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Skydivers make themselves cross!

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When Caroline Hughes was asked to support British Red Cross Week, she jumped at the chance – in fact she jumped out of an aeroplane at more than 14,000 feet.

Caroline, an Openreach communications manager, is a member of Brit Chicks, a team of women skydivers formed in 2002 with the aim of breaking skydiving records, gaining publicity for women in the sport, increasing their numbers and improving their skills and confidence.



Brit Chicks in their red cross formation

They currently hold the British record for a 60-way female skydiving formation, set in 2004. But for British Red Cross Week, they were determined to beat that by making a giant red cross in the air with even more people

“Unfortunately the weather was dreadful,” said Caroline. “Over a total of six days, we only had one day of jumping. But despite that, we managed to make the cross on only our third jump. What was more, we completed it at 8,000 feet with 3,000 feet of working time still left.

“The cross was made with 52 skydivers, so the record wasn’t broken this time, but what we did was still pretty incredible.”

The Red Cross put up the expenses for the event, but over and above that, the team made £23,000 for the cause in sponsorship, plus other activities that included raffles and an auction.

Caroline has been involved in skydiving for 11 years and had made more than 2,200 jumps. She and her Brit Chick friends still hold the British record for 60-way female formation skydiving, and say their aims for the coming year are to get that to 64 or 72.

To sponsor Caroline for the Red Cross Jump, go to her [website](#). For more information about Brit Chicks, go [online](#).

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