



British Parachute Association skydivethemag.com February 2015

skyDIVE

the mag

SINCE 1964



INSIDE: HIGHLIGHTS FROM BPA SKYDIVE THE EXPO GROWING THE CROWD CP WORLD MEET PEOPLE IN THE SPORT – MIKE BOLTON DUBAI INTERNATIONAL PARACHUTE CHAMPIONSHIPS POPS WORLD MEET ALGARVE BOOGIE BPA STARS PLUS ALL THE LATEST NEWS AND EVENTS

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Sample Package available.

Silver Package Budget	£1280
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- Return flights LGW, Luton, Lpool.*
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✓ Recommended Upgrades	Prices
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* The FFU does not book your flights, when you book with us, we will advise of the flight cost and our ATOL protected travel agent will call you to make the flight reservation.

There's no Time Zone at the back of this Mag... but there is one on the cover! While researching the CF article on page 43, I was amazed to find that you have to go all the way back to 2006 to find the last time a 16-way CF diamond was seen over UK skies. Even more of a blast from the past is the Sward pic on page 44, recording the current National Record 18-way from 1990. If you're a budding CF jumper, get involved and help build a bigger diamond in 2015.

On the theme of looking both backwards and forwards, I am so proud of Jackie Harper who has successfully led a bid for the first ever Wingsuit World Cup to be held here in the UK at Netheravon. Many years ago, I was really into wingsuiting and did first flight briefs with anyone who'd listen to me – including Jackie, husband Spike and Paul and Elana Cain. Since then, they have done more for wingsuiting than I could ever have dreamed of, and it makes me so happy.

Liz Ashley



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 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 CI.

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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
April 2015	February 24	April 16
June 2015	April 21	June 03
August 2015	June 16	July 28
October 2015	August 25	October 06

FIRST WINGSUIT WORLD CUP

A huge congratulations to Netheravon, whose bid to host the first ever FAI World Cup of Wingsuit Performance Flying has been successful! This will be the first World Class event hosted in the UK and will take place over May 25-29.

This represents the culmination of a lot of hard work for many people, not least Jackie Harper at Netheravon but also Klaus Rheinwald of Paralag and Jarno Cordia. Klaus and Jarno are at the front of a long list of people who can share the credit for both Wingsuit Performance and Acrobatic Wingsuit Flying being approved as official IPC competition disciplines at the Plenary meeting on January 31 2015. The rules have been sanctioned in the same format as have been used for competitions for several years already, with no changes.



Wahoo for Wingsuiting!
By Rob Lloyd

Dive Exit

Dive Exit is a London-based rock band comprised of Jonathan Davies, Harry Belcher, Stefan Knap and Pete Wheeler. The band's sound is made up of anthemic rock guitars, a travelling bass, tuneful drums and memorable vocal hooks. They take their influences from artists such as Jimmy Eat World, Weezer and Foo Fighters, although they are not estranged to Queens of the Stone Age or the Pixies.

The band name Dive Exit comes from Davies' love for skydiving. The band's formation is easily summarised by stating that they have seen more passing members than the Foo Fighters and more drummers than Spinal Tap. The line-up we see

today, however, is a solid foundation of a musical amalgamation and a force to be reckoned with. Harry Belcher, an AC/DC-loving showman, joined the group after Davies moved to London along with Stefan Knap, a cool-headed, bass-grooving voice of reason and Pete Wheeler, another skydiving enthusiast!

The band's debut video 'Living Dangerous' features the unique concept of the entire band skydiving at Langar accompanied by Ally Milne while miming their parts to the song. The iTunes/ Spotify song release is set for March 2015, but you can watch the video already. The song was recorded and produced by Tristan Ivery (Frank Turner, Tubelord) and there is a second single to be announced later this year.



VIDEO: TINYURL.COM/OF2CWU3
BY TRISTAN IVERY WATCH THE ACTION AT THE LINK ABOVE OR CLICK
ON THIS PAGE IN THE SKYDIVE APP OR AT SKYDIVETHEMAG.COM!

No change to block 10

IPC considered proposed changes to the 4-way FS dive pool, namely that block 10 should become diamond-diamond instead of diamond-bunyip. This would be achieved by giving the same degree of rotation to both the front piece and back piece. Currently, front piece moves 180 while back piece moves 360. Under the proposed change, both pieces would move 180 (or possibly even 540, for a more dynamic block). This would create a double slot switcher and put more memory into the AAA pool. However, the vote was for no change. I fancy having a go at that version of block 10 anyway, though!

ESL 2015 at Hib

As reported in December's Mag, the UK won the Spirit Sword at the 2014 ESL Finals in Teuge. This means that, by rights, the next ESL Finals should be held on British shores. ESL Director Mike Pennock has approached James Swallow and arranged to bring the competition back to Hibaldstow where it started, with the very first ESL Finals being held there in 2008. Be there for the 2015 competition, September 17-20.

Tim Mace trophy

Speed Skydiving is now an official IPC discipline and its first World Championships will be at the Mondial in Chicago, September 2016. The winner will receive a new award, the Tim Mace Memorial Trophy, which will be designed by Paul 'Fletch' Fletcher of Langar. Fletch also designed the new bespoke Freestyle A trophy for the British Nationals. Tim, a British skydiver, test pilot and cosmonaut, represented the UK and South Africa at world level in every single IPC discipline. His obituary appeared in the December 2014 Mag.

More news from IPC

Stop press – Teuge in the Netherlands will host a World Cup in FS, Artistic Events and Speed Skydiving from September 7-12 2015. The full list of disciplines is 4-way FS Open, 4-way FS Female, 8-way, VFS, Freefly, Freestyle and Speed. The event will also serve as a European Championships for all the same disciplines except Speed.

UK Head Down Record 2015

The date for the Head Down record will be September 5-6. Hibaldstow have confirmed that they have three Dorniers, so we can feasibly do record attempts of up to 43 people (28 is the current record). However, if there is unbelievable demand on our Facebook page, then we may consider another plane. The more people who register interest now on the page the better, so head to the link ASAP! bit.do/ukrecord15

Matt O'Riordan

By Andy Ford



Windoor win for Brit girls!

Being a 4-way FS competitor, I was excited to see the two top teams, *Hayabusa* and *Airspeed*, go head to head with their new line-ups and very little training. Both teams can now say that they have World Meet-winning pedigree and this was their first match-up of the season. The next two years and the final at the World Championships in Chicago will be exciting to follow.

Airspeed never managed to get ahead of *Hayabusa* during this competition and Jeroen, the new boy on the Belgian national team, was showing that he has what it takes to keep the pace of this World Championship-winning group. Thomas broke his hand the day before competition and Chris ended up unconscious after Round 6, which certainly can't have helped them, but they showed no signs of holding anything back and went on to finish 10 points behind but losing 12 points in busts – proving that the speed is there but the control to take the lead isn't yet.

There was also a separate female category. However, with only three teams registering, they would be fighting for medals but no cash. The UK team *NFTO* (formerly *Isis*, now sponsored by Not For The Ordinary clothing) stayed in the



lead from Round 1, winning with a 21.7 average. The *Gatas* from Empuria managed to win one round and ended up on a 19.9 average in second place, 17 points ahead of the *Hurricane Factory* girls from Czech.

A note for the freeflyers – a group of four dynamic flyers got together and also participated in the FS. It looked to me like they had a pretty fun time, getting last minute coaching before they headed into the tunnel for each round.

One of the joys of attending a tunnel competition, after years of outdoor meets, is that you can set your clock by the time that you fly your rounds – none of the stressful waiting for weather. Although this competition will never be as big as the World Challenge, it still is The Best 'little' tunnel competition in the world...

Pete Allum

BEN WHITE

When the skydiving community gets together, we can achieve amazing things. Not only can we raise money, but we can also lift each other's spirits with our friendship and love.

Many of you are aware of the fundraising efforts to help Ben White, who suffered severe injuries in July 2014 while training for the Freestyle World Championships. They changed Ben's life forever, leaving him as a T9/10 complete paraplegic. Through the Facebook group 'Help Turn Ben's Luck n Life Around' and the charity page www.youcaring.com/helpbenwhite, the skydiving community, along with our friends and family, are helping me to achieve my target to raise enough money to make essential adaptations to Ben's home so that he can live as independently as possible now that he is a wheelchair user. You can enter the raffle (which has some amazing prizes), fly in the fundraising tunnel scrambles at Bodyflight on February 27 and the BPA insurers have even agreed to pay out £15,000.

I was hoping that I could help make things better for Ben by asking for financial help, but what I didn't realise would happen – and what is turning out to be way more important – is the difference you are all making to his spirit. For the five months that Ben was in hospital and rehab, he was reluctant to see his skydiving friends. Ben thought that people would just see him as 'that idiot who messed up'. He was embarrassed about the accident and by his new body. However, through your generosity, your donations, offerings of your time, ideas and expertise and your lovely and supportive comments, Ben now sees himself differently. Everything you are doing to help, no matter how big or small, is having a huge impact on Ben's spirit. Instead of most days being filled with tears, Ben and I wake up and read your comments and see your support and we both smile. We start the day with hope and with energy to tackle the challenges that he now faces, so thank you very much.

I'm proud to be part of a community that cares so much and that wants to give Ben back his pride and sense of himself. Thank you for all that you have done and for all that you will do – I can't express just how much of a positive impact this is having on both of us. Please keep following the progress on Facebook and through YouCaring and watch Ben's smile grow; it really is one of the best smiles you will ever see.

Jen Saville, Ben's girlfriend



"Helmets, Altimeters & Cameras... Oh My!"



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FROM THE CHAIR

As Chair of the Development Committee, when people ask what it is we do, I tell them (after looking round to make sure they are talking to me) what our Terms of Reference (ToR) say: "Development of the sport and the Association, broadly interpreted." Which is a bit, well, broad. Fortunately, the ToRs further define the responsibilities:

- Development of the sport and the Association
- Recommending:
 - annual subscriptions
 - financial policy including expenses policy
 - insurance arrangements

Hmm, that broad Development again – let's come back to that. Recommending annual subscriptions is interesting, since no one wants to pay more than we have to. Recently, the Association has been operating with an increasing surplus, due to greater numbers of jumpers and sound financial management, but it is also prudent to set money aside for a rainy day and our subscriptions are usually increased in line with the rate of inflation. This used to be a Sports Council funding requirement, but we haven't had funding from them for many years. You will know by now that, for the first time in recent memory, the Committee, in conjunction with the Association's Treasurer, Debbie Carter, recommended not to increase the BPA element of subscriptions this year, which was carried by Council.

Closely tied in with subscriptions is insurance. This is the Association's biggest expenditure and has also been a big headache in the past, with premiums spiralling along with the possibility of not being able to secure cover. Although Insurance is under the remit of the Committee, the majority of the work is done primarily by our COO Tony Butler and the office in conjunction with our broker Martin Mansley from Romero Sport & Leisure and insurers Liberty Mutual. Thanks to solid Risk and Safety Management Systems by everyone from CIs to occasional jumpers, our insurance premium is reduced again even with our increased £5m third-party cover and along with other benefits like the death and critical injury insurance – which I hope you never have to call upon.

The Association has pursued a prudent zero-risk investment policy, advised by the Treasurer. However, recent financial crises have demonstrated that there is no such thing, so this has been realigned to minimal risk (return of capital) as is appropriate when handling members' hard-earned money. While our capital was secure, our funds have decreased in real terms. Recently, there has been debate about whether a portion of our investments should be directed towards higher risks (albeit still relatively low). While the policy hasn't changed, it is something that is regularly and vigorously evaluated.

Within the ToRs is a definition for subsidiary bodies that report to the committee of "any ad hoc working party the Committee may convene from time to time". One example of such a party is IT Strategy. It has been noted that our policy has been largely reactive (and, as the resident IT 'expert' on Council, I take some of the blame for this). The group comprises Archivist Graham Spicer in the Chair, along with myself, Secretary-General Martin Shuttleworth, Financial Controller Jon Gretton and a representative from our IT supplier Computerlink. One of the first things the group will investigate is document collaboration to help us cope with the mountain of paperwork we have to deal with. Graham has also been specifying the replacement for our membership database in close consultation with the office, so that it may be put out for tender.

Graham is known for his work on the Archive Project with Andrew Hilton, which was another Committee project after a suggestion from Vice-President John Hitchen. It has been responsible for achievements such as the digitisation of every edition of the Association's magazine and making them available online, along with preserving other historical artefacts.

Elections are another area of responsibility. While our membership system is ageing, new life was breathed into it by our publishing partners Archant Dialogue who bolted on an online renewals system (for members without ratings). Since launch, more than 2,000 of us have used the

system, thereby updating our email addresses (which are required for login). A few years ago, the Committee modernised the Memorandum and Articles of Association, enabling our default position for sending company documents to members electronically rather than via the post (although opting out and requesting a hard copy is available). The combined result is our first truly online election, administered by our independent providers, Electoral Reform Services. While we have had online voting since 2008, ballot packs were still sent via the post. This year, the majority were sent via email.

Aren't you glad you asked? There are many more things I could talk about that have originated from the committee, such as Good Governance, DZ First Aid Courses, Star Awards to promote Customer Service, DZ Operators' and Owners' meetings, the potential revamp of the BPA Shop franchise and a sectoral map, but I've already gone on far too long so I will leave you with the small

but high-impact introduction of BPA Approved signs for display at DZs, giving a sense of community for our members and a comforting seal of approval for the public. Have you seen one at your DZ?

Craig Poxon



VECTOR3



Flyer: Sharon Har-Noy (JoyRiders) Photo by: Richard Scheurich

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Council 2015 by Paul Bayfield



Council 2015

Sixteen candidates were nominated for 15 seats on Council 2015. Full voting details are in the Annual Report, which is included as an insert in this Mag.

Brian Vacher	583	Elected
Craig Poxon	495	Elected ²
Martin Soulsby	462	Elected ³
Brian Cumming	433	Elected
Paul Applegate	425	Elected
Adam Mattacola	418	Elected ¹
Adrian Bond	399	Elected
Ian Marshall	398	Elected
Mike Lewis	387	Elected ¹
Yassi Molazadeh	376	Elected ¹
Gavin McLeod	375	Elected ¹
Ian Rosenvinge	364	Elected
Jack Bradford	343	Elected ¹
Jason Kelleher	323	Elected ¹
Gordon Blamire	278	Elected ¹
Kieran Brady	221	

1 NEW COUNCIL MEMBER

2 VICE CHAIR OF COUNCIL

3 CHAIR OF COUNCIL

At the inaugural meeting of Council 2015 after the AGM, Council elected Martin Soulsby as Chair and Craig Poxon as Vice Chair, and the Committee Chairs as shown in the following committee compositions:

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Communications Chair: Adrian Bond

Committee Secretary: Martin Shuttleworth, BPA Secretary-General

Communications Committee 2015:

Paul Applegate, Gordon Blamire, Adrian Bond (Chair), Jack Bradford, Brian Cumming, Yassi Molazadeh, Craig Poxon. Co-opted *ex officio* (non-voting): Liz Ashley (Editor, *Skydive the Mag*)

COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE INCLUDING DISCIPLINE REPS

Competitions Chair: Brian Vacher

Committee Secretary: Helen Lucas, BPA Administration Secretary

Competitions Committee 2015: Jason Kelleher (FS Rep), Mike Lewis, Adam Mattacola, Gavin McLeod (CF Rep), Ian Marshall (Classics Rep), Brian Vacher (Chair and CP Rep). Co-opted *ex officio* (non-voting): Kate Charters (Judges' Coordinator), Jackie Harper (WS Rep), Mike Lovemore (Speed Rep), Weed Stoodley (Artistics and VFS Rep)

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Development Chair: Craig Poxon

Committee Secretary: Martin Shuttleworth, BPA Secretary-General

Development Committee 2015: Paul Applegate, Adrian Bond, Jack Bradford, Brian Cumming, Yassi Molazadeh, Craig Poxon (Chair), Ian Rosenvinge. Co-opted *ex officio* (non-voting): Debbie Carter (Treasurer)

BPA Shop

The BPA Shop franchise is available to be re-let initially for a three-year period and applications are invited by the Development Committee. The Committee is looking for submission of a business plan by applicant franchisees, who will own the stock and operate the BPA Shop selling clothing and parachute ancillary equipment (BPA does not permit it to sell parachute equipment), with 10% of gross profit from sales of BPA branded items and £15 per skydiving voucher sold.

The BPA Shop is presently online at bpashop.co.uk, but it is hardly trading and needs a re-launch with an investment of capital by the new franchisee. We believe that use of the BPA brand is a valuable asset and the right commercial approach could turn the BPA Shop into a win-win-win for BPA members, the franchisee and BPA as the franchisor. For the list of items the BPA Shop is and is not permitted to sell, please see the BPA website or email the BPA Office.

It is a crowded market and there is lots of competition. BPA is looking for a sound, costed business case, backed by investment, to make the BPA Shop an asset. If that may be you or your organisation, we'd like to receive an outline proposal (in no more than 1,000 words) from you. Senders of any outline proposals shortlisted by the BPA Development Committee (which will be no more than three) will be invited to work up their proposals into a bid. Please send outline proposals to skydive@bpa.org.uk by no later than 30 March 2014. Informed opinions about the market to help the Development Committee to decide what's best for the future are welcome too.

Membership Renewal 2014/5

The full member subscription for the new membership year from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016 is £105.92 – comprising a BPA element of £63.22 (pegged from last year) and an insurance element of £42.70, which is down on last year. The overall subscription is reduced by £2.73 compared with last year. For joint members, the subscription is £191.49.

Your BPA membership renewal form for the new membership year 2015/6 is enclosed with this Mag. However, if you don't have any ratings, you may be eligible to renew online (please see p12) and you may find that easier and quicker. Please note that, to jump on or after 1 April 2015, you need to renew for the new membership year.



Good governance

The BPA has signed up to the Voluntary Code of Good Governance, an initiative which has had a significant and positive effect on the governance of sport and recreation organisations. The Code provides a framework for good governance which sports bodies can adopt, making a public commitment to improvement. The Code's seven principles are based on good practice in leadership and governance, and provide signatories with practical, simple and realistic advice.

The BPA appointed an external consultant, Amanda Bennett, in 2014 and has also formed the Stronger Future Working Group, which will consider how best to implement her recommendations. Further details are in the Annual Report and will also feature in future Mags.



BPA online membership

The BPA online membership facility is available for:

- Full members in the UK and Channel Islands or at a BFPO postal address to update their contact details (postal address, telephone/mobile, email)
- Full members aged 18 and over in the UK and Channel Islands or at a BFPO postal address who do not hold ratings* to renew online for the membership year 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016.

* 'ratings' include instructors, riggers, packers, pilots – and any other rating that has to be 'signed off'.

Please note that you need to be over 18 to renew online.

Full members will need the following to activate their online BPA membership account:

- Name
- BPA membership number (not licence number!)
- Personal email address as already recorded on the BPA database
- Postcode or BFPO number as already recorded on the BPA database (Please note: we have no current plans to extend the online renewal service to members who hold ratings because ratings need to be signed off, but we shall look at possible online solutions to this in the longer-term).

The BPA online membership service is not available for:

- Full member renewal where ratings are held, although full members with ratings in the UK and Channel Islands or at a BFPO postal address may update their personal contact details online
- Full member renewal for overseas members (other than those with a BFPO postal address)
- Change of name or ratings
- Conversions
- Retired Members (please see BPA Form 103A for the eligibility criteria)
- Taking out Student Provisional or Temporary Memberships
- Updating contact details of Student Provisional or Temporary Members
- Pilot applications
- Making discretionary donations to the British Team Fund or the Drop Zone Defence Fund. Such donations continue to be extremely welcome, and may be made by card payment over the phone during BPA office hours (M-F, 9-5) or by cheque or bank transfer.

Royal Aero Club Awards

All four of our nominations for Royal Aero Club Awards 2014 have been successful. Congratulations to the winners, who will be presented with their awards at the Royal Aero Club's Awards and Presentations Ceremony on 12 May at the RAF Club. They are:

RAeC Bronze Medal to Dave Pacey, who has made a major contribution to opening up the world of skydiving to disabled people including injured servicemen and women. He and they have raised significant funds for the BLESMA charity for limbless veterans, and have also raised awareness that skydiving is accessible to all, including amputees.

RAeC Certificate of Merit to Kate Charters, BPA Competitions Judges' Co-ordinator. At one time or other, Kate has held national or international ratings in all IPC parachuting disciplines. With her husband – and fellow BPA judge – Bob's support, she has trained all of the current UK judges along with a number of national judges overseas, some of whom have themselves gone on to become FAI-rated.

RAeC Certificate of Merit to Wing Commander Mike Westwood OBE RAF (Rtd). Mike is one of the most experienced parachute sortie pilots in the UK. For more than 30 years, he has made an outstanding contribution to sports and military parachuting and, in particular, Adventurous Training activity at RAF Weston on the Green and the RAF Sports Parachute Association.

RAeC Old and Bold Trophy to Dilys Price OBE. At 82 years young, Dilys Price is founder and director of The Touch Trust, a Cardiff-based charity that offers creative movement education and touch therapy. Since making her first sport parachute jump at the age of 54, Dilys has made more than 1,128 jumps and, in so doing, has raised significant funds for the charity. "I'm ready to do a lot more jumps now, I've got renewed vigour," she said. And yes, Dilys is still skydiving!

Saturday meetings

BPA Council and Committee meetings are held bi-monthly at the BPA offices in Leicester and all members are welcome to attend. To make it easier to do so, the February and December meetings will be on Saturdays in 2015, while the April, June, August and October meetings will be on Tuesdays as usual. Full details in Events Zone. Next meeting: Saturday 21 February. Please note that the Competitions Committee meeting will continue to be held on Tuesdays, with the first being on 17 February at 13:00.

