogies, wind tunnel time and Instructor courses. However, in BASE, you can theoretically find a BASE rig and go jump off something without any experience or restriction. Recently, I saw a video of a young jumper at a well-known bigwall in Switzerland jumping on his own with only 20 skydives. The nature of BASE is that he is free to continue jumping as he wishes, but his lack of preparation definitely puts him at a higher risk.

MENTORSHIP

In BASE, there are no comparable qualifications – just a series of First Jump Courses – so education is often passed on through mentorship. There is no definition of what a mentor should be, ➔





but it is generally recognised that they should be a well-rounded and experienced BASE jumper who is willing to look after you long-term (a year or more). Mentors don't get paid and they certainly have no BASE instructor qualification either. In addition, there is no-one to regulate the knowledge or safety of a mentor; and that is even if you are lucky enough to have one, which many new jumpers do not. Not having a mentor can bring you into a world of trouble and so can a bad mentor. You can find yourself making the same mistakes that others have paid for with their lives.

PHILOSOPHY OF BASE

How has philosophy got anything to do with BASE? In fact, it has a lot. Having a good attitude can help to keep a good public perception of the sport and reduce your chances of an accident significantly.

Have you ever heard the old backpackers' motto? "Leave only footprints, take only pictures". Translated across, that means not costing the owner of a fixed object money because you wanted your kicks and, most importantly, not endangering others.

basejumper.com/Articles/Philosophy/Tom_Aiello_on_Ethics_697.html

Moving onto the subject of safety, having a good, thoughtful approach can do a lot towards keeping you alive. Many of those who appear on the BASE fatality list were pushing the limits because they simply overestimated their own skills. You can become complacent without even knowing it, so it is good to constantly question everything you do.

blincmagazine.com/forum/wiki/BASE_Fatality_List

I have heard some jumpers even argue that if you are not prepared to accept that you might die each time you jump, you shouldn't put your rig on. In skydiving, there is an extensive system for managing safety, but that doesn't exist in BASE and that is what makes the sport so unmanageable.

Not everyone who takes up BASE should do so in my opinion – not everyone has the innate skills. Having the 'right stuff' means patience learning your craft and the ability to compartmentalise each jump so that you do not feel too stressed on the exit point. Most importantly, you have to be willing to say no to a jump after spending hours climbing up it (because the winds are not right, for example). ➔

***5** Freeeedommmm!*

***6** Wingsuits were initially used in BASE to get away from the object, but their use has evolved to include 'proximity flying' close to mountainous features*

The BPA's position

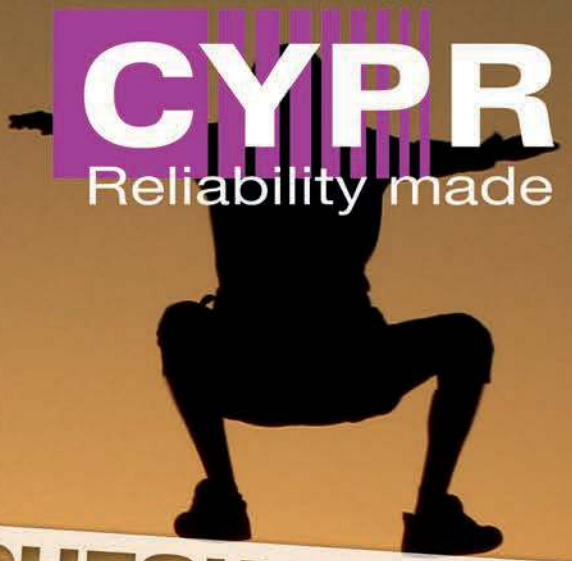
The official BPA position is that BASE jumping is a separate sport. The BPA has never banned anyone specifically for BASE jumping. There were BASE jumpers 30 years ago that the BPA didn't ban. The ones that were banned were, as Simon says, banned for bringing the sport into disrepute, which means that they broke the law in some way or their activities caused the media/public to believe it was part of sport parachuting. For instance, there was a fatality when a BASE jumper jumped off of the Hilton Hotel in London and his mate who had jumped with him ran away and left the body! The gory story made the front page of *The Sun*.

The BPA Articles state: "The objects of the Association are: To promote and encourage sport parachuting..." and BASE is not considered part of sport parachuting. This is made clear, as Simon says at the start of his article, in the BPA Operations Manual.

Tony Butler
BPA Chief Operating Officer

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Photo: Frank Täsler

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I have accepted that a small wrong decision can cost me my life on my first jump or on my 1,000th.

In one week in August 2013, there were an incredible five fatalities – all experienced as well. Many new wingsuit exit points have been opened recently with long, unforgiving 'no-pull zones' and lines that leave no margin for error.

If the winds get too high, most skydivers would be stood down because the Centre Chief Instructor makes the call; in BASE, you have to make all your own decisions. Essentially, every time you jump you become the pilot, CCI and BPA all in one. That self-determination is incredibly liberating and is a big differentiator between the two sports.

LEGALITY

It is a popular misconception that BASE is illegal. There is no specific legislation prohibiting the sport across the UK, but there are common laws of trespass and public endangerment. BASE jumpers often enter buildings without permission, land on roads and have a slightly higher chance of actually landing on someone. It's no wonder the BPA distances itself from BASE jumping.

The legal stance in other countries varies considerably. Both the Norwegian Parachute Organisation and the government legally recognise the activity as long as it is done via a 'BASE club'. In Finland, BASE jumping was regarded as 'illegal skydiving'. A change in 2008 saw the regulations more clearly defined for parachuting as being out of aircraft only. BASE jumping in Finland is now classified as an unregulated sport. Sadly, in Australia, they hold a very dim view and it is actually a criminal offence, even if it is from a cliff. In the US, it is illegal to jump in National Parks yet legal in areas controlled by the Bureau of Land Management.

Back home, the closest the world of British BASE jumping came to being organised was UKProBASE, which ceased activity in 2012. They were a non-profit organisation who sought to organise insured displays with the consent of the object owners and achieved several successful and high-profile events. It was not compulsory to be a part of UKProBASE, nor did they consider themselves as a UK governing body.

7 *BASE jumpers often have to land in much smaller landing areas than skydivers, so accuracy is important*

8 *BASE canopies also open much quicker than skydiving canopies - notice the minimal height lost on deployment after jumping this wind turbine*

9 *Some countries have geological features that provide as much altitude as some skydives. There are fjords in Norway that are home to cliffs that are more than 3,000ft tall*







“The BPA has no desire to govern the dangerous world of BASE – they simply aren’t compatible”

10 Wingsuits have extended freefall times in BASE as well as in skydiving. BASE jumps with more than a minute of freefall have now been recorded



EQUIPMENT

Did you know that BASE specific gear has been around since the ’80s? The containers and parachutes are specific for the sport. What happens if a canopy hits the cliff? The canopy would likely collapse because air is blocked from getting into the nose. On many BASE parachutes, there are vents on the bottom skin which help to keep the parachute inflated. The chances of landing in a tree are much higher in BASE, so you don’t want the canopy to completely disintegrate and drop you. Therefore, they also have extra reinforcement sewn in to key places within the wing.

Essentially, both sports do use parachutes and containers, but there are some significant differences:

- BASE canopies are designed specifically for their on-heading opening characteristics and speed of opening.
- The harnesses, pilot chutes and bridle attachment points are much stronger.
- There is only one canopy.

Both skydiving and BASE jumping have contributed to the development of wingsuits and their pilots wanting to fly faster, glide further and stay in the air. This is where technological advancements have been mutually beneficial.

Despite all the advances in the gear, though, canopy deployment issues still have not been eliminated.

SUMMARY

Going back to the original question, is BASE jumping a separate sport or simply the black sheep of skydiving? The answer is most definitely yes, it is a separate sport in its own right. The BPA has no desire to govern the dangerous world of BASE – they simply aren’t compatible. It is doubtful it could be controlled in any case. There are grey areas of legality too.

Both sports do, however, require a great deal of expertise, patience and time spent drinking tea on the ground waiting for the weather to clear! But that is as far it goes, and BASE should remain unregulated just as many other sports such as hill walking, kayaking or speed flying do. ●

Author: Simon Brentford

Contributors: Craig Poxon, Al Macartney, Mac McAuliffe, Jarno Cordia, Rami Kajala, Markus Saari, Stein Edvardsen and Max Hurd.

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Skydiving and life coach and Women's Vertical World Record holder.

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Billy Schmitz
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Exits 101

The key to any good exit is presentation. During AFF or static line progression, it's all about presenting the front of your body to the relative wind as you exit

Since your momentum is mainly horizontal at the time you leave the aircraft (because the plane is flying forwards and you haven't yet accelerated vertically), this means presenting your belly to the front of the plane and leaving your back in the burble. Within ten seconds of exit, you will be off the 'hill' and facing belly to earth at terminal velocity.

The only thing that changes when you jump with other people is that there are now two keys to a good exit – timing and presentation. If you leave a few seconds apart, there can be hundreds of feet separating you already. If you leave right on top of each other, then you will not each have clear air in which to fly and you will 'funnel'. An exit count or 'ready, set, go' helps to co-ordinate the timing, whether it is a 2-way or 200-way, and then each individual is responsible for their own presentation.



Right: Chris Lynch presents his hips and left arm to the relative wind, while his student angles her right side high so that the exit will fly well

SKYDIVER SPEAK

RELATIVE WIND
This is the air that you have to work with as you move through it. The air itself is not moving (rather, you are moving through it), but people usually talk about it as if you are staying still and the air is moving even though this is not scientifically correct! In this context, you can think of the relative wind as coming towards you from the direction in which you have the most momentum. On exit, this is from the direction in which the plane is flying. Then, as you accelerate, the relative wind is coming up at you from the ground.

BURBLE
The patch of 'dead air' on the opposite side of you to the relative wind. If you are falling belly-first, this will be on your back. However, different orientations mean different locations for burbles – for example, wingsuiters' burbles are above and behind them.

HILL
An invisible feature that exists during the first five-10 seconds of a skydive as a result of the changing direction of the relative wind due to acceleration. Imagine sliding feet-first down a playground slide on your belly – this is similar to what should happen during the first few seconds of a skydive.

FUNNEL
When two or more skydivers lose stability on exit or during the skydive. It can happen when skydivers are trying to present to the same bit of relative wind, perhaps 'burbling' each other, and it is called a funnel because it looks like somebody picked up the skydivers in question and poured them down a funnel together! To recover, arch for stability, then check your altitude and where your fellow skydivers are.

OPS MANUAL QUIZ

An introduction to the BPA Operations Manual forms part of the requirements for JM1. Each issue, we'll ask relevant questions and answer them in the wording of the Ops Manual.

Q1 **How low can you go?** By what altitude must main parachutes be open? (N.B. it has recently changed! See BPA Zone on page 11 and Safety Zone on page 42).

Q2 **How high can you go?** What is the maximum altitude from which you may jump?

NEW COACHES

Despite the winter weather, we've had a dozen new coaches in three disciplines across eight different DZs! The DZs given are the ones where the coach achieved their rating, but they may be available to coach at other DZs. Congratulations to all.

FS COACH
Craig Aven, Weston
Ane Bauerle-Brentford, Netheravon
Jenny Bouquet, Redlands
Alexander Clark, Netheravon
Emma Cooper, Sibson
Leigh Hobson, Beccles
George McGuinness, Jersey
Ged Parker, Sibson
Stefan Richards, Dunkeswell

CF COACH
Angus Scott, Strathallan

WS COACH
Fraser Corsan, Dunkeswell
Neil Empringham, Dunkeswell



Sam Lee uses rear risers to turn and face in a sensible direction before releasing his brakes

CH EXERCISE: rear riser turns

One of the skills you learn as part of CH2 is using a rear riser as an avoidance manoeuvre. As the CH manual explains, an immediate hazard to be concerned about when your canopy first opens is the proximity of other skydivers

Obviously, if another canopy is very close on opening, you may not have time to carry out your normal drills before making contact. In this scenario, you should reach up and pull down on one rear riser so that the canopy turns to avoid the collision.

Like many techniques in the CH system, it is best to practise avoidance turns with a rear riser so that you are proficient enough to use the technique when you really need to. Remember, when the canopy first opens, the steering toggles should still be fixed in the half-brake position. Therefore, you will get more turn for the input that you use when compared to a canopy that is in full drive.

A good way to practise this technique so that it becomes natural is to use it after the canopy has first opened as a method of turning the canopy so that you are facing towards the dropzone (PLA). You can then release the brakes from their half-brake setting as you make your way back to the landing area.

TOP TIP:

CH exercises are not just for students. Everyone should practise them regularly.

A COUPLE OF POINTS TO NOTE:

- Practising this technique requires you to make a rear riser input just after the canopy has opened. Remember to check your canopy properly before making the turn.
- If you have end cell closure and/or twists on opening during a practice session, abandon the riser turn and carry out your normal drills for getting out of the twists and/or re-inflating the end cells. If you are about to make contact with another canopy on opening, then make the rear riser turn and deal with the twists/end cell closure after you have moved away from the danger.
- Make sure that your airspace is clear before making any turns.
- Remember, the first step towards avoiding a canopy collision on opening is to ensure that you have created enough separation between yourself and other skydivers at the end of each skydive. To this end, get a proper brief on the most efficient tracking methods and practise your tracking at every opportunity.
- Be aware of what is going on around you as you track away from other skydivers e.g. if you know there is someone over to your left as you throw your pilot chute and find that your canopy does a left turn during opening, you should also realise that you are probably going to need to make an avoidance manoeuvre.
- Just because you are jumping on your own doesn't necessarily mean that no one will be near you on opening. Keep looking forwards during your safety count to make sure that you have clear airspace.



Tyler Mason goes for his FS1 with Siân Stokes, Rich Wheatley and Matt Willson, by Nick Robinson

Random dives... VERY random!

4-way jumpers – what do you do when you're on a short call and haven't got a dive prepped?

Whether it's an extra rotation in the tunnel that you'd miscalculated or a short call on the DZ, most of us have been there. You can a) shout some letters at your teammates then wonder why you're all just looking at each other in confusion in freefall, b) annoy the rest of the plane by trying to clamber over them while dirtdiving on the way to altitude, c) do the alphabet dive AGAIN (A through to Q then repeat) or d) just remember some of these silly words for the next time you're stuck!

AAA 5-point random dives: Bacon, Belch, Blame, Block, Bloke, Chafe, Choke, Chomp, Clonk, Demon, Gecko, Gnome, Gonad, Faked, Joked, Medal, Mocha, Moped, Nacho, Naked, Nomad, Plane, Plank, Poked, Polka.

AA 4-point random dives: Amok, Bang, Calm, Camp, Chop, Clog, Comp, Damn, Demo, Dock, Dong, Fake, Flap, Flop, Help, Honk, Joke, Knob, Lame, Land, Leap, Mega, Moan, Mock, Noel, Nope, Ogle, Omen, Plod, Poke.

A and Rookie 3-point random dives: Ace, Age, Bad, Bog, BPA, Con, Cop, Dog, Doh, Ego, Fad, Fag, Fog, Gob, God, Hag, Hoe, Hog, Hop, Jam, Job, Jog, Keg, Lad, Leg, Lob, Mad, Mag, Map, Men, Mob, Map, Nag, Nap, Nod, Oaf, Old, One, Pal, Pod.

