

# **THE KITEFLIER**

[www.thekitesociety.org.uk](http://www.thekitesociety.org.uk)



**Issue 120**

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**Newsletter of the Kite Society of  
Great Britain**

**30th Anniversary 1979-2009**

# KITEWORLD

When the wind blows think of us !

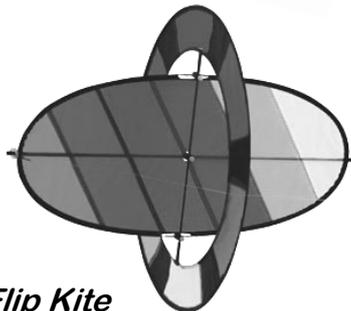


*Large selection  
of Rev Kites*



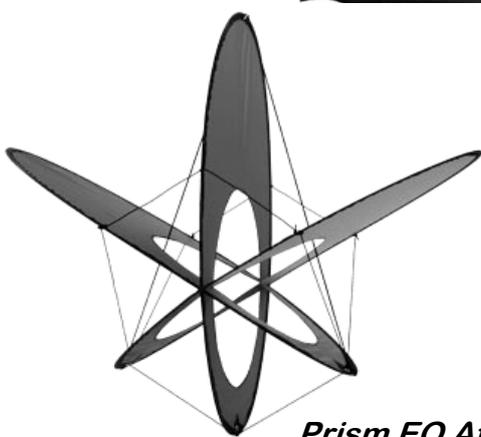
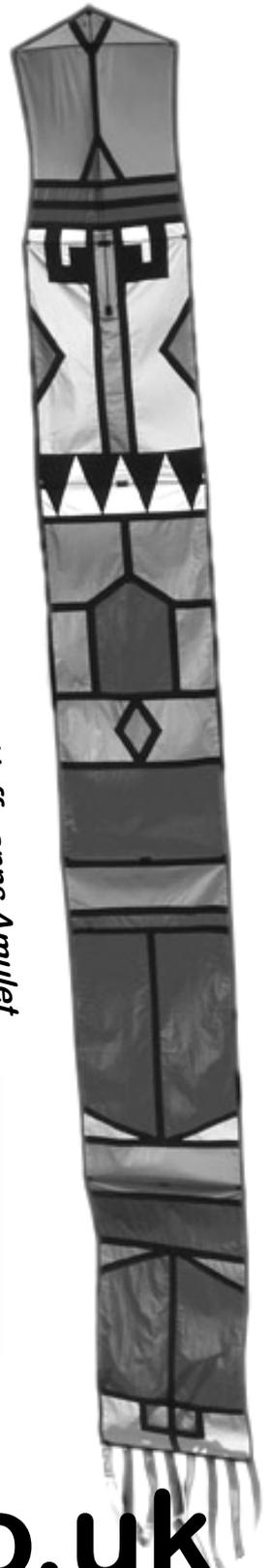
*Roller Mask*

*Have fun this summer!  
Check out our fantastic  
range of kites, windsocks,  
and many more flying  
goodies*

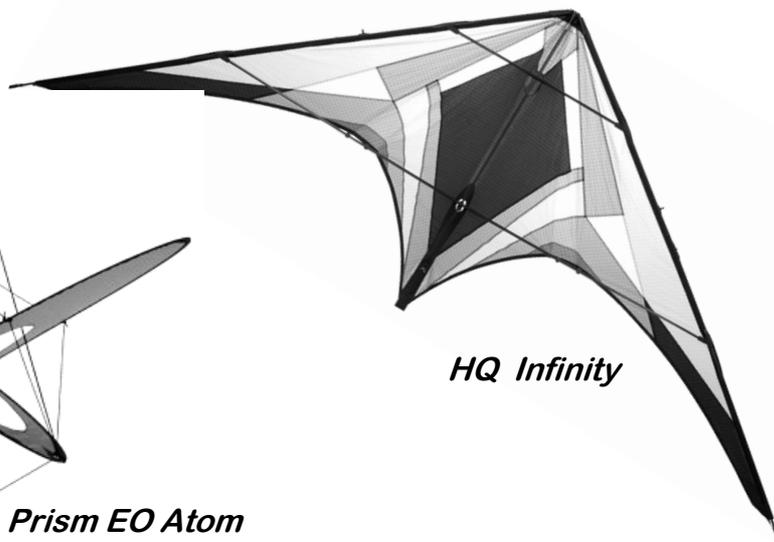


*Prism Flip Kite*

*HQ Hoffmanns Amulet*



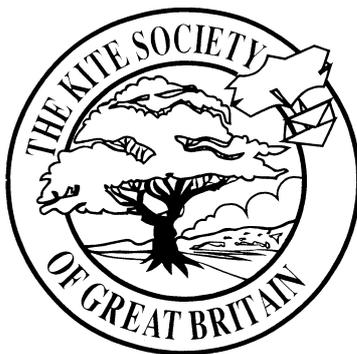
*Prism EO Atom*



*HQ Infinity*

[www.kiteworld.co.uk](http://www.kiteworld.co.uk)

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### Front Cover

One of Fare's airbrushed kites. Fare will be at the Portsmouth International Kite Festival with most of his collection.

*Whilst every effort is taken to get the details correct The Kite Society cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions that occur. Opinions expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the Editors or The Kite Society.*

Dear Reader

You may have noticed that the difference in some of the paper in the magazine this time. We are starting to use 100% recycled paper to do a little bit for the environment. We hope you recycle your copy by passing on to someone else!

Tony 'TC' Cartwright has suggested that it is about time that the UK had a "Kite Flier of the Year" award. More details are on the Bits & Pieces pages. Please support this initiative by considering who you would nominate and why?

Don't forget we have two more big events coming up—Portsmouth and Margate. We hope to see as many of you there as possible.

Jon and Gill

### Membership Information

The main vehicle of communication between members is the quarterly publication 'THE KITEFLIER', published in January, April, July and October of every year. 'THE KITEFLIER' contains news of forthcoming kite festivals, kite retailer news, kite plans, kite group news and a comprehensive events list. Other benefits of membership include free, or reduced, entry into selected kite festivals in the U.K., special parking arrangements where possible, discount - from 5% to 15% - on all kite purchases from the majority of kite retailers in the U.K.

A membership 'year' runs for four issues of 'THE KITEFLIER', plus other occasional mailings. Each member receives a membership card entitling them to free entry and discount.

If you wish to join The Kite Society you can join online and pay using Paypal (credit or debit card payment) at [www.thekitesociety.org.uk](http://www.thekitesociety.org.uk) or send your name and address (plus the names of any supplementary members) and your payment for the appropriate membership type, to the address shown above. All cheques, made payable to 'The Kite Society' and, for overseas members, should be drawable in the U.K. and be in sterling.

Membership Type	Fee
Individual	£11.00
Family - all members in the same household.	£12.00
O.A.P.	£9.00
O.A.P. - Family (Husband & Wife)	£10.00
Overseas - Europe and Surface Mail	£13.00
Overseas - Airmail	£16.00

## Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

### First Event

April 26th 2009 saw the first Solent Kite Flyers Spring Ballet Trophy. Because of the clash of dates and we thought that it might attract more people we got Roy Broadley's (Kites Up) OK to hold it at his/Hayley's first "Jolly Up" of 2009.

The idea was to give everyone a go, flying whatever kite they wanted, and it would be judged entirely on interpretation of music – banging out loads of tricks any old how - just wouldn't win!

### Some came just to keep an eye on things Covered the angles

We were pleased with the turn out and we had someone in nearly every category but we felt a little disappointed that more first timers didn't take the opportunity to show off what they can do – those that did - loved it! We tried to keep it as easy to enter as possible - no rules except safety but just when you find that you think you have covered all the angles you find someone who didn't quite understand what a kite ballet is.

### Solent Spring Ballet Trophy - Open to all Good—but not quite the right idea! Well - At least one of them seemed pleased



We only had one team enter and they weren't too happy with their first time ever out for real. So, they went off and had another practice, changed their name, came back and nearly doubled their score. All the guys thought that the experience was great and helped them along no end!

We deliberately made sure that there could be no comparison to how other competitions marked their events. We split the ballets into how well did they start, was the interpretation by bar or by beat or by accent or note –awarding more points again for the more defined interpretation and some more for the ending – I think it was out of 135 in the end and we just added all the judges marks together.

### Team Trials That makes him Michael, Winner then?

Michael Lowe stopped us all in our tracks with the most gentle of ballets flying a soft four line kite to a lovely piece of music. We had some top end trick flyers turn up later and I thought that they were going to be disappointed because there was a very difficult score to beat to take overall winner and the trophy. None of them had brought their own music and had

to choose something from my sappy collection.

I have to say that some of them proved their competence with some good efforts but there often was no beginning or end—but hey! This wasn't serious and everyone was chilled.

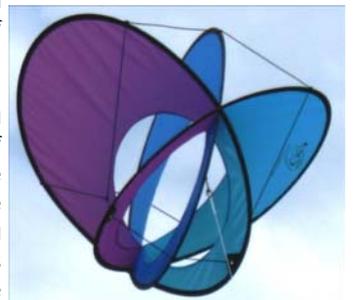
### This guy was off his Crocs Kite Magic

Amongst the later arrivals was a guy called Piero. I new he was good but I had never had the chance to stand with him whilst he flew before. Yes – he did perform magic with the kite – the music he had chosen was one of my better ones, "Rock and Roll" by Led Zeppelin, but did he interpret it well? Well, yes he did. Some great manoeuvres involving rolling up the kite in its own lines, back spinning with it still wrapped and then unrolling in perfect time with a drum roll through four bars of the music. This performance gave him the highest score of the day with 278 beating Michael's 276 – A close encounter or what? Thanks to all those that took part – you did a fair bit of entertaining too with people watching from all around.



### Mighty Atom

I was given another fold out kite by Kiteworld.co.uk at Basingstoke. The Prism EO Atom was held together with a mesh cover that also contained the flying line. Even I couldn't get the assembly of this one wrong it just opens out in a scissor motion and there you go! This isn't a big kite – just a bit bigger than a football and it is not the sort of kite that you can expect to sit there and look pretty. No, it's a lot more fun than that – you have to stay with it and work it. I wouldn't agree with Kiteworld's description of 'beginner to intermediate' – nearer to intermediate I would say! You need to use the skills of flying an unstable single line to get it away before it settles and then you can play with tumbles and steering across the



sky. In the hands of one of those beginners who don't know better than to fly in amongst the cars or just feet away from the stall where they bought it and where it's always busy it could be quite annoying for both the flyer and the passer by! In the time I had it flying there were a surprising number of people commenting on how much they liked it. Perhaps I should have stood by the stall and flew (I could keep it going no problem!) and there might have been a few more sales. As it was there were only a couple left at the end of the weekend (I'm not surprised at only around twenty quid) so you should see some around!

**Hoffman's Amulet**



This kite is coming on holiday with us! It weighs hardly anything packs away easily in the suitcase and yet sits a massive, brilliantly colourful, SIX meters long in the sky. In fact we have now got two of them – and they're both travelling with us! Distributed by Invento HQ in their typically bold colours you can pick one of these up from most of the good traders it's a good kite but I am not sure about the price tag at around one hundred and I would have liked to see a reel of line with it too.

It doesn't take long to put the Amulet together because you don't have to slot in the cross spreaders all the way down as you might expect – they stay in place, There is just one vertical, jointed rod at the top about a meter long which threads through the loops in the bridle where it passes through the sail and a couple of pockets. Take care that you include all of these and always keep it next to the sail. I have only flown these twice at the time of writing and both times the wind was patchy – there one minute and gone the next – but they still coped very well.

It doesn't need a long launch and goes up freely in anything over about 5mph. I didn't want to let it go too high as I wanted to keep it looking as large as it really is but I found that the higher it went the better it stayed there and it still maintained its presence. There are two patterns to choose from although now I have said that – I must look to see which one is called what! The Amulets are so easy and so much fun you will see us playing with these

**Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary**

on a regular basis. Pull was quite low so you can be unafraid to let a beginner take over. So, apart from the price, it gets good marks all-round from us.

**HQ Rokaku**

Two Geckos, a sphinx and my favourite, the one we have, a Solar make up a range of four, very nice four feet high Roks from HQ Invento. I have to admit I am a bit of a Rok novice and the bridle emanating from a central point to each of the six corners was a bit of a surprise to me because I was expecting to be able to adjust the angle of attack (the angle at which the kite sits in the sky- flatter to the wind or leaning with the top more toward the flyer) but it seemed more difficult to do with this set up. Here is where I did something I am not renowned for; I read the instructions. There it tells you to keep the distance between the sail and the tensioning line on the back to about 10 centimetres thus keeping the sail much flatter in lighter winds. Ok – that worked then! With the bottom of the kite slightly more bowed than the top and a medium to long launch the Solar rose swiftly and smoothly to settle a stable as.....? Well as stable as a Rok really! The usual characteristics of a good, steady pull meant that we were now ready to add line laundry. I had to double check on the price of this kite. It is solidly built and comes in a bag with a strong line on a reel all for under thirty-five pounds.

For that sort of money I can see a lot more people entering the Rok fights at festivals.

**The Infinity**

Cleverly named after the first basic figure a sport kite flyer learns this kite should go on and on without end. Sorry – dreadful pun – lets see if the editor leaves it in!

To my mind this full size flying machine is undoubtedly the best all-round sport kite that HQ have produced. The blurb tells you that you should spend a few minutes acclimatizing yourself to this kite but, once you are used to its little foibles, you should start to like it a lot. There are many adjustments you can make to this kite and, as with any well designed kite, only small tweaks make quite big changes. I will start with the leach line tensioners. The kite comes with these slack. This makes the kite fly slowly and track very true with a nice (if like that sort of thing) purr. The leach lines are slip knotted around bungee cord making quick adjustment very easy and ensuring that it all stays in place. In the same area is the weight adjustment. This is the



## Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

same good idea as I first noticed on the Eolo "Over".

A simple idea of holding a weight using opposing leading edge connectors that you can move up and down the spine close to the centre T or down toward the tail. We found that two point landings are easier with the weight nearer to the tail if you approach the ground at a forty five degree angle other wise it does tend to side slide. There are multiple adjustments on the bridle where it attaches to the kite at all three points. Two pieces of advice here: leave them where they are or, make sure you have written down exactly how many knots away from the end each of the lines are. They should be in the middle but it's worth checking. There is a third leg to the bridle that does not come in to play until the kite is under tension from the wind helping to strengthen the leading edge and helping to prevent the kite from 'bucketing'. The infinity is capable of all the modern day tricks and is particularly good for learning to do rollups. For a big kite is very agile and gracefully manages the crossover between tricks and precision flying. We also liked it because of the low pull and stable behaviour in gusty winds. Then, when the wind picks up there is the vented version. We have always had trouble with vented kites in the past in that some of the ones we had tried lost all of the characteristics of their sister kite. Admittedly we have not yet flown at the top end of the range but so far the change up has not shown that much difference in performance except that it does what it is supposed to do – make the pull easier to handle.

Come back and ask us later about really high wind performance. The Infinity is only available in a classy black grey and white colour scheme – could this be a way of designer, Andreas Koopmann, being crafty and steering away from the standard bold colours that HQ Invento seem to prefer? As you would expect for such kites the price tag moves up with the standard but we think that for around a hundred and sixty pounds for the standard and about ten pounds more for the vented, they both give very good value for money.

### Caught out

I'm not inflammable! I wrote in the last issue that the Widow Maker was flown by the Japanese team when they won the 2008 World Team Championships. Thanks to Peter for pointing out that it was, in fact, another Skyburner kite – The T&T. I asked the joint designer Jon Trennepohl to comment but, so far, he has declined – perhaps he was just happy to get a mention.

### Web-site

People have been saying that our web site has not been showing much new of late. Well, that is soon to change.

The reason is that the software we are using does make additions or changes rather long and labori-

ous - and sometimes we are just too busy to get to it. We have invested in new software and have been holding some items back for the launch of a brand new site.

For those of you that go there for tutorials, links to our sponsors, weather sites or perhaps, having told your friends that you are in one of the photos in the gallery –don't worry, most of the old favourites will re-appear.

### Win a Kite!

Especially go there for our "Win a kite" page where you could win a top of the range Benson sports kite. From time to time check on [www.closeencounterskites.co.uk](http://www.closeencounterskites.co.uk) to see if the new site is up and running when we will welcome any comments through our 'contacts' page. If you have any kite photos or stories that you would like to share with us then send them via the contacts page .....we would love to use them.

### Expression of Interest

Yes we have sponsors – check our web-site to find out who - or write to us courtesy of this magazine. Our comments are our own thoughts – if you disagree then you should tell us – if you want to try or see for yourself then you should ask us.

**www.Kites4U.co.uk**  
Secure Online Shop. Or request 'Shop on CD'.

**EMKAY Kites & More**  
Sleaford, Lincolnshire

**08451 301161**  
**01529 415700**  
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**Supplying kites and related accessories since 1992.**

**New Parchment Street sculpture is flying high**



We mentioned this a few months back but one of our members has sent us a snapshot from the Winchester City Council web site.

The installation took place on Sunday 5 April at the junction of Parchment Street and St George's Street.

Created by sculptor Marzia Colonna, the Kite Flyer is a bronze figure of a young man joyfully flying a gilded kite whilst walking across a bridge which spans Parchment Street at a height of nearly 6 metres.

There was also an article in the April 9th edition Hampshire Chronicle (with photographs), that mentioned that the bridge, constructed by Metal Art Design foundry in Denmead, incorporates two more kites, and playful "strings" tangle themselves around the steel structure. The cost of the commission was £30,000. The article also goes on to say that they were working on a street party and some family kite-making workshops for June.

**Wind Meter App for the I-Phone**

For those of you with an I-Phone the following may be of interest. The reviews (Kitelife for example) seem pretty good.

I thought you may be interested in a new iPhone application that we recently launched that detects the wind speed using the iPhone microphone. It's called "Wind Meter". We've gotten such good reviews of its function, that we felt you may find it useful for your readership and members. It's really blown us away that it's been in the top 5 paid downloaded weather applications for 3 weeks now!