Bursaries

Final reminder! Several previous articles have detailed how and why you can apply for a Royal Aero Club Trust bursary if you are aged 16 to 21. The deadline is 31 March and full details are at royalaeroclubtrust.org/bursaries

NEW RATINGS

ADVANCED PACKER

Jordan Wilcox (S)
Karen Saunders (R)
Aaron Cosbey (S)
Dylan Morris-Roberts (S)
Gregg McEntee (S)



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-Stu Schoenfeld (6,000 total, 4,000 cross braced jumps)

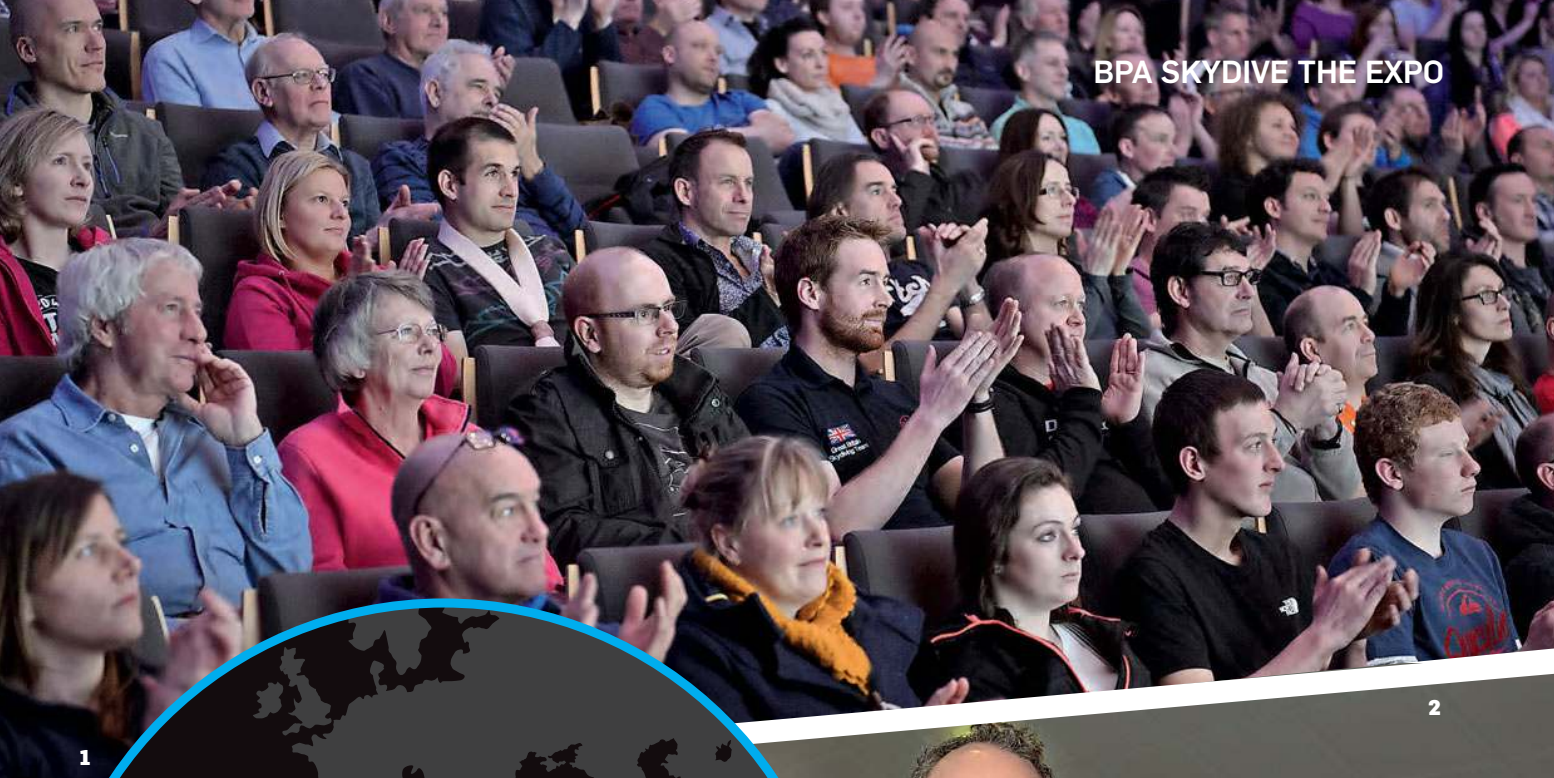


"The Valkyrie is amazing! The openings are great, it flies very well in brakes, and the swoops are much longer than the Velo. It's the perfect canopy!"

-Max Haim (10,000 total, 6,000 cross braced jumps)



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2

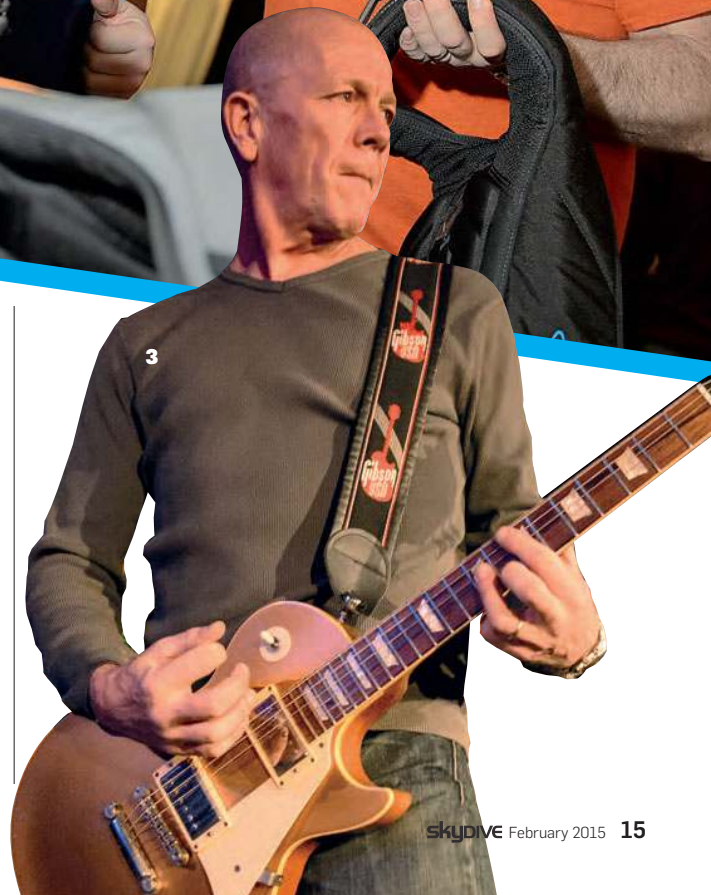


HUNDREDS OF SKYDIVERS, DOZENS OF TRADESTANDS, PLENTY OF SEMINARS AND AN EXCUSE TO TALK ABOUT SKYDIVING ALL DAY? IT CAN ONLY BE BPA SKYDIVE THE EXPO! **WORDS:** MIKE WATERS **PHOTOS:** PAUL BAYFIELD

This January, the BPA took over an exhibition centre for a weekend for the first-ever BPA Skydive the Expo.

Growing out of the BPA AGM and the tradeshow and events that have gone with it, the Expo was designed to be a bigger, better and bolder celebration of skydiving and the ideal opportunity for skydivers to catch up, check out the world's latest gear in person and – let's be honest – start 2015 with some serious partying.

Since starting as you mean to go on is usually a pretty good idea, plenty of people turned up on the night before at the hotel conveniently next-door and kept the bar lively until well into the early hours. That didn't seem to slow anyone down much the next day, though, and the day opened with both (decidedly ironic) glorious jumping weather and the BPA AGM itself. This year's speech from Martin Soulsby was full of good news, broken records and ➔



BPA SKYDIVE THE EXPO

the BPA's future plans – check it out via the BPA website or in the insert that came with this Mag for the full story. Then came this year's Awards, where everyone got the chance to cheer on their mates as award after award went to a deserving winner.

Then the Expo itself well and truly began, and we'd need the rest of the magazine at least to give everything the space it truly deserves. Seminars by some of skydiving's most high-profile competitors, manufacturers and innovators drew in fascinated crowds, who enjoyed talks from John LeBlanc, Brian Vacher, Alastair Macartney, Paul Capsey, Tom Noonan, Tom Parker, Mark Procos and the Freefall Camera Project team. If you were in one of the seminars, there's a good chance you were learning something that could make you think a new way about your gear, help

1 Audience at the AGM

2 Jason Bird and Dama Hewitt enjoying the goodies on show

3 Kev Goode rocking out with Grounded

4 The Freefall Camera were just one of the many interesting seminars

5 Checking out the tradestands

6 Chair Martin Soulsby reflects on change within the BPA

you enjoy the sport even more and maybe even save your life at the same time.

For those who like to play with concepts as much as with canopies, the day held plenty to keep them busy too. The BPA Governance Consultation, the Competitions Open Forum and meetings of the Specialised Interest Groups saw ideas going back and forth, and the inaugural meeting of this year's Council started 2015 rolling for the BPA in earnest as well.

It was the main hall where the crowds spent most of their time, and it says something about the Expo itself that it didn't take long to lose count of just how many World, European and National Record holders there were in the building. You could meet world-class jumpers from the country's top teams, fun jumpers with the shine still on their A Licences, the sport's most windswept heroes, a pretty good chunk of the BCPA, retired members who made the sport what it is today, the pilots who get everyone up to altitude and, oh yes, the Mag team ourselves, all in one place. Christmas came all over again too as eager skydivers checked out cutting-edge gear and old favourites they'd had their eyes on, and the world's manufacturers had an impressively busy day thanks to the BPA's members. The Grand Prize Draw saw plenty of grins too, and more than one person went home with something expensive as a souvenir of the day.

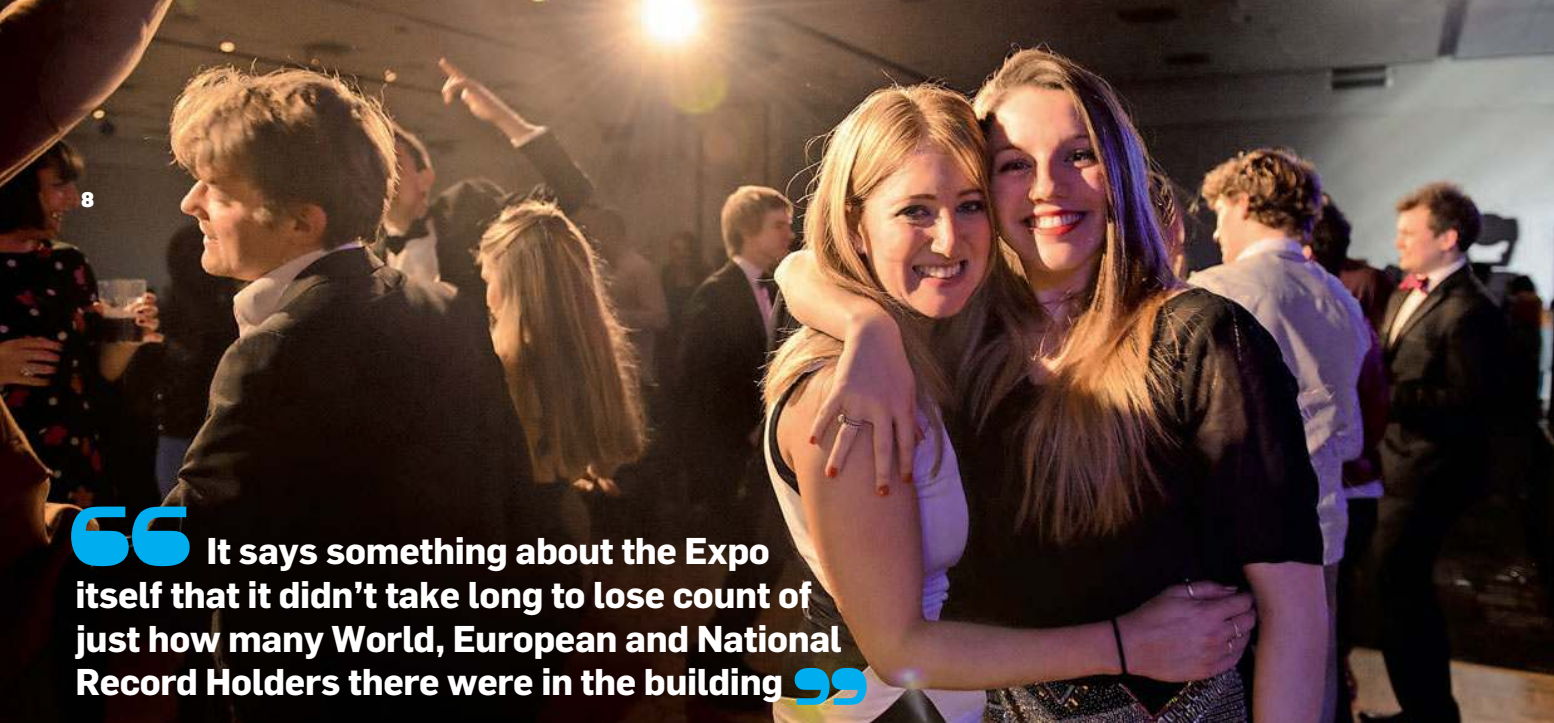
But a meet has got to end with a party, and that's where the BPA Gala Dinner comes in. Those usually seen exclusively



in eye-wateringly brash jumpsuits or slouching about in tattered jeans astonished their fellow skydivers by rocking up in dinner jackets or dresses – the photographs can be deleted for a very extortionate reasonable fee. Once dinner was over, there was a headlong charge to the dancefloor as Ryan Mancey's The Pyjama Missiles, ThePETEBOX (who has to be seen in action – trust us on this) and old favourites Grounded made sure the night was good and loud as only skydivers can. Meanwhile, a cheerful scrum at the bar selflessly volunteered to help settle the long-running dispute between the French, the Dutch, the Belgians, the Germans and the Italians over who makes the best beer. No final answer was reached despite a lot of enthusiastic research, so it looks like another attempt will need to be made in 2016.

If you were there, it was good to see you. If you weren't, you missed one hell of an event. See you next year! ●





8 It says something about the Expo itself that it didn't take long to lose count of just how many World, European and National Record Holders there were in the building 99

2014 AGM AWARDS

Recognising those at the top of our sport, whether for competitions, judging, instruction or other contribution

THE INSTRUCTOR OF THE YEAR TROPHY 2014

The COO and STO choose the Instructor of the Year and it is awarded to an Instructor who gained an Instructor rating within the past 12 months. The criteria

used is that the Instructor not only did very well on the Instructor Course, but is also the type of Instructor that students would be very happy to turn to for advice.

The COO and STO have chosen David (Bobby) Charlton from the *Pilgrims* as Instructor of the Year for 2014. Unfortunately, Bobby was unable to attend the Awards because of military

7 Matt Peerless and Donna Jenkins at the dinner

8 Laura Hampton and Emily King on the dancefloor

9 Lucy Ryan, Marc Fletcher and Kye Bromley go helmet shopping

commitments, but a 'mystery' stand-in collected the award on his behalf.

THE MIKE FORGE TROPHY FOR NEW SKYDIVER OF THE YEAR 2014

CIs or Advanced Instructors nominate the New Skydiver of the Year. The criterion used for nomination is that a relatively new skydiver who has progressed well during the last year is also considered to be a valuable member of his or her Club. Below is a summary of the original citation received for this year's winner of the Mike Forge Trophy: ➔



VIDEO: TINYURL.COM/NBN9C26

BY BLAIR STENT Watch the action at the link above or click on this page in the Skydive App or at skydivethemag.com



"This jumper struggled with his Level 4 a few times in Spain before going on to AFF. He then came to Hibaldstow to continue progression and work towards his FS1, which he passed with a very competent 12-point dive. His Instructor remembers it as one of the most enjoyable skydives of his career. Our new FS1 soon became a popular member of the DZ community – he has time for everyone and is a joy to have around. He went on to complete more than 100 skydives as a solid flier in the load organising groups. He is competent in big-way skydives and has taken part in multi-plane formations. He even put together a rookie team and entered the FS 4-way Nationals, where they placed fourth (only just missing out on bronze). His fellow jumpers and coaches voted him Hibaldstow's New Skydiver of the Year. It's with real delight that we put him forward for national recognition as BPA's New Skydiver of the Year – yes, it's you: Jack Davies!" *Noel Purcell, Chief Instructor of Skydive Hibaldstow*

BPA STAR AWARDS 2014

For more about the BPA Stars, see p21 We know there are many examples of fantastic service within our sport and we believe they should be recognised! That's why the Association asked A Licence holders and above to tell us about great service they've received from another BPA member – to tell us if they've spotted a BPA Star! Each eligible nomination has been considered by a panel of judges (the five BPA Vice-Presidents).

The winners of the BPA Star Awards for

2014 are: Martin Hopkins (Langar), Graham Ablett (Chatteris), Ian 'Milko' Hodgkinson (Langar) and Mark Harris (Sibson).

We also have great pleasure in recognising the members who nominated our BPA Stars, who are: Tamsin Gulliver (nominated Martin Hopkins), Robin Auld (nominated Graham Ablett), Yolande Lee and Team Phoenix (Jason Kelleher, Raphaëlle Barbier Saint Hilaire, Elise Sharp, Jack Bradford and Stefan Richards) (nominated Ian 'Milko' Hodgkinson) and Rebecca and Victoria Bradley (nominated Ian 'Milko' Hodgkinson and Mark Harris).

CERTIFICATES

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Certificates of Merit have been awarded to each member of Kaizen (Laura McLelland, Maria Russell, Lynne Murray, Rai Ahmed and Andy Ford) for winning bronze in 4-way female Formation Skydiving at the 21st FAI World Parachuting Championships in the Czech Republic in August 2014.

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Certificates of Merit have been awarded to Jamie Flynn, Mark Skarratts and Martin Robiette for providing lifesaving first aid to a member of the public in Bosnia who was involved in a road traffic accident when they were there for the WPC in August 2014.

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

A Certificate of Merit is awarded to Baz Carey for his contribution to the official magazine of the BPA, *Skydive the Mag*, as cartoonist.

10 *Chris Lynch and John Carter pick up reserve packing tips at the Sunpath Seminar*

11 *Adrian Bond, BPA Chair of Communications, presents the prize draw*

12 *4-way AA Overall Champions*

13 *Big-name sponsors included Jeep®*

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

A Certificate of Merit is awarded to Paul Fletcher for the bespoke design and production of the new BPA Freestyle A Trophy 2014.

FAI JUDGES' CERTIFICATES

FAI Judges' Certificates are awarded to the following Judges, who qualified in 2014:

Richard Del Toro – Canopy Piloting
Dave McMinn – Canopy Piloting
Nicky Young – Canopy Piloting

BPA NATIONAL JUDGES' CERTIFICATE

A BPA National Judges' Certificate is awarded to Don Tomkinson, who qualified as a Wingsuit Judge in 2014.

JUMP/FREEFALL CERTIFICATES

Jason Snailham – 5,000 jumps
Clem Quinn – 108 hours in freefall and 10,000 jumps
Atly Milne – 7,000 jumps
Andy Page – 110 hours in freefall, 11,000 jumps and 7,000 Tandem jumps
Derek Thomas – 168 hours in freefall and 9,000 jumps
Chris Lynch – 168 hours in freefall and 16,000 jumps
Ian 'Milko' Hodgkinson: 324 hours in freefall and 20,000 jumps

2014 GRAND PRIX/UKSL OVERALL MEDALLISTS

ACCURACY LANDINGS

SENIOR EVENT OVERALL ACCURACY LANDINGS CHAMPION:
Janos Leszko



“It's with real delight that we put him forward for national recognition as BPA's New Skydiver of the Year – yes, it's you: Jack Davies!”



CANOPY FORMATION 4-WAY SPEED/ROTATIONS

SENIOR EVENT OVERALL CHAMPIONS (GOLD MEDAL):

Crwsaders Pete Thornton, Nick McMahon, Michael Cambridge, Carl Marsh, Trevor Evans and Paul Yeoman.

CANOPY FORMATION 2-WAY ROTATIONS EVENT

ROOKIE 2-WAY EVENT OVERALL CHAMPIONS (GOLD MEDAL):

Crwsaders Red Mark Bayley, Mark Smith and Zoe Farrell.

CANOPY FORMATION 2-WAY SEQUENTIAL EVENT

INTERMEDIATE 2-WAY EVENT OVERALL CHAMPIONS (GOLD MEDAL):

Cockerham Cockups Carl Marsh, Ben Henshall, Trevor Evans

FORMATION SKYDIVING (4-WAY) – Rookie Class

OVERALL CHAMPIONS (GOLD MEDAL):

Perpetual Chaos Chris Dodds, Dawn Adams, Richard Moulton, Kai Bedford, Laura James, Hannah Cooper and Kye Bromley.

SILVER MEDAL WINNERS:

RAFSPA Firefly Matt Trevillion, Elizabeth Stables, Steven Noble, Andy Beney, Claire Moncaster, Colin Laker and Jon Bradley.

BRONZE MEDAL WINNERS:

Jenga Jennifer Hardy, Lucy Thomas, Guy Collins, Sarah Carson and James Gray.

FORMATION SKYDIVING (4-WAY) – A Class

OVERALL CHAMPIONS (GOLD MEDAL):

Hard Corps Scott Allender, Holly Blake, Matthew Enright, Ming Chu, Paul Monaghan and Jonathan Francis.

SILVER MEDAL WINNERS:

Almost Petite Jill Judd, Becky Stevens, Alex Whitehead, Donna-Marie Jenkins Chris Judd, Charlotte Pope and Roy Little.

BRONZE MEDAL WINNERS:

SeaFury Robin Fisher, Carly Stacey-Fleming, Sean Peters, Matt Peerless, Wes Thompson and Will Major.

FORMATION SKYDIVING (4-WAY) – AA Class

OVERALL CHAMPIONS (GOLD MEDAL):



CHECK OUT
THE FULL
GALLERY OF
EXPO PICS ON
THE SKYDIVE
THE MAG
FACEBOOK
PAGE

Bodyflight Aero Fiona Millar, Sam Lee, Charlotte Pope, Giuseppe Damiano and Sam Bemment.

SILVER MEDAL WINNERS:

Funnel Vision Matthew Willson, Georgie Marsh, Lizzy Carroll, Stuart Murray, Wes Guest and Nick Robinson.

BRONZE MEDAL WINNERS:

Phoenix Stefan Richards, Raphaëlle Barbier St Hilaire, Elise Sharp, Jack Bradford and Jason Kelleher.