If you just want a really long sequence, like the alphabet dive but actually spelling a word, then why not try Blockhead, Headlock, Gamboled, Flamenco or Blockage? Or Placebo, Padlock, Menfolk, Manhole, Mangled, Halogen, Decagon, Bondage or Abdomen!

OPS MANUAL QUIZ ANSWERS

A1 Section 8 (Parachuting Limitations), paragraph 4
OPENING HEIGHTS
Minimum canopy opening heights for main parachutes:
4.1. BPA B Licence parachutists and below 3,000ft AGL
4.2. BPA C Licence parachutists and above 2,500ft AGL
4.3. Student Tandem Parachutists 5,000ft AGL
4.4. BPA C Licence holders, on displays 1,500ft AGL

A2 Section 8 (Parachuting Limitations), paragraph 5
MAXIMUM ALTITUDE
5.1. Parachutists
5.1.1. Normal parachuting will not take place above Flight Level (FL) 120.
5.1.2. Parachuting will only take place between Flight Level 120 and 150 without oxygen, provided that:
a. Parachutists are not above FL100 for more than 30 minutes before leaving the aircraft.
b. Parachutists are not above FL120 for more than 6 minutes before leaving the aircraft.
c. The aircraft commander monitors these flight levels and time limits.
d. If the flight level or time limits are exceeded, the drop will be aborted and all parachutists will land with the aircraft.

5.2. Pilots
See Section 9 (FLYING), paragraph 5.6. (Flight Crew Oxygen Requirements).
5.3 Members who wish to parachute above FL150 (with oxygen) will need STC and CAA approval and must submit their plans and details of their equipment in advance (via a CCI).

In case you are not familiar with Flight Levels (FL), they refer to hundreds of feet above sea level. So FL120 is 12,000ft and FL150 is 15,000ft. But in order for all aircraft to mean the same thing when they say what FL they are at, it is the height above sea level and NOT the height above the ground. If your DZ was 1,000ft above sea level then your maximum altitude would be 14,000ft – but this would still be FL150.

BPA COACHING ROADSHOWS

The BPA organises coaching roadshows in almost every discipline, with free coaching provided by our top-level competitors (just pay your slot and theirs if you jump together). Check out BPA Zone from page 10 for details of roadshows for FS, Artistics, Speed, VFS, CF and camera! This is a fantastic opportunity to progress, and perhaps visit a new DZ as well.

If you want to find out more about BPA Coaching Roadshows, you can also check them out on the BPA website at: bpa.org.uk/competition/skills-coaching-roadshows/

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EXIT ZONE

With 16 single-point 'random' formations labelled A-Q and 22 numbered double-point 'block' formations when doing 4-way FS, you can stand in the aircraft door already holding onto the right combination of arms and legs, jump out all together and let it unfold and fly. Exit Zone brings you tips from National Champion team *Satori* on how to successfully manage each exit. This edition is brought to you by M and 22...

WORDS JULIA FOXWELL (FS) AND DAVE HEAD (CAMERA)



By Dave Head

M: Star

There are a couple of ways of launching the M exit. One way that is quite good is by launching it at the same angle as an 18. This write-up is showing you how *Satori* launch the M exit.

OUTSIDE CENTRE

Stand slightly to the left of the centre of the door. Hold onto the rail with your left hand and hold onto Inside Centre's left arm grip with your right hand. Stand on your right leg with your left leg presented to the slipstream. When everyone is ready, start the count. On the 'go', you want to push off aggressively and work to get away from the door as much as possible while, at the same time, working your left leg as high as possible. You are aiming to be across the line of flight with your hips and head level with each other. Let go of the grip you have on Inside Centre pretty much as soon as you leave the door. This grip is there purely for balance as it helps to keep your chest high and presented when leaving the aircraft.

INSIDE CENTRE

Stand slightly to the left of the centre of the door. You want to be fairly close to the edge of



By Dave Head

the door so Outside Centre can pick up your left arm grip. Stand with your left leg forward and your right leg back. Hold onto Tail's right arm grip and Point's left arm grip. On the count, push through the door by pushing off your back leg, leading through the door with your hips. You want to try and get underneath Outside Centre as this will help Outside Centre come across line of flight with you.

POINT

Stand in the door facing Tail. Hold onto Outside Centre's left wrist grip with your right hand. On the count, leave a little later than Inside Centre and work hard with your right side presentation. You can sometimes get a kick from the slipstream, so work to put your left leg down to help to stop the kick. Aim to come through the door at a 45˚ angle and you will naturally rotate around to be on the line of flight. Aim to have good communication with Tail.



By James Stevenson

TAIL

Stand in the door, holding onto the rail with your right hand and Outside Centre's right arm. Put your right arm slightly forward so it is easy for Inside Centre to pick up your outside grip. Ask Outside Centre what they prefer between the wrist grip or the upper arm grip. On the count, leave slightly before Outside Centre and push off your right leg, working your presentation to the slipstream. You should have good eye contact with Point from standing in the door all the way through to the release (key) of the formation.

CAMERA

M is a straightforward exit for camera because it is symmetrical. Aiming to be anywhere in the one-five o'clock position will do, provided you are clear of Inside Centre's burble. Between Inside Centre and Tail is a good position for the formations that will follow. M can rotate anti-clockwise slightly if Outside Centre ends up lower than Inside Centre, so take account of what your team does to select the best clock position for a gap between bodies.

Exit Rating



By Dave Head



22: Tee – Chinese Tee

This can take a bit of practice for it to feel correct. You can launch a 17 (Danish Tee) and grip switch, or you can have Tail holding onto the rail with their right hand and dropping onto the grip after exiting.

OUTSIDE CENTRE

Stand as far up to the front of the door as possible with your legs fairly wide to allow Tail to pick up both inside leg grips. Make sure your back is straight so you are not taking up too much room in the door. Have your head on the inside of the plane, looking at Inside Centre. Have both hands on the edge of the door. When you feel everyone is ready, start the count. On the go, push off mainly with your back leg and work hard to get up and away from the aircraft. You want to try and jump up to the wing of the plane. This exit has a tendency to rotate, so feel like you are leading with your hips and leaving your head in the plane. This will help to stop the rotation. Raise your left arm to ensure your chest is presented to the slipstream.

INSIDE CENTRE

Stand in the door with your left foot at the edge of the door and have this foot behind Outside Centre and in front of Tail. Have a high, firm grip on Outside Centre's right leg grip and take their right arm grip. You may feel that you are a little further back in the door than you would like, so remind yourself to be really aggressive leaving the door. This will make sure you leave the aircraft at the same time as Outside Centre and not after. On the go, push off your right leg and lead with your left hip. You want to aim to push down to the bottom left-hand corner of the door. Work hard when you have left the door on pushing down with





By James Stevenson



By James Stevenson



By Dave Head

your left leg as this will ensure you do not get any kick from the slipstream and will help you to keep a tight grip on Outside Centre's right leg.

POINT

Stand in an 'AFF Instructor' position on the outside of the door in front of Outside Centre. Hold onto the rail with your left hand and hold onto Outside Centre's left leg grip with your right hand. You may want to stand in the door on both feet to help with your balance although, if you can, it's better to stand in the door on your right leg and present your left leg to the slipstream. On the 'go' of Outside Centre's count, feel them coming into you slightly before you exit the door. Work hard to get your hips up into the slipstream and drop onto the arm grip with your left hand. It will be yours and Inside Centre's key when you get eye contact with each other. Make sure you check that Tail is on first!

TAIL

Either stand in the door holding onto both of Outside Centre's inside leg grips or, if you don't feel comfortable with this, stand on the outside of the door holding onto the rail with your right arm and hold onto Outside Centre's outside grip on their left leg. When Outside Centre is giving the count, you want to leave slightly before Outside Centre. If you are standing in the door holding onto both grips, push off your right leg and feel you are dropping down fairly heavily when leaving the aircraft. In the slipstream, you should have both grips in front of you and are up and down line of flight. If you are holding onto the rail, you still need to leave before Outside Centre. Get presented and then drop onto Outside Centre's right leg grip, inside grip.

CAMERA

The ideal position is to be in the clean air between Inside Centre and Tail. Teams will try and build 22 on line-of-flight but it is common for it to end up rotated 45° anti-clockwise. This may need you to adjust your exit timing slightly to follow that clean air. If you haven't trained with the team, talk to them about what they usually do.

In the door, treat the formation as an AFF 3-way. Focus on the pulse from Outside Centre and don't think too much about Tail. To get that clean air gap, letting go at the bottom of Outside Centre's pulse move or the split second they start their move through the door would be a good place to try first. As you start to drop, Outside Centre and Tail should have just cleared the door frame by a body width, allowing you to follow the gap in bodies next to Outside Centre's right foot as you all drop away. All grips are on Outside Centre, so follow Outside Centre's lower rig or bum with your sight to help keep all grips in frame.

If you are not comfortable with the above timing, peeling (going after the team) will also work but you must let go the split-second that Outside Centre starts to pass through the door frame to keep a steep viewing angle on the team. If you wait for Inside Centre to have passed through the door as well first, you will end up looking at the team on a shallow angle which does not allow clean judging.

22 is prone to breathing out during the inter, especially on the hill. Anticipate that there may be separation after the key comes and make sure you can keep everyone in frame for clean judging.

Exit Rating





Liz Ashley



Editor Liz Ashley on deployment, by Yuri

HOW LOW CAN YOU GO?

At the STC (Safety and Training Committee) meeting of February 6 2014, it was decided to raise the minimum opening height for C and D Licence skydivers by 500ft, from 2,000ft to 2,500ft. This is in addition to the change to 3,000ft for A and B Licence holders that occurred a year ago.

The main reason for the change is that experienced parachutists generally no longer deploy to have their canopies open by 2,000ft. Due to the nature of modern canopies, the vast majority of jumpers open considerably higher. The USPA (United States Parachute Association) have also recently raised their minimum opening height to 2,500ft.

In addition, Airtec have recently released an information bulletin (see Kit Zone on page 46) in which users of the Cypres 2 will be able to increase the activation altitude by up to 900ft, from the current 750ft up to a new maximum of 1,650ft. Using this option necessitates users increasing their deployment heights.

ON THE UP AND UP

So, how does this affect YOU? Obviously, if you have a C or D Licence, then you need to evaluate your current opening height and adjust it upwards to meet the new rule if necessary. However, there are other knock-on effects. Make sure you have considered break-off altitude and raised it if necessary so that you still get enough time for proper separation. If you borrow kit with a Cypres 2, make sure you know what height it is programmed to fire at so that, if you have a malfunction, you can cut away well above firing height rather than risk having two canopies out.

You may also need to consider vertical separation among the rest of the load. While it is true that many people already pulled higher than the old 2,000ft minimum, these people do not need to raise their opening heights and so many will not do so. Only the lowest people from before will now be opening higher, meaning a greater concentration of canopies open within a vertical distance. It is now even more important to be aware of other canopies on opening and throughout the entire descent, and to fly considerately and predictably. If you are on a large, docile canopy, you can be considerate by flying it slowly without lots of turns, which will maintain your altitude and mean that others land before you and you have more room to yourself. If you are on a pocket rocket that won't stay up, you could aim to actively descend more quickly and land before the rest of the traffic.

WHAT GOES UP...

Spreading out canopies in the landing pattern, both horizontally and vertically, is the best way to avoid canopy collisions and landing incidents. It is when there are too many canopies all aiming for the same space that problems start. Separation begins on exit with a sensible exit order and the gap you leave, continues at deployment with good breakoffs and staggered deployment heights, and is cemented by a sensible landing pattern. Make sure you play your part.

WHAT IF...?





This is actually a CF dock gone wrong rather than a true canopy collision, but it gives a good sense of what it is like to be wrapped in someone else's canopy. By Jim Scott

We ask the questions... you provide the answers. The aim of this section is to get people thinking about abnormal skydives and considering how they might react. There often isn't a 'right' answer and the situations are sometimes deliberately vague to allow for maximum discussion around the DZ. After all, isn't it better to cover every angle while on the ground, with input from all your local hotshots, than to have to work it out for yourself under pressure when it happens? Do not change any of your drills without first consulting a BPA Instructor and/or your CCI.

What if... you collide with a canopy that you did not see in time to avoid? The other person's canopy is now wrapped around you with the other jumper hanging underneath you, restricting your ability to see.

TOP TIP: SAFETY TIP

How current are you? UK jumping generally fluctuates with the seasons, with many more jumps being made in the summer than the winter. In fact, many DZs close for at least a month over Christmas. If you are about to jump again after a winter layoff, take it easy at first and plan a simple skydive that is well within your limits. Get ready early and keep things familiar.

If you have been jumping over winter, good on you – but make sure you take account of jump-buddies who may be less current than you. It can be tempting to see old friends after a break and want to immediately pick up where you last left off with them but, even though you may be current, resist the urge to lead them into something complex if they are not – let them find their feet again first.

Points to consider

1. What height are you at? Can you see your altimeter?
2. Do you still have a good canopy above your head? Can you see it to be sure?
3. Is the other jumper still attached to their canopy or have they now cut away? Can you communicate with them?
4. If communication is possible, can you work together calmly? If one cannot see their canopy or altimeter, the other could shout the altitude and give information about the state of their canopy. Sharing information is useful, especially if one skydiver is 'blind'.
5. Can you get the canopy off you? It might slide off easily with assistance, or you may need to use your knife. Can you find your knife without looking? It will probably be easier to get the canopy off with the other jumper still attached, as their weight will help to pull it away from you. If they cut away without thinking, they may 'gift-wrap' you and leave you in a worse position.
6. What height are you at now? How much height have you lost dealing with the situation so far? Canopy emergencies allow much more time than freefall emergencies, but people's perception of time can also be distorted in an emergency.
7. Do either you have an RSL and do you know how to disconnect it quickly?
8. Have you had any CF training and rehearsed this scenario, or are you making it up as you go along? See Events Zone for dates of CF coaching roadshows in 2014.
9. How did you end up in this mess? If you are sufficiently aware of your surroundings then you should not be 'surprised' by another canopy near you, but rather know that it is there and be able to take avoiding action.
10. Prevention is better than cure. What steps do you already take to avoid this situation?



Liz Ashley



An unrelated wingsuit rodeo and tracking dive at sunset, by Chris Cook

Real life – getting a shock in a suit

"We planned an 8-way wingsuit wedge formation. The slots were agreed and break-off was set for 5,500ft with deployment at 4,000ft. The exit went well, I got into my slot around nine or ten grand and we flew a nice formation back to the PLA. Unfortunately, not everyone made it on to the formation – but, there you go, it happens all the time. At 5,500ft, I duly broke off and, because I was flying the rear left slot of the wedge, I peeled almost 120 degrees and kept an eye on those to my right. Then I did a quick check to my left and was confronted with one of the jumpers who didn't make it on to the formation under full canopy at 5,000ft coming straight towards me! Some quick banking later and I missed him by 50 yards, deploying uneventfully five-10 seconds later.

"I learned two things from this jump. Firstly, don't assume everyone is where they are supposed to be. Secondly, it is very important for people to stick to break-off and deployment heights in a group. Due to the high forward speed of wingsuits, this is even more important. If I had hit him, it would likely have resulted in serious injury. As a group, we should probably also have discussed in more detail procedures if you didn't make it onto the formation. It's also made me decide on a limit to the size of groups I want to jump with."