The concept for "Wind Meter" came from a group of Silicon Valley entrepreneurs that happen to love wind sports. The idea for converting the decibel reading from the wind "noise" on the mic to a velocity reading almost seemed obvious after-the-fact, and we were a little surprised we were the first to release something like this on the market. After a considerable amount of R&D, Wind Meter is a really fun gadget that actually works.

A complete description and video of the application in use can be found at <http://www.windapp.com>. "Wind Meter" can be obtained at Apple iTunes APP store by searching for "Wind Meter". This app is designed for G3 iPhone and does not support G2.

Robert Diller

**Altitude Record Attempt Report.**

In the last issue we published a report from a local paper about the Kite Altitude record being held by Peter West. By way of an explanation he writes:

Dear Editor, and anyone who may have read the article in issue 119 about the kite altitude record.

My name is Pete West, and I am sorry that you may well have been misled by information printed in Issue 119 of Kite Flier which suggests that I am the holder of the Kite Altitude Record. This is quite simply not the case. I am not the record holder and have never claimed to be.

The article, taken with a Google search by the Kite Flier team, was originally published in a small local weekly newspaper following an interview with me in respect of kite making and the paper immediately began to get their facts muddled when I started to talk about the other activities of the Great Ouse Kite Fliers club (of which I am Chairman) which included their efforts to achieve the kite altitude record.

Several members of the club have been engaged over the last couple of years in flying kites ever higher and have ploughed time and cash into their attempts. Last year they achieved 12,000 feet altitude, their personal best "record" (not mine as was reported) and, as I told the reporter, I was not even part of that team. My own involvement is to actually join the team this year, even if only as tea-boy, to help them to achieve their aim—namely, "THE" kite altitude record.

More time and cash has been set aside, more equipment purchased, more kites made available. All we want now is the right conditions on the programmed days. So, watch this space. Log in to [www.gokf.co.uk](http://www.gokf.co.uk) to find out how the team gets on with their attempts. In the meantime, don't always believe what you read. I am sorry that misinformation is all too easily spread these days.

**Bridling on a Parafoil.**

I have "inherited" a very well made parafoil made by Greens of Burnley which has a span of 52 inches (133 cms). There 5 plain keels and the air intakes are within 4 extra V shaped keels. The bridling had been modified before I got it and it does not fly well as the bridles seem too short. Has anyone out there got any ideas or measurements of the bridling I can have please? John Arnott - Thorpe Kite Flyers. [arnott2@btinternet.com](mailto:arnott2@btinternet.com)

**Seen on Ebay Soft Vinyl Pants.**

Kites of Red, White and Blue. This is a pair of soft vinyl pants they have kites of red white and blue through the



## Bits & Pieces

fabric. The pants are lined with soft vinyl. The fabric is cotton. The background white. The elastic is plush and soft. Waist 40" to 50" legs 22" to 30". Starting Bid \$23.95.

### Silver Coin Kite Board Fly Surf Extreme Sports.

Silver proof coin commemorates "Kite Surf", one of the most extreme sport in the world! The coin also features strong and vibrant colorization which calls to mind the hard sport commemorated. As part of "Xtreme Sport" series this 2008 silver coin has been released in Proof quality, on a 10 Dinars coin struck for the Principality of Andorra. The main part of the coin shows an image of a surfer with his kite surf on a background of a stylised marine landscape. At the bottom, along the edge of the coin, semicircular inscription, XTREME.



The reverse of the coin depicts the Coat of Arms of the Principality of Andorra and the semicircular inscription in Catalan language "PRINCIPAT D'ANDORRA". \$50 was he winning bid.

### Tools for Kite fishing D'Entrecasteaux Isl. New Guinea

Made of rope, spider web and Thorn of Sago palm. Condition: good. Collected in a small village along the Coast of one of the Entrecasteaux Islands. Length of the spider web part 4"// 10 cm, the "hook" is 1.5"// 3.5 cm Wide. Tribally used and authentic, used for catching fish at sea with the help of a leaf-made kite. Age : 30/40 years at least. \$38.00

### Lightweight Wings For A High-flying Kite

From Science Daily June 3rd.

Tensairity elements made of air filled membrane assemblies, rods and cables have already made a name for themselves in the construction world as extremely light yet strong load-bearing structures. But is this new technology also suitable for use in the aerospace industry, for example to create novel wings for kites? Empa researchers are currently pushing back the envelope in this field, and are also demonstrating their first flying models.

Ultra light wing structures for kites are not just attractive for sport and hobby users but are also of interest to engineers, for example in applications such as towing kites which take advantage of wind energy to provide additional propulsion for diesel powered freighters, pulling them across the oceans. In this case the kites are intended to help shipping concerns to reduce their high fuels costs. They can also be used for other applications involving the exploitation of wind energy, one idea being to allow a kite to

climb to a height of several kilometers, while up pulling a line wound around a



drum. As the drum rotates to pay out the line, it can be made to generate electricity. When it reaches its target altitude the kite's wing-area is somewhat reduced causing it to descend, following which it begins a new climb phase and once again generates electric power. This is a fascinating field of application for ultra light structures, because in order for the kite to utilize the wind's energy efficiently it must have a large wing area.

Rolf Luchsinger, head of Empa's "Center for Synergetic Structures," and his team wanted to make use of a demonstrator device to find out where, from an aeronautical point of view, the limits of the technology lie, and whether a Tensairity kite would offer any particular advantages. Brainstorming together, Luchsinger and a member of his group who had previously studied aerospace engineering came up with several ideas for suitable shapes and sizes. Based on these ideas a series of models were developed with steadily improved aerodynamic and static characteristics, shown by laboratory tests and computer simulations. The slimmer and more stable the air-filled wing spars, the more efficiently the kite climbs and therefore the better its pulling power can be harnessed to generate electricity.

The biggest Tensairity kite which Luchsinger's team has developed so far has a span of 8 meters and a surface area of 11 square meters, and has undergone numerous load tests in the laboratory. With a weight of 2.5 kilograms it is designed to generate a tensile force of 1000 Newtons, and could in theory climb to an altitude of 4000 meters.

After the extended design phase and subsequent construction of the demonstrator kite, the researchers were keen to try out their baby. How high would it climb to? Would it generate the calculated amount of power? And – not to be forgotten – would it return to earth in one piece after its maiden flight? The first tests under the open sky made by the Empa scientists were at a disused military airfield in the Bernese Oberland, where the kite was towed behind a car at a height of 50 meters along a one kilometer long course. Luchsinger was happy with the outcome of this initial trial. "Our system works, the Tensairity kite is capable of generating the power we expected." Now the researchers are already thinking about their next vision – a kite with a span of up to 30 meters whose internal structures are filled with helium, so that even if the wind dies it would still stay aloft.

## Bits &amp; Pieces

The novel wing concept is not just suitable for making kites, however. It shows potential for applications in sports and in the unmanned aerospace field. It could also conceivably be used as a communication platform. In this conceptual application a kite platform (HAPS, "High Altitude Platform System") flying at great altitude would act as a relay station for radio and telephony signals instead of a satellite.

**EMKAY Kites News**

EMKAY Kites in Lincolnshire (AKA Kites4U - see ad elsewhere in the mag) who specialise in the import of unusual and innovative kites and related products have fascinating NEW items for the casual and enthusiastic kite flier among you. As there are too many kites and other items to list here we just tell you about a few of their newly acquired goodies.

KOCK SOCKS from Colours In Motion are a range of inflatables/line junk that you just have to check out. Names like ISOPOD, HYDROID or STAR ORB should make you curious.



For some time now EMKAY imports kites made by SPIDERKITES (Christoph Fokken). Among a great range of sport kites (named after spiders, what else) they also design a modern Afghan fighter kite version, also known as KIRK (Kite Runner Kite, you might have read the book) 4 designs are available that can be flown as a fighter kite or fun kite. The Lycos from SK is also worth a mention. The Lycos is a frameless new 2 line foil, purely designed for speed (close to 100mph have already been achieved in Germany).

For the younger kite flyer there is among many choices a collection of SPACE BOY Eddys. Fun faced Aliens will keep anyone smiling. Another interesting item could be 150-350kg heavy duty ball bearing swivels that EMKAY makes available.

If you are in need of kite lines, EMKAY has the largest choice of kite flying lines currently available in the UK. We could mention many more kites and kitemas but we would run out of space. Best you check out their website (see ad) or have a look at [www.kitenews.co.uk](http://www.kitenews.co.uk) for more info or request their catalogues on CD (please provide a stamped SAE).

**The Gadget Show**

The programme on Channel 5 recently had a challenge where the presenters flew their favourite kites from five different kite categories: power kites, spy kites, stunt kites, sports kites and trick kites. The video can be found at <http://fwd.five.tv/videos/wind-up-challenge-part-two>.

**Fly-NY Winner**

We have mentioned this event in the past—basically a competition aimed at architect firms to make and fly a kite in Riverside Park, New York at the beginning of May. One participant, architect Heinrich Hohmann, grew to love kites growing up in the 1960s in Germany's remote Black Forest. "I remember long summer afternoons lying on my back in the drying hay and watching a diamond-shaped kite in the sunlight," says Hohmann. Today, he travels to competitions around the world, applying his architectural training to the design and production of intricate kites. Sponsored by European magazine Kite and Friends, he visited the United States for the first time this spring to compete in FlyNY. He took several creations to the competition and won with his "City of Glass" Edo.

**Fighting Kites**

Fighting Kites are an instrumental band from London who use various combinations of two guitars, two basses, two loop pedals, a drum kit and anything else that is handy to make their music. In the two years they have been around they have played a small handful of shows, but spread them out over two continents. These two years have also produced a four track CD. The rest of the time was mainly spent pondering their next move. They were Dan and Neil, but are now Dan, Dave and Neil. An interesting sound—Japanese like. You can hear a selection at [www.myspace.com/fightingkites](http://www.myspace.com/fightingkites).

**Kite Flier of the Year**

For many years I have been a member of the AKA, and it has always interested me in the way the American's once a year honour one of their own members.

This year, for the KS's big 30 I thought it would be a good time to propose this idea of the "British Kiteflier of the Year." But unlike the AKA, not to restrict it to any one club or organisation.

Plus to keep the brief loose, if you want to write pages on someone or just bullet points it doesn't matter, the content is important. We are still sorting out the selection panel, but I can report that George Webster has accepted to join. There is no prize other than the recognition, and everyone proposed are part of that spirit. Just at this time, look around, who would you select?

More details in the next issue of the magazine.

Tony "TC" Cartwright

## Reports from the Festivals—Hugh Blowers

### I do like to be beside the seaside. Berck 2009

Sometimes, even I manage to run out of superlatives to describe a festival. The 23<sup>rd</sup> annual event at Berck Sur Mer was certainly the biggest ever, probably the best, ever, and provided no nasty surprises with the weather. There were some remarkable new kites, amazing crowds all week, and apart from one day of grotty wind over the buildings, some of the best and longest flying days I have ever experienced.

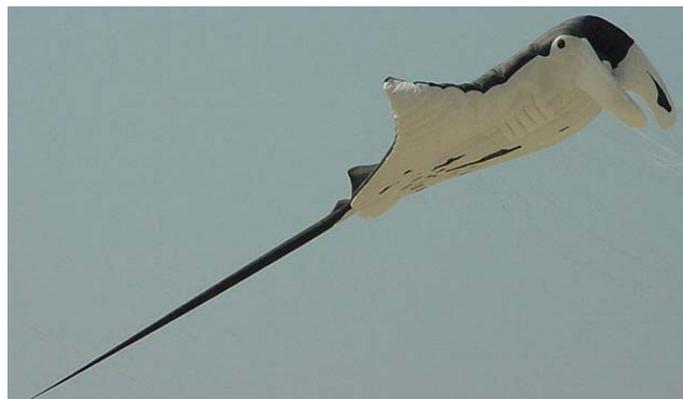
A stalwart group of seven British flyers had the stamina to last the entire 9 days, being augmented along the way by a continuing ebb and flow of enthusiasts from across the channel. It was lovely to see two of our number who have experienced a very torrid time recently looking the picture of health and vitality. Peter Lynn judges the success of his flying days by calculating the kilogram hours the kites spend in the sky, and on this basis, records were being set in every arena. The British could not compete on a weight basis, but in terms of number of hours flown per day, must have set an all time record.

For the first time at Berck, the 6 display arenas, along with the wind garden and Cody area, stretched the whole length of the beach, right from the Hospital Maritime at the south to extreme northern end. The concession stalls, along with trade and tourism stands extended further than ever, and a new addition was a huge exhibition hall covering several hundred square metres. The new hall contained a remarkable display of early kite replicas built by Christian Koltz, including the most beautiful of all, the Lamson, which graces the Kites Society Logo. Berck is famous for some of the earliest aircraft flights in Europe and a reproduction of a Voisin Glider added to the display of very early aviation photos. An item that took my fancy, having seen it the previous week, was a vintage two seat sand yacht, complete with mast and sail. That gives some idea of the size of the hall. The compound of the local sand yacht club has several of these majestic machines in varying states of decay.

Once again, one walk through marquee was given over to the most beautiful miniature art kites, with Frances Anderson, Martine Chatel and Daniella Zitman working throughout the week creating these superb pieces of work. It is remarkable, that at a festival where size is dominant, these delicate pieces can make such an impact. Gerard Clement, the organiser, was at pains to point out to everyone that Frances had made the channel crossing, not by ferry, tunnel, or air, but by swimming across. Congratulations to her on this mammoth achievement. Berck is very much a public event now and the emphasis is on large displays, big show kites, large acreages of ripstop and the attendant gear needed to put it all in the sky. Delivery of equipment via digger buckets, trailers and pick up trucks is now necessary for many of the teams, but the attraction is not always in size alone. One of the more impressive displays of the first weekend was from our own Gill Bloom. As a Kite artist, she is much underrated, and her use of multiple banners to create a continuous seascape was superb. In terms of artwork on a kite, her 'fuschias' is still one of the most attractive kites around.

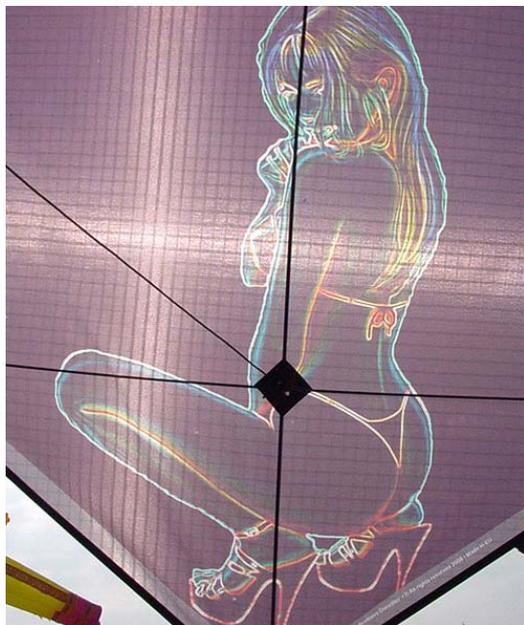
There is no doubt though, that inflatables, large, small and plain enormous tend to dominate a show like this. The development of the pilot kite has meant that almost any shape can be filled with air and dragged off the ground, and there were some pretty remarkable variations on this theme, including all of the Looney Tunes characters being flown by Jurgen and Ingrid van Almelo from Northern Germany, and featured as a centre spread in the Guardian no less. Some of the statistics alone are incredible, with each of the 5 characters being up to 20m long and consuming 1200 sq metres of rip-stop between them and using an unbelievable 10 kilometres of thread to hold them all together. At around 950 hours work to build them, this is a major investment in time and resources, and this is just one couple. This level of commitment was evident up and down the beach intermingling with the teams that had similar quantities of commercial kites. It is only when you look along the beach from a suitable vantage point, that the true spectacle of this festival can be appreciated, with the lines of giant inflatables interspersed with smaller individual displays.

With no commentary as such, it is down to the spectator to make their own appreciation of what is flying, and this year proved quite exceptional in the quality of some of the new kites being flown. We are all familiar with Peter Lynn's manta ray, with its multi coloured panelling and bucket tails, but he had made it a point of honour that he wanted to produce something more realistic, both in looks and flying characteristics. Over the winter he worked on a new design that has plain panels top and bottom, realistic gills, unsupported wings that can 'swim' and a proper ray tail. So effective was it, that it immediately found a new home with two AKF members. Luckily he had a spare to go with his normal range of bears, octopuses etc. It was, however, another ray that to me, and many others, was the kite of the show, and represents one of the loveliest and most realistic inflatables ever. Thomas and Conny Roth of Schonebeck in Germany have produced a pair of totally lifelike manta rays. The bottom skins are in white, with appliquéd skin textures and working gills. The open mouth and extended mandibles are inflated, while the dark top skin has a stumpy dorsal fin leading into a 'sting ray' type tail. The wing tips are not bridled so they move rhythmically in the wind to complete the illusion of a real manta in the sky. The finishing touch was the drogues. For very strong winds, a jellyfish (Kwolle) was attached to the tail of the manta via its tentacles, but for lighter winds the jellyfish in turn was an inflatable, with the head acting as the drogue and the inflated tentacles waving in the



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breeze. This to me was the most realistic and well executed inflatable I have ever seen and another indication that we are being left further and further behind here in Britain.



Something very different, both in scale and design blurred the divide between kite and aeroplane and is the latest creation from Los Hermanos Gonzalez. Pedro and Esteban are regular visitors to festivals in the UK and are not only very

innovative kite designers but believe firmly that kites should fly on their own and not need any help. To see their Red Devils flying way up in the sky without pilots was testament to this ideal. Their new PY (Pan Ying) kite is based on the principles of the Chinese soaring eagle but uses modern material and technology to produce what they call a 'glider kite'. Essentially built for no wind, or indoor flying, it is an unstable towline glider. With spars from the most minute carbon tube and filaments, it resembles an aeroplane with no fin, and the heavier model can be flown on the merest hint of a breeze. Heavy is a relative term as the large 80cm span version weighs less than 20grams while the half size indoor PY comes in at less than 3 grams. They are great fun to fly and are presented in a hard plastic case to protect them with a zip top bag to identify the makers and the kite. To me this is one of the most fascinating developments I have seen for a long while and enhances the reputation of these two enthusiastic designers. They have also embraced the use of sublimation printing for kites and banners, much as Roy and Hayley over here, and they have used the technique to produce some stunning images. Whilst the subject matter might not meet with universal enthusiasm, the results are spectacular. By overprinting the entire kite skin several times, having started with white, they have created an almost 'neon effect', which provides an interesting contrast to appliqué.