FORMATION SKYDIVING (4-WAY) – AAA Class

OVERALL CHAMPIONS (GOLD MEDAL):

Lowabusa Chris Judd, Sam Bemment, Laura Hampton, James Woods, Will Cooke and Wes Guest.

SILVER MEDAL WINNERS:

Savva Glen Lowerson, Kim Myers, Gareth Hicks, Paul Myers, Pete Alexander and Tarnya Hollis.

BRONZE MEDAL WINNERS:

Tenacity Andrew Woodward, Clare Ward, Ruth Green, Pete Collins and Dan Maden.





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BPA STAR AWARD

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR BPA STARS 2014. They are:

★ **Ian 'Milko' Hodgkinson** of Langar – nominated by Yolande Lee, Team Phoenix, Victoria and Rebecca Bradley and Steve Murphy.

★ **Mark Harris** of Sibson – nominated by Victoria and Rebecca Bradley.

★ **Martin Hopkins** of Langar – nominated by Tamsin Gulliver.

★ **Graham Ablett** of Chatteris – nominated by Robin Auld.

The BPA asked A Licence holders and above to tell us about great service and if they had received a shining example of customer service at a Club or Centre from another BPA member – service above

and beyond the norm that went the extra mile. Service that made a real difference by helping them to stay in the sport, to achieve their next goal, or by giving them that all-important extra support just when they needed it most. Had they received customer Service that deserves To Achieve Recognition? Please see bpa.org.uk/star for more, including full nominations for all four 2014 Stars.

Milko

"For years, I'd dreamed of becoming an AFF Instructor – what I needed was the right help from the right person. As a full-time cameraflyer at a busy centre, fitting in practice jumps was proving difficult so, on my days off, I travelled to Langar – where I was extremely fortunate to discover an undercover BPA Star! Never too busy nor too tired to offer advice and assistance, he spent countless hours patiently coaching me – even coming in on his days off, such is the nature of his selflessness. I wasn't alone in my experience either; surrounding me were many other skydivers, all made to feel special and all benefitting from his diligence and professionalism and all with the same story to tell. It doesn't matter who you are; from first-jump student to AAA champion, he is always there with a friendly word of advice and encouragement, carefully sandwiching suggested improvements between a good dose of positives and wrapping it all up in his witty, wicked sense of humour! Building up confidence, taking personality into account and modifying his approach, sensitively constructing a path of progression to achieve the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed. A remarkably talented, experienced and enthusiastic guy, yet a modest one too, who offers so much to others...

A true Star. From me, ➔

1 **Mark Harris,**
by Steve Such



and every skydiver out there who has benefited from your wisdom and generosity... a huge thanks, Milko!" – Yolande Lee

"Milko represents the pinnacle of customer service within the BPA. For one individual to take such personal and sustained responsibility for individuals throughout all levels of their skydiving career marks commitment beyond that which we can even begin to comprehend. His dedication to his tandem students, AFF students, A Licence holders, FS graduates, teams and peers at Skydive Langar is unbelievable. He always makes time and never shies away from accountability in ensuring everyone at the dropzone is not only progressing, learning or developing – but also, importantly, having fun!

"Milko has worked with us, as a team, throughout the past year. We have learned from his experience, tapping into his vast knowledge, and yet we still feel we have only touched the surface of what he offers on a daily basis to anyone and everyone who takes the time to listen. Our only disbelief is that Milko has not previously been recognised. Milko – we thank you." – Team Phoenix

"Not only does he welcome newbies to the sport with the enthusiasm of, well, a newbie, but he ensures that he retains the experienced jumpers and assists with creating the next generation of instructors to ensure the circle is completed." – Victoria and Rebecca Bradley

Mark Harris

"Mark is one of skydiving's unsung heroes. His knowledge and experience is vast and his manner beyond helpful to those who ask for advice. He demonstrated this countless times to us when we were preparing for our AFFI course earlier this year. Not only did he observe us on actual ground schools but, right from the start of our preparation, he went out of his way to share useful information and stories and to spend time being 'our pupil' as we took our first faltering steps at presenting lessons. His kind and supportive feedback ensured that we continually improved. Crucially, Mark's support didn't stop when we passed our



Right from the start of our preparation, he went out of his way to share useful information and stories

AFFI course – he has very much carried on mentoring us during the season. Whenever we've asked for his help, he has responded with an approach that encouraged us to think through the situation ourselves and make our own decisions with his guidance. This not only helps to make us more rounded AFF instructors, it also builds our confidence – which is critical in a new AFF instructor." – Victoria and Rebecca Bradley

Martin Hopkins

"As someone new to freeflying, I was nervous, unsure and fairly intimidated (something I hear from a lot of people new to freeflying), yet Martin was there to make me laugh and show me that it doesn't matter if I mess up; the only important thing to do on the jump was to be safe and have fun, and that's what I did. Jumping with Martin really brought back the fun to skydiving for me. I was always worried that I wouldn't be very good and I'd ruin the jump for everyone else, but Martin's enthusiasm and pure love of skydiving put those worries to rest and I really felt as though he was enjoying jumping with me and loved watching me progress and eventually gain my FF1. It's clear that Martin thoroughly loves everything about the sport and truly enjoys helping, watching others progress and sharing his enjoyment with others. His energy is infectious and he is an incredible coach, tailoring his advice to each person individually to ensure the best results are achieved.

"Martin is the nicest person you will meet – he has time for anyone and everyone, and regularly pulls himself off

fun jumps with mates to coach. Over the last year, I've watched Martin coach so many students and I know that every one of them had fun and would recommend him to anyone looking for FF coaching." – Tamsin Gulliver

Graham Ablett

"Graham Ablett is a true ambassador for the sport and has encouraged me and dozens (if not hundreds) more to take the step from nervous AFF student to fully fledged devotee. Graham is unpaid at Chatteris, and gives his help and advice freely and without any agenda other than to see people progress within this amazing sport. If it wasn't for Graham, I think many people wouldn't have progressed as far or as fast. He was fantastic with me, helping and advising me on everything including FS practice, FF hints and tips, letting me borrow his audible so I could see what it was like, showing me how to spot, other techniques he had picked up in terms of packing kit, advice on where and how to buy new kit and things to consider when jumping at other UK and foreign dropzones. He would also come on jumps with me, film me and then play it back, giving me the benefit of his advice and wisdom without any charge at all. For my 100th jump, he organised a 'hula jump' where six of us jumped out with a hula hoop – amazing!

"Graham is always very welcoming, friendly and extremely generous with his time. He really makes you feel part of the community of skydivers and I'm hugely grateful to him. I, and many others, have learnt a huge amount from Graham and I'm delighted to nominate him for a BPA Star..." – Robin Auld ●

2 Martin Hopkins

3 Two Stars in one Caravan – Milko takes Graham Ablett's niece Megs on a tandem, by Chris Cook

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JAMES BOND ISN'T A PATCH ON ME!

LPS CHIEF INSTRUCTOR MIKE BOLTON RETIRES **WORDS:** ANN LEWIS

After Mike Bolton's nine years at the helm as CCI of London Parachute School, October 26 2014 was a sad and emotional day for everyone. Kitted up for the only lift of the day due to low cloud, a hop'n'pop lift of club and staff jumpers emplaned and Mike, aged 76 and with his cheerful smile, knew this would be his last lift and skydive ever.

After a 46-year skydiving career and some 7,000 jumps, Mike knew that the last day of the season at LPS would also be the last jump for him as he had decided to hang up his jumpsuit and rig for the last time.

"I think I've had enough now," he said. "It would be great to have some time with my wife at the weekends and just relax a little." Some ill health had seen Mike away from the DZ a little more than usual this last year and it seemed, for him, the natural course of action to take. With safety ever in mind, he just knew that perhaps he wasn't up to it any more. We applauded his 'on the wind limits' landing

as he was dragged face-down along the airfield and we all had a good laugh and patted him on the back while wiping the mud from his front at the same time. What a man!

His skydiving career started in 1968 at Halfpenny Green in Shropshire, where he was CCI, and he helped to save the club when it had financial difficulties. His good friend Keith Mace recalled Mike having been CCI at Hinton, Cornwall and Redlands in past years. In fact, Mike was involved in the start up of both Hinton and Redlands in their early days.

Mike was most well-known, though, for the 'Rapide incident'. Mike may still be the only man who has skydived out of one plane and (unintentionally) landed in another – yes, you read that right! It has to go down as one of the most remarkable escapes by a skydiver ever. Organised by Jim Crocker, Mike's 348th jump back on July 15 1972 started out with a 10,000ft exit above Halfpenny Green, near Bridgnorth. He made his exit – only to

1 Photo published in Flight International, 1972. Mike Bolton went through the roof (forward hole) and Mike Taylor impacted behind.

crash into another plane flying approximately 40ft below and end up in the passenger compartment. The De Havilland Rapide biplane was left with a large hole in its roof.

He was part of a team called the *Endrust Skydivers* who were seeking to set a new European Record of a 14-way star. Because of the numbers involved, six jumpers were on board the →



1 Rapide G-AHAG, soft landing for two parachutists—see letter from D. J. Smith

THE NAME'S BOLTON

Rapide and eight, including Mike, were on a Britten-Norman Islander.

"It was a Saturday evening with beautiful weather. It couldn't have been better," Mike recalled. "We rendezvoused at about 10,000ft. The two aircraft were flying in formation."

The jump from both aircraft began. It had to be carefully choreographed and timing was of the essence. Mike, due to be the last-but-one to jump from the Islander, waited his turn. But, for some reason, the Rapide had slid underneath the higher aircraft by that time.

"As I came out of the door, I just saw the thing there and couldn't do much about it. I put my hands up to protect my face, crashed straight through the wood and fabric roof and landed inside. My legs were through the door."

For a moment, he considered jumping out. Luckily he didn't, as he had broken both wrists and might have been unable to pull his ripcord. He had also cracked his pelvis. He drew himself fully back into the aircraft.

"The pilot looked round and wondered what on earth had gone on. I put my thumbs up to indicate to him that I was reasonably OK, and he proceeded to land."

Mike's wife was watching from the ground. "She knew the colour of my canopy and could not see it. There were two canopies short. The guy behind me in the Islander saw the whole thing happening and reckons he tried to grab

me and pull me back. He stayed in the Islander, so there was his canopy short and my canopy short."

The jumper immediately before Mike, Mike Taylor, also hit the Rapide below. He landed just in front of its tail and, sitting astride it a few moments before either falling or rolling off, opened his canopy at 10,000ft. He landed in a cornfield two miles from the airfield with a broken femur and other injuries and, in the gathering dusk, a search plane was sent up to look for him.

Mike Taylor said: "We were both in Stourbridge hospital together for three weeks. It went all around the parachuting world – not only in this country, but even as far as Australia. Everybody thought it was a miraculous escape." He also said: "Mike Bolton must hold the record for the shortest skydive from 10,000ft coupled with a no parachute mid-air transfer!"

But he did get rather tired of all the fuss, especially when somebody at work nominated him for the television show *I've Got A Secret*. "I didn't really want to appear on it. This guy from the BBC came to see me and eventually cajoled me into taking part. The panel had to guess what your secret was. Jan Leeming could remember reading out the incident on the news, so she was on to it fairly rapidly."

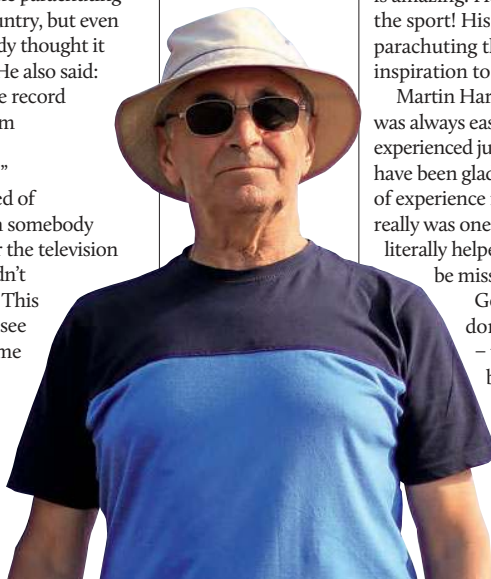
2 Newspaper headline, 1972

A curious sequel to the incident was that it led to legal claims over the damage to the aircraft and to the corn in the field where Mike Taylor landed. "The guy who owned the Rapide did sue the British Parachute Association. We were covered by the BPA's insurance, so it didn't cost me any money. And the farmer, in whose cornfield Mike Taylor landed, tried to sue for damage to the corn – the ambulance had to drive into the corn to get him.

Mike Taylor called me recently from his home in Adelaide to contribute to writing this article and said: "I think Mike is amazing. He has achieved so much in the sport! His achievement of continuous parachuting through to the age of 76 is an inspiration to us all."

Martin Harris, owner of LPS, said: "Mike was always easygoing with students and experienced jumpers alike and any DZ would have been glad to have him. With a depth of experience not matched by many, he really was one of the 'old and bold' – having literally helped write the book – and he will be missed by us all."

Good luck Mike, and please don't be a stranger to the DZ – there will always be a hot brew ready for you and a warm welcome from the team. From all of the students you have trained in your 46-year contribution to the sport, thank you! ●



2 Sky-divers' record bid ends in horror

“ I put my hands up to protect my face, crashed straight through the wood and fabric roof and landed inside. My legs were through the door ”

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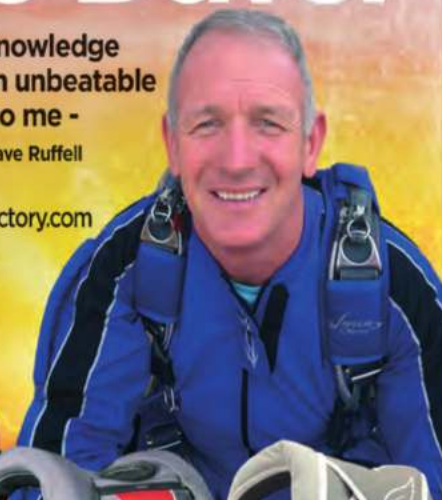
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FEMALE 4-WAY BRONZE

DIPC 5 – A NEW BRITISH TEAM ACCURACY RECORD OF 4CM AND *TEAM XX* MAKE THE PODIUM

4-WAY FS

We were represented by *Raykipo* in the 4-way Open event and *Team XX* in the 4-way Female. Both teams had completed Nationals with changes to their line-ups, so they were eager to get another chance to compete in 2014. Anna Hicks from *NFTO* (formerly *Isis*) stepped in to replace *Team XX* Inside Centre Vicky Scargill, who was unfortunately injured before Nationals. This line-up managed a grand total of two training jumps and 15 minutes of tunnel before competing in Dubai! Despite such minimal training together, they were pretty surprised to find themselves in a fierce battle for third place from the early rounds. Audrey Rowe takes up the story:

“Being able to represent Team GB in the female 4-way category was an amazing, proud, once in a lifetime opportunity! DIPC 5 exceeded all our expectations; it is a completely fabulous event. Skydiving really doesn't get any better than jumping over the Palm, being ferried back in a speedboat in glorious sunshine, luxury beachfront accommodation and an air show at the DZ every day – who could ask for more?”

“We kept the focus on consistency and calmness throughout and managed to pull three points clear, posting an 18 in Round 7. Going into Round 10, we were two points clear. A triple-blocker meant



it was never going to be a burner, but waiting for the live judging was suitably tense! Finally knowing we had the bronze medal, winning by one point, was totally surreal. Getting up on the podium with the GB flag? Indescribable! Thanks to everyone at home who sent messages of support and to the BPA for giving us the opportunity.”

Meanwhile, *Raykipo* (despite some issues with busts) made the cut to the Open semi-finals and posted a 21 (the dive was M-9-P-7). After a great final jump together, they finished in eighth place with a 14.7 average. At the top of the table, ex-Brit Katie Woods took gold for Canadian team *Evolution* with a stonking 25.2 average. *Hayabusa*'s new line-up lost eight points to *Evolution* in one round, taking silver with 24.1. →



“ We finished off the last round of Speed at sunset in very flat light which produced another bunch of zeros for missed entry gates and some beautiful silhouetted pictures. Never a dull moment in CP ”

CANOPY PILOTING

Team GB had a team of six swoopers at the CP event for DIPC 5 in a total field of 57 competitors – Martin Reynolds and Maxine Tate were straight off the back of the World Meet in Zephyrhills earlier in the month, and they were joined by Max Bruffell, Stephen Hogan, Henry Van Halewyn and Mike Evans. Due to the proximity of the two events, the CP event duration at DIPC was shortened to a 4-day competition, which was a nice change from a full 12 days on the dropzone to complete nine jumps. This really helps the competitors in CP to build up momentum because they can make multiple jumps in one day and use prior jumps to feel out the weather conditions, which is so important to the discipline. Each round can produce a maximum of 100 points and the highest score wins.

We started with a practice round of Speed (fastest through the gates on a carved course) in a strong downwind push, close to the maximum of seven metres per second, but had to stop part way through as competitors were struggling to make the carve through the gates and were further hampered by turbulence on the course. There were some dramatic wipeouts and the decision was made to stand down until the next day.

We kicked off the next morning with Zone Accuracy into a very strong headwind – drag all the water, stand up in the box (for which a headwind is very useful). We managed to get all three jumps done, with re-jumps for both Maxine and Martin due to winds limits being exceeded. We then moved into two

rounds of a new event for CP being tested at DIPC 5 called ‘Max Speed/Distance’, which is a hybrid of Speed and Distance in one run where 200 points are up for grabs over a straight course with 1.5m gates to stay below at the entry point, 50m and room down the course, a Speed time from entry to 50m and a Distance score from entry to touchdown. Miss the entry gate and you miss out on up to 200 points! It is actually one of the less technical courses to run, but miss the entry gate they did when pushing for further and faster runs. Big names fell down the ranks as they failed to eclipse the entry gate. All top three athletes from the World Meet ended up with zeros, including winner Curt Bartholomew, whose zeros on both rounds cost him a possible 400 points. It was a game changer for sure.

We went back to standard Distance and carved Speed for the other rounds, with some outstanding distance runs from Nick Batsch, Pablo Hernandez and Cornelia Mihai. We finished off the last round of Speed at sunset in very flat light which produced another bunch of zeros for missed entry gates and some beautiful silhouetted pictures. Never a dull moment in CP.

Another first for DIPC was the introduction of team placings, where each national team would pre-select three members whose scores would be aggregated at the end of the meet to produce placings by country. The top three finishes out of Team GB were in fact Max in 24th (great job on his home DZ), Maxine in 32nd and Martin in 46th. However, much like many other countries, these were not the three athletes designated



upfront as part of the team, so the results were greatly affected across the board by accurate predictions of the athletes’ performances. In fact, Team USA won gold at every event but failed to even make the podium for the Team Event results.

In the end, the overall podium showed Nick Batsch winning gold, with Pablo Hernandez taking silver and Eric Philippe of France taking the bronze. The French won the team gold, followed by Russia and UAE.

Maxine Tate

CLASSIC ACCURACY

The aim of each Accuracy jump is to land with the first point of contact (ideally the heel) on an electronic pad with a 2cm disc. Hitting this gives a score of 0cm (known as a disc or a dead centre) and anything outside of this is then measured in 1cm increments up to 16cm. Anything outside of this distance is given a 16cm score – which, at this level of competition, will send you straight to the bottom of the table. In this discipline, the lowest score is what we strive to achieve.

1 Carl Williams ready to check the spot before an Accuracy jump

2 Bronze for Team XX, by Laurent-Stephane Montfort

3 Team XX build a Crank, by Rolf ‘Kuri’ Kuratle

4 Maxine Tate swoops her way through the course, while Kate Charters judges and Dangerpants looks on. By Chad Wilcox

The team competition consists of five team members. Each individual has their own score and, for the team round, the highest score is discarded and the other four scores added together to give a team score. The team all exit on one pass and have to stagger their openings (known as a stack) to allow each individual to get a clear approach to the target. The wind limit for Accuracy is seven metres per second (approx 15mph)

Dave and Janos arrived early in Dubai and spent a couple of days training in the desert – something that was needed for Dave, since landing on an island in the lake wasn't particularly good Accuracy but it certainly entertained the others there! The team met up over the next couple of days and Jeff Chandler, Carl Williams, Dave Crowhurst, Steve Hastings and Janos Leszko entered the team event. Esther Reynolds entered as an individual, then was put into an international mix of girls as a team. After a few practice jumps at the Palm DZ, both teams sorted out their stacks and moved on into the competition itself.

We all started with good individual scores, with Esther scoring a disc that went a long way to calming the nerves. As a team, we boys discarded a 3cm as the highest team score so spirits were high after this.

With more than 200 competitors in 42 teams, rounds progressed slowly through

the week. There were several holds for winds going over the limits through the day, which resulted in several early finishes but also some very early starts.

Early rounds were done on the Palm DZ, with some stunning views from the helicopters of the surrounding area and the Palm. Later rounds were moved to the beach to allow the canopy pilots to swoop the pond – we couldn't share the same piece of sky. As the beach is on the other side of the Palm, it meant not being able to watch the previous teams jumping, but it did give us an exciting ride back on a speedboat to base (much better than a DZ bus!).

Esther scored consistently through the week, so much so that six of the eight rounds were 3cm scores. This was her biggest score through the competition. Janos also scored well through the rounds, with a 7cm being his highest score, but he also scored three discs throughout the competition. Both Esther and Janos had the best British scores and the number of lowest scores wins in competition, so Janos' three dead centres compared to Esther's one meant that Janos was best Brit in the Accuracy event. Steve also showed consistency throughout the meet with all scores onto the electronic pad. Jeff, Dave and Carl all scored one 16cm in the competition, but all other scores were on the pad and Carl pulled out three 1cm scores.

Round 7 for the team saw both Jeff and Dave score a disc and, with a 3cm, a 1cm and a 7cm (which was discarded), this set a new best score of 4cm for the GB team on the 2cm pad.

As a team, we men finished 21st of the 42 teams. Esther finished in 17th place of 48 in the female event and Janos was in 68th place of 159 in the men's event. This is a 2.5cm average and Janos' personal best in competition. Altogether, a super event at a super venue.