TOP TIP: EXPERT'S OPINION

This situation could have easily been avoided. The jumper does not say how experienced the other wingsuiter was but, if they did not make it into their slot and then pulled high in the middle of other freefallers, it sounds like they were perhaps not experienced enough to be on the jump. It's tough to say no when friends want to jump with you, but if they are really your friend then you should care about keeping them safe even if that means them staying off a jump, and they should appreciate your decision rather than be angry.

It sounds like a mentality shift could also be useful. The jumper says that not everyone made it on to the formation but that this happens "all the time". While not every jump can be perfect, if people are regularly not making it into their slot, then this is a sign that they need to build their skills on smaller, less complex dives first. This applies not just to WS but also to FS and FF too. It is much more satisfying to do a smaller jump well than a bigger jump badly, not to mention safer!

Finally, having done all you can to make the jump as safe as possible before you even take off, we all know that the best laid plans don't always work out! When changing direction, always look towards your new airspace to check that it is clear. It is tempting during wingsuit break-off to keep looking at the formation if you are on the outside of it, but you do need to look where you are going as well!

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE COLOR?

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Adjustable Activation Altitude Setting for Cypres 2

An update to Cypres 2s that was implemented in January 2013 now affects more than a quarter of Cypres 2 units, and that proportion is increasing as units reach their next service date.

The update enables the user to increase the pre-set activation altitude in increments of 100ft, up to an extra 900ft. The standard activation altitude of 750ft has been in place since the first Cypres units came onto the market in 1991 and has been copied by other AAD manufacturers since. However, Airtec now recognise that some customers would like their AAD to fire higher, so it is now possible to either leave it at 750ft, or increase it to 850, 950, 1,050, 1,150, 1,250, 1,350, 1,450, 1,550 or 1,650ft – the choice is yours. The unit will continue to function down to 140ft as before, so the activation window is increased by this feature if you choose to use it.

All new Cypres 2 units since January 2013 already have this feature, as well as all older Cypres 2 units that have been serviced since then. If you want this feature but your Cypres is not due its service yet, you can still send it to the factory for the upgrade if you want. The activation altitude remains at 750ft unless you increase it, and it then remains at the new level unless you change it again. Switching the unit off does not reset things – it will turn back on with the same activation altitude that it had when it last turned off.

To change your activation altitude requires a precise pattern of button-presses, which take less than two minutes to complete but which could not be done accidentally. A Cypres 2 which has been set by the user to fire higher than 750ft will show a blinking number from one to nine, indicating the number of hundred feet above 750ft that it will fire if the parameters are met – watch out for this during flightline checks.

It should go without saying that you must *never* jump equipment that you do not understand. If you are going to adjust your firing height, consult your CCI to be sure that you have properly considered all the implications and raised your main deployment height accordingly if necessary.

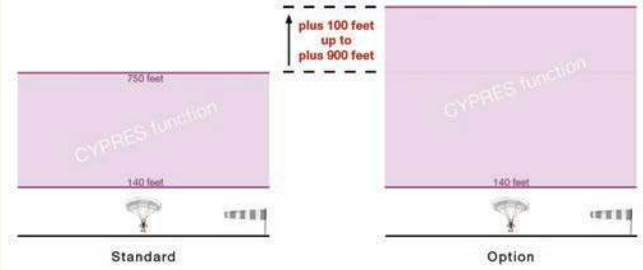
Indicating 100ft (30m) increase to activation altitude *during self-test*



Indicating 100ft (30m) increase to activation altitude *after self-test* (operating mode display)



HIGHER ACTIVATION



Pilot chute PS

The October edition of Kit Zone was a pilot chute special, providing education on how they work and what to look out for. Part of the article explained 'cocking the pilot chute' – what this is, why we do it and how to check it. Once the parachute is packed, the only way to check whether the pilot chute is cocked is if there is a window on the bridle (usually showing green colouring on the kill line). Otherwise, you can only be sure by pulling the pilot chute out of the pouch and looking down inside it at the ribbons and kill line.

The article mentioned wear and tear and that kill lines are usually made of Spectra, which shrinks over time due to the heat caused by friction as it whizzes back through the bridle. After reading the article, one reader got in touch with a warning of what had happened to her:

"My first malfunction at 800+ jumps was a pilot chute in tow. The window on my bridle line WAS GREEN, but I later discovered that the kill line had shrunk from the pilot chute end so, although it looked fully cocked according to the green window, the ribbons inside the pilot chute were not fully stretched and the kill line had no slack.

"I learned the hard way, but fortunately my reserve procedures went according to plan and I landed safely on the landing area. Every time I cock my pilot chute now, I pull the kill line from inside the pilot chute and not the pad/hackey. I make sure that I have plenty of slack kill line inside my pilot chute and that the ribbons inside the pilot chute are at full stretch.

"I have seen a few people in the past who have almost made the same mistake as me by thinking "it's green... that's good" but they have had slack ribbons and a tight kill line. I have told them my story and advised them to see a Rigger and get their kill line replaced. It doesn't cost much at all – cheaper than a reserve repack or something much worse.

"After reading the article, I felt that I ought to let you know about my green window experience."

Pixie MacLeod-Hodgson,
Airkix Freestyle



Matthew 'Elvis' Byrne packing, by David Rodgers. Always cock your pilot chute by this stage



FOCUS ON SIBSON

SMALL-CLUB FRIENDLINESS MIXED WITH BIG-CLUB FACILITIES – SIBSON IS A BLEND OF THE BEST

WORDS PAUL DORWARD

HOW DID YOUR DZ BEGIN?

UK Parachuting has a 25-year history of operating in the parachute industry, currently operating out of two centres: Sibson Airfield in Cambridgeshire and Beccles Airfield in Suffolk.

Sibson Airfield has been home to a parachute centre since 1971, making it one of the first civilian dropzones in the country. It has gone through many changes over the years and is now owned by Grant Richards and Jason Thompson, who have been running UK Parachuting (Sibson Airfield) for more than five years now.

WHAT FACILITIES DO YOU HAVE?

The Phoenix Bar and Grill with fresh barista coffee, hot and cold food all day and beer on tap, indoor packing area, large boogie tents up all year for hanging out with your jump buddies, bunk rooms for 30+, free camping, club members' locker room and a purpose-built video and debrief facility. We also have a dedicated FS school with its own creeper pad, and more improvements are planned in 2014.

WHAT DO YOUR KEY STAFF MEMBERS DO?

DZ Owner Grant Richards (8,000 jumps) – A very current fun jumper and team camera for AAA team *Raykipo*, Grant has made thousands of AFF jumps and thousands of tandem jumps. He is passionate about skydiving and has built a very successful business by listening to the needs of our club members. Most of the facilities were in ruin when Grant bought the business.

CCI Chris McCann (8,500 jumps) – Affectionately known by those who love him as 'Can Can', Chris is also a passionate jumper and has made more than 3,500 tandem jumps as well as thousands of AFF jumps and 50 BASE jumps. Chris is responsible for everyone's safety at the DZ and has, in his own words, "eyes like a sh*tehawk". To this day, no one knows what a sh*tehawk is, but Chris has eyes like one.

DZ Manager Paul Dorward (6,500 jumps) – Paul has been on board as DZ Manager for two years and is responsible for the day-to-day running of the DZ. Prior to his post as DZ Manager, Paul was heavily into 4-way and has made thousands of 4-way jumps. This explains Paul's inability to do any form of freeflying.



1 Flat flyers, free flyers, Tigger flyers – all one happy family at Sibson!

2 Sibson's Grand Caravan, kitted out with comfy benches

3 CCI Chris McCann keeping everything running smoothly

4 DZO Grant Richards and fun jumpers at a Scrambles event

5 Some of Sibson's great facilities

Paul is also heavily involved in the AFF programme and has made more than 1,000 AFF descents. Paul is an avid canopy pilot and, rumour has it, will be competing at the next CP Nationals if Grant will let him. Paul is also the best-looking member of the DZ Management team by far.

WHAT AIRCRAFT DO YOU USE?

Cessna 208B Caravan and Dornier G-92 plus other visiting aircraft

WHAT KIND OF DZ DO YOU TRY TO BE?

There is no doubt about it – we are here




3

for the fun jumper, although we do have a successful Tandem operation. Every bit of feedback we receive is taken on board and we listen to our customers so we can improve our facility. I'm sure all of our current fun jumpers will agree that the vibe and the facilities have changed so much in the last few years that the place has that magic and friendly feel to it. Come and check us out.

HOW DO YOUR JUMPERS DEVELOP ONCE OFF STUDENT STATUS?

One of the areas we identified is how to help the newly-qualified AFF graduates. We have an all-new FS School with its own brand new briefing and debriefing facility. We organise an annual FS scrambles during May and have *Raykipo* on hand as team leaders – last year's event attracted a great response and a fantastic party. We have also just started a tunnel scrambles with the help of Ged Parker from Bodyflight, who is one of our regular club jumpers, and the first competition attracted more than 80 participants.

IN WHAT AREAS DO YOU OFFER COACHING?

We offer team FS coaching for all levels as well as FF coaching with *Varial*, CP coaching with Brian Vacher from Flight-1 and WS coaching with Macca from *Phoenix Fly* and Mark Harris (who wrote the BPA WS1 and WS2 manual!). Brian Vacher is now a regular at the DZ and runs Flight-1 courses. Moving forward, we are running our own internal coaches' courses in all disciplines so that we can cater for all.

WHAT EVENTS DO YOU RUN?

We have a stacked calendar full of great events all year. In 2013, we had a UKSL, FS roadshow, CF roadshow, helicopter jumps, Speed skydiving world series, *Phoenix Fly* flocking events, Speed 8 Nationals, CF Nationals, Classics Nationals, dedicated AFF progression weeks, our own Sibson Scrambles and the now-legendary Sibson Summer Boogie with multiple planeloads and the usual home-grown live band 'Grounded' who finish off the week of festivities with awesome live heavy rock music. That's not forgetting that we had a C-130 Hercules jump and we are planning another, so watch this space.


5


4

DO YOU SPONSOR OR HAVE ANY TEAMS THAT JUMP AT YOUR DZ?

We currently support FS team *Raykipo,* who finished up at the 2013 UK Nationals in fifth position behind the likes of *Satori* and *Kaizen* with a 16.3 average. We are always looking to support teams, so get in touch and let us know your plans. We have a range of deals to suit all budgets.

HOW DO YOU FEEL RUNNING A UK SKYDIVING BUSINESS HAS CHANGED?

It has become very obvious that club jumpers now check the forecast on their weather apps. The 'pitch up anyway' mentality is long gone, so organised events are the way ahead. Having load organisers is invaluable and this is something we will be working on in the coming year. Social media has also made a big difference and interacting with club members has become very important through our Facebook and Twitter groups.

WHAT'S THE BEST THING ABOUT YOUR DZ?

We pride ourselves on our customer service. The management and the staff are all avid fun jumpers who love to jump for fun, so the atmosphere reflects this and the DZ has a great vibe which we think has put us firmly on the map for places to jump and have fun. We also pride ourselves on being able to meet the needs of our customers. If you need something, just ask. There are no egos here – just staff who love to jump and help out if you need it.

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE?

The future is bright. Ever-improving facilities are always required, but a major breakthrough is the moving of the experienced landing area – we have just got the landowner's permission to land on the south side of the runway. As with all changes, we are now seeking the BPA's approval so we can put this into operation. This will allow for quicker turnarounds for our coaches and fun jumpers alike. We are continuing with the G92 on a number of weekends throughout the year to supplement our full-time Caravan. More organised events are always on the cards, along with the continuation of communication with our club members to see what they want. We are also hosting one open week per month this year, because you asked for mid-week jumping again, so check out the dates on our events calendar and come down for a few cheeky mid-week jumps. ●

FOR ALL YOUR SKYDIVING GEAR

Photo courtesy of KOE

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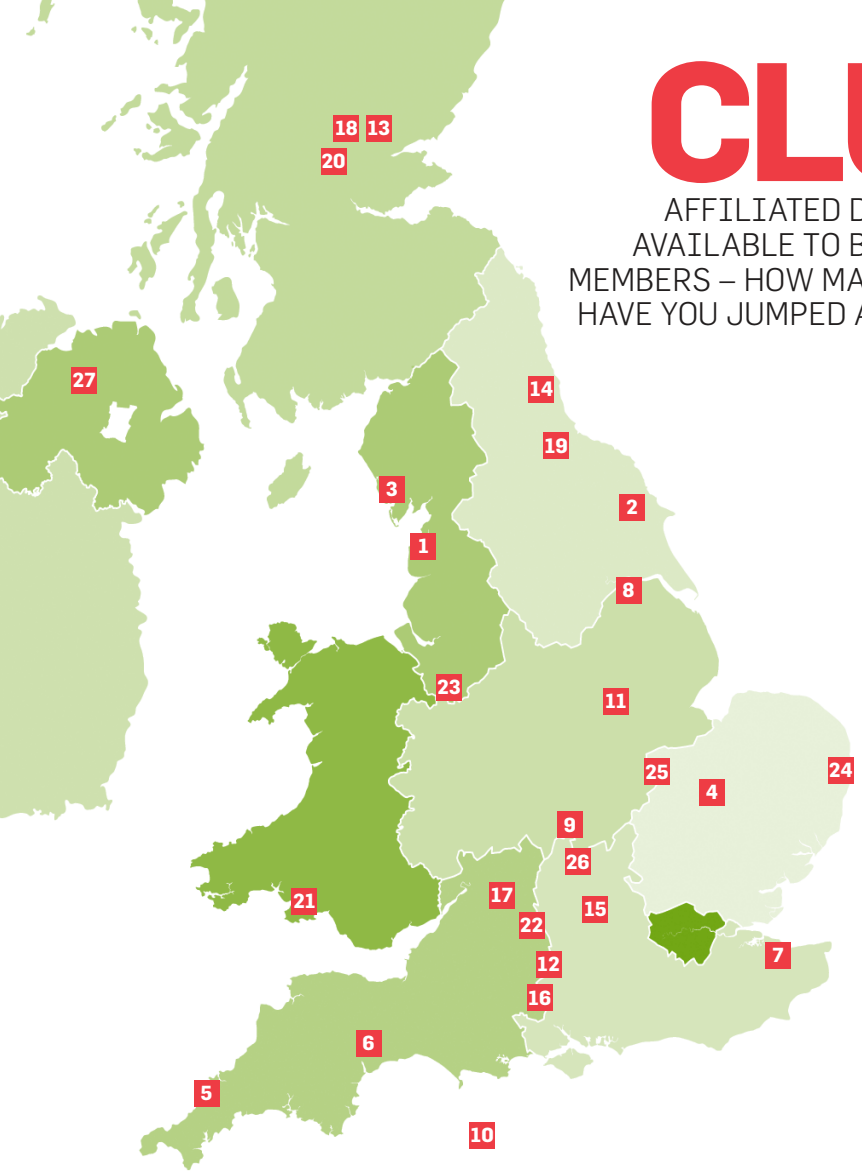



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Mob: 07970 764850
bkpcinfo@googlemail.com
bkpc.co.uk
Blackhawk Caravan

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

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

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

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

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Dunkeswell Airfield, Dunkeswell,
Devon EX14 4LG
T: 01404 890222
Mob: 07718 638000
info@skydive99.com
skydive99.com
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7 Headcorn
Skydive Headcorn
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Kent TN27 9HX
T: 01622 891670
info@headcorn.com
headcorn.com
Cessna Caravan, Islander

8 Hibaldstow
Target Skysports
Hibaldstow Airfield, Hibaldstow,
Brigg, N Lincs DN20 9NN
DZ: 01652 648837
T: 01132 505600
info@skydiving.co.uk
skydiving.co.uk
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Hinton Airfield, Steane, Brackley,
Northants NN13 5NS
T: 01295 812300
info@skydive.co.uk
skydive.co.uk
PAC 750XL

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Skydive Jersey Ltd
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Nottingham NG13 9HY
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Army Parachute Association
Airfield Camp, Netheravon,
Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 9SF
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Errol Airfield, Grange, Errol,
Perthshire PH2 7TB
T: 01821 642454
billy.gollan@btinternet.com
paragonskydiving.co.uk
Cessna 182

14 Peterlee
Peterlee Parachute Club
The Airfield, Shotton Colliery,
Co Durham DH6 2NH
T: 01915 171234
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British Collegiate Parachute Association
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mail@bcpa.org.uk
bcpa.org.uk
A community for university skydivers

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

St George

skydivestgeorge.co.uk

New kids in town

Hello from all of the staff at Skydive St George! This is our first entry in the Mag but, as many of you are aware, we are a new DZ recently established at Durham Tees Valley Airport in the northeast of England. It has been a long journey to get here and we have exciting times ahead; we will be opening our doors to jumpers from April 5 2014.