Didier Ferment, the originator of the butterflies breeding all over the UK, always manages to come up with something spectacular, and this year was no exception. Each day, the beach was planted with around 30 very large stylised fish, made from bent bamboo and red material. Each was free to turn on top of a 6ft pole and every day, the arrangement was new, but mathematically precise, as we have become used to with Didier. On regular occasions, they would be uprooted and paraded by fellow

members of the wind gardens. The significance of all this defied translation I'm afraid, but there seemed some philosophical or political point being made.

One small arena set apart from the rest had two of the biggest anchors ever seen, solid concrete and well over a metre square and high. This was for a Cody 'man lifting team'. I may have become a bit cynical over this, but apart from our own Martin Lester, many years ago, I have never seen a team get its act together sufficiently to get a man off the ground. This year it was a French team, so the kites were Saconneys rather than Codys and they had simplified the whole system. A pilot kite put up the main line as normal, but the others were attached directly to the line, rather than with the rings and runners of the normal system. There was no separate lifter kite or basket as such, the plucky volunteer being hoisted on the line in a harness. A motorised winch kept the whole thing under control, but over here, would have given the 'elf and safety' palpitations. Cellular kite enthusiast Carl Dambach resisted offers of an aerial view of the site, reckoning that at 81 this was more excitement than he needed. Gerard Clement showed no such reluctance, as he waved to the camera crew below.

If the gurus of E&S would have reservations about the man lifting, then they would probably be apoplectic about the six 8 metre diameter bols doing their business, al fresco, on the public part of the beach, while Gerard conducted an interview in front of them. That they were then left until well into the evening, illustrates the more relaxed atmosphere that pervades at French festivals. One has to say, that the ability to park free of charge anywhere in the town, the freedom to park a motorhome in any suitable spot, the hospitality for the flyers and the complete lack of officiousness from any direction makes a most refreshing change. The town and the festival have a symbiotic relationship that gives the flyers a first class opportunity to fly for 9 days and attract in excess of half a million people to Berck for the benefit of traders and concessions. It works to everyone's advantage and again shows a divergence in thinking between councils over here and in France.

The main display arena was the focus of attention every afternoon with a continuous programme of dual and four line flying. With no organised competition this year there was a greater opportunity for teams and individuals to show off their skills. Ramlal and the rest of the Red Bull Kiteforce team showed just why they provide such entertaining interludes at Red Bull Events. Mind you, with Red Bull as part sponsors of the festival, the copious free supplies of this strange liquid had many people flying, in more senses than one. Oddly though, they did not seem to get many takers in our arena, but perhaps empty beer and wine bottles taken to the recycling bin each evening could explain this. The year of the Rev in 2008 and the performances from 'I Quad' has moved the quad line performances on yet again, with the team and mega team routines being even more dynamic and well choreographed. The combination of FLIC, Crazy Drivers and Flying Squad produced a team of 16 that created the most amazing and complex manoeuvres, most of which have no names and can only be described with much waving of arms and rotating of hands. Two

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that I found particularly attractive I will attempt to explain. What I would call a leaders benefit involves the top kite of each vertical stack of four changing places with the next kite down using a half turn, repeated all the way to the bottom before working all the way back to the top with the same movements. The other is a form of pinwheel with the kites rotating together in a circle, but with the spars always pointing into the centre. This is even more spectacular when there are two or more concentric circles contra rotating. The kite control being exhibited is phenomenal and a written description can never convey the complexity and spectacle, or the amount of shouting Steve Hoath does to get it to happen! Sadly, the dual line mega team is now in a bygone age, having gone steadily backwards.

Multiple examples of any design always present a good display and AWITA were using their deltas as headers for multi coloured eddy trains, which seemingly flew in the most gentle wind. Jan and Jolanda van Leeuwen from Holland had taken the pyro delta theme a stage further with an appliquéd spiral pattern in black, white and red on each kite. A group of these anchored at low level provided a shimmering carpet of colour. For sheer entertainment value though, it is difficult to beat Karl and Sara Longbottom's Pants and Knickers! No, you misunderstand me, that's not quite what I meant. Regular 'pants' fights would break out with Karl's kites, drawing an amused and appreciative audience, and involving some equally amused international flyers. The sight of Sara and Lynn in the parade, each with a pair of strategically placed 'FKs', caused a great deal of laughter around the town and will feature in a lot of digital images.

Friday was an extremely late night, or early morning to be more precise, as it was gala time at the Kursaal. A film of the festival was followed by a speech from the Mayor and the presentation of a Berck commemorative gold medal to David Gomberg, in recognition of 19 years of attending the festival. During his reply David alluded to the fact that in spite of the wonderful French cuisine on offer, why was it that he could not get a decent cheesburger in the town? A comment that he might have come to regret!

Saturday was another long day with the traditional vol de nuit, light show and fireworks. A very light shower killed the wind for a few minutes, but it soon picked up and the darkening sky gradually filled with kites. A large Spirit floated over the main arena while various teams and individuals did their stuff to the story being told by lights and commentary. Our own 'Scotchlite' sea star persisted in flying over the firework area so we hope that the word would be given to retreat before it became part of the display, but we were pre-empted by the arrival of Peter Lynn bringing his manta and pilot into the arena. At this stage something went slightly wrong, more kites were being put up, the light show was still underway, but a clap of doom signalled that the fireworks were starting. Of course, the manta and pilot were now over the fireworks and became the centre-piece of an amazing spectacle with aerial bombs hurtling skyward on every side of it. The huge starbursts illuminated it wonderfully as they cascaded downwards, and with all the shells hurtling upward as well, it was incon-

ceivable that there would not be a direct hit in one direction or the other. The whole scene was hilarious to those of us immediately below, with each near miss and explosion being greeted with even more manic laughter. Somehow both the manta and pilot seems to have a charmed life until a sudden bright burst of colour on the pilot signified that their luck had run out. In spite of this, Peter Lynn was still laughing hysterically well after the display had finished, as he reckoned that this was an entirely new experience for him in all his years of kite flying. It transpired that what had looked like the birth of a super nova in the night sky turned out to be nothing worse than a neat burn hole in the top skin of the pilot.

After two very long days, Sunday was somewhat more relaxed with even the breeze being a bit lazy about its arrival, and anyway it was procession time with marching bands, majorettes, both the normal teeny type and some far more substantial young ladies. We were led off by Gerard in full leather flying gear, with windsock, walrus moustache and a Cyrano de Bergerac false nose. Some hour later we arrived back at the beach for lunch and Mr Gomberg's come-uppence. A small table with white cloth, cutlery and wine glass was placed in the centre of the hospitality tent. The band assembled and two of the chefs from the training establishment that had fed us so well for the festival stepped forward. The gist of the speech was that David's comments at the gala about the inability of the French to produce a decent cheesburger had been taken to heart and was seen as a challenge. They did not consider that a piece of Kraft processed on top of a quarter pounder in a floury bun was a true reflection of their culinary skills and so they had created a true Berck Cheesburger that was brought out with due ceremony. With the band in full swing the platter was placed before David and the lid removed. No description can do justice to what they had created. It seemed like much of a cow, covered with half a cheese factory, balance delicately between two halves of a loaf of bread. With the attendant fries and salad, this 7lb creation was a more than appropriate reply to David's taunting of the Mayor. To give him credit, he did wade through it, even if it took him over an hour.

The arenas had begun to thin out after lunch as people set off for other festivals or the less attractive prospect of work. The wind gently turned all afternoon remaining



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off the sea throughout, giving us perfect flying, with enough space to allow a most relaxing few hours and a chance to reflect on a truly wonderful festival. Our thanks go to Gerard Clement, Berck Tourist Office, staff and students of the CFPA and all the myriad of workers and civic members who ensured that we could all enjoy such an amazing 9 days.

### Too much Of A Good Thing?

Something like 15 years ago now, the Suffolk Kite Flyers in association with the Suffolk Wildlife Trust, put on their first festival. In those days, an invitation meant just that, and so we travelled down to Parham Airfield for a days flying. It is the first time I had ever been directed to a ploughed field to fly, but so be it. Down wind was a 'secret establishment' and we were threatened with all sorts of nasty reprisals if any of our kites landed in there, and guess whose Jilly Pelham Roller was cut down and landed slap bang in the middle, yes, that's right, me! Back in the ploughed field, I put up a parafoil, and then it started to rain. It was getting muddier by the minute and finally the kite fell to the ground with a gallon of water in each cell. Such was our first visit to the 'deep south' of the county. The following year the site was again Parham, but on a runway this time and thick fog instead of rain. Being in the middle of the airfield, the 'facilities' comprised a hessian windbreak affair around one of the runway drains! Eleven years ago, the Suffolk Kite Fliers took sole charge of the festival, moving it to its present site on Rougham airfield and things have not looked back since.

What has not changed however is the ability of the British weather to do its best to put the mockers on all the hard work that individuals and clubs do in putting on festivals. The 12<sup>th</sup> Suffolk International Festival had its fair share of weather, and it has to be said, an awful lot of wind, and not particularly nice wind at that. Martin Corrie and the Suffolk Fliers, along with the airfield's owner and Rougham Tower Association had provided a magnificent site, and a plethora of teams and individual fliers to fill it, along with a wonderful selection of trade and concession stalls. I know we might lead a sheltered existence up here, but I have never seen a traditional wood fired pizza oven on a mobile stall before. By all accounts they were pretty good pizzas too.

As usual, one of the first in the air on Saturday was Andrew and Kathleen Beattie's manta. We were still some miles from the airfield, when we saw it rise majestically from the landscape on a long launch. With the Beccles Bunch in its entirety, Brighton Kite flyers and Derek Kuhn to complete the large kite arena, there was no shortage of ripstop on offer, but after just a couple of hours the wind picked up even more, and coming over the buildings and trees was just too dangerous for maxi kites. By lunchtime it was gusting to nearly 30 mph and even the midi sized kites were becoming a problem. Strangely though, as long as the pilots were kept below 50 ft and the kites anchored to their bridles, the conditions were OK to keep something in the air all afternoon.

The only people really happy about the strength of the wind were the power kites who were flying up and down the grass runway at a most indecent speed. For £2 a tandem buggy ride was on offer and the crowds

just kept coming all day for this most exhilarating experience. I bet there were a few tales to be told in school on Monday, judging by the whoops of delight emanating from the buggy area. Their arena slot clearly demonstrated how this side of the sport has 'come of age' and can exist happily alongside the more conventional forms of kiting.

It is the main display arena, where most of the action was taking place, and here Martin had assembled a better than ever array of talent to entertain the public. The flying was never easy, yet Airheads produced their usual range of choreographed antics, including 'tails for five' that looked most spectacular. Don't know who had the worst job, Viv stitching the myriad of pieces together for these multi coloured marvels, or the poor souls who had to roll them up each time. Making a very welcome return to the arena was something that us 'old hands' are familiar with but came new to many, and that was 'dog stake flying'. Once in the trick repertoire of all and sundry, it was good to see it making a return and congratulations to the young lady who pulled it off in the grotty wind. Flying three kites, such as Bryan Cattle and Carl Wright do with such skill, even tests them when it is this blustery, so well done to them for having the strength, skill and stamina to keep it up for the entire weekend.

With the Robertshaw Brothers, and augmented by Chris Goff as Evolver, there was never a shortage of top quality two and four line flying. Steve Hoath had managed to persuade a sizeable number of the Flying Squad that Suffolk was not just south of Scotland, although 7 is not the easiest number of kites to work with. For the first time, Martin had secured the services of the Decorators to enhance the four-line contribution, which they did in their own inimitable style. With the best quad flyers in the country gathered together, the Rev 'mega team' of 16 did a superb job with their routine, which we appreciated, even if the conditions had the crowds thinning by the minute.

It was great to see Jerry and Carolyn Swift making their first visit to Rougham, even if they did have a very long walk on a retrieval. None other than commentator extraordinaire, George Webster in flying mode rather than talking capacity accompanied them on the long journey south. In honour of George's first visit, Martin had arranged a special even, a mass launch of Mr Ws favourite kite, the Chinese rainbow delta! To celebrate their formation, the local branch of the National Autistic Society lofted 45 of these multi coloured tadpoles. I fear George was not impressed?

Inevitably, as the last of the public left the site, the wind moderated, the sun shone and we all gathered for a noggin of Black Furtle or other such strangely named brews, while the food was prepared for invited flyers and other guests. After the very successful auction last year, it was decided to have a repeat to raise funds for charity and for the festival. It is not always appreciated that some festivals are commercially run and the organising Clubs do not see anything of the gate receipts, so auctions are important to them. It has to be said though, that thanks to the generosity of everyone concerned they were inundated by items, probably far more than could realistically be sold in the time available. At

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the end of the evening over £1100 was raised, of which half was split between the Air Ambulance and the Autistic Society. It did get people thinking about auctions in general though, and how they might be streamlined.

Martin and his 'merry men' often come up with something quirky, and this year was no exception, with reincarnations of Zebedee from the Magic Roundabout all round the site. All day and most of the evening, the Essex Power Bockers were boinging about on their high tec, carbon fibre, stilty, springy things. Presumably the name was derived from the springbok pronk, which these enthusiasts use to bound around, and perform tricks. Team 'Robertshaw' succumbed to a pair of these devices from the auction and it was not long before most of them were able to 'walk tall and springy' without too much trouble.

Sunday started off looking very promising, with the wind much lighter and almost across the arenas. For a couple of hours the conditions were superb, and the more knowledgeable would have seen a very rare kite in the main arena, a parafoil by the Danish artist Jorg Moeller-Hansen who produced a set of Rev skins for the Decorators some while ago. One can only assume it was one of the aforesaid team flying this remarkable foil. Fortified by an egg and bacon sarny all looked set for a good day, until a harbinger of doom informed us that squalls and rain were in the offing around lunchtime and to be prepared. The wind began to swing through 90 degrees, back to the previous days direction, requiring much shifting of anchors and changing of kites, and then the rain set in. The kites were well anchored but careering about the sky as the wind strengthened, gusting to 30+ mph at times. Eventually the sun came out drying off the large kites sufficiently to allow some serious ripstop wrestling to get them down and into their bags and boxes. Then it was back to low-level displays for the rest of the day.

The 12<sup>th</sup> Suffolk kite festival had everything in place for a superb event, both for flyers and the public, but sometimes you do need that bit of luck with the weather. We headed off home with some very damp kites, conscious that Martin and his club members then had the task of taking down the marquees, rolling up miles of arena marking line and removal of hundreds of bumble pins, no matter what the wind and rain did. Sometimes flying is the easy bit. Thanks to Martin Corrie and everyone that contributed to making the festival happen, but please pay your dues to the weather gods before next year!

### A Blistering Bedford

Factor 30 to the fore was the order of the day at Russell Park Bedford. After a couple of years of less than cooperative weather, Andy Pidgin was a very happy chap, as he surveyed the huge crowds that packed the Park on both days of the festival. A cloudless sky, continental market, an amazing array of food and other concession stalls as well as a whole line of the biggest inflatable 'rides' it is possible to imagine offered untold opportunities to relieve the public of their 'hard earned'. With an International kite festival as a centrepiece, this weekend certainly showed how an event such as this can work to everyone's advantage.

A forecast of 12-15mph easterly winds, gave all the assembled fliers an air of optimism after the windless 2 days last year. With tress surrounding the site on three sides, easterly winds offer the best direction for getting 'stuff' into the air, and 'stuff' there was. Andy and Malcolm Goodman had arranged a large and varied 'guest list' to provide a huge range of kite styles and influences. With the addition of local flyers, the White Horse Kite Fliers workshop and a very large beer tent, everything was in place for a thoroughly enjoyable festival. Several announcements were made for all concerned to be aware of the heat and sun and take suitable precautions with hats, sun block and plenty to drink.

What was also very different for this year, and probably as a direct result of last year's experience, was having no arena programme as such and no 'set turns'. It was down to the flyers to keep putting kites into the sky to entertain the crowd. An integral part of Bedford festival over the last few years has been the sterling job of non-stop commentary for 2 days by George Webster, but he was notable by his absence on Friday evening. Bedford without George was unthinkable, but thanks to a litany of transport problems, George was nowhere to be seen, even on Saturday morning. Seeing the gravity of the situation, David Robinson forsook the green sleds in the workshop and manned the microphone, until he found a George Peters Dragonfly as an excuse to pass the job on to Hugh Blowers. So, with David doing the parish notices and Hugh talking about the kiting bits, everything progressed, not to plan as such, as there wasn't one until George staggered across the field around lunchtime. With little regard for his sorry saga of trying to travel from Darlington to Bedford by train, the microphone was thrust unceremoniously into his hand.

Flying is never easy at Bedford as Peter Releit found early on when his huge flowform and long lattice tail turned sharp left and draped itself on one of the surrounding trees. This was to be one of many arboreal experiences or long downwind recovery treks over the weekend. Newcomers to England were Yokoyama san and his lovely wife. He specialises in the sinuously wobbling kinetic kites, both plain shapes with decoration and a more lifelike squid design. Ludovico and Jane produced a brand new appliquéd design, very much in the Picasso style, yet the graphic was instantly recognisable as the Beatles in their Sergeant Pepper days. Two impressive, but very small kites that both flew well, were a bug being flown by Lydia Holt and a face with long pig-tails called Heidi from the Dutch Symphony team.

