

Ashley Newbold was talking to Jonno Horne in the rigging room of Skydive Spain on 12th July 2009. Ash has just recently finished AFF and has returned for his second trip to Skydive Spain. This is what they talked about.

Jonno: Welcome back to Skydive Spain for your second visit Ash, if you wouldn't mind answering a few questions for us so that future students / jumpers can learn from your previous visits

Ash: No problem Jonno fire away.

Jonno: Where do you come from Ash?

Ash: York

Jonno: Why did you want to jump Ash and how did you find out about Skydive Spain?

Ash: Funny really, I run a wheelie school and do bike shows all over England. The plan was to learn to jump so I could jump into the start of one of my shows.

I found Skydive Spain through Hibaldstow. And Hibaldstow I found through a general search on Google and basically chose the nearest one to York.

Jonno: How was the AFF course at Skydive Spain?

Ash: The course was great, it came as a bit of a shock to me. I think for me I put a lot of pressure on myself financially as much as anything. I must admit that I wasn't aware what the course involved, I knew it was 8 levels. I'd booked 2 weeks to complete the course, but all of a sudden I had a 4 day gap where I couldn't jump due to bad weather. Do you want me to be honest.?

Jonno: of course.

Ash: Well I probably didn't enjoy AFF until I'd got to level 6. I failed level 5, that was the only level I failed. On the course I was putting a lot of pressure on myself, to do with time to finish the course and the cost during the financial crisis we are in at the moment. But by the time I had got to level 8 it was brilliant, all the course you were at the back of the plane last to exit and then level 8 you get on the plane last and exit first all the other jumpers are looking at you, all know what you're doing. It was a really good feeling level 8 and probably the easiest jump really.

Jonno: Who were your instructors and do you think you clicked with them?

Ash: Ok, I was with Alex Fixsen as my primary instructor all the way through, Then Pete Huskins and yourself were my secondary instructors on jumps 1 to 3. Had no problems with any of you guys.

Jonno: So you've made 2 trips here to Skydive Spain tell me about them?

Ash: First trip I flew from Leeds to Malaga. Leeds is very close to me but from Malaga to Seville it was about a 2 and a half hour journey. So on my second visit, this time a lesson learned I flew with Ryan Air from Liverpool straight into Seville so was a lot easier, cheaper and quicker.

Jonno: And what about accommodation?

Ash: This time I just emailed Hannah (the boss!) and said I would like to try the Apartours instead. Last time I stayed in the Lux just as good but the pool wasn't open last time. Both are very similar we couldn't fault them this time all the rooms have wireless both places are easy to get to.

Jonno: So Ash you've just finished your AFF you now have your "A" licence how do you feel in the air on your own.?

Ash: Very comfortable now, in fact I've done a two way the other day with Damo (another experienced jumper on the DZ). When I jumped with Damo and Pete after the consolidation jumps it became apparent very quickly that I had very limited skills in freefall when trying to jump relative to someone else.

Jonno: What's your plans with skydiving now, do you want some FS or Freefly?

Ash: Do you know what. I really don't know which. At the moment I could go and jump another 10 times on my own. I've tried a load of different exits. So I guess the answer to what do I want to do next is Get better.

Jonno: Ok well we can guide you for the best route to take next. What most people do is start some Formation skydiving training, where jumping with a coach teaches you to fall faster, slower move forwards, backwards how to take grips on another jumper and how to find your own bit of sky amongst the other jumpers to open your parachute.

Jonno: Do you think you will buy your own equipment in the future?

Ash: Without a doubt yep, probably I think initially it would have to be second hand with all the other things I do.

Jonno: So you've got a lot of toys then?

Ash: Yer well like with the bikes I need a lot of time on them and repairing them. So I can't have thousands of pounds of kit lying around that's why I say second hand, I've been looking at the prices of kit. And really would def have my own kit, just depends when. Think I would get someone else to pack it though (laughing), im quite happy to just set the brakes and leave it to someone else. I downsized today onto a 230 square foot canopy and noticed the difference straight away, so if you guys could guide me buying kit when and what size type etc.

Jonno: No problemo mate just let me know when you want to do it.

Jonno: Thanks for talking to us Ash I believe you leave for the UK tomorrow so have a good journey and we will see you on your next visit.

Ash: Well thank you guys for your help while I've been here, and see you on my next visit.