We have moved into the old RAF Armoury on site and, for the last few weeks, it has been all hands on deck for clearing and decorating the building both inside and out. We have a great location here at Durham Tees and, eventually, we aim to make all experienced skydivers welcome. However, while we find our feet, we have set the limit for experienced jumpers to those with a B Licence and a minimum of 100 jumps. Please do come along and pay us a visit.

We are also available for team training and plan to provide coaching facilities (FS, FF, CF and Wingsuit) once we are up and running – check out our website at skydivestgeorge.co.uk for further details or give us a call.

We can't thank everybody in the skydiving community enough for all of the help, advice and support we have received. We really look forward to seeing you all soon...

Mandy McGuinness



The staff having a well earned lunch in the old RAF Armoury, by Bill Tiplady

Swansea

skydiveswansea.co.uk

All about the fun!

Due to a combination of our beloved G-SYLV being taken from us for six weeks and the crappy weather we have had (BOO!), there's been very little jumping at Swansea. But, rather than spend time staring longingly at the sky praying to the weather gods, offering our souls to the devil in exchange for sunshine or merely weeping in a lonely corner in the foetal position, we have used this as an opportunity to think of ways to maximise the awesomeness of Skydive Swansea in preparation for what I'm sure every skydiver hopes will be a summer jam-packed with blue skies!

Our resident club jumper/packer/handyman Shamus has been working hard on revamping an old and forgotten room at the airport and transforming it into a tandem/AFF briefing room. Now, this news may seem insignificant to our club jumpers, but bear with me. With the briefings now taking place upstairs, this will leave our manifest free to continue operating. This will mean two things – the first being that we can now walk in and out of manifest at any time of day without the fear of a beer fine or, worse still, a scolding from Sara. Happy days! The second is that we are now able to get a lift up while the briefings are taking place. More jumps? Hell yeah! We are also planning on extending the packing corridor to allow more space for our club jumpers to pack.

But wait – it gets better! From April onwards, we will be open every Friday from midday. Even more jumping! And there's more, since our Freefly coach Mikey Phillips will be organising FF sessions on selected Fridays where any fellow ninjas or anyone working towards FF1 can jump from a higher altitude of 15,000ft for the discounted price of £20 per jump! HELL TO THE YEAH! For more information on our Freefly Fridays, contact Mikey via our Facebook page. There will also be canopy handling and progression courses held at the DZ midweek, with dates to be confirmed.



Laura Turner's 100th jump – a 6-way hybrid with Darren Porter, Bill Beynon, Anthony Andrews and Michael Phillips. By Anthony Andrews

Despite minimal action in the skies these past few months, we still have a few achievements to announce. After months and months of hard graft, long trips from home and working his fingers to the bone, our favourite ginger friend has become a Rigger! Nice one Rick, and I hope you're prepared for the torrent of rigs headed your way. Well done to Alicja Paliczka and Will Tenison on getting their B Licences, Anthony Andrews for his 900th and I finally have jump number 100 at last! Oh, and a shout out to Paul Kendall for generally being awesome.

Once the good weather arrives, we are ready for a year packed with fun jumps, big smiles, belly-aching laughter, good times and (of course) unique banter! Look forward to seeing you all in the air! Blue skies!

Laura Turner

ACHIEVEMENTS CH2/JMI Alicja Paliczka, Will Tenison JUMP NUMBERS 50 Alicja Paliczka, Will Tenison 100 Laura Turner 900 Anthony Andrews

Cornish

cornishparachuteclub.co.uk

More than just coasting

2014 got off to a great start with clear blue skies and light winds. The Cornish coastline looks very different in places after the recent storms, but still looks just as stunning as ever.

After the great success of the beach jumps on the last day of the 2013 season, dates for the end of April and beginning of May are being finalised as we go to press. If anyone who has demo clearance would like to come and join us for a skydive onto Perranporth's stunning beach just one mile from the DZ, please feel free to contact us for details.

AFF for the season is now underway and we have plenty of enthusiastic students gracing the skies over Bodmin Airfield who can't wait to make the progression to our coastal DZ when they have sufficient jump numbers.

The club has a real buzz about it already this year and we are looking forward to another great season. We have budding cameramen, freeflyers and canopy pilots all keen to learn and help the club progress along with an experienced team of pilots. After a recent response to photos shared on social media sites, we are expecting to be busier than ever. With the potential to be open seven days a week through the busy summer months, it may just be worth slinging your rig in the car if you're heading down this way for a holiday!

Ben Wood



Jason and Sam, by Ben Wood

Tilstock

theparachutecentre.com

Bring back the sun!

There isn't a lot to report about the start of the season. All we saw in January and February was rain and strong winds which, of course, meant no jumping and unhappy club members.

However, thanks to Buzz, we have been making the most of the tunnel – which has certainly filled the space in rainy days. We have already had a couple of trips this year, with many more to come. It's great to see how popular they are among the club members, especially the static line students who are all so keen and those who are progressing towards their FS1.

Paul Stockwell once again ran a very successful packing course at the beginning of the year – it's always great to up the percentage of people who can pack at a DZ and I'm sure Gary Windon will agree that you can never have too many packers. We are always taking names for the next packing course so, if you're interested, please let us know at manifest. Gary got himself a personal packer out of the course in the form of his daughter. Showing your laziness there, Gary...

By the time this goes to print, we will hopefully have had wall-to-wall blue skies and have gotten plenty of jumping and achievements in!

Mary Carbutt

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT8/CHI **Laura Jones**
JUMP NUMBERS 200 **Martyn Berry**



Dan Cope receiving his 100th jump certificate from CCI Alex Busby-Hicks with Dave Major, Adam Roberts, Jules Bergel, Jaroslaw Jochymczyk and Simon Wilkinson. By Colin Fitzmaurice

Cark

skydive northwest.co.uk

Never rains but it pours

There must be something in the water – well, we have seen so much of it over the past few months – because, later this year, we will have two new junior club members. Congratulations to Steve and Kelly and to Peter and Courtney as we all look forward to the safe arrival of their newborns. Peter, you are one off a 4-way team!

Over the winter period, we saw the demise of our bunk room. Tired and with a religious roof (holey), it has now been sent for recycling. Dave and Mike have been working tirelessly to convert one of our existing buildings into a new bunk room instead. With partitions erected, insulation fitted and a quick shave of the door to stop it catching on the frame, it was open. Thank you to all who assisted, but in particular to Dave and Mike for the speediness of completion.

The development of the diary of events continues and we are all looking forward to one of our major events with the Wingsuit Championships over the Easter Break. Big thanks to Jim Scott for all his input.

We strive to keep all our students updated with refresher training, and thanks to all of our committee members for their continued drive and effort to ensure their students frequent the DZ as much as possible. The weather will get better one day!

As our website continues to expand and develop, keep your eyes on our events pages for regular updates and features. We are awaiting dates for a number of BPA Coaching Roadshows and these will be added upon receipt.

Looking forward to the Easter break and to getting our knees in the breeze...

Stu Morris



Lenny cross-referencing! By Neil Mc

ACHIEVEMENTS JUMP NUMBERS 200 **Brett Miller**

Hibaldstow skydiving.co.uk

New year, new start, new you?

There are certainly a lot of new faces around and we love it! It feels like people want to test the waters in the early season. Though the weather has not been kind, we've done some great skydiving and had some fantastic times. If you dropped into the dropzone over the last few months, we hope you liked what you saw.

The season kick-off is always Safety Day, with our staff members giving talks, seminars and practicals to get the mind working for the season ahead. Discussions covered gear wear and tear, flying a stack, being a good jumpmaster and the decisions made when starting CP. Thanks to all who took the time to produce interesting talks! Naturally, the night was fired up with our first Foundry Party Night – a very special night indeed, cementing our DZ as a place where community matters more than weather!

Wingsuit fever has taken hold and, even in the cold weather, jumpers are donning red wings and staying up high for long periods of time. It's so popular that the Flock Foundry has joined the family at Hibaldstow – search Flock Foundry on Facebook to get involved.

The coaching continues hard in the off season with the FS Foundry boys pushing hard to get in as much jumping as possible for the students before the events start and we have the lovely Liz Boniface pushing the Freefly scene to new levels again. Liz will be joined by some of the biggest names in Freefly as the season commences, including Paul Cooper, Jay Southall and Adam Dare – all of whom have a wealth of experience to pass on at Hibaldstow.

Last but not least, the DZ might well be opening the doors of our newest addition by the time you read this! Our brand new clubhouse is almost done and it looks amazing already. Keep an ear out for party plans coming your way as we open our new bar.

The season is underway now, with loads of events coming up for every level in every discipline, so let's look forward to another huge season at the UK's busiest DZ!

Stubert Ferglstein

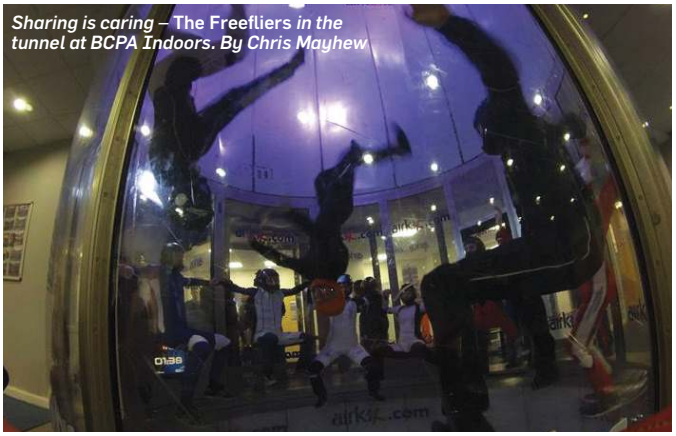
ACHIEVEMENTS FSI Thomas Chan WSI Ann Flemming WS2 Samuel Cavendish
JUMP NUMBERS 100 Dan Gittins 400 Samuel Cavendish 2,000 Stubert Ferglstein
ONE HOUR IN FREEFALL Jay Bambridge



Wes on Tandem, by Jordan Wilcox

BCPA bcpa.org.uk

Who needs the sky?



Sharing is caring – The Freefliers in the tunnel at BCPA Indoors. By Chris Mayhew

Starting off both a New Year and semester two, BCPA escaped the winter by going indoors for our annual tunnel event. This year's venue was Airkix Manchester and, with 71 people flying over 16 hours, it was a BCPA invasion. With everything from static line students getting a head start on stable freefall to "Let's see how many freefliers fit in the tunnel", it was an event for everyone that was particularly spectator-friendly. FS coaching was offered by *4mula*'s Kate Lindsley and Simon Ashley and *Eclipse*'s Jonny Flowers and Martin Cressey and FF coaching was provided by *Varial*'s Steve Howes. All of the coaching was excellent and much progression was made – thank you to all of the coaches for their time. Sunday brought competitions in 2-way FF, 4-way FS and the always-entertaining Tunnel Twister. With challenges such as 'Face to Tunnel Rat', the competition was best described as 'frenzied' and amazing moves were performed. A special mention must go to Jason Kelleher for getting his face to his own backside and recovering. Congratulations to all of our medallists and thank you to everybody who came and flew – it was a truly memorable weekend!

By the time you're reading this, BCPA Peterlee will have already happened and you can look forward to reading about that in the next Mag. After BCPA Peterlee comes BCPA Dunks on June 6-8. We have lots of exciting things in the pipeline for this event, so watch the Facebook page for updates. If you'd like to attend this event, you can sign up on our website and all are welcome.

We are delighted to announce that we have also now fixed the dates for our massive Nationals event. It will be held over June 30-July 6 at Skydive Hibaldstow. Nationals is always mega and we plan to go even bigger this year – more updates to come!

Tunnel fever has really grasped the BCPA as more and more of our member universities band together to host their own tunnel nights, improving skills ahead of the new skydiving season and having a lot of fun too. We're excited to see the skills our members are developing put into action in the skies at our upcoming events. If you'd like to organise a tunnel night for your Uni and would like some guidance, don't hesitate to contact us.

BCPA is growing as we welcome more and more universities, some of which are completely new clubs. If you're part of a club that would like to join or you're a skydiver who'd like to start a club at their university, we'd love to hear from you.

You can check out the BCPA and get in touch on our website at bcpa.org.uk or find us on Facebook.

Ali Woodhouse

2014

It's Boogie time!

18-21 April

We have our two Grand Caravans and the fantastic FOXY Plane will be joining us for Boogie1 this year!

We have a great team of organisers this year, catering for formation skydiving, freefly, VFS, tracking and more!

Formation Skydiving	Milko's Easter Challenge Dave Morris Will Cooke
Freefly and VFS	Bullet Freefly Team QFX

We will also have coaches available throughout the Boogie, just check in at manifest in the morning!

And its not a Boogie without live entertainment and an awesome party in Shaggy's Bar!

After the Boogie:	6Way Competition	26-27 April
	Will Cooke's Big Way FS	17-18 May
	Bullet Tracking Weekend	24-26 May

SKYDIVE Langar

/skydivelangar

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

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Langar

skydivelangar.co.uk

Challenge accepted

Well, winter dragged on as usual, but we were open throughout (also as usual) and jumping got really busy whenever the days were nice. Also, we were open when the nights were nice too – February's night jumps, while cancelled on the Saturday night, went ahead on the Sunday with a beautiful clear sky. The full moon rose... just in time to light things up as we stopped and put everything away! Best laid plans, eh?

We've got loads of stuff for you during the coming months, kicking off with a slightly early Langar Boogie 1 to coincide with a slightly late Easter. Get your time off booked, as that's not far off now. Full details of the Boogie (and all other events, of course) appear at facebook.com/skydivelangar, so keep an eye on that for the latest news. The Boogie includes an invitational 40-way Challenge – you'll know if you're involved in that already if all has gone according to plan.

We've got regular organised skydiving weekends scheduled for both Flat and Freefly, and there's even a hybrid event planned for later on in the season. Even if you're already occupied at weekends, you can come and jump with us midweek as we're busy pretty much any day.

See you soon!