With the Wigsley Close detachment of Wigsley's Wings. Rolf Zimmerman, and Andrew and Kathleen all sporting vans stuffed to the gunwales with large inflatables it looked all set for a spectacular display, but life is never that easy. The pilots were no problem, but inflating kites low down was a lottery, although there were some valiant efforts with bears, geckos, owls and lobsters. Rolf had a brand new dragon to set up, but conditions were far from favourable for this. The Beccles Bunch assembled a small rainforest and carbon factory worth of cellular and facet kites, including some 'blasts from the past'. George Penney had a lovely graduated snowflake. The colours start from the deepest red, running through orange and yellow to a white centre. Sadly, Scott Spencer,

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who built this kite and is fondly remembered from his visits to Britain in the 90s died recently, so this was a fitting tribute to his skills and use of colour. Another superb reminder of kite making talent was a rare flight of Steve Brockett's iconic 'Where The Wind Blows'. It must be 12 or more years since this beautiful kite was last seen flying, and thanks to the Penney's I have had the honour of being the 'pilot' on both occasions.

When talking about kite making talent and blasts from the past, it was a coup for Malcolm to have persuaded Jan Peter Kuil to come to Bedford. It must be around 15 years since we saw his remarkable kites in England and he admitted that it was the first festival he had been to for many years. For those not familiar with his work he was a pioneer of 3 dimensional shapes when it was accomplished with ripstop and spars. Amongst his notable pieces of work were a railway locomotive, tender and carriage. Based on the relatively simple concept of the box kite, but complicated many times over, it was lovely to see this work again. Conditions were really against him, but long launches gave us a reminder of just how stunning his creations were. A castle, complete with turrets and battlements was another piece that showcased his talent.

The crowds showed no sign of going home, with so much to entertain them and were still enjoying the sun, bar and catering, well into the evening. If a festival is judged by the accommodation and catering for the invited fliers, then Bedford has got it about right, as we all enjoyed a proper 'knife and fork' buffet on site. One of the champions of facilities for guests at Bedford was Ann Megrath, and it was great to see her and her 'little sister' there for the weekend. The balloon that had been scheduled to provide evening entertainment failed to arrive, and so we trailed back to the hotel for some serious reminiscences and thirst quenching.

If flying conditions had been tricky on Saturday, that was nothing compared to what everyone had to put up with on the Sunday. The wind had freshened, but swung to the north, so it was now over the trees and across the narrow width of the arena. As George W is fond of reminding us, trees and buildings disrupt wind for incredible distances downwind. What they do when you are immediately behind them does not bear description. Launching pilots was a very frustrating process as there was not enough breeze to keep them inflated sufficiently to pump them above the tree line. Even the most reliable kite had to be violently worked up 150ft or so into strong and relatively reliable air. At one stage kites could be seen flying up the arena at 90 degrees to the wind and on one occasion a butterfly was happily flying on the backwind from the trees. Everyone was working hard to get kites up, but it was inevitable that there would be some disasters and near misses. Iqbal and Malcolm had Jeanette's 400 kite train in a tree, but managed to fly it out. The gecko tucked its entire body under itself to fly upside down. The Yokoyama's, Peter Releit and Rolf Zimmerman all had to head off in a southerly direction on retrieval duties. Iqbal was also lucky when his line was cut and parafoil, plus tails, plastered itself against a tree, but low enough down to be returned to him before he had arrived at the scene.

Conditions on the Sunday raised several points that have to be considered. To get into flyable air, pilots were well over the trees and river, while smaller kites would be over the crowd and towards the road. Nothing could be considered reliable, as most kites would make wild dives from time to time, yet we were all there to put on a display. How realistic or safe was this in the conditions? The Brassington I was flying for much of the day was hovering quite happily and was light enough to fall gracefully to earth once it was below the tree line, yet a Quatrostelle with 8 feet of 1 inch glass fibre spine could have created mayhem, so stayed on the ground after one exploratory flight. Rolf Zimmerman had the longest walk of all with his pilot sailing majestically downwind towards Cardington airship sheds. He returned some 90 minutes later after seeing far more of Bedford than he would have liked, but with the most odd 'cut' many of us had ever seen. Wrapped around his line were about 30 tight twists of old-fashioned twine, not Nylon or Polyester, but string. Just above this the sleeved k\*\*\*\*\* was cut clean through, which brings me to the second point, and probably most contentious. Given that most of the flyers at a festival are invited to put on a public display, should they still be expected to when conditions are as bad as they were? It was very noticeable that there was very little in the air on Sunday, although Godfrey and Karen Gamble from Australia deserve some sort of medal for being in the air for virtually the entire festival. Ludovico and Jane were also working hard to put kites in the sky for both days. It grieves me to say this, and George W will probably have apoplexy, but the infamous Chinese Rainbow deltas seemed to handle the conditions better than most, as did the Premier parasleds. Might we have to adopt the use of the 'throw away' pilot, possibly supplied by the organisers or with possible losses factored into what organisers will offer? Kite festivals have moved on and the status of invited flyers changed significantly, is it proper to consider their kites expendable?

Regular readers will be wondering what tales there are to tell of that regular Bedford fixture, Malcolm's giant dragon? As someone that has been on the sharp end for many of its adventures, it was something of a relief, given the wind conditions, to find that it had been left at home. There was another traditional dragon, but with insufficient wind low down, several abortive runs across the arena ensued. Iqbal had the latest of his humorous takes on the dragon theme with a pizza-based idea. Every sort of pizza imaginable, plus one that was burnt, all interspersed with bottles of Chianti Classico. This was not really the place for a first flight, but given more manageable conditions, this will be yet another light-hearted addition to his collection. Both he and Malcolm had very colourful European versions of Barroman kites that flew with a certain authority.

By the middle of Sunday afternoon the sun, heat and work involved in getting kites to fly had all but drained the resolve of many of the flyers, so with a final flourish, George W brought proceedings to a close for another year. A lovely site, a remarkable variety of kite styles and designs, some classics that had been dug out, loads of food stalls, huge crowds, and still a very frustrating place to fly kites, but a wonderful time was had by all.



By Keith Griffiths, National Director of STACK UK  
(keith.griffiths@physics.org)

## Competitions

Well, the STACK season is well underway, with events at Weston and Rougham done, and Southampton and Leominster still to go. Apologies for this quarter's missive being chock full of tables and numbers, but that's what competitions generate.

### IRB competition

The traditional STACK competition is often referred to as the IRB (International Rule Book) competition to differentiate it from the other freestyle competitions that STACK now support.

Well done to Daniel, who is battling head to head with his father in the multiline discipline. Could result in tense times in the Beasley household in the months to come. Steve has already been heard to say that Daniel may well have to walk home if this keeps up.

Cameron had a good weekend at Rougham, with a very impressive score in the ballet, third only behind Carl and Chris. Definitely one to watch, he's always chasing Chris Goff's impressive junior record.

Pairs competition is looking interesting, with both ExGrads and Wind Magic flying new ballets which still need work to show off their best.



*Wind Magic about to start a figure at Rougham. ©Caron Wasserman 2009*

Our teams are continuing to be head to head, with Flame having a bad (for them) precision at Rougham and Scratch Bunnies doing likewise in the ballet. As in previous recent years there is little to separate them.

Excellent flying at Rougham from Mile in the dual line individual, not able to commit to the season due to work commitments Miles managed to get a go at the precision competition on Sunday and showed some of the seasoned fliers how it should be done. And he says he isn't ready for competition, I think the numbers say otherwise. It does go to show that people shouldn't be afraid of entering competitions, no-one will laugh at you; we are a friendly, helpful bunch, keen to see everyone do as well as they can.

### Multi Line Individual

Competitor	Round 1, Weston-Super-Mare		Round 2, Rougham	
	Precision	Ballet	Precision	Ballet
Daniel Beasley (J,N)	32.25	53.00	41.05	45.36
Steve Beasley (N)	48.50	57.30	38.77	47.20
Chris Goff	76.48	77.75	66.67	76.48
Carl Robertshaw	72.90	73.60	59.70	69.52
James Robertshaw	---	---	67.60	78.28

### Dual Line Individual

Competitor	Round 1, Weston-Super-Mare		Round 2, Rougham	
	Precision	Ballet	Precision	Ballet
Lee Baxter	---	---	---	---
Bryan Beasley	56.95	55.30	53.58	48.20
Matt Binns	53.73	55.20	58.48	56.15
Cameron Blair (J)	46.50	46.55	48.28	58.65
Steve Brill	49.50	58.75	51.40	49.25
Miles Flory (guest)	---	---	54.23	---
Vee Griffiths	33.40	46.60	24.00	46.90
Chris Goff	68.70	72.85	68.88	71.45
Carl Robertshaw	77.23	70.50	64.68	65.60
Robin Smith	66.78	61.65	---	---
David Toone	---	---	58.58	51.85
John Williams	51.23	51.40	52.45	---

### Dual Line Pairs

Competitor	Round 1, Weston-Super-Mare		Round 2, Rougham	
	Precision	Ballet	Precision	Ballet
Bluff and Bluster	35.16	---	---	---
ExGrads	50.40	50.95	41.50	58.20
Wind Magic	---	---	49.08	55.80

### Dual Line Team

Competitor	Round 1, Weston-Super-Mare		Round 2, Rougham	
	Precision	Ballet	Precision	Ballet
Flame	63.14	62.60	53.73	65.10
Scratch Bunnies	56.78	68.48	69.00	53.50



## Tricks Party UK

Another major competition we are running again this year is the Tricks Party freestyle. This consists of four compulsory tricks then a freestyle ballet. There are novice, experienced and masters levels, the difference being in the compulsory tricks and, for masters, the need to perform defined tricks within the ballet. At this time no-one has stepped up to fly masters level but that doesn't mean the experienced competition doesn't show off trick flying to it's best.

### Experienced

Competitor	Weston	Rougham
Axl Ferraro	65.25	---
Bryan Beasley	58.75	57.5
Cameron Blair	55.00	41.5
Chris Goff	70.25	58.5
Daniel Beasley	38.5	40
Steve Brill	20.5	35.5

### Novice

Competitor	Weston	Rougham
Keith Griffiths	---	32.5
John Williams	35	42.5
Miles Flory	---	42
Paul Collins	---	41.5



Cameron holding a tipstand as part of his freestyle ballet. ©Caron Wasserman 2009

## Rokaku Competition

We'd been doing rather well for competitors in the Rok battles, with a decent turn out in Weston, Weymouth, and Swindon, but it all went wrong in Rougham. Two competitors, one of whom had literally bought a kite 10 minutes previously. This was probably due to my commitments to both the STACK arena and the festival (as part of AirHeads display team), I didn't have time to personally rustle up more competitors. Significant interest was apparent again though at Exmouth, with a dozen or so competitors, and a necessary rule change to 'no cutting' to avoid losing kites in the estuary.

Now, I have a problem. I'm trying to see how to create a fair scoring system and find every one I think of has flaws. Currently I'm favouring the following:

- Each competitor gets points awarded according to their position in a fight, ie 1 point for last place, 10 points for first in a fight consisting of 10 people.
- Their best five scores are then added up.

The scores below are calculated with this system. This system weights the standings towards good placements in rounds with large numbers of competitors, but disadvantages those who have had lots of wins in small fields. The necessity to compete in at least 5 rounds should prevent competitors getting lucky in a big round or two and walking away with the title.

Any objections to this system please contact me, but you must include an alternative to replace it with :-)

Competitor	No of rounds attended	Points from best 5 rounds	Current position
Mick Burls	7	26	1
David Johnson	5	24	2
Mike Stevens	4	19	3=
Bob Cruckshank	2	19	3=
Peter Taylor	2	18	5=
Vee Griffiths	4	18	5=
Simon Dann	2	18	5=
Doug Irvine	3	17	8
Karl Longbottom	2	16	9
Ian Tucker	2	10	10
Steve Matchett	1	9	11
Martin Croxton	1	8	12
Waine Hucker	2	6	13
Jamie Cole	1	5	14=
Steven Hoath	1	5	14=
Peter Schmidt	1	4	16=
Sarah Lyth	2	4	16=
Kathleen Beattie	1	4	16=
Phoebe Hancock	1	4	16=
Michael Hancock	1	4	16=



Competitor	No of rounds attended	Points from best 5 rounds	Current position
Peter Dawson	1	3	21=
Peter Jackson	1	3	21=
Adrian Welsh	1	3	21=
David Lyth	1	2	24=
John Williams	1	2	24=
Daniel Hoath	1	2	24=
Debbie Wheeler	1	1.5	27
Andy Taylor	1	1	28=
Gemma Walsh	1	1	28=
David Hodges	1	1	28=

that are generally hard to get in the UK, certain manufacturers kites and also fittings, as well as some really cool T-shirts.

## Portsmouth Kite Clinics

The Kite Society have asked STACK to provide some coaching at Portsmouth. I've not had any negative comments on the format suggested last time so here is how it will work:

### Basic and team flying clinic

Sign up for the dual line "team" flying sessions by contacting me directly. I will have sessions of 1 hour duration running at 09:30, 10:45, 12:30, 13:45 and 15:00. The number of people we can accommodate depends on the number of coaches and the available flying space. These sessions are for basic flying tips and/or team flying for dual line kite fliers. STACK supply all the kit needed, just come along and try it for an hour. Just enough to wet your appetite for a Boot Camp, scheduled for after the end of the season.

### Quad flying

It is looking very unlikely that this will happen as there are simply not enough experienced quad line fliers in STACK at the moment.

### Trick flying clinic

This is to be run along the lines of a Better Flying Day<sup>®</sup> as tried by many over the winter months. With one exception, there will be a few STACK Fury.85 kites for you to use, but it'll be on a first come basis. Otherwise bring your own kite along.

We will charge the fliers who do not already have insurance a nominal sum of £5 to make them members of STACK for the time they are with us, but other than that it'll be free. You have to be able to prove your insurance on the day, and it must cover you for flying outside of your own club's events. Contact me at [keith.griffiths@physics.org](mailto:keith.griffiths@physics.org) if you are interested in one of the clinics.



The AirHeads gang up on Bob Cruickshank's rokkaku

## Into Sports Kites?

In that case you really ought to get yourself over to Fractured Axel ([www.fracturedaxel.co.uk](http://www.fracturedaxel.co.uk)). Originally started as a local forum for Portsmouth freestyle fliers it's now become the largest sport kite forum in the world (probably). Literally everyone is there, and you'll get great tips and advice on flying sports kites as well as it being the best place on the net to find out about things happening in the UK that involve 2 lines (and to some extent 4 lines).

Yes, there's a lot of rubbish talked sometimes, but isn't that true of any conversation between friends; the good thing with the forum is that is primarily within the 'off topic' section, so you can completely ignore it if you so desire. You don't even have to register to read the posts other people have made, registration is required for putting your own comments on, but it's painless, you get no spam or anything like that and it's free.

Whilst you are there you might want to take a look at the shop that Andy and Craig are running parallel to the forum, it stocks things

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## The Pasir Gudang International Kite Festival—George Webster

The British contingent was reduced this year to Malcolm and Jeanette Goodman and the writer. I thought I'd try to make the report this year a little more interesting with a diary approach. Hope you approve.

For reasons of good fares and special offers from Newcastle we flew out via Dubai and broke our journey in the fabulous Altantis Hotel on the Palm Jumeirah; soon to be renamed the Wounded Rhino (the joke is George Penney's comment about a kite maker 'he charges like a wounded rhino'). The cheapest can of beer was £7. The aquarium was superb but this piece is about kites so: cut to Monday when we check into the usual hotel—the Selesa in Pasir Gudang in Johore. This is the bit of Malaysia which has Singapore connected to it. The hotel has improved but the rooms as so-so.

Malcolm and I go off to a nearby sports hall for the briefing of local kite fliers and what is called the English programme 'Earth judging of wau'. The briefing appears to emphasise that only traditional methods will be used. There are various classes of competition for local kites—they claim 500 locals involved but this will include sections for schoolchildren. The elite seem to be teams of 4 fliers each of whom has a set of 4 waus. There are now officially the three classic waus; Wau Bulan (moon), Wau Kuching (cat) and Wau Jalabudi (lady) to which has been added the Wau Merak (pheasant) which is now the official wau of the State of Johore. Some of the teams have all their kites colour coordinated. These kites are all registered, stamped and then displayed on the floor—I counted about 50 of each type. Amongst other things registration involves checking the dimensions, which must be square so you see someone with a knife quickly trimming the nose of his kite. The stamp on the kite indicated that it has met the build requirements but also means that it can never be entered again in a national competition. You have one chance.

The next day the kites start to be flown, together with other wau designs, novelties and even 'Malays'. This goes on for the next four days on the far side of the field from us overseas fliers.

The marks are from: 20 build and appearance, 50 flight, height and angle, 20 staying up in flight and 10 sound of hummer (e.g. cat higher pitch than moon). In tricky winds the kites do

crash and break lines quite often—my theory is that they are bridled to the point of instability in order to achieve the high flying angle and flight pattern which is required.

Tuesday Morning. Had a Nasi Goreng breakfast—this involves rice, a very hot curry sauce with prawns, roast peanuts, hard boiled egg and, as a topping very small fried whitebait. Diet is not connected to my seeking out the housekeeping service and acquiring supplies of lavatory paper—merely experienced traveller caution. I always have doubts about supplies in a society where the preferred system is spraying the appropriate area with a hose tap which looks very much like the one used by the barman to serve mixers in your local.



Discover that the Goodmans have changed their room as Jeanette objected to the roaches looking down on her from the bedside table. I only had 3 all week long and only one was big—about thumbsized. You know that you are getting on when it's hard to jump high enough to kill them on the way down.

Did some shopping in a nearby Tesco—beer and whisky are not on sale in the hotel—but no problem about drinking round the pool.

Everyone saddened to hear that Shakib Gunn from Singapore had died there the previous night. A remarkable kite man, he was at one time by all accounts the best ever commentator.

Met Greg and Jacqui Mountjoy from South Africa who we knew from previous years. I discover from Greg that they still game fish using kites on the coast near Durban. As described in my article the fishermen use plastic covered della portas which he makes.

## The Pasir Gudang International Kite Festival—George Webster

Peter Lynn arrives with his two new special commissions for the festival. One is a Crocodile—called by some a geckodile (look at the feet). There is also a splendid Malay tiger - Malaysia has unique very pretty tigers, which bears a resemblance to a rebridled black and white cat in tiger colours. He is not pleased when I refer to it as the Ginger Tom.