Looking forward, the British Nationals will be at Skydive Swansea on May 22-24. There are various levels in the competition with Novice, Intermediate and Senior categories. Anyone interested in learning more about this discipline or wanting to join us in a training camp, please feel free to contact any one of us via the BPA office or find us on Facebook.

Dave Crowhurst and Esther Reynolds

CF

Team Crwsaders represented GB in the CF 4-way Rotations. Although they could never hope to match up to the other, more-experienced teams, they gained valuable competition experience by competing alongside them. Rotations involves exiting the aircraft in quick succession in order to build the quickest 4-stack you can and then 'rotating' the top person to the bottom of the stack by them releasing and then re-docking. As soon as they are on the bottom, the new top person can go. Your score is the number of complete rotations within the working time. There were eight rounds and you get to throw away your lowest score. *Crwsaders* started with a high score of five, but then never bettered it, ending the comp in fifth place with a total score of 18. At the other end of the table, Russia threw away 19 as their lowest score in one round and finished on 144! Belarus took silver with 133, and Kazakhstan and Qatar tied for bronze on 108. ●



5 Swoop pond by Bruno Brokken

6 Esther Reynolds on the Accuracy pad

7 CF 2-way champions from France, by Bruno Brokken



VIDEO: [TINYURL.COM/LYJJR70](https://tinyurl.com/lyjjr70)

BY DAVE CROWHURST Watch the action at the link above or click on the link in the Skydive App or at skydivemag.com!

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CP WORLD MEET

WORDS: MARTIN
'DANGERPANTS' REYNOLDS

The 2014 Canopy Piloting World Championships were held at Skydive City Z-Hills in November. Each country is allowed to send eight competitors to a CP World Meet, and the UK team had been selected from the previous year's national competition as per selection criteria for World competitions. Unfortunately, three members were unable to attend, and our delegation consisted of Brian Vacher, Maxine Tate, Martin Reynolds, Joe Laming and Wez Westley, with Jackie Harper as H.O.D. and Nicky Young as team manager.

More than 100 competitors from 23 countries were competing, and teams and individuals started arriving to train about a week before the event. Some teams had even been training for a month prior to the competition. The dropzone facilities were excellent and it was a

well-run, relaxed environment. Getting on training loads was easy, and there was a choice of four people in a Cessna or a Twin Otter. The pond was well maintained and the course laid out ready for training, but the landing area for distance posed a challenge. Approximately room down the Distance course gets hit with the most landings, and this area tends to turn into something resembling the goalkeeper's spot on a school football pitch. The sandy Florida earth does not help either, and this spot soon became a potential ankle trap. A lot of competitors were rolling over on their ankles as they hit divots at up to 30mph and it nearly took my ankle on one of my first jumps.

WAIT, CAN YOU HEAR BANJOS?

Another potential snake on the way to the start line proved to be holding on to your canopy! The winds were quite strong at 6,000ft some days and the newer Petras and Peregrines have seen an increase in the number of cutaways. These canopies

are made of sail to give the wing more rigidity and the performance in competition has improved dramatically with ever-increasingly skilled pilots. However, remove the pilot and they perform even better, and a canopy cut away at 5,000ft can easily travel eight miles on a breezy day. A good example of this was my good friend Rod McCrory from Team Ireland. He arrived a couple of days before the comp and his first jump was on my load – there were high winds. Petras don't like to be cooped up in a bag for too long and Rod joked about his kit being packed for the last three months. Anyway, he was out first and deployed the canopy, which remained as a tight black and white lump for a while before spanking open and spinning violently out of control. There is a local guy they call 'The Canopy Hunter' (because he hunts for canopies), who knows the wind conditions and who knows his way round the swampland round the DZ like one of those characters from *Deliverance*, but even he could not find this one.





Although the surrounding swamp was certainly not good in the case of a cutaway, one of my finest memories of the training and Z-Hills was the first load in the morning as the sun rose and the fine layer of mist sat over the swampland. There was condensation on the window of the Cessna, good friends, an exit into crisp cool morning air and swooping the glass surface of the pond...

The opening ceremony was memorable as well. There was an impressive canopy and flag display by the SOCOM guys, and two of them made a canopy stack with a large Stars and Stripes flying beneath while accompanied by the singing of the national anthem. However, on breakoff and approximately 200ft above the ground, a pilot chute unfortunately got caught in the lines of the other canopy and there was a surreal moment as a young girl sang the American national anthem while the two pilots spiralled into the ground. Fortunately, they survived.

START AS YOU MEAN TO GO ON

The competition started with three rounds of Speed, and there was a slight downwind push and stronger uppers. All of the Brits did OK, Brian had three very good rounds and Maxine took the UK and European Women's Record. Then came lunch and two rounds of Distance. Maxine just missed an exit gate on one round, but did really well in the other Distance runs and went on to set a new Euro Women's Distance Record

as well. Wez had some good Distance runs, as did Brian and I, and Joe did very well on a non-prototype canopy. Canopy Piloting Distance and Speed has really become a two-class event now and a Petra adds another 20 metres to your Distance run (and the Peregrine almost as much!). At the top of the table, Nick Batsch went 167.88m on the first round of Distance and Pablo Hernandez took a new world record (for a day) with 167.90m.

On the first round of the second day, the conditions were perfect for Accuracy and there were some nice runs. There is a daily rotation of exit order in a CP comp, which is supposed to make things fairer, but sometimes this does not work out and some of the competitors went from first load of five on the first day (when the wind was gradually increasing and giving increasing advantage for the downwind Speed and Distance) to last load on the second day where the increasing wind gave a disadvantage for what became downwind Accuracy.

The second round of the day was another round of Accuracy, which ended in the last pass (80 minutes after the first) getting a bit hosed by the 3-4m/s downwind push. At midday, the conditions were now perfect for the final Distance run and I could not believe they decided to run the third round of Accuracy. This was probably the worst call I have ever seen in a competition and it certainly spoils my day.

There were two more full days available

for one round of Accuracy and almost guaranteed good conditions at end of the day or next morning. This round started with 4m/s downwind Accuracy and ended with the last load going downwind on the competition wind limit of 7m/s or approximately 14mph. Unfortunately, this round saw one of the top competitors retire with injury. On the plus side, this will probably help lead to the setting of a sensible limit in future competitions for downwind Accuracy. It was like watching the opening scene of *Top Gun* as the fighter planes land on the deck of the aircraft carrier and hook the cable before flying off the other end. Unfortunately for Wez, he had done all his training jumps wearing a 10kg weight belt and on a Peregrine, so he decided not to change this in the comp. I have never seen anyone go as fast in an Accuracy run and, after dirt-water-dirt on the pond, I think he managed to visit all of the scoring zones.

It was then reverse order of standings for the last round of the comp: Distance. Brian and I were on the same pass, which was a nice way to end the meet and we both had a really good run. A highlight of this last round was Nick Batsch's performance. He had not had a good meet up to this point and had seen Pablo take his World Record in Distance. The conditions had also calmed down from the earlier Accuracy round and were not the best for a record Distance run, but he ran 169.19m – a new World Record, very impressive.

The overall results were Curt Bartholomew in first, Julien Guiho in second and Cornelia Mihai in third. As for the Brits? Brian Vacher was 23rd, Martin Reynolds was 27th, Maxine Tate was 57th, Wez Westley was 59th and Joe Laming was 73rd. The full scoreboard can be found at controltower.io/cpworlds.

Also, big thanks to Greg Windmiller, who took the Brits shooting with big guns the next day. Nothing like releasing a complete magazine with an AK47 to relieve the stress of a competition... ●



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POPS WORLD MEET

OVER PHORTY BUT STILL PHABULOUS – TEAM GB WINS 4-WAY GOLD AND BRONZE AT THE POPS WORLD MEET IN ARGENTINA

“SkyVandals, five-minute call.” Ant, Jo, Ben, Nigel and I exchange sceptical looks.

Recent experience says that five minutes means 15 or perhaps 30, or even – on one memorably sweaty occasion – a full hour of standing around in kit, waiting for an aeroplane in the brutal heat of the Argentine springtime. Heck, it's not even summer yet and already the mercury is edging towards 40 degrees. Wildly

optimistic manifest calls and high temperatures are an unwelcome combination and, if the heat is at least dry, the insides of our jumpsuits are anything but. Still, we dutifully gear up and the rather swish Red Bull Cessna Caravan does eventually roll up to the boarding point. Eventually.

Everything here happens, if not quite mañana, then at a leisurely pace that – once you adjust to it – encourages you to kick back, make friends and realise that impromptu tango lessons are as

important as turning points or that many of your dives are going to be into the deep end of the dropzone swimming pool. Partly because we're on long holds for turbulent winds, but equally because nobody is in any kind of hurry, the aircraft appears late on most days and the beer light comes on early. Welcome to POPS, South America-style.

IT TAKES FIVE TO 4-WAY FS

We were at the Centro de Aviacion Civil, just outside the small city of San Juan, attending the twelfth POPS World Championships. It was SkyVandals' third year together but our first POPS event, since one of our members, Jo, has only just 'come of age'. Many of our fellow jumpers, however – several of them in their 70s and beyond – were veterans of earlier events in a wide range of countries. Our competitors and compadres were Argentine, German, Italian, Danish, Swiss, American, Canadian, Russian, Aussie, Kiwi... the list goes on. Proudly sharing our flag and our little corner of the dropzone were Team Aeronauts, led by British Top POP Jeff Chandler.

SkyVandals had an unusual year. After taking A Class bronze at the 2013 UK Nationals, but without the time or budget to invest in moving up to AA for 2014, we'd set our sights on Argentina as an →

1 Jeff Chandler landing his Foil on the way to SOS Gold in Classic Accuracy. By Simon Donnelly

2 Aeronauts and Bodyflight SkyVandals at the opening ceremony

3 Niels Hansen landing one of his Sports Accuracy jumps for SOS silver. By Simon Donnelly

4 Jubilant POPS World Champions Bodyflight SkyVandals



NO STOPPING US

5 Both GB teams after receiving their medals, by Matias Gutierrez

6 SkyVandals cooling off with some atypical exit practice!

achievable and novel goal – random-only dives, a relaxed November deadline and an exotic location. We started training late; mostly in the Bodyflight wind tunnel (who also generously sponsored us by providing some free airtime) and eventually supplemented by the few jumps at Sibson and Netheravon that our schedules and the autumn weather would allow. Our longstanding coach, Chris Shaw of Sky Skills, put together a programme designed to sharpen up our random work in the tunnel and give us the exit practice we needed in the air. In some cases, we launched from seven grand so we could concentrate on our grip switches and

work on the hill while using a minimum amount of time, energy and money.

Following this short, intensive period of preparation, we were as ready as we could be by mid-November. We travelled direct from Heathrow to Buenos Aires, and then took another short domestic flight west from there to our destination. And yes, team stickers did mysteriously appear on both airliners...

The morning after our arrival in town was the time to hit the dropzone and it quickly became clear that San Juan,

usually a small Cessna club, is barely set up for an event on this scale. There were three serviceable creepers and a fourth that could



be persuaded to turn in increments through the application of brute force. There was a small patch of grass if you fancied a soft landing and didn't mind a little crowding: everywhere else was an unforgiving mix of hard-baked earth, gravel, dust and rocks. There was no spare lead available anywhere, so some of those rocks were used to fill empty slots in our weight belts. All the same, it was wonderful to be there, and it was clear that a lot of effort had been made to pull the event off in some style.

The event was a big deal for San Juan, both the dropzone and the city, and it showed. There was an Olympic-style opening ceremony at the nearby stadium, and local people turned up to the DZ every day to watch, chat and have photos taken with us. School kids crowded around us to practise their English, and simply walking out to the plane or canopy landings – even mine – invited applause. It was a truly special atmosphere, unlike any competition at home, and we Brits – despite the painting in the bar showing Royal Navy ships under attack off the Falklands! – were made just as welcome as everyone else.

Of the multiple competitions organised, we were down for the 4-way FS Scrambles, 6-way Speed Star Scrambles and what, for us, was the main event – the 4-way

National FS, which finally got under way several days into the meet.

WORTH WAITING FOR

Things didn't gel immediately. We were not jumping at our best and got off to a slow start with 13 in time, but that still put us into joint first place with the Italian team. There were further glitches to come before we really hit our stride, but we began to pull ahead after the second round. Round four brought a very creditable 17 and, in the fifth and final round, we finally pulled out the stops and put a 21 on the board. It was a confident, all-smiles skydive and a great way to end the competition. It also equals the highest-ever single round score at a POPS meet, set by none other than Arizona Airspeed. That'll do for us!

We achieved an average of 15.4 overall, a comfortably gold medal-winning score, and even set a new record for total points achieved in a POPS World Meet 4-way FS competition. *Aeronauts*, ably assisted by Nigel Rowlan in later rounds as a stand-in for the injured Niels Hansen, conceded silver to Italy by just a single point and easily achieved bronze. As a result, Britain was well-represented on the podium in FS as well as other disciplines.

Across the various competitions, the British contingent brought home a very decent haul of medals between them – *SkyVandals'* tally alone amounted to six golds, two silvers and three bronzes. Nigel and Jo even acquitted themselves well as last-minute entrants to Hit and Rock which just goes to prove that, in spite of Chris's inability to get us to land anywhere near the Sibson minibus during training, we do have some semblance of canopy control if given a big enough audience and a shot at glory.

It was a great meet and a fantastic experience overall. Our thanks and best wishes go to everyone involved in running the event, our fellow jumpers from across the world and the people of San Juan for making things so memorable – and to Chris Shaw and Bodyflight for their huge part in our success.

The next POPS World Meet will be held in Germany in two years' time. We hope to see you there! ●

Mike Dawson
Bodyflight SkyVandals



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CHRISTMAS BOOGIE

SKYDIVE ALGARVE

WORDS: SAM BEMMENT



The 2014-2015 Christmas Boogie at Skydive Algarve was the first with the dropzone under the new ownership of the Swallow family. This means the slick operation from Hibaldstow was transplanted to the sun for three weeks over Christmas and New Year, including two twin-turbine Dornier G-92 aircraft which can turn loads to 14,000ft in less than 13 minutes.

Skydive Algarve is located in Alvor, just inland from Portimão – a well-known holiday destination on the coast of southern Portugal. In summer, it's a lively destination where many British families take their holidays. This has two great benefits for a skydiving holiday: plenty of restaurants and bars to choose from, and a wide range of available accommodation suitable for all budgets and tastes. Visiting skydivers took full advantage of both!

Flatties, Freeflyers, angle flying and wingsuits were all catered for, with organisers and coaches from all disciplines and for all levels. Milko and Billy Payn took charge of the high-end FS load organising, with mixed groups performing complex dives with many challenging slots and

1 Billy Payn, Tony Bradbury, Nikos Pavlidis, Siân Stokes and Milko over the Portuguese coast, by Gary Wainwright

2 Billy's group, by Sam Bemment

3 Cake to celebrate Milko's 20,000th jump, by Gary Wainwright

4 Hybrid dive, by Gary Wainwright

“ Select days concluded with sunset jumps onto the local beach, with crates of cold beer waiting ”



some great progression. Freeflying and angle flying was looked after by Domi Kiger, Dave Howerski and Ally Milne, with flyers dipping in and out and most groups managing nine jumps a day, every day! Pedro Assunção and Ricardo Viegas brought a stack of demo wingsuits and many WS1 and WS2 stickers were dished out to eager young squirrels, leading up to some flocking by the second week.

Ten different nationalities were represented at the boogie (at my count!). The largest contingent was by far the Brits, but there were significant numbers of French and Germans and Dutch too.

Select days concluded with sunset jumps onto the local beach, with crates of cold beer waiting and a great vibe from interested locals and holidaying Brits alike. The views on these jumps were absolutely stunning, with the sun setting over the sea in the background, making for some fantastic photographs.

The boogie stats speak for themselves. A total of 6,605 descents were made, with Milko holding the record for the most boogie jumps at 120 (although he was only just ahead of jump-hog Tony Bradbury, who did 118). One of those jumps was rather special too – his 20,000th, no less, for which he organised a 2-point 20-way formation load with points representing 20 and 000. The busiest day saw 45 lifts of the 482 lifts total – not at all bad considering the sun sets at 5.30pm!

Skydive Algarve will be following up on this success with the Easter Boogie from March 21-April 12, which promises all of the above and more! ●



VIDEO: [TINYURL.COM/LK9B4MV](https://tinyurl.com/LK9B4MV)

BY SKYDIVE ALGARVE Watch the action at the link above or click on this page in the Skydive App or at skydivethemag.com!



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THE CROWD IS GETTING BIGGER

1



WORDS: MARY BARRATT

You may have noticed that Canopy Relative Work (a.k.a. Canopy Formation) has been making something of a comeback in the UK. This is a significant development for UK Canopy Formation because it means there are now more skydivers here with experience of 2-way sequential CF – in other words, jumpers who are able to make precise

**1 Easter 2014
over Langar,
by Matthew
'Elvis' Black**

and controlled wing-docks and fly in close proximity to a canopy formation. Learning to fly a canopy with this degree of precision feels absolutely brilliant and makes you want to keep pushing your skills further and further, so it is not really surprising that more CFers in the UK with these skills means there has also been a growing hunger for new Canopy Formation challenges. The chaps from

team *CFUK* have noticed this and, keen as ever to drive the discipline forward and raise the UK skill-level, they have seen it as an opportunity to set an exciting project in motion.

Throughout 2014, *CFUK* have taken a *CRoWd* of eager jumpers under their wing (yes, quite literally). They have focused on sharing up-to-date techniques and developing core big-way skills, and →

they have a goal – establishing a dedicated group who can reliably build multi-point 9-ways – which they aim to achieve by mid-2015.

Of course, this had to start with the basics. The first task was learning to build 4-way diamonds, which we needed to be able to do quickly, reliably and repeatedly. This is not as easy as it sounds. At the start of 2014, we were struggling. However, by the autumn, we were working on 8-way formations and 9-way diamonds, skilfully flying our slots as wing-lock pairs, holding positions in close proximity to formations while waiting for them to build and settle, and smoothly coming on in the eighth or ninth slot. Progress has been impressive. Nevertheless, getting the project this far has had its challenges.

One of the biggest challenges so far has been making sure that canopy sizes and positions all work together and that wingloadings match exactly. This is absolutely crucial to building a stable diamond. Our earliest attempts at 9-ways therefore largely focused on trying to get these seemingly simple things spot on. It is surprising how difficult that can be and just how much maths and scribbling on a whiteboard it involves. However, giving some time to resolving this balancing act at an early stage of the 9-way work seems to have paid off; we are now in a position to make a flying start to 2015, confident that we can put nine people in the right slots with the right weights and matched canopies.

Another challenge has been the steep learning curve that we have all moved

“Having the opportunity to improve your canopy skills from the likes of the three guys from *CFUK* is great. Being involved in larger formation stuff makes your big smile even bigger, which says it all. With the goal of bigger and better driving you along, what more motivation do you need?”

DEREK O'NEIL

2



3

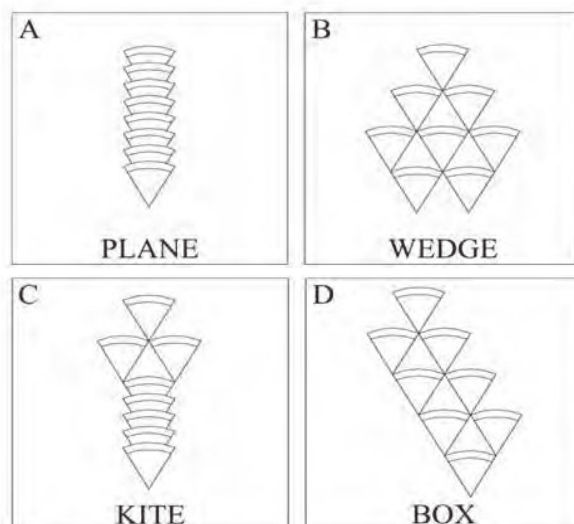


along. When a group of fairly experienced CFers focus on pushing themselves beyond their current abilities, sometimes way beyond, things will inevitably get a little messy. At this level of CF, messy can mean wrappy, tangly and really rather scary. It isn't too surprising that this project has given many of us our first taste of being up close and personal with 'proper' wraps and entanglements. This has generally been because someone tried to do something that we all know is a bad idea, such as docking with too much momentum or trying to dock on an unstable formation. It is quite amazing to see someone dock with a little too much momentum on one side of a formation and then watch that energy ripple across the whole formation to cause a wrap among jumpers on the other side. It is also rather reassuring to see people calmly deal with such incidents exactly as trained and to see Lightnings emerge from what look like inevitable cutaway situations, reinflate and then carry on flying as if nothing happened (most of the time!).

2 The existing UK diamond record, an 18-way set in 1990. Taken by Simon Ward shortly before he docked on this 17-way to complete the record

3 Pilot and first two wing-docks while the rest of the formation lurk in wait, by Matthew 'Elvis' Black

4 The biggest group of CF jumpers to link up over the UK so far this century – the 16-way group in 2006, by Tony Danbury



"It is really encouraging to see the interest and enthusiasm of a new generation of CF jumpers, and exciting to see them learning the skills needed to progress to more advanced formations. If we can combine this with refreshing the experience of other CF jumpers who may have got out of practice in recent years, we can look forward to a lot of fun and building some really interesting formations as well as potential records – why should the Americans and the Dutch be the only ones to thread the needle?"

MARTIN ROBIETTE



Without doubt, the experience has given us all a great deal more confidence when it comes to building larger formations and dealing with the challenges that come with stepping it up a level. As a result of all this work, we now have a really enthusiastic CRoWd, a group of approximately 16 'fun jumpers' who are able to build complex canopy formations with a high level of skill and control. This is undoubtedly a significant development of the skill-base among CFers in the UK and that goal of multi-point 9-ways is already looking extremely achievable. It is almost within our grasp. But this is only an interim goal; a stepping-stone on the way to realising a longer-term ambition. Once we can throw a 9-way diamond together consistently and quickly, we can start looking at building something even more spectacular.