Tony Danbury

ACHIEVEMENTS CH2/JMI **Stefan Pacel, Simon Perry** FSI **Rachel Edgson, Rob Smith**
JUMP NUMBERS 50 **Sam Moule, Rob Smith** 100 **Paul Colman, Rachel Edgson, Steve Padmore** 800 **Emma Pilkington** 1,200 **Ryan Briddon** 2,300 **Siân Stokes**
ONE HOUR IN FREEFALL **Rob Smith**

Peterlee

skydiveacademy.org.uk

Still busy

Well, it's been a slow start to 2014, with most of the country – let alone Peterlee – experiencing adverse conditions. Despite being on the top of a hill, Peterlee is also prone to flooding but it's so far so good with Tony Fernyhough and Roy Howarth keeping a close eye on the drains to make sure they remain unblocked and so keep our hangar dry. The tarmac runway has again kept us operating when we would have doubtless bogged in on the grass at this time of year.

As is our practice at Peterlee, we only open at weekends until after Valentine's Day in February. Ian Rosenvinge and Paul Moore took advantage of that by going down to Hibaldstow to examine on the BPA Basic Instructor Course held there during the last week of January 2014 where Ian (ex-RESPA), who originally trained Nick Brownhill (also ex-RESPA, now Netheravon), was privileged to be pictured with him receiving his Advanced Instructor Certificate.

The BPA elections saw Paul and Ian elected to BPA Council, with Paul again being appointed Chair of BPA Competitions Committee. There appears to be some sympathetic movement in the interpretation of the regulations as we transition to operate under the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA). We at Peterlee have made the decision to again affiliate as a BPA Club in order to permit our largely Private Pilot Licence-holding pilots to continue to fly for us. While on the subject of pilots, it was confirmed at a recent meeting of the BPA Development Committee

With eight jumps completed, the group relaxes...



Chris Taylor's CF exit

Meeting that pilots are no longer Associate Non-Jumping Pilot Members of the BPA, but the Committee did confirm that pilots (along with other BPA and Centre representatives) do benefit from Third Party Liability Cover under the BPA Insurance Policy while airside on the ground, which is very good news indeed. Paul Moore continues as President of the European Parachute Union and recently attended the EPU meeting in Vienna in February.

In the interim, some of the centre irregulars undertook a pre-season training camp out at Skydive Spain in Seville. Alas, they were also thwarted by bad weather, only managing the odd jump or two on most days, but they did manage to round the trip off with eight jumps on their final day. The most had to be made of the downtime by ground training and relaxing.

Due to the lack of jumping back at home, the achievements board is currently bare. However, we hope to see some additions over the next couple of months. There has been some keen interest in CF in particular, with Janjilla Chirnside and Darren Strafford hoping to get further coaching from such as Chris Taylor, Gregg Taylor and Steve Watkin.

Here's to a great 2014!

Ian Rosenvinge

PHANTOM

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Beccles

ukparachuting.co.uk

New Year, new records broken

Here at Beccles, we know how to rock the mild winter weather we've been having. We smashed the club jump record for any January with more than 320 fun jumps. Hopefully this is a sign of what's to come for the rest of the year.

Symon's packing class was back for the New Year as well, with 10 people attending over the weekend. Cheers to Sy for the brilliant tuition and congratulations to all you funkstarz who participated – especially Aaron Stewart and Ross Francis, who amazed us all with how fast they picked up those essential packing skills.

Looking towards the future, we have plenty of exciting events coming up here at Beccles. Firstly, there's going to be regular AFF progression and coaching weeks held throughout the year, kicking off with April 7-13. Also in April, we're going to start doing evening jumps on a Wednesday. This will carry on throughout the summer months as well, so make sure you can leave work early and come on down for some awesome sunset dives. The first one will be on April 9.

Our annual Scrambles event will be happening over the first May bank holiday, with *Raykipo* coming again to organise, coach and generally provide us with their smiley faces and epic skills. I'm super proud to announce that we have been granted a BPA FS Roadshow Weekend, which will be held on June 7-8. It's going to be an excellent way to gain new skills and improve our safety in the skies. This will be open to all levels from new jumpers to the more experienced flyers who want to hone their skills.

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT8 Edward Coleman, Ross Francis, Kyle Hellier, Aaron Stewart, Anthony Toma CH2/JMI Olly Dean JUMP NUMBERS 50 Olly Dean 100 John Dippnall, Blaine 'Where's my main?' Kinge, Dan Semper 200 Sean Thompson, Ian Whayman



Rob 'The Pie Smuggler' Bellman swooping, by Pete Long

Finally, we'll be running a three DZ challenge on July 21 or 22. This will see us taking off from Beccles, flying out to Chatteris to drop in on them and then taking off again to fly to Sibson, where we'll spend the rest of the day enjoying our sister DZ's ace hospitality. We'll then get a lift back in the plane to Beccles to jump back onto home ground.

If you want to participate in any of the events mentioned, pre-registration will be needed and a deposit paid.

James Page

Headcorn

headcorn.com

Waterwings required

Del has been busy with building projects, Pete has his work cut out training potential CSBIs, Jane has been skiing, Clem can be found in the packing shed under a mountain of reserve repacks, Georgie has been inundated with enquiries and bookings and Alex has been polishing his plane. All in all, a very busy club.

However, there has been one thing missing. Oh, yes – we are a skydiving club! Aaarrgghh! In my 34 years here, I have never known a run of weather like this. Day after day of rain rain rain, meaning that the runway has been closed for much of January and February.

We made the decision to hire the Caravan from Texel during February to cover the annual on ours. With the benefit of hindsight, we would have cancelled February and saved some money – but at least we were prepared. On the rare days when we were able to fly, it was stop/start while we inspected any runway or taxiway damage done after each lift. Anyone not wearing waterproofs came back very damp from the surface water on the landing area.

However, even with this bad start to 2014, we have managed some achievements. On our first jumping day of the year, James Sparks squeezed in his last DP and his first freefall – ably coached by his CSI dad Chris – and what a fine first freefall it was too. Dave Hillwood got Level 6 and 7 in and moved onto consols, Charlie Puttick finally achieved FS1 and Lindsey Eldridge and Dan Cato qualified for their A Licences. We also said

A very wet airfield, by Clem Quinn



hello to Cookie from Austrailia, who was on a fleeting visit and did his first jump here in 20 years!

Since that distant memory in January, we have only jumped on two other days and even then we were restricted on the amount of lifts we could do. Let's hope that by the time this goes to print, we will have finally got the jumping season underway!

On a brighter note, the Wings Bar will be reopening under new management in April, so we will have somewhere to drink and tell stories of derring do at the end of a long jumping day. Also, the annual Florida trip led by Simon Hughes and Chris Lynch started on March 8 and, at the last count, 45 people were going! Let's hope the weather is kind to them out there.

Jane Hopkins

ACHIEVEMENTS FIRST FREEFALL James Sparks CAT 8/CHI Dan Cato, Lindsey Eldridge FSI Charlie Puttick


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Wonderfall

Sometimes you've just got to roll with it, don't look back in anger and quote some Britpop. We won't dwell on the appalling conditions of late, but we will look forward to the season ahead and reminisce about some good old times.

Brian Heath showed me this picture (*right*) a while ago and was rightfully proud of the good old times when real men wore proper kit. Just mild staining on the knees says his landings were on a par with his piloting skills these days, and his good lady's wearing a smile that says she's impressed with his form. Does anyone recognise the location?

By the time this goes to press, the club trip to Z-Hills should have seen a new batch of AFFers qualified and ready to jump the Rock (Jersey). The USA attendee numbers keep growing and the last count was five new jumpers and half a dozen current members of the club. This will bolster the club numbers nicely and keep the Cessna busy during those sunny months ahead. We should see some good FS progression this year from the local jumpers, with a chance of some coaching too. There's talk of a 4-way team for a competition later in the season – let's hope we get chance for plenty of practice!



Brian Heath, back in the good old days

The Club AGM is due shortly, so there may be plans of boogies and more club action to report in the next issue. The dates for our operation in Guernsey this year have been announced as August 23-25. If you're interested in visiting an exclusive DZ which is open for only three days a year, get in touch to check availability of slots.

As I write, the Jersey dates are due to be announced in a few days. This takes planning and authorisation from the airport as we operate out of Class A Airspace at an international commercial airport. We're the only place in the UK with this setup so, along with the beach landing zone, this makes us pretty unique. We'll forward the dates on to the Mag, so check the calendar or our website at skydivejersey.net for opening times – get in touch first if you're planning a trip here.

Bring on the blue skies!

Nigel O'Brien

Dunkeswell

skydive99.com

Boogie Capital 2014

We would like to welcome all of the new jumpers who have recently joined our club. We have been jumping throughout the winter and have been busier than ever before. With two Beech99s and a new Grand Caravan, we have space for many more.

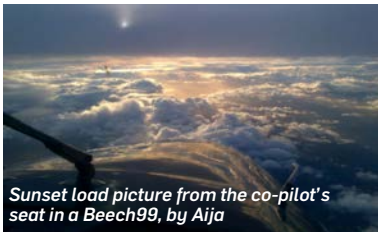
We will be holding at least four boogies this season. We'll have Twin Beech Boogies in May and August with the best load organisers in the universe (Dave Morris for FS, Killa/Adam Mattacola and Chris Lynch for head up and head down Freefly) and we are also holding an Easter Boogie and BCPA Boogie for students.

We continue with hugely popular FS big-way weekends (on the second weekend every month), Tracking weekends (on the third weekend every month) and FS progression weekends (on the fourth weekend every month). We are determined to make this DZ a Freefly capital once again, so we have organised Freefly groups for three weekends every month where you can progress in small head up or head down groups for lots of fun and coaching with Dan Guest.

We are so happy to congratulate our club members Fraser Corsan and Neil Empringham on their BPA WS coach ratings! This means we will be organising lots of wingsuit coaching and flocking this year. Some amazing news will follow here in the next issue.

The UK Canopy Piloting Nationals will be held here on July 18-20. We will be open for jumping the whole week before for training. Our CP coach Simon Larcombe is organising Canopy Piloting courses through the whole year – please call the office on 01404 890222 to register. This is for all levels, whether you need a confidence boost on your landings or want to learn to swoop the pond. Also, the legendary Brian Vacher will be holding high-performance Canopy Piloting courses here in summer – watch this space.

With the DZ constantly growing from February 2014, we are open for jumping four days every week: Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Once a month, we will be open for jumping for 10 days in a row. *Vision99* will be team training and everyone is welcome to jump on these weekdays! We have free camping and hookups for motorhomes here too, and the Aviator bar/restaurant near the DZ is open for good food from dusk till dawn.



Sunset load picture from the co-pilot's seat in a Beech99, by Aija

4-way FS Scrambles will be held on the first weekend of May. To register, please email Marie Anne on mastevens@hotmail.com.

For the latest news and updates, find our Facebook page at Skydive UK Dunkeswell. See you soon!

Miko

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:
Boogies: Easter Boogie – April 18-21, Twin Beech Boogie 1 – May 22-25, BCPA Boogie – June 6-8, Twin Beech Boogie 2 – August 20-24
4-way FS Scrambles: May 3-4
FS Big-way: May 10-11, June 7-8, July 12-13, August 9-10
Tracking: May 17-18, June 14-15, August 16-17
FS Progression: April 26-27, June 22, July 26-27
Canopy Course: May 9-11, June 6-8, August 29-31, September 26-28

ACHIEVEMENTS FIRST FREEFALL Michael Briggs, David Clare, Stephanie Keller, Brian Wu CAT8/CHI Max Boncey, Alex Macadam, Richard Morris, Michael Osgood, Lewis Wood CH2/JMI Arthur Amarra, Gary Broom, Joe Mann, Ben Wilkins FSI Oli Melzack, Adam Thomas, Kevin Young FFI Franky Lock, Metaxas Nicolaides, Paul Pinkard, Jordan Price JUMP NUMBERS 100 Phil Cane 200 Dave Hyde 400 Jessica Armishaw, Nick El-Batal 500 Paul Gardener, Richie Taylor 800 Chris Griffin

RAPA

skydive-badlippspringe.com

New season, new staff and a 50th Anniversary Boogie!



With the new season having started on March 15, weather gods permitting, it brought with it (as with every year) a new set of faces – the incremental staff – and this year is no exception. We have five new faces, along with two returns from last year, and the permanent staff to welcome to the fold to ensure the slick running of the DZ and a great start to not only their skydiving experience but also that of all regulars (and irregulars!) who frequent THE best BPA DZ in the whole of Germany.

This year is not just any old year, though. This year, we celebrate a half century – 50 years of the RAPA DZ at Bad Lippspringe! The organisers have been pulling all available strings to make this a Boogie that you DO NOT WANT TO MISS! To aid with the organisation of the RAPA 50th Anniversary Boogie, registration (if you haven't already done it) is necessary. This can easily be done by following the link on the Skydive Bad Lippspringe website at skydive-badlippspringe.com. All available options and costs are explained there, with your payment securing one of the 200 sought-after places and a Boogie T-shirt.



Opposite: RAPA 50th Boogie, by Rob Kendall
Here: The faces of 2014, by Rich Oakley

"What's going to be available?" I hear you ask. Too much to list in this article, but here's a taster of things to come:

- Two Skyvans and a Caravan confirmed, a Dornier to be confirmed
- World-class load organisers over a variety of disciplines
- FS – Nick Grillet, Rob Kendall and Dave Lewis
- WS – Paul and Elana Cain
- FF – Melanie Curtis, Tim Hedderich, Eva Walzel and Dominic Leser
- Big-way multi-plane FS jumping
- German Ladies HD Record Attempt

And much, much more, not to mention the entertainment after jumping hours...

Rich Oakley

Paragon

paragonskydiving.co.uk

Is it a Burd? Is it a plane?



Lukasz and Graham in a 2-way from Zulu Uniform, by Chik

It seems that the winter has been a very long and very wet one yet again. Thankfully, we seem to be over the worst and are getting back in the air again more frequently.

Since our last newsflash from Paragon, we have seen the return of Callum 'Big Burd' Bissett in the skies over Errol Airfield. It is great to see him back jumping after an extended break. Another familiar face back in the air is our fearless leader Billy after a brief time out getting some upgrades done.

Our beloved chief packer Alice celebrated a significant birthday recently and partied in true style fuelled by Irn-Bru – Dunfermline still doesn't know what hit it! Congratulations once again on your birthday, and there will be many more to come before we can let you retire from the hard work in the packing shed...

All of our Instructors, cameraflyers, pilots, packers, manifest and canteen people are looking forward to a very busy summer with the students. We also have some great demos to look forward to along with an increasing amount of CReW and wingsuit activity, so it's promising to be a fun year all round. Hopefully it won't be long before we fire up the first BBQ of the year and, as usual, all past, present and future Paragon skydivers are welcome.