Flew my spirit kite and avoided the big soft stuff—which should move back next day when the ground anchors are set up.

Wednesday. Hot breakfast again—the chips were coldish but the chicken curry hot. Put in a full shift as I was on the field by 10:30 and did not leave until after 6. This is extremely hard work as although the temperature is in the low 30's the humidity is high. Basically the overseas fliers—including the Chinese and Japanese—fly for 1/2—1 hour then get in the shade and drink water or go for tea.

The wind is swirling and flying the spirit, a Barn Door and a Le Cornu is difficult, particularly with rogue big softies. But there are spectacular tangles.

On the whole the other international kites are disappointing. Cultural imperialism is well advanced so that the Chinese and Japanese are making western kites using western materials. The most flown Indonesian kite is a rip stop 3m Eddy with 'Indonesia' appliquéd on it. In front of the Japanese tent there isn't a bamboo sparred kite, just lines of 2 line stunters for sale. But on the far side of the field the wau competitors (Jalabuda today) are still plugging away.



Indian fliers have a problem at kite festivals with their small traditional kites have responded by keeping Indian forms on large kites using a mixture of East/West materials—but there is nothing here to match Team Mangalore.

Jeanette gets a small zebra group going—her zebra head plus two della portas from South Africa. There are 3 spirits—2 from Britain.

Peter Lynn talks about redesigning his kites to be without bucket tails or drogues so that they can be launched by boat from water. He has a new designer Andreas Fischbacher who in 2 weeks designed a great fish.

After the evening meal is the formal introduction for overseas fliers—about 200 from 26 countries. In addition to those mentioned later there are fliers known in Europe: Ohashi, Modegi, Sakuraba, Bernard Dingwerth, Andreas Agren (Viking this), Sim and Yarim from Cambodia, David Gomberg and Ron Despojado. For the first time I meet Ron Spaulding and his wife—legendary figures in Thai kites. Each overseas team is allocated a helper. These are young local tourism students who always adopt a western name and vary greatly in command of English, looks and 'savvy'.

Ours is Maria and I doubt she is the top of her class. As part of a project she is required to see our tickets and passports—this involves her in harassing us at inappropriate times made trickier by her nerves and the fact that her English verbs have only got to the stage of 'you must' and 'you will' not 'would you' or 'please can you'. However she settles down over a couple of days and is quite good at reserving our chairs and maintaining the water stocks. She probably finds us a rather boring small tea.

Thursday. Curry sauce and chips and fruit. A bad day for flying—the wind was up and down like a lavatory seat (to use an old Aussie phrase) also forever changing direction so that much time was spent avoiding big softies. Very large kites can have their uses in this climate when it is possible to stand and fly in their shade. There was a spectacular tangle involving Peter Reliet's big 'Dusseldorf' foil; he bought a soft sled which—flatteringly—he said he made after reading my article on sleds.

The Pasir Gudang International Kite Festival—George Webster

There were some new kites: an Indonesian fibre glass and ripstop Chinese multi-celled dragon with a traditional bamboo framed head which had a good dense appearance in the sky. Also saw my first masked sports kite demo team. They were Chinese ladies in combat gear with their heads wrapped. This is not all that unusual for male and female Chinese fliers who—like the locals—often wrap their heads up against the sun so that only their eyes show.

Friday. Usual breakfast and another day of variable wind. Mostly flew the sirit but managed the diamond roller in light winds and a Joel Schulz 'Marilyn' until the wind was too strong. Marilyn is essentially a Yakko variant with hummer; this one being Texas made in 1988.

Saw Peter Lynn's new Stingray—a more realistic fish than usual for him with a smooth tail for water launching. We photo's its first public flight before bridling adjustments and final details. He has captured the wing movements as a ray swims excellently. I can claim to be its first casualty as it dropped suddenly on top of me—no problem as I'm pushed to my knees except that this was over a set of concrete blocks used for small anchors. It was really no worse than a stumbling on Brighton beach. Also saw the first flight of Wolfgang Schimmelpfennigs Box fish—which should be at the Wirral.

Maria, our helper, talked to me and I advised her that whereas it was OK to ask Malcolm and me how old we were it was not good form to ask Jeanette. We then carried on to an awkward discussion about June having had 'yellow' hair, finishing with my losing face because I'd never met David Beckham.

Clyde Cook organised the now standard coach visit to a Chinese restaurant which floats overlooking Singapore. Great food and company—great value but still known as the C.C. Retirement Fund.

Saturday. Chips/curry and fruit as usual.

Before turning to the opening ceremony I have to report that this was the day when Charlie started to smoke. Charlie, most of you will know, is the green haired remote controlled mannequin worked by Malcolm which usually flies a small 2 line kite. He is a star in Malaysia even simply shaking hands. He has had a difficult festival as Malcolm had to improvise a charging system (yes; charger left at home), then repair a seized up arm. There came a time when Jeanette had to say in their room 'look at Charlie, there is smoke coming from his back'. No fire alarm but the end of his festival.

The main event is the official opening ceremony



## The Pasir Gudang International Kite Festival—George Webster

at 2pm—this year the Sultans son. Our helper was very worried about us being on time and from 11am demand that we be lined up behind our country signs by 1pm. The Sultan usually arrives just before 3pm and waiting in that sun is no joke. We have all done this before but do go back to the hotel to change into a shirt. We are asked to be in our national dress so Jeanette stands under an umbrella. We are finally lined up by 1:45, the son arrives by 2:15 and by 2:45 speeches and inspection are all over in record time.

China is this year's 'host nation' so three Chinese dragons are flown—it is amazing, given our care over here, how they tow them through the usual mass of softies and 2 liners.

I fly the Diamond Roller and let some of the locals have a go on the spirit but the flying is not very interesting until I try Karl Longbottom's grey bird kite in winds which are rather too strong and then fail so that for most of a blissful hour it is pulling the bird around while an Austrian non-Pearson Roller and 2 Japanese birds share the sky. Mention the great flying later to Peter Lynn whose reply is unsuitable as he ended up with kites in 4 trees on 2 sides of the field as the wind shifted as it went.

Get talking on the field and at a restaurant later to the Malaysian designer of the Langkawi Pointer kite (made by Premier). He has handmade 20ft versions. Notable for their single point bridle—inspired by Peter Lynn—they fly in almost anything.

Relax in my room with a beer watching T.V. and reflecting that BBC World News is that—focussing on Clinton in China and a bad crash in Slovakia—except that the Premiership programme is discussed in full. In some sense football is our greatest export, the previous Saturday I could have watched full coverage of 3 FA cu games one after the other. Little thinking of what was to come.

Sunday Very Early. At 5am it becomes clear that all is not well with the digestion. Take binding mixture. By 8am obviously I can't go to the field. Sleep the stagger to the field to collect my kites, just in time to shelter from a show-stopping tropical storm. We are saved by Jeanette who has somehow found a 4WD also containing David Gomberg and the USA group AND persuaded then to pick us up.

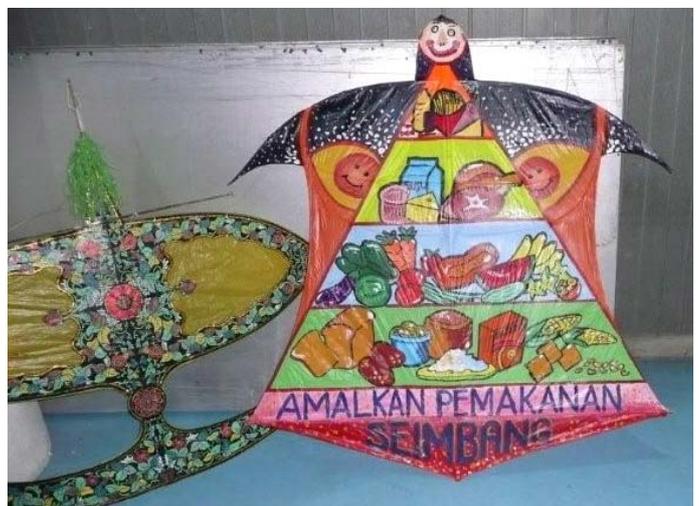
Discover that others have been afflicted who had not been at the restaurant so the fish curry provided for lunch might have been the problem. Peter Lynn collapses on the field and others are worse than I.

I return, give my apologies to the Prize giving ceremony held in the sports hall that night and sleep through to Monday am. The overseas flier prize went to Phil Macconochie—I imagine for his EO kites. They are really something as he now has several 'sircaft' configurations made out of his elliptical O's—a bit like flying lego. I've got one in the format of a Wright Flyer. He hopes to come to Margate.

Monday. Lower regions fine but some wobbling new the belt (what's new?). We go on a tour which includes a crocodile farm and a typical village. Say goodbye to fliers. Some will be at Wirrel/Bedfod, others such as Helmut Bibby (Austria) and Sami (Lebanon) never make it to the UK. There is the usual talk of other festivals—quite a few are going onto Satun in Thailand which starts next weekend. Ho Chi Min City in April is recommended. Bintula in Bornea in August is becoming popular.

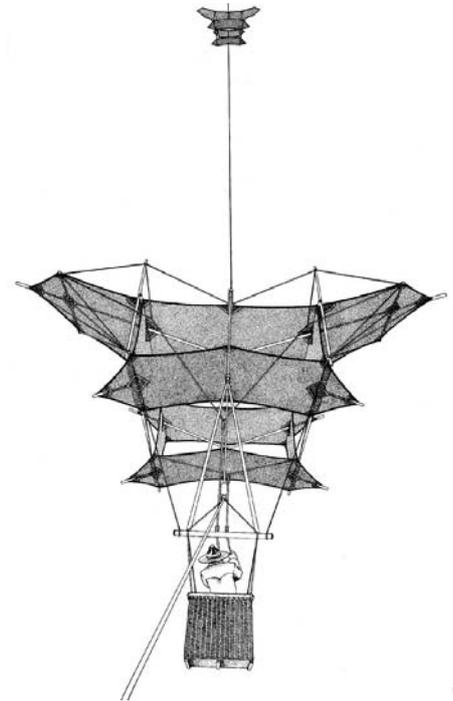
Tuesday. Simply a boring rainy day waiting to fly home that night.

Looking back there were some good new kites but most were Western—with Peter Lynn's ray the best single kite for me. And of course the artistry and craftsmanship of the wau's.



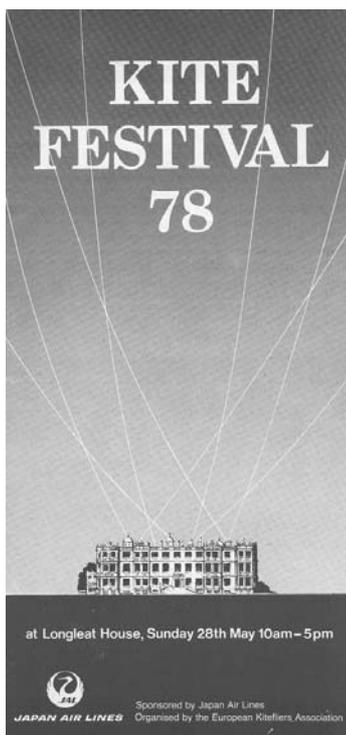
## Collecting Kite Stuff—Paul Chapman

I suppose my first contact with the aeronautical world was when I fell out of my father's car while it was crossing the runway at Luqa Airfield in Malta. It is my first real memory; the car door opening and the sensation of being airborne, albeit only for a moment. Memories of the Dakota flight out, and then the return flight three years later in 1951, have long disappeared. I do remember the Sunderland flying boats in Northern Ireland though, as well as the trips we made to the sandy west coast beaches where I could fly my orangey-yellow box kite that my father had 'won' from the RAF station stores. Visiting Catalinas used to pass our Irish loch where all sorts of contraband would be flown in from Germany. I think this is how I came to possess a strange little aeroplane kite with rapidly rotating wings. The 1960s was taken out with model aeroplanes, some of which were kited up and held on the towline until a thermal would come along and waft them away. Then, when I was 17, there was a wonderfully long three-day weekend at RAF Henlow that came to satisfactory conclusion when I soloed in a little wooden glider on my 20<sup>th</sup> launch, just like the earlier model gliders.



I spent the latter half of the Swinging Sixties getting qualified as an aeronautical engineer. It was hard work putting together the jigs for Concorde, messing with man-powered aeroplanes and controlling a huge wind tunnel (it could not be run on Sunday mornings because the power demand would ruin the Sunday roasts of the surrounding populace). It was only later, after studying at Cranfield (which produced my son Tom, a PPL and a second degree in Aerodynamics, in that order), that there was time to relax. I was then working at the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough so Samuel Franklin Cody made his presence felt, as did Kite Store in Neal Street. Every so often my boss and I would travel up to town for a meeting at the MoD. Jeff would travel first class on the train and I would go separately in the baggage carriage. We often used to walk up through Covent Garden and Neal Street and so passed the kite shop. This was where I met Nick Morse and David Turner. Nick and David, as well as Martin Lester were seriously involved in their Cody Man-lifting Kite project that culminated in the wonderful BBC film *'Something in the Wind'*. At one point I got them into the RAE to

look at the Cody stuff there (*The photo shows, from the left, me, Brian Kervell RAE Librarian, Wg.Cdr N F H Unwin RAE Museum, Nick Morse, Martin Lester and John Peyton*) and later, in 1976 I think, I arranged for David and Nick to give a hugely entertaining Cody lecture to the Royal Aeronautical Society at Kingston Polytechnic. That was where I got first sight of Jon and Gill Bloom. By that time I had bought my first kite, a small but perfectly made Edo by Tiezou Hashimoto from Kite Store, and



## Collecting Kite Stuff—Paul Chapman



had started making kites for the kids from the Pelham book. Shortly afterwards there was the 1978 kite festival at Longleat as well as Ron Moulton's BKFA kite days at Old Warden.

A lot of line has spooled off the reel since the 1970s. Kites, kite festivals, kite friendships and lots of kite fun. And kite politics and various kite stuff. I suppose it was the RAE and Cody that really sparked off my interest in the part that kites played in aeronautical history. Clive Hart (*Kites, an historical survey*) flew himself down to the RAE one day to look at some old books that I had found in the RAE library. He came to us for lunch, eyed up my own embryonic collection and gave me some good

advice. Now, and thanks to that advice, I am surrounded by quite a choice little collection of kite stuff. And along with the stuff there are some issues.

Having been part of the kite historicals for some time it has become clear to me that there are at least two views of how to manage collections of kite stuff. On the one hand there is the view that it is desirable that there should be a central holding of such stuff. This is the US Drachen model and seems to work quite well as it is currently well funded; who else could have bought almost all of the Cody collection at the 1996 Sotheby's sale? But I would question how easy it is to get hands-on access when you are this side of the pond. The alternative is to have a disparate group of collectors. Both approaches have their place and seem to work well, at least during the good times. What does worry me somewhat is what happens in the bad times? I have just heard about the sale of an important kite library (one that would match the Drachen Foundation library) from a once well known and respected US kite organisation. Unfortunately the sale was conducted as a last-minute sealed bid auction of four major lots, but where the main library contents were not declared. I would not bid on that basis but subsequently think that the buyer came away with a bargain - providing he had no kite books to start with. But the lesson is that any collection should have a 'what next' long term strategy.



George Webster and I discussed these issues last year. While we sort of know who has what, and where stuff is we recognise that we don't have any form of historical kite stuff organisation here in the UK. KSOGB does a good job by publishing what is offered to them and has been very helpful, at least to me, with informal contacts. But it is a pity we don't have any means of protecting our kite heritage, and that our heritage is consequently at the mercy of overseas collectors, OXFAM and ultimately the bin-men. Some of us, and that means the people with probably the more extensive collections, are not getting any younger so we should be prepared to face the inevitable 'what next' scenario. I think that means encouraging the younger generation and setting up some sort of network. What do you think? Perhaps, and for a starter, I could offer an 'open house' at my house in Bristol on the Friday evening before the Bristol Kite Festival as a forum for a discussion. Interested? Then please contact me on [chapmanpa@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:chapmanpa@yahoo.co.uk) and be prepared to bring along a few prize specimens for us to admire. I might even let you see my Pocock!

## International Kite Festival, Portsmouth 2009

Taking place on Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th August, with Monday 31st August reserved for free flying at Southsea Common, Portsmouth. AA signposted from all main routes.

We have a wide range of kite fliers at Portsmouth this year—some regulars and several new fliers appearing for the first time.

From the UK we have Close Encounters, Team Spectrum, Airheads, Brighton Kite Fliers, Avon Kite Fliers, Tony Cartwright, The Beccles Bunch, The Flying Squad, The Decorators and Paul Thody, with Andy King and George Webster on commentary. The timetable will be published on the web site [www.portsmouthkitefestival.org.uk](http://www.portsmouthkitefestival.org.uk).

Our Portsmouth New Discovery this year is Jose Farelo Gonzales known as Fare from a town not far from Barcelona. He specialises in custom spray painted kites such as the one seen on the cover. Peter Schmidts is also coming to Portsmouth for the first time with three other German kitefliers

Other overseas fliers include Jos Valcke (Belgium), Bernard Dingwerth (Germany), Meik Schlenger (Germany), Pedro and Estaban Gonzales (Spain), Patrizio Mariani and friends from Italy, Holland Kite Team, Fritz Groenhard (Holland), Robert Valkenburg (Holland), Ivo van Olman (Belgium), Jan van Leeuwen (Holland), Jeroen Calpaert (Belgium) and Michel Depuijdt (Belgium). From further afield we have Peter Lynn (New Zealand), Phil McConnachie (Australia) and Robert van Weers (New Zealand).

From the UK we have Close Encounters, Team Spectrum, Airheads, Brighton Kite Fliers, Avon Kite Fliers, Tony Cartwright, Hugh and Lynn Blowers, Andy King and George Webster on commentary. The timetable will be published on the web site [www.thekitesociety.org.uk](http://www.thekitesociety.org.uk).

There will be a good selection of kite traders and caterers on site as well as a selection of non-kite stalls and a craft marquee.