The plan is to move on to 16-way diamonds, then a 25-way. A 25-way may not sound very significant compared to the size of formations regularly achieved in some other disciplines but, in CF terms, it is a huge step up. To put it into ➔

"I started CRW in 2013 at a roadshow. I got my CF1 in four jumps over one weekend and haven't looked back. I now have 70 CRW jumps, my own CRW rig and a national gold medal in Intermediate 2-way. I couldn't believe skydiving could be more fun, until I was invited on to the big-way. Every jump is more fun than the last and the opportunity to progress is massive." **SIMON SOPER**

perspective, the current world record is a 100-way diamond (2007). The Royal Marines set the UK diamond record in 1990 with an 18-way; a 16-way diamond, built on their first attempt, with two stingers on the bottom, including the cameraman. Although 2006 saw another 16-way diamond built over Langar, this time including members of all the UK CF teams at that time, the 18-way still stands as a UK diamond record. The Marines had also previously set a world vertical record in 1986 with a 24-plane. This record still hasn't been broken and, for several reasons, a bigger plane is

unlikely to be built for a very long time. However, a bigger diamond in the UK is becoming a real possibility – although it is not going to be easy. In fact, it's clear that building a 25-way is going to be very complex and challenging. Brilliant! It is hard to imagine being linked to 24 other canopies, and being one of 25 pilots all working together to fly a dynamic formation, but what we have achieved in 2014 makes it seem quite attainable.

With the help of *CFUK*, we are certainly getting there in terms of skills. On the other hand, realising this goal will depend on overcoming a couple of

5 Building a 4-way diamond, by Gary Wainwright

significant issues; we need more canopies and more people. Many of us involved in this project have two or three Lightnings each, which we are currently pooling to get everyone flying the right slots with the right wingloadings and well-matched canopies. As the formations grow, this canopy jiggling will get more complex so we will need a much larger pool of Lightnings to draw from. The success of this project also depends on some of the other CF jumpers out there in the UK getting involved. So, with this in mind, *CFUK* will continue helping us develop our skills as a solid base for bigger things, and they will organise some open events in 2015 for any CF jumpers who are experienced, current and interested in getting involved with the CRoWd. In addition, we will be offering a few Big-way Basics Camps aimed at recently qualified CF jumpers and 'old' CRW dogs who would like to get involved but feel a bit rusty. This really is shaping up to be an exciting 'watch this space' project; it seems that CF might well be THE discipline to watch this year... ●

If you are interested in getting involved with the CRoWd or want to come along to one of the Big-way Basics Camps, get in touch with Marcus Muir-Smith (mmuirsmith@gmail.com) or Mary Barratt (mlbarratt4@hotmail.com). If you have a Lightning that is just gathering dust, Marcus and Mary would really like to hear from you too.

If you haven't tried CF and you want to find out how much fun precision collisions can be, just book yourself onto a BPA roadshow – see the Events Zone at the back of the Mag, join the Canopy Formation Coaching group on Facebook or contact the BPA CF Rep Gavin McLeod (gavin.macleod@gmail.com)

5



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PARACHUTE CENTRE

This new section is all about canopy progression. We learn from the example (and mistakes!) of others, so it is useful to read about what other people have done. You can then compare it to canopy choices you may be considering yourself. For example, someone might rationalise that they'll be fine on a Katana at 300 jumps because their mate's on a Velocity at 500, but not realise that that's not normal and that the person on the Velo may have dedicated those 500 jumps to canopy coaching (and still may not be making the right decision!).

I'm hoping to help people build up an idea of what 'normal' is. Each issue, I'll print case studies of people's canopy choices during their first thousand jumps and beyond, along with any lessons they learned along the way. Please do get involved – email your answers to the standard questions below if you've been around long enough to have lessons worth sharing.

Name: Pete Allum

Year of first jump: 1979

Total jumps: 30,000+

Current canopy and why that one: Peregrine 71 for hop'n'pops and Comp Velo 79 for everything else. The Peregrine is the latest step in progression with high performance wings and I love flying parachutes about! The Comp Velo is my standard everyday canopy, great for lots of jumps in a day. I have so many jumps on a Velo that it feels like a second skin.

Canopy progression:

1-75: C-9 and T-10 Round canopies

75-250: Para-Commander

250-300: Strato flyer

300-400: GQ Unit 220

400-500: Osprey 220

500-750: Pegasus 220

750-1,000: GQ Raider 220

1,000-1,200: Firelight 200

Lessons learned: Go slow. I really enjoyed getting to know each canopy at a larger size. My downsizing trend after 1,000 jumps was to make at least 1,000 jumps per size before downsizing. I feel like this progression allowed me to get as much as possible from each wing



and give me the time and platform to make small mistakes and learn the basics. I did up-size one year after an injury and went from a Wildfire 170 back to a 220 for 200 jumps.

Name: Gary 'Swoop' Wainwright

Year of first jump: 1993

Total jumps: 8,500

Current canopy and why that one: I have three. Firstly, a Pilot 124 (1.6 wingloading) for camera jumps with my heavier set-up or whenever I don't feel like being under a cross-brace (bigger ways and hungover, particularly!). It's the best opening canopy I have jumped so far and I have jumped 90 different main canopies. Secondly, a Sensei 91 (2.1 wingloading) for all other jumps, mostly filming tandems or small freefly groups – it's the best opening cross-brace I've jumped so far. And thirdly, an A2 tandem canopy!

Canopy progression and lessons learned:

First 30 jumps: Manta (280)

Next 120 jumps: Glide Path Raider (220)

Then I spent about 20 jumps borrowing Sabre 210s, 190s and 170s before buying a Sabre 150. Looking back, this was a big jump and probably not recommended. I was heavier then and loading a canopy at 1.4 with less than 200 jumps is perhaps too aggressive, but it was just what people seemed to do back then and nobody really batted an eyelid! There is much better information available now – Brian Germain's maximum wingloading chart, for example.

I did just over 300 on this, up to jump 500, then bought a Stiletto 135 on which I did 1,300 jumps. I was just starting to get into swooping on the Sabre 150, then sold it. I had to go back to square one with my swooping when I bought the Stiletto but, if I had stayed with the Sabre for another 500 jumps, the transition to the Stiletto would have been much easier.

Xaos21-108: 400 jumps

Velocity 103: 1,700 jumps

Velocity 96: 300 jumps

Mamba 104: 1,000 jumps

Pilot 117: 1,300 jumps (upsized to a 124 this year – not getting any younger!)

Sensei 91: 700 jumps

My main consideration these days is how well does it open – I do a lot of camera work and don't want to get injured. I was once knocked out by an opening on a different canopy to those I jump now and that has made me cautious about what I use.

CANOPY CORNER

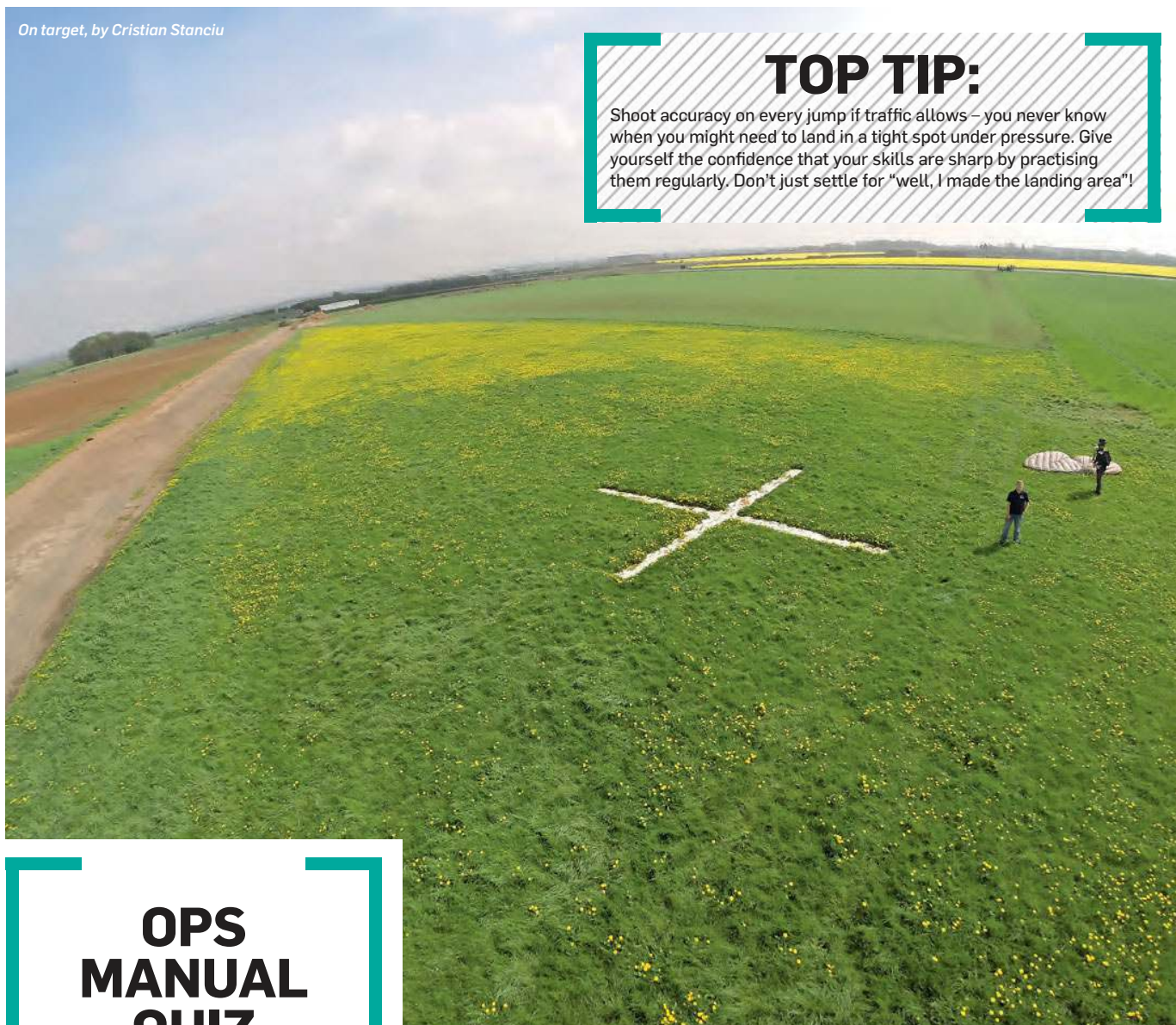


Swoop landing at the D-100 event,
by Willy Boeykens

On target, by Cristian Stanciu

TOP TIP:

Shoot accuracy on every jump if traffic allows – you never know when you might need to land in a tight spot under pressure. Give yourself the confidence that your skills are sharp by practising them regularly. Don't just settle for "well, I made the landing area"!



OPS MANUAL QUIZ

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

Q1 Are you allowed to take your helmet off under canopy?

Q2 If you've got an audible altimeter, is it essential to also wear a visual altimeter?

A1 Section 6, paragraph 3.1.5
Helmets are to be worn throughout the entire parachute descent.

A2 Section 6, paragraph 4.2
The minimum instrument is a serviceable non-sensitive visual read out altimeter, securely mounted in a suitable position.

NEW COACHES

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

Jason Franks, Netheravon
Matthew Trevillion, Weston
Simon Beech, Headcorn
Andrew Roberts, Netheravon
Jennifer Hardy, Netheravon
Wolfgang Matussek, RAPA
Alex Jarman, Sibson
Richard Moulton, Netheravon
Amy Kitson, Sibson
Matt Cunningham, Netheravon

CP COACH

Aaron Cosbey, Wild Geese

BASIC FF COACH

Cristian Stanciu, Hibaldstow
Timothy Coxon, Netheravon
Harry Shanker, Netheravon

FF COACH

Alex Jarman, Sibson
Pier Luigi Querci, Spain

WS COACH

Rob Krysztofiak, Hibaldstow
Thomas Bellis, Netheravon


VIDEO: [TINYURL.COM/QG4WBJA](https://tinyurl.com/QG4WBJA)

 BY MATT LANCASTER Watch the action at the link above or click on this link in the Skydive App or at skydivethemag.com!

After the combine harvester...



MAL OF THE MONTH

WORDS AND PHOTOS MATT LANCASTER

To date, I have had two cutaways – both while wingsuiting. The first was from a tension knot and the second was twists I couldn't clear. On both jumps, I had my RSL attached and I'm glad I did (even though I pulled my own reserve pad on both jumps and dropped it on the second one – DOH!).

On the first of my cutaways, I was doing a simple 2-way wingsuit jump. Everything was going fine all the way to pull time at 4,500ft. When I pulled, I felt a bit of a delay and was relieved after a moment of waiting to feel my canopy starting to open. When I looked up, I saw it had twists which cleared themselves. Feeling a bit of relief that the twists had cleared, I then realised that an A-line on the right side of the canopy was under tension and causing me to spin. I looked up at the canopy for a moment wondering what I could do, if anything, to sort my main out considering my wingsuit was still zipped up. I decided there was nothing I could do and went straight back to my training. I did my reserve drills, keeping my leg wing closed so as not to exacerbate any rotation after cutting away. My reserve opened beautifully



and I was under it by 2,500ft. I landed a little way from the PLA and used my phone that I keep in my wingsuit to call the DZ and tell them I was OK and to arrange pick up. Unfortunately, I lost my freebag after that cutaway but things got more expensive on my second cutaway.

On the second chop, I was doing a 3-way wingsuit jump. All was fine again, until it came to pull time at 4,500ft. I must have had poor body position



when deploying as I got twists that I couldn't clear. Thankfully, my Sabre 2 170 flew flat and level even with the twists. I unzipped my arms and attempted to reach up to clear the twists. I still couldn't clear them, so I unzipped one leg from my wingsuit to help me kick out the twists – to no avail. I was gradually losing altitude and started to think that I may need to get off my main and use my reserve. I got to 2,500ft and cut away, keeping my legs together to keep my loose leg



wing between my legs. I was under my reserve with plenty of altitude to make it back to the PLA. On this occasion, I found my freebag quickly but didn't find my main until the farmer handed it in the next day – after it had been through his combine harvester...

The lessons I took from these experiences are:

- Always take a phone with you when wingsuiting – you never know when you might need it.
- Have a good body position when deploying and keep your wings closed until your canopy is fully open.
- Consider using an RSL or Skyhook – ask instructors and highly experienced jumpers for facts and advice. I'm certainly glad I had my RSL connected on those jumps.
- Don't worry about your kit – better to lose it than get hurt.
- Make decisions up high.
- Practice your reserve drills regularly.

LUCKY 13

As a maths teacher, I love looking at statistics so I was fascinated to see annual figures for BPA jumps, malfunctions and injuries going back 13 years. Here are the highlights:

- 2014 was the best jumping year of them all, with an all-time high of 287,961 jumps made at BPA Affiliated PTOs (DZs) and on UK displays.
- Student freefall jumps passed 70,000 for the first time, having first passed 60,000 in 2012, 50,000 in 2010 and 40,000 in 2009.
- There were 324 malfunctions or deployment problems in 2014, giving the best rate on record of one for every 888 jumps.
- There were 172 injury reports. Injuries include all injuries reported, from cuts and

bruises to more serious broken bones. This is again the best rate on record of one injury in 1,674 jumps. In the past decade, the rate has been as (relatively) high as one in a thousand.

This excellent and improving safety record is down to the hard work of all BPA members – your instructors, Chief Instructors, COO and STO, but not least YOU. All of us work together to keep our sport safe and everyone can play their part whether it is on the flightline, in the aircraft, in freefall, under canopy, on the landing area, in the packing hall or elsewhere. We can be proud that our collective attitude and sensible rules have made the sport safer for everyone, and pleased that our insurers agree and have lowered our premium yet again this year!

Liz Ashley



GEAR ZONE

JOHN LEBLANC

John LeBlanc at
the PD Factory, by
Justin Carmody



As I mentioned when I first graced the hallowed pages of this printed institution, Gear Zone won't only bring you the latest information on new gear and useful DZ toys, but it will also bring you words from the pioneers of our sport.

This issue, I'm talking to John LeBlanc – a man who knows a thing or two about parachutes. John joined a college friend of his, Bill Coe, back in 1984 just as he started a little company called Performance Designs. That company has grown significantly since then and now employs more than 300 people, who design and build a range of canopies for skydivers, military and BASE.

THE INTERVIEW:

Let's start with the basics. How long have you been skydiving and how many jumps do you have?

JLB: I started when I was 16 and have been jumping for 37 years. I'm not sure how many jumps I have now but, in the last personal logbook I kept, it shows me at a bit over 1,400 jumps in 1989. I have been jumping fairly steadily ever since, mostly test jumps and some fun jumps while travelling.

How many cutaways have you had?

JLB: Not including reserve test jumps? To the surprise of most people, I have only had five – four of which were more than 28 years ago. The most recent one was on a pretty rough prototype that was way too snivelly and prone to line entanglements, for some reason.

What was the first canopy you designed, when, and how awesome was it?

JLB: The first canopy I designed and built totally on my own was in 1987. Everything before that was a collaborative effort between Bill Coe and me. This was also the first 120 sq ft canopy, and it was a 27 cell that had external diagonal bracing formed by spanwise-cascaded lines to each and every rib (see right). Bill saw the potential of this concept, but he reduced the drag by making the diagonal crossbracing internal. So this weird little canopy I designed in 1987 became the forerunner to original Excalibur, the first production crossbraced canopy. My little 120 was pretty awesome, but it also had some ugly sides to it. It opened terribly and was a 'toggle turn only' canopy because it was not stable on the front risers at all. I wouldn't consider it airworthy by today's standards, but it was the start of a long line of fun prototypes!

What's your 'go to' canopy for sport jumping and why?

JLB: It depends on where my head is, how current I am and what sort of parachute I am working on developing at a particular time. Overall, though, I would say it is mostly a Sabre2 150. I love that canopy! Even though I load it up pretty high, I feel I can do nearly anything with it. I can swoop it or bring it in pretty slow. I have also done a ton of jumps with the Velocity 96 and 103 and feel the same way about them, though I need to be current on little canopies to be comfortable. Finally, I tend to jump what we have just been working on for a while, so right now I am totally addicted to the Valkyrie. It is a blast!

What do you consider to be your greatest achievement?

JLB: Pretty simple: jumping for 37 years, including jumping some pretty crazy canopies, without breaking any bones.

What canopy are you most proud of?

JLB: That is a tough one. It is a toss-up between the Stiletto, Sabre2 and the Velocity. Probably the Velocity.

How long does it take to bring a new canopy to market and what's involved?

JLB: It depends on how different the performance is compared to what we have already done. It might be a one or two year project, or several years for something way out there. As for what is involved, we start with creating a list of performance targets: what we want the canopy to do and who it is for. Then we try to describe these characteristics in the form of comparisons to other canopies we currently make. For example: "We want turns with less dive than a Sabre2, but more dive than a Stiletto." Once these documents are drafted, we have key players in the R&D Department and the Marketing Department sanity check them, revising or clarifying if necessary. Once we agree on what we want, we start designing, building and testing prototypes. Our test jumpers report what they experience, being as objective as possible. We usually find the gaps that exist between our test results and our targeted objectives, so we might make modifications to that parachute. If the physical change desired is not practical as a modification to the canopy, we just make a new prototype parachute that, in our experience, will get us closer to our goal. We build as many as 140 prototypes

a year for various projects and make thousands of test jumps in pursuing what we want. We use several full-time test jumpers with varying flying styles and preferences, and often have healthy debates as to which iteration is best. We have review meetings periodically between myself, the project leads and selected test jumpers involved. Once our regular reviews indicate that a canopy meets all our objectives, we begin the process of preparing a package of information needed for production to build exactly what we want. There might have been more than 200 iterations to get where we want to be, and that means we have to be very thorough in documenting each little evolution to make sure we will build exactly what we have chosen.

What's the weirdest canopy you've jumped?

JLB: I have jumped lots of weird things. Some of the early canopies with highly tapered leading edges were pretty exciting. One canopy in 1987 had no leading edge inlets and had fans to inflate it. The fans were powered by an old-school battery pack on my chest strap with electrical wires running up the lines. I had to unplug the electrics before I could cut away...

Describe the 'perfect' jump.

JLB: It would be a simple sunset dive with a small group of friends. We'd leave the airplane with lots of eye contact and mischievous little grins on our faces, causing others to wonder what they were missing. After using about half the altitude for belly flying, tracking or whatever, we'd break and open our canopies high. Then we'd split into pairs and chase each other around the sky in big huge arcs and barrel rolls. Down lower, we'd break-off again to rest and create lots of vertical separation. That would enable everyone to have plenty of open space and time to do awesome landings one by one. Then we'd crack open a beer by the campfire and let the stories fly. There would be no video, only memories and crazy stories!



What do you consider to be the current biggest dangers to sport skydivers?

JLB: Thinking that you are more proficient and capable than you really are. Crowded skies under canopy, caused by not sequencing the arrivals to the pattern over a long enough period of time. Believing too heavily in the original training about 'high speed' and 'low speed' malfunctions. That works with big student canopies but, when you are under a 150 or smaller and it is doing a diving turn out of the sky, you are really eating up altitude fast. There have been an alarming number of highly experienced people performing cutaways too low to survive. With a little canopy that is in a turning malfunction, you need to think of it as a high speed malfunction which eats up altitude fast! Act quickly and decisively.

Small bungees, big bungees double stowed, tube stows or 'other'? And, why?

JLB: For small solo canopies with low-drag lines like Spectra, Vectran or HMA, I personally prefer to use large rubber bands and double stow everything, including the locking stows.

What's your advice for the best pack job?

JLB: Stow your lines properly, avoid shoving the nose into the pack job and bag the canopy neatly with the mouth of the bag, completely closing the bag.

I'm a UK skydiver who's planning a trip to Florida. Can I stop by the factory to say 'Hi!' and see how parachutes get made?

JLB: Sure, we love to show people the factory. Give us a call if possible, and try to make it over Monday through Thursday at about 2:00-3:30 pm.

Finally, what's the one piece of advice you would give to an experienced jumper?

JLB: Appreciate the little things about our sport. Be helpful but not pushy. Help make the community more enjoyable for everyone. Have fun. ●

John and his ParaCommander in 1978



The first 120, a prototype 27-cell with external crossbracing in 1987





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Photo courtesy of KOB



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MANY HAVE YOU JUMPED AT?