Blue skies,

Markie McConnell



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Dave Ruffell

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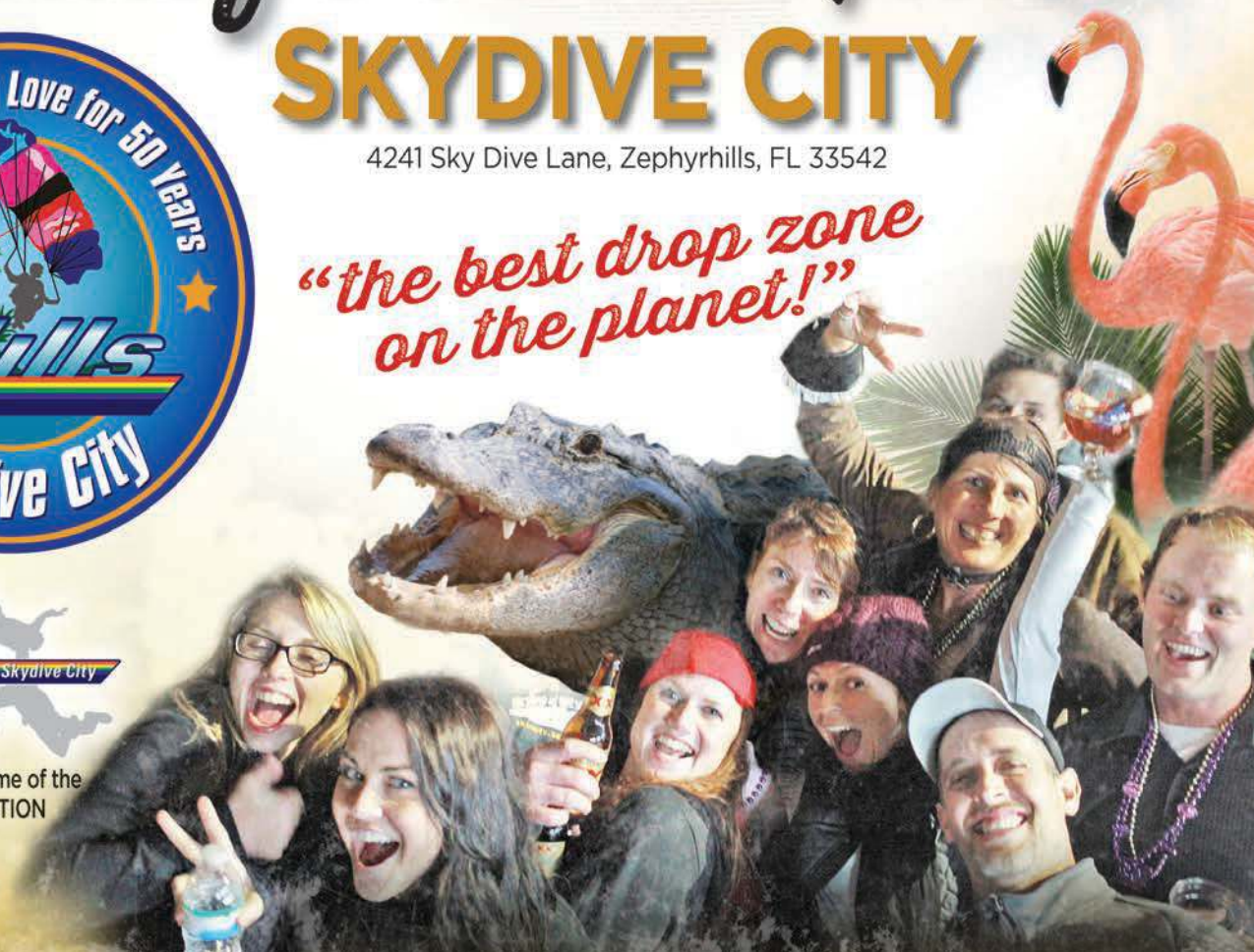
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Cyprus

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Rain? What's that?

It's been a few months since the last update from our small corner of the Mediterranean and, as usual, there is a lot to report. With fond farewells to some of our regular jumpers and warm welcomes to the newer guys, Kingsfield DZ is always a busy place.

The winter months are now upon us and this is the easiest time of the year to tell the difference between the locals and those of us from the UK. As with any Brit, as soon as there is a little bit of sun, we are sporting flip-flops and swim shorts around the DZ. However, the Cypriot guys can be seen in head-to-toe thermals and huddle together in groups, arguing over who is going to sit in the not-so-hot seat and JM on the next lift. The winter out here this year has been very dry, which is good news. Lift numbers sometimes touch double figures for the day, which is an achievement for us and our little Islander! There was one day where a strange liquid fell from the sky and we had to curtail jumping early for the day. The bar was open earlier due to this, so I suppose it's swings and roundabouts!

Now, if I didn't mention a certain staff training trip in this write-up, I think the CCI would ground me indefinitely. We had an extended shutdown over the festive period, which allowed our Islander a bit of a break, but the main reason was a staff training trip organised by CCI Martin White. Our hard-working staff were off to Skydive Dubai for two weeks for a well-deserved training trip and we were all well aware of this thanks to daily photos and updates on social media, followed by the Skydive Dubai T-shirts that had appeared all over the DZ. Martin White and Phil Bell can normally be seen pacing the DZ with a radio or dealing with RAPS students while Dylan Bartle and Chas McNeil will have tandem or AFF students in tow, so it was nice to see them let their hair down and enjoy themselves!

Our weekend RAPS Instructors have been busy as usual, with lots of students recently reaching first freefall and beyond. Big congratulations have to go to George Kakkis, one of our hard-working weekend staff, for achieving his CSI rating. Poor George was sent back to a snowy Hibaldstow to achieve his rating but prevailed despite the alien weather – massive thanks to Phil Bell and Pelham Georghiades for helping George to prepare fully for the course. Our regular jumpers keep coming every weekend despite the 'cold' weather.



Chas McNeil, by Dylan Bartle

Wingsuiting seems ever-popular nowadays, with Steve Thomas and Chas McNeil lending their expertise. Marcus Fountain conducted his first tube jump with Chas – it was quite funny to watch Marcus rehearsing his deployment drills and figuring out how to stow the tube. I hear he also fell backwards in the door and ended up like a stuck turtle on his back!

We also have to say a big congratulations to one of our longest-serving students, Andy Sphicas. Andy has been a regular at the DZ over the last year, conducting his RAPS training. He has been thwarted on numerous occasions by the seemingly constant 16 knot winds we get through the summer but, over the Christmas stand down, our resident AFFIs Chas and Dylan managed to convert him to the dark side and, in the New Year, he began his AFF training. Andy has excelled and is now sitting pretty with his BPA A Licence in hand!

Life really does thunder along at a rapid pace over here at Kingsfield. As I write, the forecast of events for the coming year is being finalised and we all look forward to seeing what 2014 will bring! Anyone wishing to leave the UK behind and visit us and our warm sunny skies is more than welcome. Please ensure you contact the DZ before making any plans to make sure you won't be disappointed after a long trip out to Cyprus. Blue skies!

David Biggadyke

ACHIEVEMENTS FIRST FREEFALL **Rhys Hawkey, Dean Johnson, Richard Kimber, Chris Kinnerley, Aaron Waller, Dave Wanless** CAT 8/CHI **Dean Johnson** CH2/JMI **Nasos Ktorides** FFI **Dylan Bartle** WSI **Dylan Bartle** JUMP NUMBERS 50 **Nasos Ktorides** 200 **Charalambos Charalambous**

Bridlington

skydivegb.com

Onesies, minions and more...

The winter weather has shown its vengeance over the past few months and jumping has been a little on the chilly side, though the visuals are spectacular on a cold and clear day. We eagerly await the clear days as our pilot is scared of clouds!

We warmly welcome the newest members of our team – the beautiful Keira, daughter of Tracy Bartley and John Benson. She weighed in at a whopping 11lb 3oz, which is enough to make anyone's eyes water! We also say hello to Noah, son of Claire and Marc Dodd.

The static line courses are up and running successfully and it's good to see the return of the DST Leconfield 'massive'. The Hull University girls are showing the boys up and it is good to see their progression.

Steve 'Fat Pants' Kilvington completed his 100th jump as a blindfolded tandem passenger on the front of Ray Armstrong. Shaun Ruffell completed his 100th, jumping wearing only his rig and his pants on a particularly cold February day in Yorkshire. It really was 'grim up North' on this occasion...



Keira in a Skydive GB onesie

Lisa Harrison has taken over the canteen, with Andie Harrison as her minion. They are doing a great job and the food is top notch.

Sara Orton

ACHIEVEMENTS JUMP NUMBERS 100 **Steve 'Fat Pants' Kilvington, Shaun Ruffell**

Wild Geese

skydivewildgeese.com

The rain in Spain – ah...





As I'm sure a lot of folks are in the same boat, you'll all understand that the start of 2014 has seen some of the worst weather since records began and it stands to reason that there has been very little activity since the New Year. Even a group who ventured to Spain to get a few jumps under their belts ended up watching rugby in the pub the whole time.

Although we have been forced to stand down for the vast majority of the year so far, there have been a few windows of opportunity that were seized by the lucky few DZ jumpers who ventured to the centre praying for a few sucker holes to stay open long enough for a lift to get dropped. During our down time, it was great to see so many of our students staying keen and coming up to get refreshed and learning how to pack. A few even got to do a couple of jumps.

Congratulations to the Queen's University Belfast Skydive Club for receiving a donation towards new skydiving gear from the university annual fund. Michael Doone and Stuart Black were there in full costume to collect the donation.

Ever the optimist, I believe that the spell of bad weather at the beginning of the year leaves the rest of the year clear for glorious blue skies and light winds. Hopefully everyone has been saving their jump ticket money for the jumpfest spectacular weather that the spring is about to bring? Fingers crossed!

Rod McCrory

Top: Cormac Quinn, by Gillian Anderson. Main: Stevie Kerr, by Gillian Anderson

Netheravon

netheravon.com

Real skydivers wear pink

It's all systems go at Nethers with March coaching events by *Euphoria, Isis, SAVoA* and Paul Capsey as well as Mike Lewis' and the Wingsuit Flock's load organising weekends. Watch out for some amazing photos in next month's Club Zone and on our Facebook page.

In the meantime, the Netheravon Flock is busy getting ready for the UK Wingsuit Nationals next month. Many have been training over the winter with *Tutti Frutti*, the reigning intermediate Artistic champions, flying off to Florida for some winter wingsuiting, while Spike and Jackie Harper have been pushing the boundaries in the latest and largest suits at the Z-Hills Performance Competition with Spike picking up the gold. Although Netheravon have hosted the UK Wingsuit championships for two years, this is the first time it will be officially recognised by the BPA. The competition has grown in size each year and this year promises to be the biggest multi-discipline wingsuit competition in Europe! The trophies have been designed, the T-shirts printed and the bar restocked. By the next edition, we will have all the results ready to read!

Wet weather did nothing to dampen the spirits of the Bournemouth University Freefall Club, who turned up over a windy Valentine's weekend to get 12 new members trained up and ready for their first jump as soon as the weather improved. By the time this goes to press, they should be well on their way to freefall. The new recruits' initiation into the world of skydiving was assisted by their fellow club members, who embraced the 'Pink'n'Fluffy' dress code in the bar with their usual enthusiasm.

New PD Silhouette canopies are now rigged and in use. These are proving very popular with both students and experienced jumpers. The APA purchased 15 of these canopies as part of their commitment to keep Netheravon at the cutting edge of modern parachuting equipment.

Elana Cain



Bournemouth University Freefall Club at the Pink'n'Fluffy night

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Chatteris

ukskydiving.com

FF, FS and... foxes?



Lewis Jones exiting in his Intrudair tracking suit, by Greg McEntee

There's a fair amount of news surrounding Skydive Chatteris lately. Firstly, hello to all we encountered at AGM if you're reading this. You may remember us Chatteris lot – probably from occupying the dance-floor all night, and not to mention Mr(s) Beattie's wonderful but most random floral attire. You may also remember Tanya dressed as a fox dressed as Robin Hood (which won her a PD voucher, by the way!). What a great night had by all!

Moving on to this season. I mentioned in the last issue that we would be hosting various BPA Roadshows this year and I have some news. Firstly, on June 21-22, we have the FS Roadshow. Coaches are yet to be confirmed with all events, but you can be sure they will be some of the UK's top competitors and FS flyers – meaning it doesn't matter whether you're working towards your FS1 or want to make the most of free coaching for your team, they will be able to help you with most aspects.

Next, we have a CF Roadshow on July 19-20. There will be more restrictions as to who may take part in terms of skill level, but the weekend will consist of looking into canopy collisions, emergency procedures and dealing with wraps and entanglements as well as a detailed look into how CF canopies differ from regular freefall kit, how to pack CF gear and 2-, 3- and 4-way formations. For more details on requirements, please contact the DZ.

Finally, the other planned roadshow is a weekend of (remember, free!) Freefly coaching on August 9-10. Again, coaches are yet to be confirmed but it is suitable for anyone who is looking to either get into FF from FS, those looking to hone their already existing FF skills and maybe even if you're interested in VFS and looking to get a team going. Plenty planned for the summer and, no doubt, even more fun things to keep you busy yet to be announced.

Furthermore, one of our jumpers has embarked on a new and exciting project. Lewis Jones, who started jumping just over two and a bit years ago and soon after became a regular at Chatteris, has teamed up with suit designers Intrudair (as well as Drift Innovations and Lowpul Apparel) to track (excuse the pun) the progress of a wingsuiter from novice to experienced and mistakes and lessons learnt along the way. They will also be focusing on how different suits can help a skydiver achieve different skills, starting with a tracking suit and then focusing on an acrobatic wingsuit followed by a high-performance wingsuit. You can follow their progress at www.facebook.com/FLIGHTEVO.

Robynne Haynes

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT 8/CHI **Robin Auld, Chris Riley, Jordan Webb** CH2/JMI **Marc Melo Araujo** JUMP NUMBERS 200 **Sean Healy**

Black Knights

bkpc.co.uk

All go at BK

Well, where do we start? Our Christmas Boogie was a massive success, with plenty of regulars and new faces attending for FS, FF and CF fun, the first-ever BPA Wingsuit Roadshow, plenty of tandem Christmas surprises, student progression and a fantastic social scene. Thanks to all who attended, including our guest coaches, and thanks to the local pubs and restaurants for seating 30+ each evening without asking us "Are you serious?".

After a very wet and windy beginning to the season, we're now underway. Our resident CF champions, the *Cockerham Cockups*, have started training here at Black Knights for this year's Nationals competition and brand new wingsuit Artistics team *Azure* have taken to the skies with some impressive displays. Our FS contingent are also getting very excited in the construction of various teams for this year's FS Nationals and we wish all of them the very best of luck – we're sure they'll do Black Knights proud. We have masses planned for this coming season, notably the organised DZ trip to the Isle of Man during this year's TT Races for fun jumping at Jurby Airfield, the creation of a new wingsuit school and our AFF School opening in March. We'd like to welcome our new Instructors, who will be running regular courses and progression through to B Licence for our student skydivers. RAPS courses will be running throughout the year and we also have safety days and canopy courses planned with our regular and guest Instructors.



Over the rainbow, by Roger Hughes

A charity fundraising day for experienced skydivers will take place on June 21 in aid of the Black Knights Charity of the Year, the North West Air Ambulance. Pack your swimwear and come and join us at 15,000ft to support this life-saving service.

The calendar with all of our open days, weeks and events is now finalised and we look forward to seeing everyone here. Open weeks will include a variety of dedicated student and B Licence briefs, progression and load organised fun for experienced skydivers of all levels.

Needless to say, we're all very excited about this coming year – it's going to be a big one. Dates and details of all our events are published on our website and regular updates are available on our Facebook page, so make sure you check in often because we'll be adding loads more as the season moves on.

We look forward to seeing you all at the dropzone soon.