**Festival Auction:** There will be a short (hopefully) auction taking place Saturday evening around 8:30pm to raise funds for the festival. This will take place in the children's workshop marquee. Items for the auction gratefully received before or on the day. Everyone is welcome to attend the evening events.

**Free parking** is available for KSGB members and the pass should be displayed in your windscreen. Please photocopy the pass as required. You will be able to unload your vehicle on the site but PLEASE, once unloaded, move your car to the car park. There is NO parking around the arena. This year access to the site will be from **Clarence Parade**, through the gates opposite the Queens Hotel. We have been in-

formed that the gate will be manned enabling kitefliers access. At least this is what we have been told so far. Watch the web site for up to date details of access.

**Camping** is not officially permitted on site other than for trader security. However, it is recognised that many of you do camp and as such we have been requested to ensure that this opportunity is used only from Friday 28th August morning until Tuesday 1st September morning and is more controlled. Therefore anyone who wants to camp up at Southsea MUST request a pass from us. You need to send an S.A.E. together with your vehicle registration number. Security will then have this list and will move on ANYONE without a pass and outside of the dates above. The car pass below is NOT sufficient for camping. Send to P O Box 2274, Gt Horkesley, Colchester CO6 4AY.

For details of local accommodation please contact the Portsmouth Tourist Centre on 023 9283 6722, [www.visitportsmouth.co.uk](http://www.visitportsmouth.co.uk). The University Halls of Residence, where the invited kitefliers stay, can be booked online at [www.port.ac.uk/holidays](http://www.port.ac.uk/holidays) or call 023 9284 4884.

This years feature display suggested by Tony "TC" Cartwright is Sticks and Tails. This new section within the Portsmouth programme is to celebrate "Thirty Years of the Kite Society". He writes:

My I first congratulate Jon and Gill on keeping the Passion alive, to always moving forward with the news, to finding new designers, but also reflecting on what has gone before.

Stephen Hoath and George Webster recently mentioned that when the wind drops and the soft kites descend, there doesn't seem to be the Flat sparred kites to fill the sky.

At Portsmouth I invite you all to bring your kites with or without tails, Della Portas, Genki's, Rokkuku's, Hexagons etc. Most children say isn't a kite unless it has sticks and a tail. My not so hidden motive is to invite Gill Bloom to fly with us, bringing some of her fantastic kites.

So join us in the arena for this Celebration of the Kite Society. If you want to send me some details on the kites you may be bringing, please e-mail me at [tc@rokmaster.freemove.co.uk](mailto:tc@rokmaster.freemove.co.uk) it will help to brief George and Andy.

If you don't have a kite to fly see me on the day we will be looking for flyers.

Look at [www.portsmouthkitefestival.org.uk](http://www.portsmouthkitefestival.org.uk) for up to date information.



# Kitefliers Car Pass

**Portsmouth International Kite Festival**  
**29th, 30th and 31st August 2009**  
**Southsea Common, Portsmouth**

This pass entitles you to park, free of charge, in the festival car park. Parking is NOT permitted anywhere else on the flying site without permission of the organiser

## Events News

### **NORTH HAMPSHIRE KITER'S JOLLY UPS** **Aug 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> 2009**

It's almost that time again! Come and join us for the 5<sup>th</sup> Jolly Up, and another FUN Weekend of Kite Flying for Kite Fliers! The site is located in the village of Cliddesden, just south of Basingstoke (not far from J6 of the M3).

On site camping is available from Friday evening onwards (£7 per tent/camper for the weekend).

For an ADDED BIT OF FUN, we will have a Competition for Garden Produce, which can cover fruit, veg, plants, anything really. Show us what you've been growing, you may get a prize! The Saturday evening BBQ worked well again, so we will do the same format. (£6.50 and bring your plate and cutlery as normal please!). There will again be an impromptu BBQ for those interested on the Friday evening, and Bacon rolls are available both mornings.

The Auction will be held on the Saturday evening, and any donations gratefully received before or on the week-end. Roy's Refreshment Tent will be open for Business, normal rules apply..

For further info, please either contact: Roy on 07778 352825 or Colin on 07770 338419 or e-mail [roy@kitesup.co.uk](mailto:roy@kitesup.co.uk)

Please Note: this is NOT a Buggy/Boarding weekend, thank-you.

### **June Webster Kite Festival -15th &16th August.**

George and I have for sometime been looking for a venue to hold a festival/fly-in the beautiful area of Teesdale where we live, and thanks to the support of one of our local pubs who have have offered us the use of their 3 fields we can go ahead. As most kite flyers will know, George Webster's wife June, died of cancer at the end of last year. This kite festival will be a held as a tribute to June.

We have already had confirmation from of some of the UK leading kite makers and flyers and hope that some of you may also be able to join us for the weekend. We have no sponsorship but can offer free camping, car parking and kite flying in an area of outstanding natural beauty. We are also organising a meal & get together in the pub on Saturday evening. (£10 per head)

Site details - The Moorcock Inn, Hilltop, Eggleston, Middleton-in-Teesdale, Co. Durham. DL12 0AU [www.the-moorcock.co.uk/](http://www.the-moorcock.co.uk/)

For those needing accommodation there are lots a B&B locally.

If you would like to attend or need more detail please e-mail me [malcolm.goodman@virgin.net](mailto:malcolm.goodman@virgin.net)

## 3rd Big Sky International Kite Festival—Margate

Taking place on the 19th and 20th September the skies above Main Sands, Margate, Kent, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Part of the main road will be closed to traffic with various craft stalls, an Italian market, funfair and kite stalls on site.

Organised as a joint venture between the Margate Town Partnership and The Kite Society of Great Britain, the kite festival promises to be a great day out with a vast variety of scheduled displays and free flying. Along with the spectacle in the sky, there will be a large selection of specialist kite traders where you can purchase a kite and make your own mark on the sky. There will be the normal arena events plus the final round of the STACK Individual Rokkaku Challenge.

### Guest Fliers

We have an impressive selection of kitefliers already confirmed for the festival from near and far. This includes:

From the UK—The Flying Squad, Team Spectrum, Avon Kite Fliers, Brighton Kite Fliers, Andrew and Kathleen Beattie and Jet Lewis (Son of the Winds). We also have interest from Paul Thody with his Flexifoil train and the Beccles Bunch.

From further away—Peter Lynn, Phil McConnochie, Robert van Weers, Jos Valcke, Pedro Gonzales, Janneke Groen, Jeroen Calpert, Ivo van Olman, Jan van Leeuwen, Bernard Dingwerth, Michel Depuijdt, plus others who have not confirmed.

Visiting the U.K. for the first time is Walter, Conny and Stefan Bloem from Chaoskiter on Tour, Germany. Specialising in large inflatables some of his more notable creations are character from Asterix the Gaul such as Asterix him self, Obelix and Cacophanix. He also has a number of superhero bears such as SpiderBear and SuperBear.

### Camping

We have arranged for a dedicated kitefliers camp site. This is situated at Hartsdown Park, All Saints Avenue, Margate. 500m from the kite festival site. Booking is required in advance and will be **£5.00 per unit per night**. Camping is available from **6pm Friday until Monday 11am**. Facilities are toilets, showers and water. There is also a leisure centre on site for those who want to go there instead of fly kites.

If you want to book then please send details of Name, registration number (if applicable), number of units and type (tent, camper etc), nights required and payment. Payable to The Kite Society and sent to P O Box 2274, Gt Horkesley, Colchester CO6 4AY.

### Car Parking

Due to the imminent redevelopment of last years car park we are still working on where the parking will be—**BUT THERE WILL BE A CAR PARK** within

200m of the site.

If you want a car pass you need to send us an S.A.E. We will send the car passes out nearer the date with the details of the location.

### Evening Event

There will be a kitefliers gathering at Nayland Rock Hotel, Margate on Saturday evening 19th September. There is a pay bar and food will be available to purchase. We will have a kite quiz like last year—questions are being set by George Webster, so get your teams ready and read those books.

### Accommodation

There are a number of hotels in the area. For information and booking contact the Margate Visitors Information Centre 01843 297843. Email: [tourism@thanet.gov.uk](mailto:tourism@thanet.gov.uk).

More information and the timetable will appear on our website nearer the date [www.bigskykitefestival.org.uk](http://www.bigskykitefestival.org.uk).

**Hope to see you there.**



## Bristol Kite Festival

### Bristol International Festival of Kites & Air Creations

Saturday 12 & Sunday 13 September 2009  
11.00am - 5.00pm, Ashton Court Estate

#### Introduction

Fingers crossed we will be flying high on 12 & 13 September but as you may have heard we are currently running a campaign to bridge a significant funding gap this year. We are appealing to the kite community, local businesses and individuals to become 'friends of the festival' with packages ranging from £20 - £1000. We have already had a fantastic response and support from flyers all over the world with donations and offers of kites to raffle & auction – we do however have some way to go so please if you can help support us in any way please visit our website [www.festival.org.uk](http://www.festival.org.uk). or contact Avril on [kites@abc-pr.co.uk](mailto:kites@abc-pr.co.uk) or call 0117 977 2002. *[Some details can be found at the end of these pages].*

So ... assuming we are on....please do come to Bristol this year and bring along your kites, windsocks, inflatables, ground displays or sky junk to fly either in our special arena spots or generally in the free flying areas to add to the Festival atmosphere. If your kites are really spectacular or unusual let us know in advance and send in pictures so that we can build them into the Festival programme and pre-publicity.

#### **Guests:**

We are still liaising with various flyers and clubs as well as looking to share costs of some long distance flyers with Margate and/or Portsmouth.

But so far for starters we have interest from Phil McCornachie from Australia, Robert van Weers & Peter Lynn from New Zealand, Marco Casadio and Claudio & Caterina Cappelli from Italy, Gerard Clement from France and from Holland Ivo van Olmen, Jan van Leeuwink and Janneke Groen. Watch this space as there will be others so as the line up and programme gets firmed up this will be posted on the festival website ([www.kite-festival.org.uk](http://www.kite-festival.org.uk))

From the UK we also hope to welcome back many of the usual suspects. To name a few: Carl Robertshaw and the Scratch Bunnies, Andrew and Kathleen Beattie, Team Spectrum, Anne Harris (with her wonderful air creations) not to mention local talent of Nick James and Martin Lester.

A special feature this year will be celebrations of two important Bristol favourites – the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of local club Avon Kite Flyers and the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of Martin Lester's iconic legs. There will be arena tributes to both and if you have any of Martin's legs please bring them along as it would be great to see how many legs we can get in the air at any one time!!

Within the arena programme there will as usual be opportunities for kite societies and clubs to contribute to items such as artistic kites, themed slots such as festival of the sea and of course the usual Rok battles (no Kevlar please), both days, so do bring along your individual and team kites ready to enter.

Alongside the arenas there will be the usual line up of kite traders and Festival food and drink, a licensed bar, a

range of air sculptures and inflatables and some children's entertainments.

#### **Festival Charity:**

This year we are supporting Marie Curie Cancer Care which is a cause close to many people's hearts. Their volunteers will be helping with the children's workshops and as their logo is a daffodil we have an idea for a charity arena slot called Bristol in Bloom if you have any flower related kites!!

#### **Saturday night party**

As has become a tradition at Bristol there will be the on site kite flyers' Saturday evening party under cover in the large marquee with the usual excellent hot meal and bar which will be followed by the Festival auction. Afterwards there will hopefully be the usual wonderful fireworks and some night flying. If anyone can contribute to night flying we would love to hear from you.

After rave reviews of last year's Indian feast meal we are again going with Spice up your Life. Tickets for the meal cover a choice of meat or vegetarian dishes and a desert. Prices have been pegged for the ninth year running at £10 per adult and £5 for a child (under 12 please!!).

Those not eating are more than welcome to come along and generally join in the party and make use of the bar and don't miss the Festival Auction – which promises to be really special this year.

We have to confirm catering numbers the week beforehand and if you leave it to the day you may well find tickets have run out so please reserve your meal tickets in advance by contacting the Festival office. Either pay by cheque on application or you can pay and pick up your tickets on the day from the Information tent but you need to collect these by 3pm on the day or they will be released for others to buy as we ALWAYS run out!!

#### **Accommodation**

Guess what Redwood Lodge has changed hands again – not much of a surprise to anyone who stayed their last year!! It is now part of the Bespoke Hotel Group. We have again negotiated a group rate, and ring fenced an allocation of 30 rooms. This is the nearest hotel to the site and the car park can take vans, cars with top boxes etc. These rates will be held for reservations made before 31<sup>st</sup> July 2009.

Costs are £75 per night for a double/twin including bed & breakfast

Bookings should be made direct with Redwood Lodge on tel 01275 393901 or email [info.redwoodlodge@bespokehotels.com](mailto:info.redwoodlodge@bespokehotels.com) and mention you are booking as part of the Kite Festival.

If we get any other hotel deals offered these will be posted on the festival website [www.kite-festival.org](http://www.kite-festival.org)

If you want to look at other hotel options try the Bristol Tourist Information Centre Accommodation hotline 0845 408 0474 or try [www.visitbristol.co.uk](http://www.visitbristol.co.uk)

#### **Camping**

Following positive feedback from last year we are again

## Bristol Kite Festival

running with camping at the Cotham Park Rugby Club ground. This is literally a 5-10 minute walk from site (depending on your speed!). The Club can accommodate camping for tents and/or caravans, and provide secure parking, showers and real toilets! 'Above ground' BBQs are also permitted, as are pets (as long as you clean up after them – this is their playing field!).

Cost is £15 for 1 night, £25 for 2 and £30 for 3 nights. You **must** pre register so if you are interested please either email your details to [kites@abc-pr.co.uk](mailto:kites@abc-pr.co.uk) and put 'Rugby Club camping' as the subject or send a letter to festival office, 5 Lilymead Ave, Bristol BS4 2BY confirming your arrival and departure dates/times, name(s) of camper(s), contact email, phone and address, number of tents/caravans. Payment will be made to the Rugby Club directly and will be collected on arrival. ( see [www.cothamparkrfc.co.uk](http://www.cothamparkrfc.co.uk))

### Parking

To help cover costs, such as our site fee and event licence, we are again asking flyers for a contribution to car parking. On arrival any flyers displaying a valid festival pass will be asked to pay just £3.50 per day, (instead of £7 for general public).

To get your car pass please apply in writing with SAE, **BUT SEND NO MONEY** to: **Festival Office, 5 Lilymead Avenue, Bristol BS4 2BY** Passes will be issued by on a first come first served basis up to a maximum of 500. (Any kite flyers who are AKF members will have received details in the recent AKF Newsletter asking their members to reply separately) The Festival will also be running a system of dropping off passes for those with particularly heavy loads of kites and kit so again mention this in your car parking request.

On behalf of the Festival team we are looking forward to seeing you soon.

Any queries please contact Avril Baker or Lynn Gibbons at:  
Festival Office, 5 Lilymead Avenue, Bristol BS4 2BY  
Tel: 0117 977 2002 Fax: 0117 977 4255  
[www.kite-festival.org](http://www.kite-festival.org) or e-mail [kites@abc-pr.co.uk](mailto:kites@abc-pr.co.uk)

### Bristol Appeal.

**Background:** This year is proving really tough for everyone, and businesses and organisations are just not spending on marketing or sponsoring events. The bottom line is that to go ahead we need to raise at least £10,000 to fund essential on site infrastructure and cover the costs of flyers and participants - or else we may have to cancel.

We have launched a special fundraising campaign aimed at businesses, the kite industry, kite enthusiasts/clubs/societies and the public. We are fortunate to have strong local, national and international support for the Festival, and hope that by offering opportunities for businesses and individuals we can raise much needed funds, and at the same time supporters can benefit from being a part of our Festival.

The Festival was started by Martin Lester, myself and another colleague and is still organised and run by a small team of local flyers on a voluntary basis. It has be-

come a major event in the South West and is well known within the international kite world. The Festival pulls in crowds of over 30,000 people and last year we had peaks of over 2,200 daily hits to the Festival website and were thrilled that both BBC Blue Peter and Channel 4's Scrap Heap Challenge filmed over the weekend.

### So how you can help!

We have three packages for businesses, organisations and/or individuals: Gold (£1,000), Silver (£500) and Bronze (£50). In addition, local people are invited to get behind the event by becoming a Friend of the Festival for a donation of £20. In return for their donation all supporters will receive a commemorative Bristol Blue Glass kite-themed coaster being created especially for the Festival.

Supporters who take up one of the top three packages can benefit from promotional and corporate opportunities providing publicity and profile in the run up to the Festival, and also have the chance to get involved during the weekend. Gold supporters will have their own branded Japanese kite made and flown in the kite fighting battles and have an opportunity to fly some of the stars of the show. Silver supporters will see their names flying high on an air banner attached to one of the large special shape kites. Bronze supporters will be thanked publicly at the festival and have their names included on the Bristol 2009 Serpent kite which will be displayed and flown at the Festival and afterwards by Avon Kite Flyers Club.

I am contacting you to see if you can help support us. I would also be grateful if you could spread the word and forward this message on to any of your friends or contacts who might also be interested. Would you also be able to post this message on your club newsletter or add it to your website if you have one?

We have given ourselves a month to see if we can secure some support. If there isn't a realistic chance of covering our costs or underwriting the event in some way, we will have to make the difficult decision to cancel this year's Festival, in which case we would of course refund any pledges made. Cancelling would be a huge disappointment to all our flyers, exhibitors and our new nominated charity Marie Curie Cancer Care, as well as the many members of the public who come along every year and join in the fun. We are determined to do everything we can to go ahead this year and also to make it to 2010 - which will not only mark our 25th year but also give us the chance to join in the exciting celebrations for the Bristol Year of Flight."

If you can help, please visit [www.kite-festival.org.uk/friends-of-the-festival](http://www.kite-festival.org.uk/friends-of-the-festival) or make a cheque payable to: Bristol Kite Festival and post to c/o Festival Office, 5 Lilymead Avenue, Bristol BS4 2BY. If the Festival is cancelled all donations will be refunded.