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bkpc.co.uk
Blackhawk Caravan

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

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skydive-northwest@totalise.co.uk
skydivenorthwest.co.uk
PAC 750XL

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Skydiving Centre
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March, Cambs PE15 0EA
DZ: 01354 740810
T: 0871 664 0113
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ukskydiving.com
Twin Otter, Nomad

PAGE 65 **5 Cornish**
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Mob: 07790 439653
cornishparachuteclub@hotmail.co.uk
cornishparachuteclub.co.uk
Cessna 206, guest aircraft

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Dunkeswell Airfield,
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skydive99.com
Two Beech 99s and Caravan

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Cessna Caravan, Islander

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skydiving.co.uk
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C/O Jersey Aero Club,
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skydivejersey.net
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Cessna 182

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The Airfield, Shotton
Colliery, Co Durham DH6 2NH
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enquiries@skydiveacademy.org.uk
skydiveacademy.org.uk
Cessna 182, Cessna Grand Caravan

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OX10 6AS
T: 0845 1307 194
info@londonparachuteschool.com
londonparachuteschool.com
Islander, Cessna Grand Caravan

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Hangar 3, Old Sarum Airfield,
Old Sarum, Salisbury SP4 6DZ
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skydivesouthcoast.co.uk
Airvan, Cessna 206 and 172

17 The Silver Stars
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29 Regt, Duke of Gloucester
Barracks, South Cerney, Cirencester
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Cessna 185, Turbo Cessna 206

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BPA Overseas Affiliated DZs

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PBN Piston Islander

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Cessna Caravan 208

Parachuting Societies

PAGE 60 **BCPA**
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Hannah Parker, BCPA Chair
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Parachutists Over Phorty
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pops.org.uk

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

CHECK OUT
THE POPS
FEATURE ON
PAGE 37





1 Johnny Kelly over St Aubins

2 Expopi8 competing in the Speed 8 2014, by Sam Lee

3 Paul Dewey's 1,001st jump, by Chris Cook

4 Ninja action starring Ricky Davies and Teej Quigley, by Aled Mason

5 Winter wingsuiting, by Steve Searle

6 Peter Sizer, by Jane and Ruth

7 Christmas party selfie of Alex Busby-Hicks, Kat Busby-Hicks, Dan Cope, Ellie Southworth, Dan Griffiths and Mary Carbutt

8 Dan Curnow, by Kev Coffey

9 Evan 'Scottish Jesus' Grant, by Kev McNab

10 Lee Elliot dispatching, by Tom Derbyshire





BCPA

WHO NEEDS
THE SKY?

With the New Year comes a year full of awesome events for the BCPA, starting with BCPA Indoors at Bodyflight Bedford! As I'm writing this, a third of the bulk time has gone and the competitions are selling out fast too. Make sure you book now on the BCPA website to avoid disappointment.

Since our last update, we have also been very busy with tunnel events – namely BCPA Xmas, which was held at Airkix Manchester. With only four hours of time booked, this event was small but great fun. We've also seen a lot more interest in booking Airkix time with the BCPA discount, especially from Imperial College London. If you are an affiliated club and want some tunnel with the BCPA discount, please feel free to get in touch with us at mail@bcpa.org.uk.

We've also all been busy jumping through the winter weather, with Nottingham still leading the Competition and Achievements league. Warwick made two impressive competition entries last month, seeing them take second place and edge closer to Nottingham's high lead score! Guy Stanley (Nottingham) is currently winning the individual league.

Stay tuned for an exciting year of competitions and events ahead of us!

Sam Doughty

BECCLES

LET THEM EAT CAKE

Even though the weather has been getting a bit chillier, there's still been a whole heap of jumping which culminated with the Andy Page 'Christmas Freefall Cake Eating Film Fest Comp'. This happened on the eve of our annual Christmas Party and saw, as you may have guessed, many of us hopping out and trying to gobble cake in freefall while being filmed. Plenty of us took part and there was many a messy face strolling back into the hanger. Mentions have to go out to Ian Whayyyman and Andy Mac for their magnificent 2-way cream doughnut munch-off and to Barrie Bremner for the spectacular self-filmed backflying cake cramming jump.

After the day's epic and messy jumps, the atmosphere of revelry moved onto the Christmas Party. This was held at the Waveney House Hotel in Beccles and saw us enjoy a three-course meal, the much-anticipated Tomo end-of-year speech, awards and so much well-lubricated fun and frolics. I would love to provide quotes from said speech, but I can't remember much of what was said due to some unfortunate memory loss and the language used in the speech was pretty darn unprintable in a well-respected magazine like this one.

“I can't remember much of what was said due to some unfortunate memory loss and the language used in the speech was pretty darn unprintable in a well-respected magazine”

Ian Whayman and Andy Mac about to launch a 2-way cake-off, by Andy Parker



All I can say is that, for a small DZ like ours, the jump numbers are astronomical. We smashed the AFF jumps by more than 100% and the club jump numbers are simply mind-boggling.

This year's awards went out to some of our most commendable club jumpers and staff. Firstly, the Student of the Year Award went to Gracie Gadston, who has impressed us all with her tenacity and hard work to gain her A Licence. The Club Jumper of the Year was given to Ross Francis, mainly because he's always at the DZ (even in crappy weather) but mostly because he's a cracking bloke who has progressed really well this year. The Staff Member of the Year Award was received by Tracy Skinner because she's the most hard-working, best looking and most wonderful manifester on the DZ. So, thanks to Tracy for putting up with an angry boss, miserable whinging staff members (that's you, Steve Wickham and Gavin Rixon), complaining tandem students, AFF students who continually ask if they can jump yet even though the cloud base is at a grand and, finally, club jumpers who seem to forget they have to pay before they can jump and make you chase them up for their pennies.

The most sought-after award that is on offer at Beccles, namely the Spanner of the Year Award, went to Danny French who, earlier in the year, successfully wrapped his canopy around the windsock pole to stop himself from landing in the hangar. Thank you to everyone who made this year's party the best so far.

So, looking forward to the coming year, what's going to be in the events calendar? There's going to be night jumps organised – keep an ear out for more info on those. Then we're going to be visited by a chopper for some helicopter jumps in March. The much-anticipated Sunset Dives should be back in April, ready to start enjoying the longer evenings. Finally, the epic Beccles Scrambles event will be run again on the first bank holiday in May. So what more can I say? Well, other than: roll on more wicked jumping with old friends, roll on copious new jumpers to join us at Beccles and roll on 2015.

James Page

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT8/CH1 Gary Murray, Amber Summerton FS1 Corrie Deane, Kevin McGrave, Dan Suffolk CH2/JM1 Marty 'The Tattoo Wizard' Burgess WS1 Burim 'Outrageously Awesome' Shala **JUMP NUMBERS** 200 Burim 'Outrageously Awesome' Shala 300 Ian Whayman 800 Jenny Sedgewick 2,000 Rob Bellman

BLACK KNIGHTS

BIG PLANS FOR BKPC

The run-up to the end of the year was quite a busy one, with the weather gods being surprisingly reasonable for the time of year. We had a great group of fundraisers perform tandem skydives for a variety of worthy causes, plenty of student training and coaching and the fun jumpers had a ball.

The tunnel sessions we ran this year have been a great success. We'd like to continue running these in the coming year, with the intention of translating this into training weekends at the centre and putting what is learned in the tunnel into practice in the sky.

There has been a great vibe in the FS and FF scenes at BKPC this year gone and we would like to encourage this further in 2015 in the run-up to the various national competitions by offering special team rates for club members. Please see our website and Facebook pages for details.

We have a great FS coaching team here at BKPC and Ash would also like to grow this in the coming year. If you're interested in coaching, please let him know.

There are many other plans for events, roadshows and competitions across all disciplines this coming year, including another trip to the Isle of Man. Details will be added to the calendar on our website on a regular basis, so make sure to check back often.

Our annual dinner and awards ceremony was a fun-packed one and we would like to congratulate the following award winners:

Student of the Year: Connor Lynch
Skydivers of the Year: Carl Marsh and Ben Henshall
Club Member of the Year: Tom Bartlett
Tool of the Year: Phil Symons

Thanks also to Sharon for organising yet another awesome party, →

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

 /skydivelangar



and to the Garstang Golf and Country Club for enduring our special brand of excitement once again. Contention for all of these awards started again on January 24, so come and join us.

We had more CReW-related excitement recently when the boys packed up and headed out to Dubai to compete in the World Championships (more on P29). They had a fabulous time and, suffice to say, we're extremely proud of them. BKPC's very successful CReW team are now recruiting for a new member for their 4-way sequential team. No experience is necessary, please contact Paul to enquire.

More changes have taken place during the closed season and we've done some building and decorating work while the centre has been shut. The cafe, reception and seating areas are now looking very smart and welcoming.

Details of all of the events mentioned and contact details can be found on our website and Facebook pages – have a look and come and join us. We look forward to seeing you.

AJ Taylor

ACHIEVEMENTS **FIRST FREEFALL** Carl Bell **CAT8/CH1** Carl Nicholson **FS1** Michael Greaves **WS1** Elliot Brown **WS2** Mandy McGuinness **JUMP NUMBERS 100** Steve Collins, Ben Eagan **200** John Welch **500** Dave Bloomfield **ONE HOUR IN FREEFALL** Steve Collins, Karl Goodwin, Ian Longbottom, Connor Lynch **THREE HOURS IN FREEFALL** Mark Lord

BRIDLINGTON

BLUE SKIES, SARAH

Skydive GB has experienced a strange few months, initiated by our trusty steed requiring an engine rebuild. The Airvan returned mightier than ever in the New Year and business returned to normal. Despite this, we have still managed to open the new bar, affectionately named 'The Flailing Arms', which has been a huge success with the regular jumpers and will now be open after jumping on a regular basis. The opening included the usual haka performed by Robin Shepherdson and copious amounts of vodka consumed by the usual suspects.

The centre has undergone a facelift, courtesy of the lovely Karen Gibbs, and all of the walls are shiny 'DZ magnolia'. According to Sarah Thomas, this is a well-known paint colour! Karen has done a sterling job, though her husband Gibbo was simply a hindrance so we tasked him with setting fire to the rubbish. Fortunately, he didn't fit in with tradition and the centre is still standing. The new hangar is at the top of the list of priorities for 2015 and Alec has his work cut out – nose to the grindstone and all that.

Sadly, we have paid our final farewell to Sarah Martin, who passed away on December 21 2014. Sarah was an exceptionally talented photographer who had spent more than 30 years around skydiving, although she never jumped. Sarah was a strong supporter of the



centre at Bridlington for as long as anyone can remember and was known to many skydivers from all over the world. Sarah had an uncanny ability to be in the right place at the wrong time and never missed taking a photograph of the landings that you didn't want to be seen (many of which featured myself!). These shots would invariably appear on social media sites, just when you thought you had got away with it! The regular jumpers all paid their respects by posting Sarah's pictures as their Facebook profiles, which was a lovely gesture. Her funeral was a sea of purple, which was her favourite colour, and comprised her loved ones and jumpers dating back to the original centre. Sarah remained dedicated to the centre and she insisted that she was to be laid to rest in a Skydive GB hoodie. She has left a huge Sarah-shaped hole in our lives and will be greatly missed by all.

Sara Orton



Dan and Kev, by Duncan Haynes

CARK

THE PILOT WHO CAME IN FROM THE COLD

As ever, the 2014 Christmas bash was full of surprises. Steve Steward lived up to his nocturnal antics with another year of walking from the bar to breakfast. With Dennis away, Stuart and Mike began the inaugural speeches and thanked those who assisted and achieved at the centre. It was great to see an old-school revival with Albert Cooper and his harem of good-looking ladies too. We hope to see you in the skies this year.

Big congratulations to the following recipients of our 2014 awards:

Skydiver of the Year: Kev Coffey
Student of the Year: Andy (High Chair) Friar
Outstanding Achievement: Nadeem Al-Khafaji and Karim Shokree
Little and Large Award: Pete Spedding and Ana Budjelan

We hope 2015 will be as weather-kind as 2014 because we have a few events on the cards. Keep your eye on the web and Facebook pages for more details.

With a very solid and competent corps of freeflyers and Dan on his board, we are looking forward to another hot freeflying year along with a possible FF Club Record attempt. We will continue and build on last year's load organising and big-ways with Ana, Speds and H. Scott, Katie, Claire and Helen will all be on hand to offer FS coaching for those who are new or nearing CAT8 qualifications.

There will be a warm welcome home for Vicky Auld, who will be resuming pilot training with us upon her return from flying Twin Otters in the Antarctic. With a few circuit refreshers and a couple more hours under her belt at the helm of AY, we will have another great pilot residing at Skydive NW.

Stu M

ACHIEVEMENTS **CAT8/CH1** Gareth Evans, Andy Friar, Holly Tann, Jonathan Yeates **JUMP NUMBERS 200** Dave Hunter, Karim Shokraee **4,300** Pete Connor **TWO HOURS IN FREEFALL** Dez Blyth →

Sarah Martin

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CHATTERIS

LOOKING BACK, FORWARD AND UP

Firstly, Happy New Year to all our jumpers (and others reading this!). We hope you've had a great winter, wherever you have been jumping or whatever you have been up to.

We ended 2014 with the normal kick-ass dropzone party held in our own clubhouse. There was an interesting array of costumes along the pop/rockstar theme and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening, with a great hog roast and entertainment from local band Wild Honey.

The first AGM was held on the evening of the party and several topics were covered by the board. This later led to some important announcements being made. Firstly, there has been a ticket price increase for fully qualified skydivers. Tickets to altitude will now cost £18, which is still one of the cheapest centres in the UK.

It was decided that Student of the Year 2014 would be awarded to Mark Henning. Mark has been a very active member of the club since he began his training and, although he struggled initially, he became very determined and has taken part in many DZ activities and events.

There were also a couple of announcements made that were, unfortunately, less on the celebratory side. Lolly has decided to leave the Manifest role and will now be working solely for the booking office. However, she will be taking on this role by working from home, which means we will no longer be seeing her around the DZ. The other sad announcement was that full-time cameraflyer, AFF Instructor and FS coach Yo Lee will be leaving Skydive Chatteris as of this season. Yo, who became a qualified AFFI this year, has decided to focus on this rewarding area of skydiving and will be running the AFF school at neighbouring DZ Sibson. Fortunately, she will be staying local and, as she already has existing students (current and former) at Chatteris, everyone will no doubt still keep in touch. It's sad that we're saying goodbye to two very talented staff members who had very influential roles, especially to myself and my team, and I can speak for all when I say they will be missed greatly. Nevertheless, we thank Lolly and Yo for their work and efforts over the years and wish them the best of luck in their new ventures.

So, on to the 2015 season and there is already talk of some great DZ coaching roadshows and club-based competitions. Fingers crossed that Jeannie and Curt Bartholomew will be coming back to visit this year, because their canopy coaching weekend was one of the highlights for many of our jumpers. As well as FF and FS coaching throughout the year, female 4-way team *ChatterChicks* will be joining up with FS coach Graham Ablett one weekend a month to provide more coaching for pre-FS1 skydivers up to those looking to expand their skills (maybe within their own team). Keep an eye out on the DZ and online for announcements of these dates.

Robynne Haynes

ACHIEVEMENTS CH2/JM1 Salim Satar FF1 Nick Griffin JUMP NUMBERS 100 Ali Atlasi 200 Tanya Burton 400 Vikki Poulton 800 Tony Labbz

CORNWALL

DEBUTS, DENTS AND DANCE-OFFS

Happy New Year! Well, the jumping started for the year on February 1. Not too much to write about on that front yet, so I figured I would take a moment to reflect on last season. That is, not before I mention what an awesome day we were gifted for the end of season bash! The clear, cold skies allowed us the chance to do loads of fun jumps up at the airfield and we finished off with awesome sunset loads onto the beach DZ. The party rocked late into the night, with entertainment in the form of Photobox, Tim and his band Paradox – as always, you guys smashed it! There was a dance-off between Kenny the Legs and the Gremlin Boys – 'Price'. The punch was a success as always too.



Jon McCallum on his first beach jump, by Ben Wood

“Don't worry, Hugh – yours was by far the best. Perhaps your naked jump with J had more of an effect than you thought?”

We've had another year without so much as a broken fingernail, though there were a few dents along the way – Monty's van (courtesy of Justin's friendly wake-up nudge), one or two beer line infringements, crazy landings and rigging issues dented some pride. Don't worry, Hugh – yours was by far the best. Perhaps your naked jump with J had more of an effect than you thought?

2014 was a record year for CPC in many ways. There were more tandems than ever before and almost double the amount of AFF. CPC had its TV debut too, appearing in James Corden and Matt Baynton's BBC2 hit *The Wrong Mans*. They used our little Cessna as a hijacked aircraft, with Dave and Monty skydiving them back over the coastline. It was great to see my boys in the tunnel doing their first 2-way too. Nice one, Flynn and Jack.

We have a fantastic team of pilots and maintenance crew keeping us flying, along with DZ staff, instructors and cameraflyers. That's not forgetting the club members who have worked hard all year, helping us achieve our goal to progress and get bigger as a club. Many thanks to everyone at the club for the ongoing support, and let's hope that this season is better than the last, with larger aircraft and more beach jumps. This year sees our 10th anniversary, so perhaps a party could be in order? One that lasts a couple of weeks with loads of jumping, perhaps!

Well done to Justin (AV), who has had an amazing year. He was thrown in at the deep end and has endured hours of banter, but he came up trumps and won Skydiver of the Year! He showed skills in the air far beyond what his jump numbers would suggest.

Congratulations to Red Neck and Katie on the birth of Leighton Fowler on Dec 19, weighing 6lbs 10oz. A new future pilot in training?

Thanks to my friends, my family and wife Jan for your support through a very tough time. It's amazing how a jar of Branston can bring a smile to my face too (some will get it).

See you all soon for some fun in the skies over Cornwall.

UBI

CYPRUS

2014 – A YEAR OF PLENTY...

To start with, we bid a fond farewell to Dave 'Biggy' Biggadyke, who has been handling our Mag entries for the last couple of years. He has moved back to the UK from sunny Cyprus, but at least we managed to grant him his C Licence before he left. In the handover of article writing duties, there was some miscommunication – hence no Cyprus entry in the December 2014 issue. This is also the reason why we have a lot more achievements than usual, with four months' worth of progress being recorded below.

We also said goodbye to Dylan Bartle in our last entry, so it's time to welcome Tony Rayson and his beautiful family. Tony has been a welcome addition to our roster, teaming up with Chas to form a formidable tandem and camera team. Since his return, Tony has also regained his TI rating and has often been seen switching positions with Chas to accommodate all the tandem students. ➔



Congratulations also go to our very own Pelham, who achieved his AFF1 rating since our last entry. He has been busy putting new AFF students through their paces with the assistance of Chas, who has also achieved his FF1 and WS1 Coach ratings too. All this has left our newly minted CSI George to deal with all of the RAPS students through to their A Licence and beyond, with a multitude of our members gaining their A Licences and FS1 ratings since the summer break.

With all the formalities out of the way, it's time for a quick review of 2014. We have had no fewer than 10 students getting their A Licences through the RAPS system, which is more than we had in the last three years combined! Our regulars have been racking up their jump numbers too, with our beloved Islander Hotel-Delta achieving more take-offs and landings than 2013 and eight new FS1-qualified skydivers giving us great hope for even more descents in 2015. Our flock has also increased to nine and we look forward to seeing them all in their new wingsuits. We also had a spate of reserve rides, with some people gaining the nickname 'Happy Handles'. On the bright side, we have all got quite good at retrieving free bags and our riggers have been keeping busy...

The year was rounded off with our annual Christmas Party, which was held as a formal event for the first time. It never ceases to amaze me how well skydivers can clean up when they truly put the effort in and you could tell how uncomfortable some people were without colourful nylon and spandex adorning their bodies. The dinner was attended by more than 60 people and was a blast. Much laughter was had with the presentation of 'serious' gifts to each of our members and the night was closed off with the presentation of a gag reel from 2014.

All in all, it was an awesome year and thanks must go to our CI Martin White for making it all happen along with our pilots Ray, Chris and Howard. They were always ready to go despite having to wait for people to be done with their coffees and cigarettes before packing for the next jump. We have great expectations for 2015 with canopy courses and load organising in the pipeline, and we will be sure to keep everyone updated via these articles.

Chris Sphicas

ACHIEVEMENTS **FIRST FREEFALL** Kev Creaney, Iain Lawson, Sean Wilson **CAT8/CH1** Daniel Cole, Maria Demetriou, Charlie Foster-Miles, Marios Frangous, Anthony Hyland, Liza Yianni, Maria Yianni, George Zorpas **CH2/JM1** Christopher Mayberry, Joe Oakes, Mathew Winkler, Nick Zisis **FS1** Constantinos Mousikos, Joe Oakes, Andy Sphicas, Stephanie Stylianiou, Mathew Winkler, Liza Yianni, Maria Yianni, Nick Zisis **WS1** Marcus Fountain, Pete Gallagher **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Christopher Mayberry, Joe Oakes, Mathew Winkler, Nick Zisis **100** Joe Oakes, Andy Sphicas, Nick Zisis **200** David Biggadyke **300** Othonas Anastasi, Charalambos Charalambous, Chris Sphicas

DUNKESWELL

IT'S BEECH TIME!

Happy New Year everyone! We are very excited for 2015. According to our busy calendar, it's going to be awesome! If you haven't been here before, here is a little insight to our dropzone that you have to try this year so you don't miss out.

Skydive Cyprus

Facilities

Dunkeswell is on the map for having the fastest and most comfy jump planes in Europe and we are the home of two Beech 99s. This makes all the difference with speedy turnarounds and short waiting times, and flight level 150 gives you more time in freefall. You can see three coastlines from above and the closest beaches are only 30 minutes' drive away – a great alternative for days with non-jumping weather (so we surf instead).

We have our own rigging loft with full facilities. Rigs can be dropped off in the office seven days a week and will be repacked as soon as possible. We normally open for jumping on Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Bank holidays. In summer, there are some extra midweek jump days. We have a bunkhouse, accommodating 20 people. There is also free camping, plug-ins for campervans and good quality restaurant and coffee bar – The Aviator.