AJ Taylor

ACHIEVEMENTS FIRST FREEFALL **Michael Hargreves, Catherine Leather** WSI **Jules Bergel** JUMP NUMBERS 800 **Roger Hughes** 1,300 **Phil Symons**

Swindon

skydivelondon.co.uk

Hibernation, armadillos and barrel-scraping

Redlands shuts its doors for the winter, mainly to give Brucie time to get his beauty sleep, so (as normal) we are scraping the barrel of 'what's happened' to write this article. The main news is the return of Andrew Griggs, who immediately managed to get his FS1. Andrew, it's been a pleasure to assist you and I for one would like to thank you for your determination.

We had the usual Christmas Do and February trip to Wales, this time to climb Snowdon. Twenty-eight intrepid walkers set off to a Youth Hostel in the wettest January since records began. Now, as I was a maybe for this trip, I had to go and swim in a lake in Windermere with water at 5°C without a wetsuit. The rest went without me. Unfortunately, Mother Nature decided to be a bit of a deviant and sent all she had to Wales that weekend so, unless you had weather protection like an armadillo, it was not fit for climbing mountains. So, after the words of Dan 'safety never takes a day off' Morgan ("We'd best not go up the mountain today and go to the pub"), there was a short walk to a pub and a few drinks were had. I don't think much else happened, as no one texted or PM'd me, so I am glad I didn't go. Also, without Crazy, Briggs, Pottygieter and myself to make the tea, it wouldn't have been the same. But the good news, for those reading this, was that Redlands did go en masse to Seville. The weather didn't play ball again and lots of sitting around happened, which is never good.


Building a 12-way, by Jonny Moulder

I know a lot happened here as texts and Facebook lit up with stories of battery terminals, jump tickets, Brucie not being able to stand up a toggle turn landing and Redlands' first-ever 12-way. Phil from the café did something as well and wanted a mention, so well done Phil – I am proud of you. I think. In the end, Adam Duncan ended up sleeping in everyone's beds – not because he is the height of manliness, but because he may have drunk too much. Cath didn't have a hissy fit. Sarah Cowan will never forget Seville and will never look at Brucie in the same way. Arek Onoszko, after being told many times that golf or knitting would be better for him, changed tack from static line to AFF and now has an A Licence – boom, big man, and well done. Jenny Bouquet finally realised that talent is a natural gift and got her FS coaching badge. Mike McNulty was smiling on the inside, as always, when he got his FF coaching badge. There are even rumours of H trying to freefly, but no video to prove it. Fight Club at the tunnel goes from strength to strength, and it's hard (amazing, actually) seeing home-grown Redlands students freeflying in the tunnel – especially when I can't even backfly!

Dylan Griffith-Jones

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT 8/CHI **Arek Onoszko**
FSI **Phil Drenning, Andrew Griggs**

Sibson

skydivesibson.co.uk

Back up with a backup

Here we are. The season has started and, like most DZs, we have been battling the weather. The amount of rain over the Christmas period has been phenomenal – so much so that the runway turned into a river with a five-feet deep pond at the bottom of the hill. We really thought it would be a case of "let's come back in March". However, Grant hatched a master plan – we paid a visit to our friends down at Conington Airport (which is 10 miles from Sibson), ran through a well thought-out plan of using their airport to mount up and then fly over and drop at Sibson. To our amazement, they agreed and thought it was a great idea.

So the day came for the first lift and off we went. We bussed the first lift down to Conington, reset the Cypres units and altis, the aircraft turned up and away they went – success! That has pretty much been the story for the last six weeks. However, as I write this (from Dubai), the aircraft is now operating from Sibson again and things are on the up.

Due to some changes to the way parachuting is regulated, we are having to register ourselves as a club with a constitution and an AGM etc. It is very long-winded but, in its simplest terms, everyone who wishes to jump at Sibson from April 1 2014 will need to join the club. The inaugural meeting was held on February 6 2014, where the committee was set up. If you want the full version, come and have a chat on a rainy day. All club-related activities, meetings and minutes will be placed on the UK Parachuting Sibson Facebook page.


Paul Dorward and friends, by Sarah Neale

I NEED PHOTOS! As usual, I am still looking for good photos and achievements to go in Club Zone. If not, I am going to revert to pictures of me again for shameless self-promotion. Send me all your pics and get your face in the Mag.

Why not follow us on Twitter, add us to your Facebook (UK Parachuting Sibson Airfield or Sibson Skydivers) or check out our website at skydivesibson.co.uk/events to keep up to speed with all the happenings at UK Parachuting Sibson.

Paul Dorward



halihop.com

Since the first vertical wind tunnel to simulate freefall was established in 1998 in Orlando, Florida, the number of sites has only grown – and is now also growing in Europe.

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Pictures: Lauri Aapro

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- ❑ Thorough inspection of harness/container?
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- ❑ Comprehensive advice on any rigging requirements?

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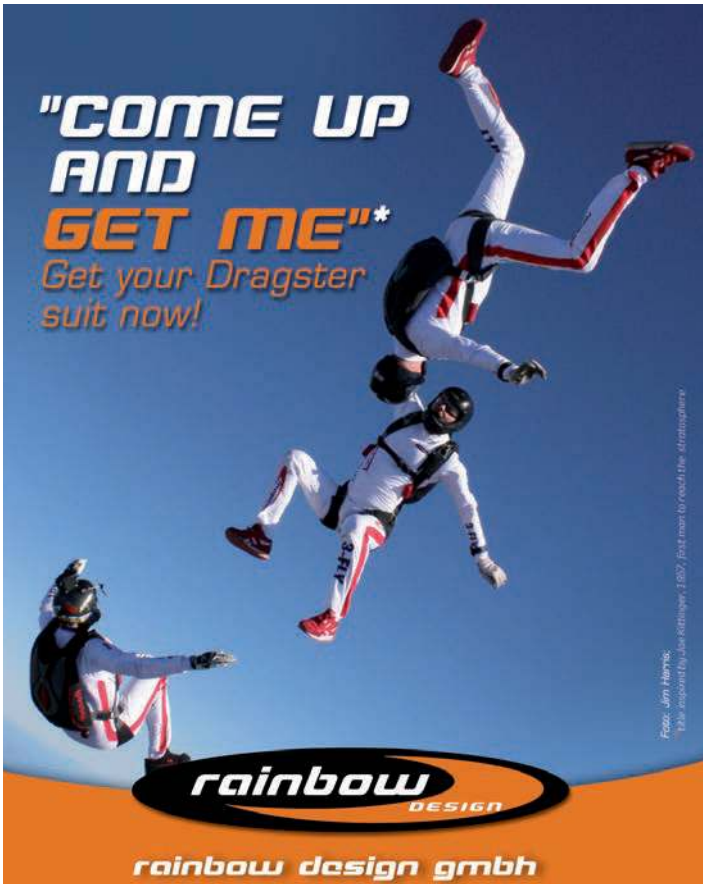
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www.rainbowsuits.com

EVENTS ZONE



April

April 15
BPA BPA Council Meeting
Location: **BPA Offices** · bpa.org.uk

April 18-21
WS Cark Easter Wings 2014
Location: **Cark** · skydivenorthwest.co.uk

April 18-21
B/F Boogie 1 – Easter Challenge
Location: **Langar** · skydivelangar.co.uk

April 18-21
WS Easter Wingsuit Load Organising
Location: **Netheravon** · netheravon.com

April 18-21
B/F Easter Boogie
Location: **Dunkeswell** · skydive99.com

April 19-20
CP Flight-1 Canopy Courses
Location: **Hibaldstow** · flight-1.com

April 19-20
A Freefly Coaching with *Airkix Euphoria*
Location: **Netheravon** · netheravon.com

April 26
U Packing Course
Location: **Netheravon** · netheravon.com

April 26-27
FS Introduction to Big-way FS with Dave West
Location: **Hibaldstow** · skydiving.co.uk

April 26-27
A Freefly with Adam Dare
Location: **Hibaldstow** · skydiving.co.uk

April 26-27
FS 6-way Comp
Location: **Langar** · skydivelangar.co.uk

April 26-27
FS FS Progression
Location: **Dunkeswell** · skydive99.com

April 26-27
A Freefly Coaching with Paul Capsey
Location: **Netheravon** · netheravon.com

April 28-May 2
BPA Tandem, AFF and Pre-Advanced Instructor Course
Location: **Hibaldstow** · bpa.org.uk

May

May 3
U B Licence Progression Day
Location: **Netheravon** · netheravon.com

May 3-4
CF BPA CF Coaching Roadshow
Location: **Hibaldstow** · skydiving.co.uk

May 3-4
FS BPA FS Roadshow
Location: **Sibson** · skydivesibson.co.uk

May 3-4
CF Canopy Formation Coaching with *Crwsaders*
Location: **Netheravon** · netheravon.com

May 3-4
FS 4-way FS Scrambles
Location: **Dunkeswell** · skydive99.com

May 3-5
A Girls' Head Down Record Warm-up
Location: **Sibson** · skydivesibson.co.uk

May 3-5
FS Load Organising with Stubert
Location: **Hibaldstow** · skydiving.co.uk

May 3-5
FS 16-way Comp with Mike Lewis
Location: **Netheravon** · netheravon.com

May 3-5
U Progression Weekend
Location: **Langar** · skydivelangar.co.uk

May 9-11
CP Canopy Course
Location: **Dunkeswell** · skydive99.com

May 10-11
FS FS Big-way Weekend
Location: **Dunkeswell** · skydive99.com

May 10-11
A Killa from *Volare* Organising
Location: **Sibson** · skydivesibson.co.uk

May 10-11
A Tracking and Tracing with Paul Capsey
Location: **Netheravon** · netheravon.com

May 10-11
A VFS Workshop with Paul Cooper
Location: **Hibaldstow** · skydiving.co.uk

May 12-16
BPA Instructor Course (CSBI/AFFBI/TBI/Advanced)
Location: **Strathallan** · skydivestrathallan.co.uk

May 16
A FF Coaching with Steve Howes
Location: **Hibaldstow** · skydiving.co.uk

May 17-18
A Dynamic Group Flying with Steve Howes
Location: **Hibaldstow** · skydiving.co.uk

May 17-18
FS Load Organising with Mike Lewis
Location: **Netheravon** · netheravon.com

May 17-18
A Tracking Weekend
Location: **Dunkeswell** · skydive99.com

May 17-18
FS UKSL Meet 1
Location: **Sibson** · bpa.org.uk

May 17-18
FS Will Cooke's Big-way FS
Location: **Langar** · skydivelangar.co.uk

May 19-23
BPA Instructor Course (CSI)
Location: **Strathallan** · skydivestrathallan.co.uk

May 22-25
B/F Twin Beech Boogie 1
FS FS Progression
Location: **Dunkeswell** · skydive99.com

May 23-26
WS Wingsuit Nationals Demo Event (Competition)
Location: **Netheravon** · netheravon.com

May 23-June 1
B/F Cark Week 1
Location: **Cark** · skydivenorthwest.co.uk

May 24-25
S&A Accuracy Grand Prix
Location: **Headcorn** · headcorn.com

May 24-25
A BPA Speed Skydiving Roadshow with Mikey Lovemore
Location: **Sibson** · skydivesibson.co.uk

May 24-25
CF CF Grand Prix
Location: **Black Knights** · bkpc.co.uk

May 24-25
U POPS Record Warm-up
Location: **Hibaldstow** · jack.felstead@btinternet.com

May 24-26
A *Bullet* Tracking Weekend
Location: **Langar** · skydivelangar.co.uk

May 24-26
FS 28-way Warm-up Weekend
Location: **Hibaldstow** · skydiving.co.uk

KEY
BPA BPA EVENTS
CP CANOPY PILOTING
FS FORMATION SKYDIVING
CF CANOPY FORMATION
S&A STYLE AND ACCURACY
B/F BOOGIES/FUN
A ARTISTICS
WS WINGSUIT
U UNCLASSIFIED (inc POPS)

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May 31
U Packing Course
Location: **Netheravon** · netheravon.com

May 31
FS 4-way Scrambles
Location: **Sibson** · skydivesibson.co.uk

May 31-June 1
A Freefly with Paul Cooper
Location: **Hibaldstow** · skydiving.co.uk

May 31-June 1
U Progression Weekend
Location: **Langar** · skydivelangar.co.uk

June

June 5
BPA STC Meeting
Location: **BPA Offices** · bpa.org.uk

June 6-8
U BCPA Meet
CP Canopy Course
Location: **Dunkeswell** · skydive99.com

June 7
U B Licence Progression Day
Location: **Netheravon** · netheravon.com

June 7-8
FS BPA FS Roadshow
Location: **Beccles** · ukparachuting.co.uk

June 7-8
CP Flight-1 Canopy Course
Location: **Sibson** · skydivesibson.co.uk

June 7-8
A Freefly Intro Weekend
Location: **Langar** · skydivelangar.co.uk

June 7-8
FS FS Big-way Weekend
Location: **Dunkeswell** · skydive99.com

June 7-8
FS Load Organising with Stubert
Location: **Hibaldstow** · skydiving.co.uk

June 7-8
FS Pinch Jump (40-way)
Location: **Netheravon** · netheravon.com

June 7-8
U POPS Record Warm-up
Location: **Hibaldstow** ·
jack.felstead@btinternet.com

June 14-15
CF BPA CF Coaching Roadshow
Location: **Langar** · skydivelangar.co.uk

June 14-15
A Girls' Head Down Record
Location: **Sibson** · skydivesibson.co.uk

June 14-15
FS UKSL Meet 2
Location: **Netheravon** · bpa.org.uk

June 17
BPA Council Meeting
Location: **BPA Offices** · bpa.org.uk

June 21-22
A BPA Artistics Coaching Roadshow with *Euphoria*
Location: **Langar** · skydivelangar.co.uk

June 21-22
FS BPA FS Coaching Roadshow
Location: **Chatteris** · ukskydiving.com

June 21-22
A BPA VFS Coaching Roadshow with *QFX*
Location: **Langar** · skydivelangar.co.uk

June 21-22
FS FS Progression
Location: **Dunkeswell** · skydive99.com

June 21-22
FS *Team Elite* 36-40 Diamonds and Jewels event
Location: **Hibaldstow** · skydiving.co.uk

June 26-29
FS Power Play
Location: **Perris, California** · p3.com

June 28
U Packing Course
Location: **Netheravon** · netheravon.com

June 28-29
FS A Coaching weekend – FS with *Isis* and FF with Paul Capsey
Location: **Netheravon** · netheravon.com

June 28-29
A Dynamic Group Flying with Steve Howes
Location: **Hibaldstow** · skydiving.co.uk

June 28-29
FS 28-way Competition
Location: **Hibaldstow** · bpa.org.uk

June 30-July 4
BPA Tandem and AFF Instructor Course
Location: **Sibson** · bpa.org.uk

July

July 5
U B Licence Progression Day
Location: **Netheravon** · netheravon.com

July 5-6
BPA Camera Coaching Roadshow with Dave Head and Dave Butterell
Location: **Hibaldstow** · skydiving.co.uk



July 5-6
FS FS1 and Load Organising with Stubert
Location: **Hibaldstow** · skydiving.co.uk

July 5-6
FS Pinch Jump
Location: **Sibson** · strollerweb.co.uk

July 5-6
U Progression Weekend
Location: **Langar** · skydivelangar.co.uk

Jul 5-6
A Speed Skydiving Roadshow
Location: **Sibson** · skydivesibson.co.uk

July 8-13
B/F Vector Festival
Location: **Empuria** · vectorfestival.com

July 12-13
FS FS Big-way Weekend
Location: **Dunkeswell** · skydive99.com

July 12-13
FS Load Organising with Mike Lewis
Location: **Netheravon** · netheravon.com