For any sponsorship enquiries or fundraising ideas please do contact me

Thank you very much i

Avril Baker  
email: [kites@abc-pr.co.uk](mailto:kites@abc-pr.co.uk)  
tel: 0117 977 2002

# 42 ROMAN CANDLE 93.



The Journal of the Bearly Made It Skydive Squad, The International Brother and Sisterhood of Parachuting Fauna and the U.K. Ted Devils. As ever Mindless Drivel content exceeds 100%, but there again, WYSIWYG, NO MORE, NO LESS.....

## Paras can't jump, we don't have enough planes

ONE IN THREE BRITISH PARATROOPERS IS NOT QUALIFIED TO JUMP FROM AN AIRCRAFT DUE TO A SEVERE SHORTAGE OF SUITABLE AIRCRAFT AVAILABLE FOR TRAINING PURPOSES. A SITUATION THAT HAS BEEN CALLED YET ANOTHER SERIOUS EMBARRASSMENT FOR THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, IN THE WAKE OF EQUIPMENT SHORTAGES.

Seven hundred of the Army's 2400 men in the 16 Air Assault Brigade are not qualified to jump and Commanders are also concerned that even elite forces such as the SAS are struggling to get their men qualified. In the past year, three special forces jump courses and eight basic programmes have been cancelled, leaving three hundred recruits on hold for their first parachute course, whilst the qualifications of another four hundred and fifty personnel had quite simply had lapsed.

Paratroopers must make at least one jump every two years. If they do not, they must take a course of five jumps to requalify. Basic parachutists make seven jumps to earn their wings. The lack of aircraft is proving to be really bad at the moment with only eighteen of the thirtynine strong Hercules fleet used for training are fit for purpose.

The RAF have had to retask training aircraft onto operations which take priority but the loss of three Herkybirds due to enemy action in Iraq and the Stan, coupled with the unserviceability of others means that even the RAF is struggling to fill their operational tasks, let alone worry about training duties. The Commander of the 3rd Bn The Parachute Regiment said that nineteen of twentytwo training sorties had been cancelled and so far there had been no courses this year. He also went on to say that lack of training was a serious and long running issue which the Ministry of Defence has consistently failed to address.

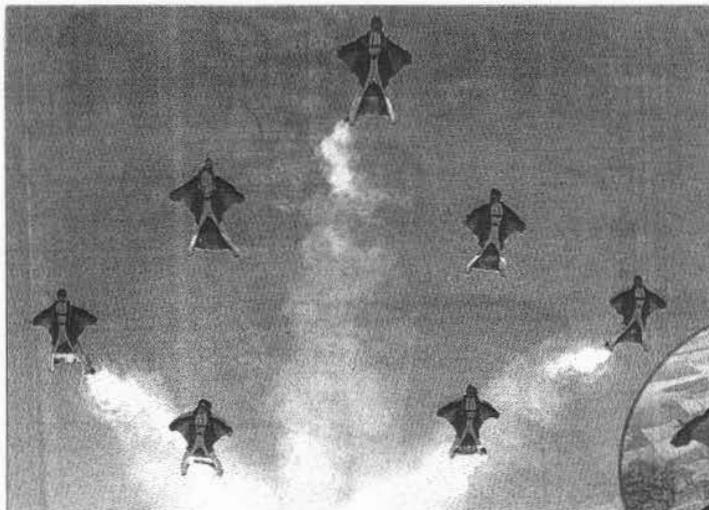
The situation has also been compounded by the disasterous Airbus A400M programme, this aircraft is supposedly the Hercules replacement, and was due in service this year, but in common with lots of other things sucking up vast amounts of taxpayers money, no in service date has yet been set.

### SO, BE AWARE, ALL YOU FURRY WOTSITS OF A PARACHUTING SOFT CUDDLY TOY PERSUASION.

As you are more qualified on averedge, than any current Paraless Trooper, them beady eyed buuggers at the MOD may decide to use your expertise and call you up to be a Brown Job on the cheap as it were, well cheap that is for them, but not for you as it will cost you an arm and a leg to equip yourself for Brown Job service as theres no juicy fiddles for squaddies, unlike them dodgy barsteward Members of Parliament, who we are led to believe are so hard up that they are forced to charge the Taxpayers for pornographic films and other delectable items deemed to be essential to the lifestyle that goes with the job, cor dont yer heart bleed for them put upon Swine with their snouts in the Trough,



# Human Red Arrows



markable and apart from one or two mid to be expected performing this closely safe, unlike the earlier versions which 1930's and over the years led to quite a few to lucking out and buying the farm.



SINCE THE RECENT BEARY BALLOON AND CHUTE CAPERS ON THE EDGE OF SPACE, HUME SKYDIVERS HAVE REALLY BEEN ON THE BACKFOOT.

Desperately trying to regain the lead from the furry wotsit onslaught (they'll be lucky) the long suffering humes have come up with formation Wingsuits, where they jump from 13,000 ft, perform a few choreographed manoeuvres complete with smoke canisters, then deploying their jolly old rags, to hopefully land safely.

Called the Topgun Team, the humes spokesperson said that the wingsuits give the sensation of flying which is quite re-air collisions which are the modern wingsuits are first appeared in the skyflying pioneers

## ON WITH THE SHOW

**IN WHAT PASSES FOR A PACK AND HAS BEEN NAILED FIRMLY TO A NON SPECIES SPECIFIC CUDDLY OF THE USUALSOFT CUDDLY TOY PERSUASION SO WHATS NEXT?.**

Now you have to Bomb it. Yes this can be done on yer Tod, but its much better to have as large a gang of hijits to help, all ready to throw in their eightpences, and to do the whole schmear in front of as many spectators as possible. The overall effect when the fauna decides to throw in a go wrong is much better.

O.K. so it has to be on yer Tod. Pick a Kite from your vast collection, and yes bigger is better, but it can be any type of Kite. Hammer in a ground anchor. Run out about three to four hundred feet of line and attach Kite. Now, with one of those pipe cleaners you purchased earlier, about 20 ft down from the Kite, wrap one end of the pipe cleaner very tightly around the Kiteline then feed the free end through the faunas suspension strap D ring then fold the free end of the cleaner loosly a couple of times over the Kiteline.

Making sure that the static line is attached above the tightly wound end of the cleaner and any safety clip on the pack to prevent premature deployment is removed launch Kite and with any luck the fauna will be aloft ready to do the biz. If everything goes ticketyboo, you should have enough time to saunter back to the ground anchor, where you can apply a few jerks to the Kiteline, which will enable the pipe cleaner to let go resulting in a perfect drop.

Mind you, as with everything, there is vast scope for complete and utter cockups. The fauna may have decided to put a crimp in your day by spinning around or rolling around the Kiteline, anything in fact, so as to put as much egg on your face as possible, and be warned, the little sods are well into this and its almost guaranteed that the swine will always do this in front of as large as possible crowd of spectators, it goes with the job.

If after all this you still want to be a dropnik wait till you get bitten by the droppers, multidroppers and ferries, may the lord have mercy and all that.....



# TEDDY KICKED OFF JET

ONCE UPON A TIME THERE USED TO BE LARGE AMOUNTS OF WHAT WAS KNOWN IN THE TRADE AS COMMON SENSE. THESE DAYS HOWEVER COMMON SENSE HAS BEEN THROWN OUT AND ITS ALMOST LIKE THEY HAVE DECIDED TO THROW THE BABY OUT WITH THE BATHWATER.

An angry mum recently blasted easyJet for banning her six year old daughters teddy bear from a flight. Tearful Alba Apreciado-Peris was told her beloved bear Bebe was classed as excess baggage.

And her mother Amparo Peris- Bordes was asked to pay £9 to have the bear stowed in the hold on the flight from Glasgow to Stanstead.

She refused and instead posted the bear home to Willingham, Cambs. Amparo

a Spanish born publisher said she was stunned when the woman at the check in counter said Alba could'nt have Bebe the bear in the cabin with her as it counted as an extra bag. She went on to say that she found it hard to understand, never mind trying to explain to a confused little girl.

Little Alba did'nt like the thought of her teddy alone in the big dark hold, but quite liked the idea of the bear sorting mail on the way home. An airline spokesman apologised and said they would refund the postage and wait for it said that a common sense approach should have been taken..... you could'nt make it up.



## Brave Bungee Jumping Bear

DAVE WEBSTER OF THE SOLENT KITE FLYERS SAYS THERE WAS MUCH EXCITEMENT RECENTLY WHEN BARTIE BRISTLE A LOCAL CELEBRITY TED DID A BUNGEE JUMP FOR THE CYSTIC FIBROSIS TRUST... The venue for this jump was on Beaulieu High street and before any of you hard cases out there start Poo, Pooing, no this jump was'nt on the scale of a dropoff from El Capitan or the north wall of the Eiger, the local anklebiters thought it

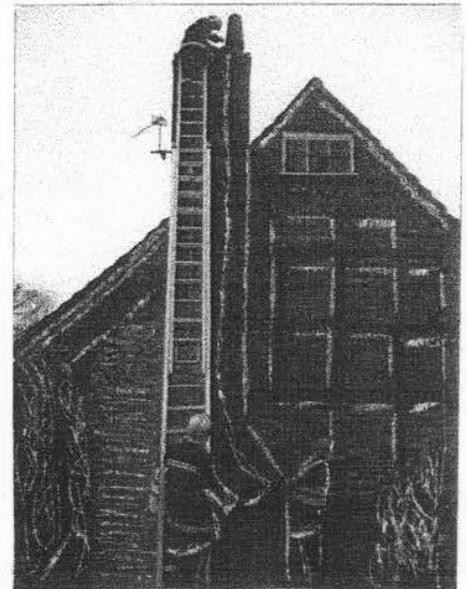


was pretty cool.

For those of you who are not familiar with Beaulieu, its a picture post card village on the solent long connected with shipbuilding and well worth a visit, Anyway, if Bartie is a celeb there more power to his elbow.

Right, lets cut to the chase, Bartie in oversize tee-shirt and wearing what appears to be a wooly Humpty Dumpty hat on his bonce was assisted to the top of the chimney stack of the cottage opposite Bear It In Mind which we assume is a local Teddy Bear emporium, by members of the Beaulieu fire brigade and cheered on his jump by children from the village primary school as well as

local traders and visitors. The big bounce was engineered by local business women, JulieTatchell and Amanda Middleditch in response to an invitation from an ogre who apparently resides in the New Forest, to represent the aforesaid New Forest as part of a Nationwidein support of the Caharity type mega jump. It was said that the ogre called Jeff did his bit off of Bognor Pier,see ogres can swim,Bartie was brave, only faceplaned the chimney once and hey Mr Webster is'nt about time The Solent Mob introduced Bartie to a nice big Delta and a jolly old Rag, show him the real meaning of life in the fast lane..... Not sure how much dosh old Bartie raised, its just nice to know about another Bear willing to do his bit for a good cause.



Fire Officers in attendance as Bartie Bristle makes his daring jump

So, Ogres do exist, Hmm, seems like it, Sounds a bit far fetched if you ask me. This one can apparently swim, On yer Bike, you're having a laugh, Nope, I've even heard that he wears the full SCUBA kit as well, Get stuffed, you'll be telling me next he wears a parachute as well, Oh, Yes, just to be on the safe side of course.....



Solo record ... Guy

# Youngest skydiver is Guy, 16

**WELL NOW THERES A THING WE NEVER EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT AND ITS A SUREFIRE BET THAT NOT A LOT OF YOU KNEW THAT AGE THING RE SKYDIVING.**

Schoolboy Guy Wells became Britains youngest skydiver when he jumped 15,000ft out of a plane just two days after turning 16. Guy had to wait for his birthday to be old enough to make his first tandem jump attached to an instructor.

Within 48 hours he completed a course of seven jumps to become qualified to make solo freefall jumps. He then made the record breaking jump on his at speeds of upto 120mph after packing his own parachute. Guy who trained at his local airfield in Dunkeswell in Devon, said it was quite scary, but it was the best birthday present ever.

His instructor Jason Farrant said that it was a fantastic achievement in such a short time, but that Guy literally flew through his course.....

**HMM, SO HUME JOLLY OLD RAG STUFFERS HAVE TO BE 16 BEFORE THEY CAN DO A PARACHUTE JUMP, TANDEM OR NOT.** Whoops, we'd better not put it around too much that along with underage binge boozing, them

furry bleeding wotsits are well into underage skydiving. Holy cow , wait till the P.C. nanny state gets a load of that, can you imagine the headlines? And should the Plods find out that a lot of them are sporting Accrington Stanley Intercity Firm tattoos why the bunny huggers will never get over the shock.

**TIMOTHY TREADWELL SYNDROME SUFFERER BITTEN IN BERLIN,WELL WHAT DID SHE EXPECT.....**

Maybe we should not be too harsh on another in a long line of deluded individuals who seem to think that real bears are exactly like those of a soft cuddly toy persuasion, only somewhat bigger. A woman who jumped into the Polar Bears enclosure at Berlin Zoo recently, because she wanted to bathe with the Bear, was very lucky to only be bitten once, before being rescued. Talk about the old saying, "More out than in"

**AS IT HAPPENS IT MUST BE ALMOST A YEAR SINCE WE HEARD RUMOURS ABOUT A RADIO CONTROLLED PARACHUTE FOR FAUNA BEING UP AND RUNNING.**

Thinking along the lines of it wont be long before we can give the full details we must confess that we are deep in mushroom territory, you know,kept in the dark and fed you know what as regards this. Nevertheless as soon as we get the full griff, if ever,we will let you know all about it.

**TOO GOOD TO MISS, OLD PARA RE-ENACTS D-DAY JUMP WITH THE RED DEVILS, AGED 84.**

Some of you may be thinking why so much about humes in a parafauna journal. Why? because its worthy of note, in fact its quite historic. Jock Hutton was serving with 13 Para in 1944 aged 19 and was dropped on to the Ranville D.Z. where a ferocious fight took place before Ranville was liberated. Jock was wounded during the battle but survived the war.

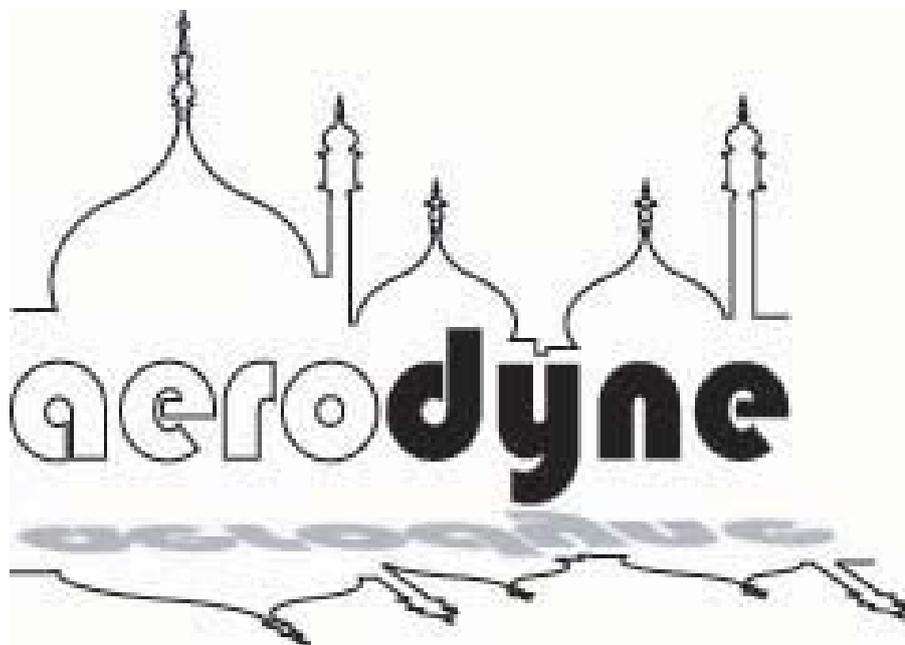
Jock was invited by the Parachute Regiment Display Team the famous Red Devils, to take part in a tribute jump, albeit a tandem descent which went off without a hitch, for Jock it was as he says an honour and for the Red Devils, their C/O Major Paul Blair said Having a D-Day veteran jump with us was inspiring andhumbling,and Jock gave little evidence of any nerves, he landed smoothly, jumped up, clamped his famous Maroon Para Beret on his head and was quickly on parade.



**AS EVER ITS THE YOU KNOW WHAT TO THE YOU KNOW WHERE C/O THE BORING OLD FART.....AT THE TEDDYTORIAL.** 48 Laurel Lane, West Drayton, Middx, UB7.7TY. In what will always be **ENGLAND** no matter how much those Traitors try to undermine it.

Alright how many of you moat owning Teddybears who do a bit of parachuting on the Q.T. claim the full amount for a dredging session, you could be in trouble if you exceed the E.U. fishing quotas in your moat. Maybe you should put in a claim for a few more bags of horse poo for your twenty second residence.

Bear, Some of your readers are a little bit peeved by your attitude to our noble and upright politicians who do a lot for very little reward and are portrayed as having their snouts in the trough.



**Brighton Kite Festival**  
**11th - 12 July 2009**  
**Stanmer Park**  
**Brighton**

**THE NEWS LETTER FOR THE BRIGHTON KITE FLYERS**

## **KNOW YOUR SMOZ FROM YOUR OZ/YDS AND YOUR OZ/YDS FROM YOUR G/M2**

For years I unsuccessfully searched for fabrics of the correct weight to make kite designs that had appeared in print, I simply could not find light enough fabric. However, after I started working in the plastic film industry and acquired the ability to convert between grams per square metre and ounces per square yard in my head ( $1 \text{ oz/yd}^2 = 33.9 \text{ g/m}^2$ ), I started to twig that there was something awry with the fabric specifications in these designs. I received further revelations and insight into the problem whilst chatting with a yachting friend about acquiring scrap racing sails as a source for kite material, particularly light weight spinnakers:

Since much of the fabric we use in kite making comes from the sailmaking industry it was only logical that sailmakers measures should creep into kite designs either through the ignorance of the kite designers where they replicated what they were told or through an over understanding which led to the assumption that others had the same knowledge, thus we find plans that call for 0.4oz, 0.5oz, 0.75oz and even 1.5oz fabric, but try and find 13.6 g/m<sup>2</sup> fabric (0.4 oz/yd<sup>2</sup>) and you will come back empty handed.