National Swoop DZ

We have lots of FS big-way, FF and wingsuit jumping here in Dunkeswell. Our wingsuit school has the suits for you to borrow, so you are welcome to try this with our wonderful coaches. We are also the home of the only competition standard swoop pond in the UK. Swoopers from all across Europe and the UK are training in Dunkeswell and, in 2013 and 2014, we held the UK CP Nationals. In 2014, we had the first Swoop99 Cup. The plans are much bigger for 2015, with the CP Nationals (July), two Swoop99 Cups (April and September) and a European Swoop99 Cup (June). We have managed to get the world's best swooper, Nicholas Batsch, coaching in Dunkeswell twice last year. Nick has fallen in love with the place and will be back coaching in 2015 – dates to follow. Our own Brian Vacher will be holding 101 and 102 canopy courses here in June, so please book in advance by contacting us.

Teams

Dunkeswell is home to 4-way AAA team *Vision99*. The team did really well last year, coming second in the UK Nationals, third in the Bodyflight World Challenge and seventh in the World Meet. Members of *Vision99* are always at the DZ and are available for FS coaching from individual basic level to training teams for the Nationals. They are recruiting new teams for the 2015 Nationals during winter months!

We will be holding lots of events in 2015: UKSL, 2-way VFS, two Twin Beech Boogies, lots of Head Down weekends and more. The calendar is pretty full! We will try to beat our own Guinness World Record for the Most Tandem Parachute Jumps in 24 hours too. We did 281 tandems on June 21 in 2014, but we will aim for more. Come and try us!

Miko and Teddy

ACHIEVEMENTS **FIRST FREEFALL** Adam Kruidenberg, Calum McDonald-Wood, James Topham **CAT8/CH1** Lucy Austins, Chris Copeland, Phil Husbands, Anand Lurati **JM1/CH2** Daniel Bradford-Jones, Connor Figg, Neil Hooper, Sel Pasos, Victoria Pitt, Kevin Young **FS1** Gary Broom, Sel Pasos, Benjamin Turner **FF1** Sandy Wilson **JUMP NUMBERS 100** Simon Hawkins **200** Joe JJ Graves, Joseph Mann, William Tenison **400** Bill Booth **800** Stefan Richards (Potter) **900** Dan Whitby **1,000** Richie Taylor **1,200** Gary Powell



By Jane and Ruth

HEADCORN

WATCH THIS SPACE

The start of November saw another very wet spell and we were unable to use the runway on a couple of occasions. We have put a →



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contingency plan in place so we can ferry people to another airfield to take off, but fortunately we have not had to do this yet. However, what it has meant is that we cannot use the minibus on the field and, therefore, everyone has been getting fit walking to the end of the runway and back from the landing area.

The weather cheered up in December and we had a last run of jumping that included a lot of static line students who finally got their first jumps in. It was good to see many of them signing up for second and third jumps. We have a strong contingent of students from Imperial College this year, so well done to José and Mutian on their recruitment skills! We also had some robust AFF students – namely Chris Hibbert, Carl Parsons and Kim 'Thermal Knickers' Buddle – who braved the sub-zero temperatures at altitude to complete some levels. This also meant that there was a rare sighting of Jane jumping in December!

Janos went off to the Dubai International Parachuting Championships (more on P29) to represent the country in Accuracy. He did us proud by scoring a total of 20cm over eight rounds, which included three dead centres.

A good time was had by club members and staff at the annual airfield Christmas bash, which was held at the local golf club. Judging by the lack of hangovers the next day, everyone behaved themselves this year and appeared to be tucked up in bed at a decent hour.

The Islander has been off for annual maintenance and we are treating her to a makeover – watch this space! Once back, the Caravan will be away until the beginning of March for maintenance.

Christmas Day dawned bright and clear and five diehards rocked up for the one free lift of the year. A quick hop and pop was followed by a drop of mulled wine and mince pies provided by Ruth Cooper, then it was back to the festivities for them. Thank you to Dave Evans for turning out to fly.

In contrast, New Year's Day dawned grey and overcast – which put a dampener on the beginning of 2015. With any luck, our fortunes will have turned by the time this goes to press and the new season will be well under way.

Si Beech will offering B Licence brief days throughout the year and Ken Gregory will return in the spring for Walk up Wednesdays or Turn up Thursdays. We will be introducing Free Fly Fridays, so lots of activities are planned for the coming season. See you then.

Jane Hopkins

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT8/CH1 Meg Hughes, Kerry Samuels CH2/JM1 Tyler Sharos **JUMP NUMBERS** 800 Drew Moon, Si Beech

HIBALDSTOW

THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE BUSY

And so one year ends and another begins. It's not long now before the 2015 season starts up and the DZ returns to hectic life after the brief relaxation over winter, but we're 'jumping' ahead of ourselves. First, let's return to 2014 for a look at how we ended the year...

It was incredible to see such a large group of jumpers still coming to the centre in the middle of an admittedly mild December to try to get some jumping done. It's a testament to the strength of the community that more than 100 people dressed smartly and came to our Christmas Party weekend too.

This year, the DZ ran a seated meal for anyone who wanted to get involved in the festivities, offering a three-course Christmas Dinner with all the trimmings and a wonderful award night where we celebrated the best and worst of the year. This year's winners were:

Spammer of the Year – Kathryn Campbell, for keying a three-aircraft formation load... from a tail slot.

Faceplanter of the Year – Richard Cotton, for faceplanting.

Boozehound of the Year – Henry Chow and the Chowfter Party.

Best Student – Ravnoor Gill, for her infinite endurance of AFF and finally succeeding in her A Licence.

Best Recent Graduate – Jack Davies, for his amazing ascent from struggling AFF student to formation loads in one season.

Best Team – Kintama 4-way, for winning Single A at the British Championships.



Coaches, by Dave Butterell

Best Coach/Instructor – A perfect draw between Karl Peart, Richard Cotton, Julia Swallow and Liz Boniface, for their efforts at all levels of jumpers at all levels.

Skydiver of the Year – Matt Lancaster, for his efforts to improve all types of his jumping and for excelling as a cameraflyer in 2014.

Needless to say, there was great vibe after the awards and a fantastic night was had by all.

While Hibaldstow slumbered for a brief time, the boogie at Skydive Spain and the new Algarve Boogie (more on P40) fired up and produced some of the best videos and stills we've seen for a few months. For those there, it was a big deal. For those not there, a thing of jealousy. However, now we know – if the UK is a little cold or wet for you, there are places to visit with the Hibaldstow feel!

January was a great start and we're determined to break some records this year – so help us do it! We've got wall-to-wall events, some great parties and, of course, the aircraft capacity to cater for teams, fun jumpers and tandem skydives. What are you waiting for? Join the Hibaldstow bandwagon and see what you've been missing out on!

Check out skydiving.co.uk or Facebook to see our events line-up. Don't miss out on the good stuff!

See you in 2015. It can only get bigger!

Stubert Ferglstein

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT8/CH1 Chris Black, Rav Gill, Sam Plant, Alex Simpson CH2/JM1 Michelle Davey, Christina Wright FS1 Michelle Davey, Andrew Griggs, Wayne Radforth WS1 Karl Peart WS2 Nigel Thurston **JUMP NUMBERS** 50 Michelle Davey, Christina Wright 100 Michelle Davey, Ash Mohanty 200 Kate French 500 Andy Pointed, Aimee Southwell 900 Blyth Davies 2,000 Kris Cavill 36 HOURS IN FREEFALL Rob Spour

JERSEY

YOU SAY POTATO, I SAY EPIC FAIL...

The last two months of the year provided us a couple of crispy days for some skytime to remind us why we love it so much, sucking in the views on our scenic ride to altitude before the escape to freedom at the top. →



Johnny Kelly and Mal Richardson

The Annual Awards Night was hosted at the club's home in the Jersey Aero Club bar. Mally was on top form, MCing for the night to celebrate the high times from 2014, watch a few vids and tell some tall tales of heroics and buffoonery.

So on to the awards for the year. The four students on our first static line course had their achievements recognised with their jump certificates, so congratulations again to Brian, Jean Luc, Jason and Laurent. Shayne Lightfoot picked up the award and shield for the Most Progressed Skydiver in 2014, cracking his AFF and racking up the jump numbers – his eagerness and improvement made him a worthy winner. Brian Heath stepped up again, this time for services behind the controls of the trusty Cessna, so we salute Brian for his flying this year and say well done on the Prix D'Aviation Award.

I created the Potato Head Award last year to recognise a moment when someone has done something a bit special, usually as the result of a brain fart. As Mally received the award last year, it was his turn to present it to someone who'd given us a giggle at their expense this year. The Chief Flying Instructor for the Aero Club often kindly chauffeurs us to jump altitude so, as you can imagine, he's flown a few hours at the airport – which has one runway. Rolling along the taxiway one day, we came to a halt, shortly followed by a swift U-turn and a hasty taxi to the correct end of the runway for departure. Luckily for James, the control tower didn't let him go too far without notifying him of the embarrassing mistake. Unfortunately for James, Mally was onboard and delighted in giving him a good ribbing for the rest of the year. So watch out this year, since James will be looking for a deserving recipient in 2015.

Onto the big award of the night – Club Member of the Year 2014. This year, it was presented to Johnny Kelly, a long-time jumping member and regular volunteer who keeps the club in the sky and allowing us all to enjoy the privilege of parachuting onto our own sand! Congratulations from everyone at the club for the award – kudos!

Happy New Year to all and let's make 2015 a big year for fun and achievements!

Nigel O'Brien



LANGAR

NEW JUMP RECORD? BEER!

Well, we had a great Christmas to finish off a great 2014! We topped 32,000 jumps for the year during Christmas week, so our thanks go to all those visiting jumpers who made it a busy festive season.

The final total was more than 32,800, with just less than 28,000 of those jumps made by the experienced jumpers who now come to jump with us every day of the week. The balance is, of course, student jumping and includes a substantial increase in Category System descents. It seems that static line training is increasing in popularity every year, and this is greatly helped out by the 12 University skydiving clubs who jump with us.

Of course, if the dropzone is busy, so are the staff! As you'll see on the achievements list, Milko has exceeded 20,000 jumps, Chief Instructor Rich Wheatley has completed 10,000, Ally Milne has clocked 7,000 and Siân Stokes has 3,000. The rest of us also have quite a few (the staff total more than 100,000 jumps between them) so, if it's

experienced help you want, Langar is the place for you – especially if you want to jump a lot as well!

We'll be trying for even more jumps in 2015, so get online and checkout Facebook/skydivelangar to find out what we've got going on!

Tony Danbury

ACHIEVEMENTS **FIRST FREEFALL** Gabriel Adams, Peter Czartolomny, Misheel Enkbuldso, Sebastian Hatati, Miles Venni, Rachel Yates **AFF GRADUATE** Saleem Almeel, Ian Kelly, Francis Matthews **CAT8/CH1** Stu Andrews, Anya Kulak, Sam Lowe, Kathryn Lowen, Michael McGuinness, Joseph Nicholas, Tim Reddish, Stephane Swierkos **CH2/JM1** Charlotte Harris, Simas Jermosenka **JM1** Mark Bennett, Nigel Hawkins **FS1** Will Carew-Jones, Charlotte Harris, Simas Jermosenka, Matt Perchard, Beth Walker **WS2** Hannah Parker **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Chris Edwards, Paul Moden **100** James Cripps, Nigel Hawkins **400** Rachel Edgson **600** Matt Willson **3,000** Siân Stokes **7,000** Ally Milne **10,000** Rich Wheatley **20,000** Milko



APA and the Toy Stories team, by Rosemary Meeke

NETHERAVON

FINISHING THE SEASON IN STYLE

Nethers jumpers celebrated the end of the 2014 season in style at the APA Christmas Ball on December 20. In posh frocks and smart suits, 96 skydivers descended upon the Red Lion in Salisbury for a fantastic three-course meal, live band and copious amounts of champagne! Jumping started again on February 7 with a comprehensive safety and training weekend and, of course, a great night in the bar!

Netheravon made it onto Christmas Day TV! During the summer, James May and the *Toy Stories* team came down to film a programme featuring Action Man (the real one, not all the DZ wannabes) to see if his parachute did actually work. After an impressive 5-way with Nethers team *Isis*, Anna Hicks deployed the childhood hero's parachute and watched him fly gently back to earth. However, Action Man's canopy handling skills were a bit rusty – he landed off and had to PLF. The CI has recommended further training before awarding his CH1.

Over the Christmas closedown, club members have been travelling far and wide to seek out winter sun and carry on jumping. From California to Cape Town, it seems that everyone has been determined to keep in the air. Scott's in Atlanta, Megan's in the Algarve and Karim's on the way out there too, Kim and Andy are in Dubai along with Kim LazyBoy, Jase and Martin Bradshaw sloped off to Slovakia, Jonathan went to South Africa, Alex flew to Fiji, Martin Brown made it to Madrid, Will Clamp escaped to Elsinore, Shakir took off for Melbourne, Sean went to Washington and Matt, Donna, Charles G and Charlie L went skydiving in Seville. However, the biggest destination has got to be Zephyrhills in Florida! Spike and Jackie were load organising at the Christmas and New Year Boogie and decided to stay on and meet up with some of the APA team who were taking a winter break of fun jumping and enjoying having no responsibility whatsoever! They were joined by Kim, Claire, Andre, Kevin, Velo and *The Red Devils* just to make them feel at home.

Elana Cain

ACHIEVEMENTS **CAT8/CH1** Mark Burnage, Becky Dickens, James Ford, Emma Hare, Stephen Miller **CH2/JM1** Lee Gravier, Michelle Letherby, Calum Morell, James Ranken, Julian Ratcliff, Luke Slucock, Tamsyn Stanton, Rob Taylor **FS1** Robin Dolton, Tom Simpson **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Lee Gravier, Michelle Letherby, Calum Morell, James Ranken, Julian Ratcliff, Luke Slucock, Tamsyn Stanton, Rob Taylor **200** Colin Jenkins **300** Anthony Tongue →

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PETERLEE

SEEING DOUBLE... OR POSSIBLY TRIPLE

We're finally back to being a two-aircraft dropzone again, with the New Year seeing the return of our old faithful Cessna 182. With the promise of more weekday jumping this year, it looks like there'll be plenty of demand for its services. At the time of writing, both the Caravan and 182 have been away for servicing and annual maintenance and we were all set for action for our first jumping weekend of 2015 on January 31.

The end of the year saw more great weekends, with a good number of students from Durham, Newcastle and Northumbria Universities continuing their progression and more progression by our regulars. Congratulations go to Sam Charlton and Peter Rafferty for achieving FS1, and to Russ Harrison for completing consols and achieving his A Licence.

Much fun was had at the Christmas Party, held again this year at the Masonic Hall in Durham. They provided great food and a friendly welcome after (remarkably) inviting us back for a fifth consecutive year. This year saw Newcastle take the Uni Club of the Year Award and Sam Parker win Most Progressed Student Award. Chris Jones took the prizes for Most Persistent Student and Most Entertaining Landing. Last and most definitely least, Dave Taylor won Most Mentioned Instructor.

Great fun was had over our last operating weekend, with a number of regulars taking up Ian's generous offer of a free jump for anyone dressing as Santa Claus. We even managed a Santa 3-way by Sam Parker, Tomasz Lipiec and Sam Boardman.

Opening times for 2015 have now been announced and they will be every weekend from Jan 31 to Dec 12. Wednesday and Friday jumping will begin in mid-February on an opportunity basis – keep an eye on our Facebook page and Twitter for announcements. We will open at 1pm on these days. Once British Summer Time (BST) begins, we will start mid-week tandem operations and open at 12 noon unless the level of tandem bookings can facilitate earlier opening. Finally, and as a new development for 2015, we plan on opening every day during the second week of each calendar month within BST on the same basis.

Lisa Stephenson and Simon Minto

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT8 Russell Harrison FS1 Sam Charlton, Peter Rafferty

READING

STANDBY, ACTION!

March 7 2015 is the start date of the new season at London Parachute School. We bid a sad farewell in 2014 to our lovely CI Mike Bolton, who has retired from the sport after 46 years. For more, see the separate article in this edition on P25.

As CI for 2015, we are going to be joined by Gary Stevens and his wife Marie-Anne. Gary and Marie-Anne bring a nice husband and wife skydive team to the dropzone and wish to continue the work that has been started in creating a more improved 'club' side to the Centre. In fact, to improve the operation further, Gary will be bringing not only his experience but his large range of progression rigs for hire. Gary says: "I understand that I have a lot to live up to in taking over from Mike and would like to join all members of LPS in wishing him a well-earned retirement. Marie-Anne and I are both looking forward to joining LPS and hope that 2015 is full of blue skies and beer. I would also like to encourage all BPA members to visit us at Chiltern Park. Let's keep it fun, but safe." Nice one, Gary!

The club will be using the Cessna Grand Caravan, skilfully flown by Matt Cunningham again this season. Aside from getting to the end of the 2015 season in one piece, Martin Harris hopes to run some small 'in-house' club skydiver competitions. Plenty of progression opportunities are available for our student skydivers along with chances to learn to pack and improve canopy handling etc.

In fact, we are still on the lookout for a packer. If you like a small club

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feel and plenty of work, then email office@londonparachuteschool.com. You must be able to play the RAF Tandem Instructor game of 'Feet Up' – a game in which the person with their feet left on the ground is the one that buys the round. If you can drop to the floor quickly with your feet in the air, apply now!

As a reminder, ticket prices to max are £20. Monthly tunnel time will remain a regular feature at Basingstoke.

The Christmas Party was a civilised affair, apparently, with a toy from the inside of a cracker being thrown. Crazy skydiver Christmas party, hey! I don't know for sure since Tom and I weren't there, which is probably why it was civilised. However, investigations have revealed that someone may have gone for a December swim in the Thames and Andy Mitchell said he is never drinking again!

Annie Lewis



Ged showing them how it is done, by David Haygarth

SIBSON

BACK AND BETTER THAN EVER

Another season has drawn to a close and what a season it has been! Firstly, a big thank you for the patience shown during the absence of the Caravan. It was far from ideal and very frustrating for all, but it is back and saw business quickly return to normal. Well done to Paul Wigginton for taking the abuse for being the SMG driver. Your nickname will stay with you whenever you are back with us!

Despite the setbacks, we have had a better season than the one before it. We saw 1,450 lifts go up, with more than 13,000 fun jumps take place. That doesn't include the 700-plus AFF levels that have taken place. That is a huge number for the club and might even be a record. Well done all of those who have qualified. Those of you who haven't yet, keep going! All of this took place in 135 jumpable days.

This season saw a rise in the number of homegrown 4-way teams competing for Sibson. A little mention goes to *Bodyflight Aero*, who have been a force to be reckoned with through the numerous competitions. They have consistently finished in the top three in every one they entered – top effort guys! We wish you the best of luck in AAA next year!

Congratulations go out to Tim Porter for achieving his 20,000th jump! It was celebrated with a 2-way with his daughter. A superb achievement indeed!

The season ended with our customary end of season party, where a good time was had by all. Well, those who can remember it, at least. Speeches and awards were made and given out. Well done to Ridas Nesakysiu for winning Student of the Year – you deserve it. You also deserve an award for the Most Surprised Face too. Andy Mitchell, thank you for the entertainment that night. For the record, Andy had to check back into the hotel for a second night, such was the hangover. The club is grateful you left the pink pants at home as well!

By the time you are reading this, we are back open and operating. A number of changes have taken place over the shutdown to make Sibson bigger, better and more efficient! A new car park has been constructed next to the packing hall, vastly improving capacity as ➔

well as shortening the waddle with lots of kit to carry. Why carry lots of kit to the packing hall, you ask? Well, the lockers from the day room have moved there, keeping everything close to hand. The day room has now become the tandem briefing room.

A new manifest and reception building is going to be put in place. Not just a duplication of what there was before, oh no! The two will be run separately, with manifest being for the sole purpose of manifesting. The reception element will look after tandems and all other day-to-day goings-on.

Initially, we are open from Friday to Sunday up to April 1. From then, we will open from Wednesday through to Sunday. As we approach the wet and horrible time of the seasons, the age-old problem of a soggy and unusable runway faces us once again. Like last year, we have again secured the use of Conington Airfield (just down the A1) so the runway will no longer stop play for us.

Adam 'Killa' Mattacola will be running workshops for head up and head down progression through the season. The plan is to build jumpers up for the head up and head down record attempts later on in the year.

More and more events are being planned, including potential wingsuit camps. After huge success, our club tunnel nights are being continued. They are open to all levels of experience and even for those folks outside of Sibson. Expect to see a Scrambles event or two as well, so keep an eye on Facebook and Twitter.

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.

Kye Bromley

ACHIEVEMENTS FS1 Tamsyn Stanton **JUMP NUMBERS** 50 Kyle Skoyles, Zolo 100 Jason Payne 200 Elspeth Frudd 700 Justin Gumm 800 Sam Lee 1,500 Andy Lapsley 7,000 Steve Scott 20,000 Tim Porter

SKYDIVE ST GEORGE

YOU AIN'T SEEN NOTHING YET!

It's been an interesting few months on Teesside. We've seen everyone from a reality TV show to a festive gaggle of Santas, all getting their knees in the breeze. There were some incredibly clear blue skies in December, with fantastic views over the snow and frost-covered Yorkshire moors and dales. These views were probably enjoyed most by our wingsuit flock, which continues to grow but we definitely need more!

On the operational side of things, our new access gate has finally been installed. We can now walk straight out of the packing hall and on to the aircraft – happy days! We've also had our 100 jump limit lifted by the STC for this spring and they've granted us approval to run student training. We'll be looking to start our first static line course in March so, if you'd like to get involved as an Instructor or know someone who might, we'd love to hear from you. This will hopefully coincide with us opening mid-week too, so we'll also need more pilots, packers, TIs, cameraflyers and fun jumpers in general. Bryn Chaffe will be helping with the new academy and is already running Methods of Instruction courses from January.

Our favourite tunnel rat, Alan Foulkes-Williams, continues to coach FF and is now organising regular St George tunnel trips, which anyone is welcome to attend. This month should see several of our regulars gain their FF1s – no pressure, guys!