July 12-13
FS UKSL Meet 3
Location: **Langar** · bpa.org.uk

July 12-13
A 2-way VFS Trial competition
Location: **Hibaldstow** · skydiving.co.uk

July 18-20
CP Canopy Piloting Nationals
Location: **Dunkeswell** · skydive99.com

July 19-20
CF BPA CF Coaching Roadshow
Location: **Chatteris** · ukskydiving.com

July 19-20
FS 50-way POPS Record Attempt
Location: **Hibaldstow** ·
jack.felstead@btinternet.com

July 21
B/F Three DZ Challenge (TBC)
Location: **Beccles** · ukparachuting.co.uk

July 21-27
FS European Skydivers Over Sixty Record Attempt
Location: **Eisenact, Germany**

July 21-27
B/F Sibson Summer Boogie
Location: **Sibson** · skydivesibson.co.uk

KEY

BPA BPA EVENTS
CP CANOPY PILOTING
FS FORMATION SKYDIVING
CF CANOPY FORMATION
S&A STYLE AND ACCURACY
B/F BOOGIES/FUN
A ARTISTICS
WS WINGSUIT
U UNCLASSIFIED (inc POPS)

EVENTS ZONE

July 23-27
B/F 50th Birthday Boogie
Location: **Bad Lippspringe, RAPA** · skydive-badlippspringe.com

July 25
A FF Coaching with Steve Howes
Location: **Hibaldstow** · skydiving.co.uk

July 26
U Packing Course
Location: **Netheravon** · netheravon.com

26-27 July
A BPA Speed Skydiving Roadshow with Mikey Lovemore
Location: **Hibaldstow** · skydiving.co.uk

July 26-27
U *Bullet* Tracking Weekend
Location: **Langar** · skydivelangar.co.uk

July 26-27
FS Dynamic Group Flying with Steve Howes
Location: **Hibaldstow** · skydiving.co.uk

July 26-27
FS FS Progression
Location: **Dunkeswell** · skydive99.com

July 31
BPA STC Meeting
Location: **BPA Offices** · bpa.org.uk

August

August 1-10
B/F Cark Week 2
Location: **Cark** · skydivenorthwest.co.uk

August 2
U B Licence Progression Day
Location: **Netheravon** · netheravon.com

August 2-3
A BPA Artistics and VFS Coaching Roadshow with *QFX*
Location: **Beccles** · ukparachuting.co.uk

August 2-3
U Progression Weekend
Location: **Langar** · skydivelangar.co.uk

August 2-3
FS 4-way Cup
Location: **Hibaldstow** · skydiving.co.uk

August 4-8
BPA CSBI, AFFBI, TBI and Advanced Instructor Course
Location: **Headcorn** · bpa.org.uk

August 5-10
B/F AN28 Boogie
Location: **Magdeburg** · mdskydive.de

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August 9-10
A BPA Artistics Coaching Roadshow with *Varial*'s Steve Howes and Joel Strickland
Location: **Chatteris** · ukskydiving.com

August 9-10
A Head Up Progression
Location: **Langar** · skydivelangar.co.uk

August 9-15
U Armed Forces Parachute Championships competition
Location: **Netheravon** · netheravon.com

August 11-15
BPA CSI Course
Location: **Headcorn** · bpa.org.uk

August 12
BPA Council Meeting
Location: **BPA Offices** · bpa.org.uk

August 15-23
CF S&A World Championships in CF and Style and Accuracy
Location: **Banjaluka, Bosnia**

August 16-17
CP Flight-1 Canopy Courses
Location: **Sibson** · flight-1.com

August 16-17
A Speed 8 Competition with *SAVoA*
Location: **Netheravon** · netheravon.com

August 20-24
B/F Twin Beech Boogie 2
Location: **Dunkeswell** · skydive99.com

August 30
U Packing Course
Location: **Netheravon** · netheravon.com

August 24-31
A Speed Skydiving World Cup
Location: **Prerov, Czech Republic**

August 24-31
FS A World Championships in FS and Artistic Events
Location: **Prostejov, Czech Republic**

August 29-31
CP Canopy Course
Location: **Dunkeswell** · skydive99.com

August 30-31
CF CF Grand Prix
Location: **Netheravon** · netheravon.com

September

September 6-8
FS 4-way FS and VFS Nationals
Location: **Hibaldstow** · skydiving.co.uk

September 13-15
FS A 8-way, Artistics and Speed Nationals
Location: **Hibaldstow** · skydiving.co.uk

September 20-22
FS A 8-way FS, Artistics and Speed Reserve Weekend
Location: **Hibaldstow** · skydiving.co.uk

September 25
BPA STC Meeting
Location: **BPA Offices** · bpa.org.uk

September 26-28
CP Canopy Course
Location: **Dunkeswell** · skydive99.com

September 26-28
CF S&A FS CF, Classics and 8-way Speed Nationals
Location: **Sibson** · skydivesibson.co.uk

September 27
U Packing Course
Location: **Netheravon** · netheravon.com

October

October 4-12
B/F Equinox Boogie
Location: **Toogoolawah, Australia** · ramblers.com.au

October 7
BPA Council Meeting
Location: **BPA Offices** · bpa.org.uk

October 8-12
CP SunPath CP Open Championships
Location: **Raeford, NC, USA** · sunpath.com

October 12-18
FS Women's World Record and Men's World Record
Location: **Perris, California** · p3.com

October 18
CF Basic Canopy Skills with Wez Westley
Location: **Netheravon** · netheravon.com

October 25
U Packing Course
Location: **Netheravon** · netheravon.com

October 25-26
FS Hibbleween 12-way Meet
Location: **Hibaldstow** · skydiving.co.uk

Correction: *In the February 2014 issue of* Skydive The Mag, *two Freefly Coaching events with* Airkix Euphoria *at Netheravon named the team incorrectly as Bodyflight Euphoria. The publishers apologise for this mistake and for any confusion caused.*

KEY

- BPA BPA EVENTS
- CP CANOPY PILOTING
- FS FORMATION SKYDIVING
- CF CANOPY FORMATION
- S&A STYLE AND ACCURACY
- B/F BOOGIES/FUN
- A ARTISTICS
- WS WINGSUIT
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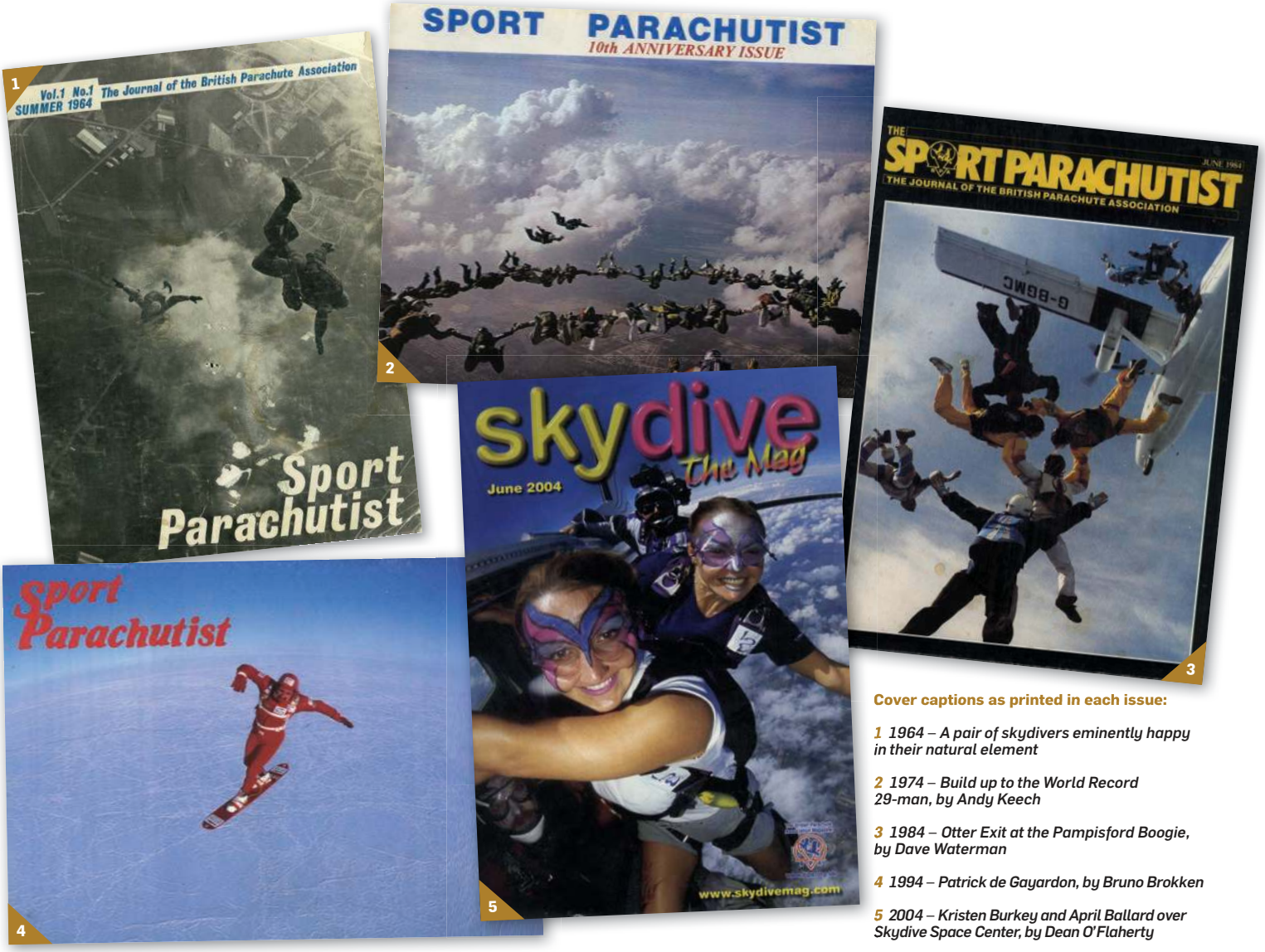
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Cover captions as printed in each issue:

1 1964 – A pair of skydivers eminently happy in their natural element

2 1974 – Build up to the World Record 29-man, by Andy Keech

3 1984 – Otter Exit at the Pampisford Boogie, by Dave Waterman

4 1994 – Patrick de Gayardon, by Bruno Brokken

5 2004 – Kristen Burkey and April Ballard over Skydive Space Center, by Dean O'Flaherty

COVERS THROUGH THE DECADES

As we prepare to celebrate the Mag's 50th birthday next issue, let's look back at the anniversary covers from each decade

The very first issue was published in Summer 1964 and was just 36 pages long. Originally titled *Sport Parachutist*, its adverts included full-page promotions for gin and cigarettes! The magazine was published four times per year initially, in Summer, Autumn, Christmas/Winter and Spring. This increased to six issues per year in 1973 and has stayed that way ever since.

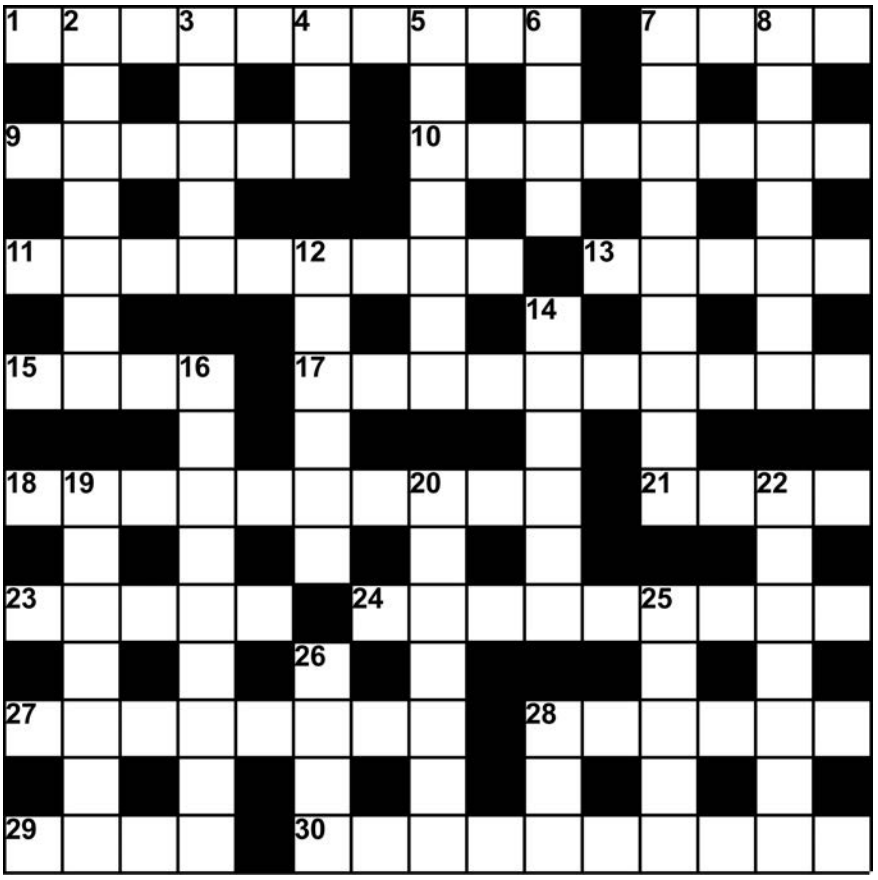
The number of pages grew gradually at first, hovering around 40 for the first couple of decades, before reaching 52 in 1994 then 84 by 2004! The name also changed to *Skydive the Mag* in 1999 for the 191st issue. The issue you are reading right now is the 280th.

There have been many Editors over the years. The five most prolific have been: Lesley Gale (89 issues, 1995-2010), Charles Shea-Simonds (52 issues, 1973-1981, then also 1987), David Waterman (37 issues, 1981-1987), Ola Soyinka (28 issues, 1991-1995) and finally Liz Ashley, who has published 22 issues so far since 2010.

PUZZLE



Paul Boorer



Across

1. Squeezed (like an accordion)
7. Make tea or beer
9. Famous person/myth
10. Limits of possible flight
11. 4-way formation/Orbiting body
13. Record of personal history
15. Restrained
17. Container retainer (5,5)
18. Fitting together
21. Skydive North West airfield/Die
23. Red liquid
24. Practice activation (5,4)
27. Event
28. Overseas
29. Medal/Instrument
30. Reserved a flight

Down

2. Run
3. Part (of formation)
4. Finale
5. Ghost/PD canopy
6. Jump downwards
7. Relating to projectiles
8. Spanish DZ
12. Find
14. Trail in the wind
16. Spreading out
19. Location of Florida dropzone
20. Old Border Parachute airfield
22. Set free
25. Airborne troops
26. Group of players
28. Skydive training method (1,1,1)

CARTOON



Across
1. Compressed 7. Brew 9. Legend 10. Envelope 11. Satellite 13. Diary 15. Held 17. Chest strap 18. Compatible 21. Cark 23. Blood 24. Dummy pull 27. Incident 28. Abroad 29. Gong 30. Manifested

Down
2. Operate 3. Piece 4. End 5. Spectre 6. Dive 7. Ballistic 8. Empuria 12. Locate 14. Stream 16. Deploying 19. Orlando 20. Brunton 22. Release 25. Paras 26. Team 28. AFF



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