



RAF Falcons display at Thruxton BTCC Race Meeting

Sunday 20th May - 10:15

The Royal Air Force Falcons Military Parachute Display Team 2018



Introduction

Widely recognised as the UK's premier military parachute display team, the Falcons, based at RAF Brize Norton, Oxfordshire, display at venues all over Britain and Europe throughout the year.

The Royal Air Force is responsible for training and supporting all UK Airborne Forces. As well as providing a distinctive demonstration of freefall and canopy skills during the display season each Falcons Team member undertakes continual advanced training as Parachute Jumping Instructors in preparation for future employment in support of the Parachute Regiment, the Royal Marines and other specialist units.

The Team

Officer Commanding – Flight Lieutenant David Sellers

Deputy Officer Commanding – Flight Lieutenant Mikaela Harrison

Team Manager – Warrant Officer Paul Floyd

Falcon 1 – Team Coach – Flight Sergeant David Worboys

Falcon 2 – Sergeant Alastair Donald

Falcon 3 – Sergeant John Veitch

Falcon 4 – Corporal Dominic Hodge

Falcon 5 – Sergeant Daniel Cartwright

Falcon 6 – Sergeant Lee Coonan

Falcon 7 – Corporal Sean Kilkenny

Falcon 8 – Corporal Chris West

Falcon 9 – Sergeant Shane Phipps

Survival Equipment Fitters – Corporal Nathan Fredericks and Corporal Mark Bishoprick

Training

Prior to the start of the display season the RAF Falcons leave the inclement weather of the UK behind them and head for parachuting locations in California to complete most of their display parachute training. On their return to the UK the Team undertake a further period of training adjusting to the UK's unpredictable weather conditions.

The aim of the training is to teach the first-year team members all aspects of display parachuting and integrate all the RAF Falcon members into a close-knit team, ready for the forthcoming season.

Display Format

The RAF Falcons parachute display is both unique and flexible. This is necessary due to weather conditions that will dictate which of the three types of show the team may be asked to perform at very late notice.

Each display consists of the following:

- A variety of movements across the sky in freefall using coloured smokes to illustrate an aerial pattern.
- Demonstration of close proximity flying under canopy which includes the famous Falcons' non-contact canopy stack.
- Controlled and accurate landings into small confined areas, often near buildings or water.

High Show: 9000 ft. – 12,000 ft. above ground level

The high show is initiated by exiting the aircraft at an altitude between 9,000 - 12,000 ft. The team coach and three other members will launch a 4-man exit presenting a 'base' that falls vertically to create a strong smoke column. The remaining team members exit individually in an echelon formation at staggered heights, falling at speeds of up to 120 mph. This free fall display requires precision flying and good timing to ensure everyone is in the optimal position for the formation of the canopy stack.

Mid Show: 5000 ft. – 9000 ft. above ground level

The team will exit the aircraft individually between 5,000 - 9,000 ft. Once in free fall, the team will create an echelon formation, falling at speeds of up to 120 mph before deploying their parachutes on a signal from the team coach.

Low Show: 2500 ft. – 5000 ft. above ground level

Occasionally, the weather and in particular the cloud base will necessitate a much lower show which does not give them scope to perform their free fall movements. They are still able to offer a display that fully demonstrates their accomplished canopy skills. After the exit, six of the team members have only a few seconds to deploy their canopy, whereas the remaining jumpers pull their parachutes immediately on exit. Once the canopies have opened safely, each team member will position himself above the person below to form the famous Falcons canopy stack.

If you would like to find out more about the RAF Falcons Parachute Display Team, their latest news and upcoming displays near you, please visit www.raf.mod.uk/falcons. You can also keep up to date with the Team by following them on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