Our Christmas Party in Yarm was a blast and we even managed to drag Margaret to the nightclub afterwards! We are really looking forward to 2015 with all of the new developments it will bring and we'd love to see you all here. We'd also like to say a massive thank you to everyone who has helped make Skydive St George a reality this year. It's not been easy, but it's certainly been an adventure. We couldn't have done it without the support of the whole skydiving community and we hope we can repay everyone some day.

Blue skies

Sara and Steve

“While the judges couldn't be bribed, the lure of Haribo proved too hard for me to resist”

SWANSEA

BUILDING UP TO AN EPIC 2015!

In case anyone at Skydive Swansea was unaware, our CI Carl Williams recently returned from Dubai. Really? You didn't know? Congratulations to Da Boss and his team for beating the British record for the best team round at the Dubai World Accuracy Championships! For more, see P29. Don't forget, we are hosting the British Championships for Accuracy in May this year, so come and join in if you want to show off your skills!

Back on home soil, Digi Dude reached jump number 100 along with Lewis Butcher, parachute packer extraordinaire, who smashed his 100th jump with a Christmas big-way. Thanks for the Santa costumes, Jane! Congratulations to Lulu Ferrelly on getting her B Licence, 100 jumps and FS1... such a skydiva! Fae Yip got his B Licence, Nick Fantana his A Licence and Kevin Harris managed to squeeze in his last consol on the last jumping day of 2014 – well done on the A, dude!

As the weather gets better and better, we are looking forward to 2015. Looking to get some more shiny stickers? Anthony Andrews and Teej Quigley will be on hand to offer FS coaching and Mikey 'FF god' Phillips can help you get that golden ninja ticket! Matt Fogarty's Canopy Course is already fully booked for April and we hope to hold more in the coming year – keep an eye of our Facebook page for details. From April, we will be open for jumping on Fridays and all bank holidays.

Blue skies!

Laura Turner

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT8/CH1 Kevin Harris, Nick Fantana CH2/JM1 Fae Yip FS1 Lulu Ferrelly **JUMP NUMBERS** 50 Fae Yip 100 Digi Dude, Lewis Butcher, Lulu Ferrelly 200 Laura Turner

SWINDON

OUT WITH THE OLD AND IN WITH THE NEW

They say that a change is as good as a rest and, boy, do we need a rest from Dylan's waffle. Enjoy your retirement, Dylan, and just remember: you taught me everything I know!

The beginning of December saw the Redlands Massif descend upon Airkix Basingstoke for our now legendary Tunnel Scrambles. Much fun was had by all and, while the judges couldn't be bribed, the lure of Haribo proved too hard for me to resist. The plan (set by Chrissy) was simple: my team, which was captained by my BFF Dan Morgan, had to lose. As it happens, I didn't need to do anything to help our team lose as my teammates – Phil 'The Anvil' Drenning, Simon 'I like to spin' Clark and even Dan 'I can't remember the moves' Morgan – did far more to sabotage our team than I ever could! So, we didn't win and somehow we didn't come last! That 'coveted' title was won by Max's team, making Crazy a very proud mentor.

The last day of the season produced some awesome fun jumps, where Sel showed Jasper how to skydive with style and a smile and Jasper forgot that you need to be holding on to something when on the outside of the plane. Dylan came fun jumping, although he was →

The Redlands Massif at our annual Christmas Party, by Dylan Griff-Rhys-Jones



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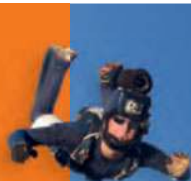
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WILD GEESSE

BEHIND THE SCENES

Despite some very inhospitable weather recently, we have been blessed with isolated pockets of very jumpable days. Being in a position to exploit these opportunities has meant that Christmas dreams have been fulfilled for a considerable number of Tandem students, as well as our regular fun jumpers and RAPS students. This was especially evident during our annual 'Santa Jumps' in December. Indeed, a three-way team of female jumpers did a Santa Jump which was photographed by Stuart (Skimmer) Ryan and published online. The photo went viral within days and has appeared on countless web pages worldwide. Well done girls and well done to Stuart!

Massive congratulations must also go to David Thompson – our 2014 Skydiving Student of the Year. This award is not easily earned but, having worked tirelessly over the year, he has made excellent progress in the sport and this prestigious accolade is richly deserved. His name now adorns the Rogues' Gallery engraved on the trophy.

Our Queen's University students have been making steady progress too. Hopefully this progress will improve with the forthcoming spring and the anticipated weather improvements.

While it is great to applaud the 'public face' of our activities, we frequently forget those people in the background – the people, without whom, things would simply not run as smoothly as they do. We would like to redress this somewhat by publicly acknowledging our permanent staff. Firstly, our CI – Maggie Penny MBE. She has been an AI for more than 20 years and an active skydiver for considerably longer (she'll kill us for that – LOL). Apart from the polar regions, we reckon she has jumped just about everywhere there is to jump.

Next we have the engine behind Wild Geese – Judith Lees. Judith has been the centre manager since we started 32 years ago. Being in total control of every aspect of the administration that makes Wild Geese function, she ensures that nothing slips through the net. A fully qualified Instructor in her own right as well as an Advanced Packer, she continues to make a truly invaluable and active contribution to this awesome sport.

Then we come to our Chief Pilot – Drew Galloway. While we have other pilots who contribute greatly at Wild Geese (Alex, Chris and Keith), it is Drew who has the everlasting responsibility for the onsite maintenance of all our aircraft. With more than 12,000 hours of flying time as a skydive pilot, his contribution to Wild Geese is immeasurable.

Finally, we have our publicity guru – Gillian Anderson. With her background in journalism, her contribution to our 'social footprint' has seen a very noticeable effect in local interest. Despite having only been with us for approximately one year, she has definitely made a substantial impact.

With such an accomplished team behind us, we are well-equipped to face the new challenges that 2015 will hopefully bring. As we get geared up for the forthcoming season, we extend a warm invite to visit and enjoy some of the local craic at Wild Geese!

On a sadder note, Dave Scott got married (poor sod).

So, until next time, blue skies and soft landings (and, if you have to swoop, stay safe).

Rod and Simon



Pete Dickens after qualifying FS1 with coach Mike Pritchard, Craig Harrop and Jim Coupe. Photo by John Poole.

By Stuart Ryan

nowhere to be seen on our 5-way FF jump. It turns out Dylan is a natural at backsliding...

Redlands is now on its winter shutdown, mainly so Brucie can catch up on his much-needed beauty sleep. We look forward to next season with great expectations. Will Hazel jump for a whole weekend without visiting A&E? Will Doog be able to open the door on the plane? Will Jasper smile in freefall? Will Dylan turn up? Will Darrell just keep swimming? Will anyone be able to spell Elleeaars name correctly...

Finally, I just wanted to say a big thanks to the dastardly duo of Hazel and Darrell for stitching me up to become the new (and improved) Redlands club news reporter. I've actually quite enjoyed it so far...

Till next time,

Cath Thorne

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT8/CH1 Shaun Zerebecki CH2/JM1 Sarah Cox, Doog McDougall, Darko Salaj FS1 Jess Campbell, Craig Lillington, Doog McDougall **JUMP NUMBERS** 100 Howard White 200 Jasper Smith, Snake, Catherine Thorne 3,500 Brucie Johnson

TILSTOCK

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We have had such a fabulous end to the season. The last Saturday of operation in 2014 proved to be a jam-packed one; the weather gods gave us beautiful clear skies to play in and our jumpers certainly took advantage of it. Adam Roberts and Jim Coupe both reached jump milestones. Adam did his 100th jump and celebrated with Dan Cope and Dan Griffiths with a fun 3-way and Jim did his 1,000th jump which consisted of a Mr Bill with John Poole. To top off the good vibes, Pete Dickens hopped on to the last lift of the year to do his FS1 qualifying jump, which was a great success, alongside coach Michael Pritchard, Craig Harrop and Jim Coupe. Congratulations, guys.

As always, we ended our 2014 season with another unforgettable Christmas party. They never fail to disappoint and I'm sure it's no surprise to hear that Hawkstone Park were welcoming guests for breakfast as the last of the Tilstock members were heading up to bed.

We also passed on our awards to deserving new homes. Victoria Taylor is our 2014 Student of the Year. Victoria started jumping in April 2014 and qualified CAT8 in an impressive 17 jumps. Congratulations to Gary Windon, who is our 2014 Club Member of the Year. After starting jumping in April 2014, you can guarantee that he'll be at the dropzone with a beaming smile on his face (whether we are jumping or not). Caroline Whittaker won our Crater Award for the unfortunate landing on her first jump. However, we are pleased to hear that it hasn't put her off from returning to do her static line course again early on in 2015. Our Take Up Golf Award went to Stephen Cooper (Scoop) who, late on in 2014, decided that he would revert to his fun jumping ways after 14 years of being an Instructor. Awesome stuff, ladies and gentlemen.

Finally, a massive thank you to every single one of our club members and staff members, especially Colin, Val and Buzz, for making Skydive Tilstock a fabulous place to be, year after year. Here's to a happy and safe 2015.

Mary Carbutt

ACHIEVEMENTS FS1 Pete Dickens **JUMP NUMBERS** 100 Adam Roberts 400 Conrad Allen 1,000 Jim Coupe

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February

February 5

BPA STC and Riggers' MeetingsLocation: **BPA Offices, Leicester** • bpa.org.uk

February 9-13

BPA CSBI/AFFBI/TBI/
Advanced Instructor CourseLocation: **Peterlee** • bpa.org.uk

February 16-20

BPA CSI CourseLocation: **Peterlee** • bpa.org.uk

February 21

BPA BPA Council MeetingLocation: **BPA Offices, Leicester** • bpa.org.uk

February 27

B/F Ben White Tunnel ScramblesLocation: **Bedford** • bodyflight.co.uk

February 28

U Safety DayLocation: **Hibaldstow** • skydiving.co.uk

March

March 7

FS Pinch Jumps with Dave LewisLocation: **Hibaldstow** • skydiving.co.uk

March 14

FS Intro to FS Big-way with
Dave WestLocation: **Hibaldstow** • skydiving.co.uk

March 15

U Safety DayLocation: **Langar** • skydivelangar.com

March 21-22

CP WGD Red Canopy CourseLocation: **Langar** • skydivelangar.com

March 21 - April 12

B/F Skydive Algarve Spring BoogieLocation: **Algarve, Portugal** • skydivealgarve.com

March 23-27

BPA Tandem/AFF/Pre-Advanced
Instructor CourseLocation: **Langar** • bpa.org.uk

March 30-April 3

U PIA SymposiumLocation: **Daytona Beach FL** • piasymposium.com

April

April 2

BPA STC and Riggers' MeetingsLocation: **BPA Offices, Leicester** • bpa.org.uk

April 3-4

FS **A** Bodyflight World Challenge
10-year Anniversary MeetLocation: **Bodyflight Bedford** • worldchallenge.info

April 3-4

B/F Helicopter jumpsLocation: **Sibson** • skydivesibson.co.uk

April 3-6

B/F Easter BoogieLocation: **Dunkeswell** • skydive99.com

April 3-6

B/F Easter BoogieLocation: **Netheravon** • netheravon.com

April 11-12

CP Flight-1 Canopy Course
101/102Location: **Sibson** • skydivesibson.co.uk

April 14

BPA BPA Council MeetingLocation: **BPA Offices, Leicester** • bpa.org.uk

April 18

FS Multi-plane FS with Dave WestLocation: **Hibaldstow** • skydiving.co.uk

April 18-19

CP Flight-1 Canopy Course
101/102Location: **Hibaldstow** • skydiving.co.uk

April 18-26

B/F Langar Boogie 1Location: **Langar** • skydivelangar.co.uk

April 20-24

BPA Tandem/AFF/Pre-Advanced
Instructor CourseLocation: **Hibaldstow** • bpa.org.uk

April 24-26

CP Swoop99 Cup 1Location: **Dunkeswell** • skydive99.com

April 25-26

A BPA Artistic and VFS
Coaching RoadshowLocation: **Langar** • skydivelangar.co.uk

May

May 4-8

BPA CSBI/AFFBI/TBI/
Advanced Instructor CourseLocation: **Strathallan** • bpa.org.uk

May 11-15

BPA CSI CourseLocation: **Strathallan** • bpa.org.uk

May 15-16

CP Flight-1 GIRLS ONLY Canopy
Course 101/102Location: **Langar** • skydivelangar.co.uk

May 15-17

CP Flight-1 RoadshowLocation: **Langar** • skydivelangar.co.uk

May 22-23

CP Flight-1 GIRLS ONLY Canopy
Course 101/102Location: **Black Knights** • bkpc.com

May 22-24

S&A Classics - Accuracy
NationalsLocation: **Swansea** • skydiveswansea.co.uk

May 22-24

CP Flight-1 RoadshowLocation: **Black Knights** • bkpc.com

May 22-24

B/F Twin Beech Boogie 1Location: **Dunkeswell** • skydive99.com

May 23-24

FS UKSL Meet 1Location: **Langar** • skydivelangar.co.uk

May 25-29

WS First FAI World Cup in Wingsuit
PerformanceLocation: **Netheravon** • netheravon.com

May 29-31

WS Wingsuit Performance
NationalsLocation: **Netheravon** • netheravon.com

June

June 4

BPA STC and Riggers' MeetingsLocation: **BPA Offices, Leicester** • bpa.org.uk

June 6-7

FS SOS Warm-upsLocation: **Langar** • skydivelangar.com

June 6-7

CP Flight-1 Canopy Course
101/102Location: **Dunkeswell** • skydive99.com

June 6-11

CP European Swoop
Training WeekLocation: **Dunkeswell** • skydive99.com

EVENTS ZONE

June 12-14

CP **European Swoop99 Cup**

Location: **Dunkeswell** • skydive99.com

June 13-14

A **BPA Artistic and VFS Coaching Roadshow with QFX**

Location: **Beccles** • ukparachuting.co.uk

June 13-14

CF **BPA CF Roadshow**

Location: **Langar** • skydivelangar.com

June 16

BPA **BPA Council Meeting**

Location: **BPA Offices, Leicester** • bpa.org.uk

June 20-21

FS **UKSL Meet 2**

Location: **Netheravon** • netheravon.com

June 20-21

FS **SOS Record Attempts**

Location: **Langar** • skydivelangar.com

June 22-26

BPA **Tandem and AFF Instructor Course**

Location: **Sibson** • bpa.org.uk

June 27-28

A **2-way VFS Grand Prix**

Location: **Dunkeswell** • skydive99.com

July

July 4

FS **International 28-way competition**

Location: **Hibaldstow** • skydiving.co.uk

July 8-12

FS **Diamonds and Jewels Team Elite big-ways**

Location: **Hibaldstow** • strollerweb.co.uk

July 10-12

CF **CF Nationals**

Location: **Black Knights** • bkpc.co.uk

July 11-12

WS **Wingsuit Coaching Roadshow**

Location: **Langar** • skydivelangar.com

July 18-19

FS **UKSL Meet 3**

Location: **Dunkeswell** • skydive99.com

July 24-26

CP **CP Nationals**

Location: **Dunkeswell** • skydive99.com

July 25

FS **Hib Cup 4-way Comp**

Location: **Hibaldstow** • skydiving.co.uk

July 27-Aug 2

B/F **Sibson Boogie. G92 and Helicopter jumps**

Location: **Sibson** • skydivesibson.co.uk

July 30

BPA **STC and Riggers' Meetings**

Location: **BPA Offices, Leicester** • bpa.org.uk

August

August 10-14

BPA **CSBI/AFFBI/TBI/Advanced Instructor Course**

Location: **Headcorn** • bpa.org.uk

August 10-14

U **'The Armies' Armed Forces Parachute Championships**

Location: **Netheravon** • netheravon.com

August 11

BPA **BPA Council Meeting**

Location: **BPA Offices, Leicester** • bpa.org.uk

August 15-16

FS **Armies Speed 8 Competition**

Location: **Netheravon** • netheravon.com

August 15-16

CP **Flight-1 Canopy Course 101/102**

Location: **Sibson** • skydivesibson.co.uk

August 15-16

A **VFS 4-way Nationals**

Location: **Dunkeswell** • skydive99.com

August 17-21

BPA **CSI/Tandem/AFF/Pre-Advanced Instructor Course**

Location: **Headcorn** • bpa.org.uk

August 22-24

FS **4-way FS Nationals**

Location: **Hibaldstow** • skydiving.co.uk

August 22-29

S&A **European Style and Accuracy Championships**

Location: **Erden, Montana, Bulgaria**

August 23-30

CP **CP World Cup 2015**

Location: **Montreal, Canada**

August 27-30

B/F **Twin Beech Boogie 2**

Location: **Dunkeswell** • skydive99.com

August 29-31

FS **8-way FS, Artistic and Speed Nationals**

Location: **Hibaldstow** • skydiving.co.uk

September

September 5-6

A **UK Head Down Record**

Location: **Hibaldstow** • skydiving.co.uk



September 7-12

FS **A** **World Cup and European Championships in FS and Artistic Events and World Cup in Speed Skydiving**

Location: **Teuge, Netherlands** • paracentrumteuge.nl

September 17-20

FS **ESL Finals**

Location: **Hibaldstow** • skydiving.co.uk

September 18-20

CP **Swoop99 Cup 3**

Location: **Dunkeswell** • skydive99.com

September 19-20

CF **CF Grand Prix**

Location: **Netheravon** • netheravon.com

September 24

BPA **STC and Riggers' Meetings**

Location: **BPA Offices, Leicester** • bpa.org.uk

September 26-27 (TBC)

FS **A** **Speed 8 Nationals**

Location: **Sibson** • skydivesibson.co.uk

October

October 6

BPA **BPA Council Meeting**

Location: **BPA Offices, Leicester** • bpa.org.uk

October 13-18

WS **Wingsuit World Record**

Location: **Perris, California USA** • skydiveperris.com

November

November 2-6

BPA **CSBI/AFFBI/TBI/Advanced Instructor Course**

Location: **Hibaldstow** • bpa.org.uk

November 9-13

BPA **CSI/Tandem/AFF Instructor Course**

Location: **Hibaldstow** • bpa.org.uk

November 19

BPA **STC and Riggers' Meetings**

Location: **BPA Offices, Leicester** • bpa.org.uk

December

December 1-12

U **FAI World Air Games**

Location: **Dubai**

Dates correct at
time of printing

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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- Canopy Formation
- Tandem
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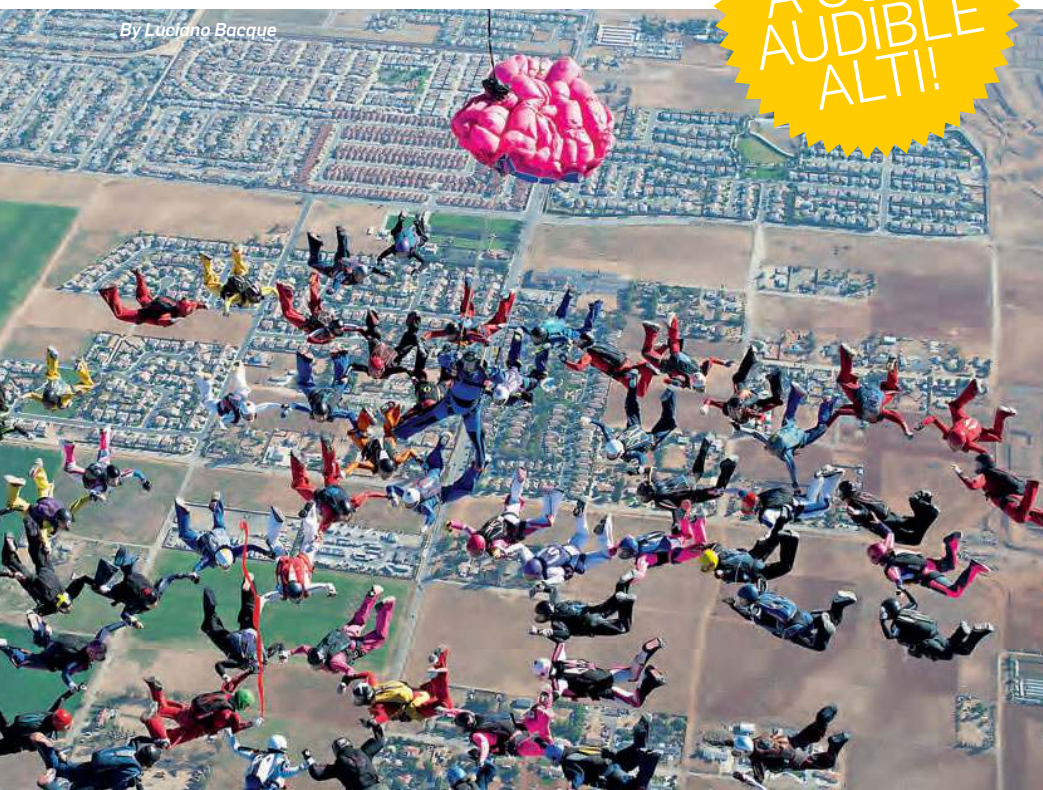
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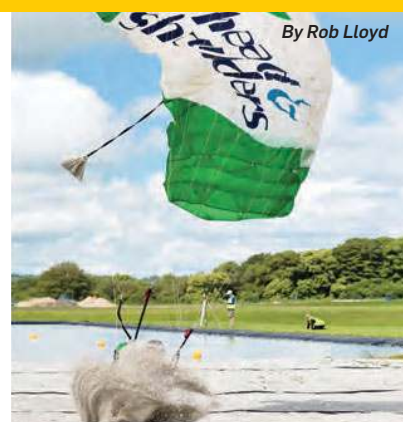
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**WIN
A SOLO
AUDIBLE
ALTI!**

By Luciano Bacque



By Rob Lloyd



DECEMBER'S WINNER

Winner: "The last time I saw head and shoulders on the beach was when I watched *Jaws*..."

Bryn Chaffe

Runner-up: "Despite a generous sponsorship, the landing impact unsettled a flurry of dandruff."

Jonathan Visagie

Runner-up: "Head and shoulders below the rest"

Mike Greaves

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Win a Larsen & Brusgaard SOLO audible alti, courtesy of The Jump Shop! To enter the competition, just send your caption to compzone@skydivethemag.com! The closing date for entries will be **March 19 2015**



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