

British skydiving team win Gold at World Championships!

From BPA Media Co-ordinators

Rich Rust & Becca Armstrong

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14th August 2008 – Team Bodyflight Storm, the all-female British Formation Skydiving team, have won the 4-way World Championships in female Formation Skydiving, held at Maubeuge, France.

New World Champions Sarah Smith, Claire ‘Sparky’ Scott, Hannah Betts and Kate Stephens along with videographer Gary Wainwright and alternate Tarnya Hollis, led the competition all the way, holding off closest rivals, the USA and France. They also battled with the weather, boarding the Porter aircraft in rainy, windy conditions, and long weather holds which kept them literally on call for 14 hours a day... ready to give the performance of their lives!

For Bodyflight Storm, the World Championships were the culmination of a gruelling, two-year training schedule, largely based in California where they have been perfecting their skills with six-time World Champion Dan Brodsky-Chenfeld as their coach. Sarah explained, “It’s been an amazing couple of years – the whole team has trained exceptionally hard in the lead up to the World Meet, giving up our normal jobs last year so that we could concentrate on winning a place in the finals. We had to score higher than the reigning World Champions to do this, which was incredibly tough for a team starting from scratch.”

The World Skydiving Championships is the most important event in the skydiving calendar and takes place only every two years. Bodyflight Storm qualified to represent Great Britain at this prestigious international competition by winning Gold at the 2007 British National

Championships, where they best all the other teams - male, female and mixed – in 4-way Formation Skydiving. Competitions involve teams of four performers who aim to build as many different formations as possible in 35 seconds of freefall, after leaving the aircraft at 10,000 feet, which is about two miles high!

John Smyth, Chairman of the British Parachute Association, said: “This fantastic achievement cannot be expressed in words – Bodyflight Storm have spent two years training, making enormous personal sacrifices with limited sponsorship. They are athletes who have won the most important competition in our sport, I would like to congratulate them all.”

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