

Simon Sykes Snr

Simon has been involved in parascending for over 30 years, initially through being a scout leader, taking an intensive course at West Malling airfield with Fly High and then, in 1990 joining his local scout club GLSW and Surrey.

He is now the longest-standing club instructor and as the training and operations manager, keeper of the club land rover and meticulous record keeper, a vital part of every scout course, club weekend and jamboree.

He has introduced the sport to several thousand scouts and has supported, mentored, and coached people into flying, accuracy and roles of responsibility within the sport. He has also been involved in accuracy for many years as a competitor in club, national and international competitions and through encouraging scouts into accuracy via the scout nationals. The club swept the board at the competition for 5 years in a row before it ended.

His personal successes include regularly winning the leaders' trophy at the scout nationals' taking third place at the Dutch Grand Prix in 2011. Also, as a member of the Scout Rebels team that won the Grand Prix in 2011.

When not taking his competition flights he is behind the wheel of the vehicle or at the winch, towing fellow competitors into the air, or manning the BBQ; although he competes less often now he is still available or in a supporting role when needed. In 2009 the accuracy panel presented him with the Nigel Legg award for his significant contribution to the discipline of accuracy and he has continued to dedicate large amounts of time to accuracy and youth flying in subsequent years.