For reasons of tradition, Spinnaker Sails are often referred to by a generic weight i.e. 0.4oz, 0.5oz, 0.75oz and 1.5oz. (Recognise those

numbers?), but the problem for those not in the know is that these are not the actual weights of the sails nor of the fabric they are made from but refer to the weight of the fabric before finishing. However to complicate things further sailors and sailmakers alike have adopted the figures to describe bands of finished cloth weights used in sail construction, thus:

Spinnaker Weight (oz)	Finished Fabric Weight (smoz)
0.4	0.66 - 0.75
0.5	0.82 - 0.90
0.75	0.960 - 1.075
1.5	1.175 - 1.795

At this point you are potentially either thinking there is a typo or asking your self what on earth is a 'smoz'.? Well let me explain, the 'smoz' or Sailmakers' Ounce is the weight in ounces of a Sailmakers' Yard (smyd) of fabric, a smyd being 36" by 28.5". The 36" is obvious as it is a yard but why 28.5"? Simple, at the time the measure came about, 28.5" was the widest standard loom that was

available for sailcloth manufacture and became for a time the standard width for sailcloth, thus we have smoz being the weight in ounces of a yard of fabric cut from a standard 28.5" wide roll, all very logical when it was devised but not very useful when fabric typically comes on standard 150cm wide rolls and is rated in g/m<sup>2</sup>. With this knowledge obtaining the conversion factors from smoz to oz/yd<sup>2</sup> and thence to g/m<sup>2</sup> is straight forward:  $1 \text{ smoz} = 1.263 \text{ oz/yd}^2 = 42.828 \text{ g/m}^2$ . This in turn enables the expansion of the original table to give: Suddenly things are now a lot more straight forward and so when building a kite which requires 0.4oz fabric instead of a fruitless search for fabric which weighs 13.6g/m<sup>2</sup>, one is searching for fabrics in the 28.70-31.12g/m<sup>2</sup> range which are much more easily found and that 40g/m<sup>2</sup> fabric you have doesn't seem as heavy as it did, in that it falls in between 0.5oz and 0.75oz ranges instead of being the 1.18 oz you thought it was.

Guy Reynolds

Spinnaker Weight (oz)	Finished Fabric Weight		
	(smoz)	oz/yd <sup>2</sup>	g/m <sup>2</sup>
0.4	0.66 - 0.75	0.83 - 0.95	28.70 - 31.12
0.5	0.82 - 0.90	1.03 - 1.13	35.12 - 38.55
0.75	0.960 - 1.075	1.21 - 1.35	41.12 - 46.04
1.5	1.175 - 1.795	1.48 - 2.26	50.33 - 76.89

# NOT FLYING KITES IN SCOTLAND

We were not going to Scotland to fly kites, so we wouldn't need to take any with us, would we?

Both the car and our schedule were already packed to capacity. Our short Easter break north of the border was primarily to visit with Andrew's family and catch up with old school friends. We were also hoping, time permitting, to get in a spot of family history research and Sandra wanted to do some sightseeing. So, there was definitely no point trying to pack any kites. We took five!

Well, we thought, the grandchildren might get a kick out of the pants we'd made in the Karl Longbottom workshop. And, if there was an opportunity to fly the pants, we might also be able to try out our new roks which hadn't yet had their first proper fly. And then there is the emergency kite – a Lidl special. A kite so unsatisfying to fly that it never makes it into the kite bag and is, therefore, always in the car.

Our first opportunity to fly came a couple of days into our break. A free evening presented itself so we took Andrew's grandkids to the local park. We were right – they loved the pants. We even attracted an audience and were filmed on someone's mobile phone. And we discovered how handy small children are for retrieving fallen kites and long launches.

Our next kiting opportunity came two days later. A morning at the science-based attraction, Our Dynamic Earth, was followed by a picnic on top of Arthur's Seat, the volcanic hill overlooking Edinburgh. While everyone ate and relaxed on a grassy slope overlooking Dunsapie Loch, admiring the view, Andrew attempted the Lidl special. We sunned ourselves under the uncharacteristically warm April sky and watched him getting hot under the collar as he battled the gusty breezes.

The problem was, he announced, that we were in a dip, surrounded on three sides by steep banks. We would be much better off somewhere flatter. How about the coast? How about Crammond?

Everyone was keen. Crammond is a picture-postcard village nestling at the mouth of the River Almond where it joins the Firth of Forth, with 200 year old step gabled

whitewashed buildings rising uphill from waterfront. Anyone not wanting to fly, could enjoy the picturesque surroundings, take a walk along the causeway to Crammond Island or sample the hospitality of the Crammond Inn.

Andrew was right: the wind at Crammond was considerably better, making it easier to keep the kites aloft. Soon everyone wanted to try. The new roks which we were looking forward to trying were eagerly commandeered. Even the Lidl special found an enthusiast as 11-year-old Connor demonstrated an ability with it which we haven't achieved, before or since. We found ourselves with nothing left to fly. Why had we only brought five kites?

Back at base, we wondered where we might get more kites. The demise of Airborne Kites in Brighton meant our kite-making supplies were almost out. We also had not been able to pick up a replacement line for Andrew's Buzz which he had managed to snap in hazardous conditions on top of Devil's Dyke. Were there any kite suppliers in Scotland?

We were in for a shock. An online search of stockists on the Kite Society's website turned up only two suppliers in the whole of Scotland luckily, one was just 20 minutes drive away. We also discovered a link to the Kite Club of Scotland which revealed that they were having a fly at St Andrews the next Sunday. Could anyone join in, we wondered? Having awakened an interest in kiting among Andrew's family, it seemed like the perfect way to spend Easter Sunday. An email was dispatched.

The kite supplier turned out to be something of a disappointment. It was located in the corner of a model shop and most of the area was devoted to power kites. Not holding out much hope, we asked about supplies. They had no end caps or other bits and pieces, and only a few short lengths of spar material. The

problem, the assistant told us, was that airbus was using carbon fibre, creating a world-wide shortage. They couldn't get the rods, he said, not even for the model makers.

They did have some replacement line which might do for the Buzz and while we considered it, Andrew's daughter looked for kites for the kids who had been inspired by the previous day's efforts. But she couldn't find anything suitable. They only had Buzz-style soft kites and two-line deltas all of which seemed too serious and expensive for a fun family introduction to the sport. Disappointed, we came out having only bought the line we had gone in for.

Sandra suggested that we might have more luck in a toy shop. Toys R Us in Livingston did indeed have a small kite section but they had sold out of everything except Thomas the Tank Engine diamonds. This was both positive and negative. The kites may have been suitable but with that design, none of the kids would touch them. However, it did at least mean that kites were available and even with the extensive range of more sophisticated toys to choose from, they did seem to be selling.

Then we hit lucky in the Sports World next door where we discovered bargain bins of two-line deltas, all reduced to around a fiver. We bought three so that we would have more to play with should we be able to join the Kite Club of Scotland on the Sunday. We returned home to emails from the Club's secretary, Gavin Morrice, and chair, Hugh O'Donnell. They told us they would be delighted if we joined them on the Sunday. They would be flying at West Sands beach. 'Look for a group of vehicles with single line kites tethered to the ground,' Hugh explained. 'That will be us. Probably a small group of about five cars or more if the weather is good.'

West Sands beach is just north of the historic university town of St Andrews. The vast expanse of clean sand,



**NOT FLYING IN SCOTLAND**

gently sloping to the North Sea, is famous for the opening scenes of the film Chariots of Fire. It extends for about two miles, backed with dunes and the world-renowned golf course. It is an extremely popular leisure destination but a dedicated kite zone towards the upper end of the beach, a stretch of about half a mile clearly marked with yellow flags, keeps families and kites apart.

The weather was gorgeous with a steady on-shore breeze which only dropped around lunch time, conveniently enabling us to enjoy our picnic. We tried a range of kites, quickly breaking one of the Sports World bargains.

We met up with the Club members who were friendly and welcoming. They told us their Club meets every second Sunday, dividing its time between four locations: Ayr and Irvine on the west coast, St Andrews on the east, and the more central Falkirk. But Scotland, they explained, has become a desert as far as static kites are concerned. There are no shops in central Scotland enthusiasts now buy their kite making supplies online or at festivals. And the Club is down to about only about 35 members as people turn to buggy clubs.

Indeed, there did seem to be more power kites. We realised that we had parked ourselves between the Kite Club of Scotland to the south of the kite zone and the Scottish Power Kite Association to the north. Towards the end of the day, some of the power kites came over. They, too, were friendly and knowledgeable, and interested in our Longbottom pants.

As we left Scotland, we were left wondering about the future of static kiting in Scotland. Kites are available and popular, but there doesn't seem to be a bridge between the bargain bucket and expensive power kiting equipment. Following the closure of Airborne Kites, are we going to have to buy our supplies online or at kite festivals? What influence will this have on club membership in the future?

We stopped at a small general store to buy supplies for the journey back. They had kites – brightly coloured plastic diamonds at 59p each. We bought two. Well...

Sandra Fletcher  
Andrew Scott

**RECIPES FROM THE KITCHEN****No. 2: Coffee & Date Traybake.**

This recipe is fairly new to me, and is based (loosely) on one published in an the Asda magazine.

Once again, Brighton Kite Flyers members have been used as the (guinea) pigs, and appear to have survived, so it must be OK!

**Ingredients:**

225grms. stoned, dried dates – chopped.  
½ teaspoon vanilla extract.  
2 tablespoons instant coffee.  
1 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda.  
125 grms. butter – soft.  
200 grms. castor sugar.  
3 large eggs.  
225 grms. self-raising flour – sifted.

**Method:**

Pre-heat oven to gas mark 4 (180 C or 160 C for fan oven)  
Dissolve coffee in 225 ml. of boiling water.  
Add dates, bicarb. & vanilla extract and leave to stand for 15 mins.  
Grease & line a 23cms. X 23cms. tin

that is at least 4 cms. deep.

Beat butter & sugar together until light & creamy (easiest with an electric mixer)

Add the eggs one at a time, beating well and adding one tablespoon of flour between each one.

Add coffee/date mix – this will now look sloppy & disgusting, but don't worry!

Fold in rest of flour.

POUR into tin (it should behave like a self-levelling compound).

Cook for about 40 mins, or until the top springs back when lightly pressed.

Remove from tin and cool on wire rack.

Take to next Kite Meet and let the members enjoy!

Marian.

*You'll notice that this is a metric recipe, although I'm a non-metric cook, but I'm too lazy to do the conversions!*



# MAIDENSGROVE REVISITED

*Three Grumpy Old Gits, a Camper and an Apprentice: Maidensgrove Revisited.*

*Deep in the past, there were three Grumpy Old Gits who, because a Tewkesbury kite festival was cancelled, went to Maidensgrove in a Camper. Years later, on a beautiful May day, the excursion was repeated – this time with a hanger-on called “The Apprentice”.*

*The Camper, an essential part of the exercise, had recently passed its MOT with flying colours – well, with new springs, a new tyre and some pretty slick welding. The Camper of course is the spiritual home of the Gits and is the nucleus around which all the Git exploits revolve. Fitted with its luxurious seats, it is a truly magnificent touring vehicle. Also, as we shall see, it provides a centre of gastronomic excellence.*

*The Gits assembled on the Friday at Maurice’s. The M25 delayed the Git gathering, even so we arrived before 4 o’clock. After our initial greetings, we checked our provisions for the weekend, Alan was cooking Roast Beef today and the now famous Liver and Bacon tomorrow... shock horror where are the mange tout for the culinary extravaganza on Saturday? Luckily Waitrose is not far.*

*As is true of Git forgetfulness, the mange tout were there all along, just hiding in Alan’s cavernous cooler box. Thank you Betty and Maurice for your Hospitality and thank you Alan for cooking, in an unfamiliar kitchen. A wonderful meal.*

*Needless to say the Gits slept well, good food and wine are the perfect solution to a good nights sleep.*

*Early on Saturday, the Apprentice turned up in time for breakfast. What better place could there be than Maurice’s front garden? In the warm sun, truly magnificent Full English was enjoyed by all. There is something comical about eating your Full English in someone’s front garden. Comical or not, the breakfast was delicious.*

*Tons of kiting gear were then transferred to the Camper and off to the glorious Oxfordshire countryside; to the Common at Maidensgrove. To find the place, vague memories seemed to work as well as any*

*SatNav and we arrived.*

*Git Camp was soon erected (replete with the magnificent array of gonfalon and pennants) and a collection of kiting paraphernalia spread all over the place. (Perhaps it should be noted that the gonfalon and pennants had been constructed to impress and intimidate the French at the forthcoming Houlgate kite festival.)*

*The sun shone and kites were in the sky. We shared the Common with Skylarks and Red Kites.*

*Some folks passed by. Some asked why there should be such an odd collection of kit and such an odd collection of strange men. If the inquirers had the stamina to wait for explanations, they were given all the details – until boredom overcame any initial interest when they drifted away, bemused.*

*Minkey found some friends and had his photograph taken with them. Cameras were lifted into the sky. The sun shone and all was well. The Red Kites gave demonstrations of their flying, soaring and acrobatic skills.*

*Then, as evening approached, Alan cooked the most delicious Liver & Bacon – replete with potatoes, onions and mange tout. Fruit salad with fresh strawberries and lashings of double cream and then coffee finished off our delightful meal. As we ate, Kites wheeled around and, when they were sure of their targets, swooped down to collect the bits of meat, put out to lure them near us.*

*Time then to collect all the stuff and all of us into the Camper and back to Maurice’s. The Apprentice excused himself and made his way home – tired but very happy.*

*What a great weekend, Great company, you can’t beat good friends, wonderful food and a flying site that is hard to beat.*

*John and Keith  
Apprentice and G.I.T.*



# THE BKF AGM WHAT REALLY HAPPENED

We turned up at about 2.30 on Sunday just in time to watch the last Rok makers coming back from the flying field. We then had a relaxing hour catching up with friends, some not seen for six months or more.

At 4pm sharp the AGM got under way.

By 4.01pm Keith had started snoring, obviously a man with stamina.

At 4.06 Dave & Sheila arrive, fashionably late.

It then says in dispatches that at 4.11 Sue turned into a monster, I’m not sure this is factually correct, but who am I to argue with the written word.

It then turned out that Sarah was looking for a wife to move in next door.

It seems that she was jealous of Collin who has a wife that lives next door.

Collin then tried to explain that he needed two houses for his harem.

The normal process of the AGM continued until Simon suddenly stated that he was intent on using Keith. It would appear this was due to Keith being on the edge!!

Then we found out that the first rule of Rok Fight is that you don’t talk about a Rok Fight.

After a short speech about membership Mat decided that he would try and take over proceedings by gasing the officers of the club. Once order was restored.

The new officers & committee for 2009 were elected.

Simon then for no apparent reason called Paul a pillock, quite a derogatory term for one who was later commended for being Simon’s right hand man.

At the end of the meeting an award was presented to Marion & Anne for their untiring support. So we quickly sank our teeth into their buns.

I think a serious meeting may also have happened, but I was too busy laughing to notice.

Cheers,

Greenman.

# BBQ RULES AND REGULATIONS

We are about to enter the BBQ season. Therefore it is important to refresh your memory on the etiquette of this sublime outdoor cooking activity. When a man volunteers to do the BBQ the following chain of events are put into motion:

## Routine...

- (1) The woman buys the food.
- (2) The woman makes the salad, prepares the vegetables and makes dessert.
- (3) The woman prepares the meat for cooking, places it on a tray along with the necessary utensils and sauces, and takes it to the man who is lounging beside the grill - beer in hand.
- (4) The woman remains outside the compulsory three metre exclusion zone where the exuberance of

testosterone and other manly bonding activities can take place without the interference of the woman.

## Here comes the important part:

- (5) THE MAN PLACES THE MEAT ON THE GRILL.

## More routine...

- (6) The woman goes inside to organise the plates and cutlery.
- (7) The woman comes out to tell the man that the meat is looking great. He thanks her and asks if she will bring another beer while he flips the meat.

## Important again:

- (8) THE MAN TAKES THE MEAT OFF THE GRILL AND HANDS IT TO

THE WOMAN.

## More routine...

- (9) The woman prepares the plates, salad, bread, utensils, napkins, sauce and brings them to the table.
- (10) After eating, the woman clears the table and does the dishes.

## And most important of all:

- (11) Everyone PRAISES the MAN and THANKS HIM for his cooking efforts.
- (12) The man asks the woman how she enjoyed her 'night off', and, upon seeing her annoyed reaction, concludes that there's just no pleasing some women.

Taken from the BKF Forum  
posted by Batchoy

## PROFILE CORNER PROFILE CORNER PROFILE CORNER

Over the coming issues of Aerodyne we will be adding a short profile of all the club kites and hopefully some of the interesting kites or kite related products you have seen, used or flown on your travels.

# A KITE WITH A ROAR

The Leopard was made and presented to the Brighton Kite Flyers at their festival in 2004 by Roy & Hayley of Kites Up from Cliddesden, Nr Basingstoke. It was the second kite the club was to own with it's logo added to promote the club. It was one of Roy's earlier printed kites, for which is becoming quite famous. The shape of the kite with a rectangular sail and cross over spars, often flown with a tail for stability and is known as a Della Porta. Although this style of kite is very common Kites Up only make a very limited number of these printed versions for sale or as presentation items, each with a different design printed on them so it is a one off. When it was presented to us the Leopard was the only one that has a club logo printed on it from his limited editions, making it unique and a valued addition to the club collection. It is made using carbon fibre spars, rip stop nylon and flies in a wide wind range from light wind with very little effort to about 15 -16 miles an hour with no problem although you do need to add tails at either end of the wind range to keep it flying with more stability.

The Della Porta style of kite is named

after a 16th century philosopher; Giambattista della Porta (1535? - 1615), also known as Giovanni Battista Della Porta, was an Italian scholar, polymath and playwright who lived in Naples at the time of the Scientific Revolution and Reformation. Born in that city to the Italian noble Nardo Antonio della Porta, he was the third of four sons, second to survive childhood. Giambattista della Porta spent the majority of his life on scientific endeavors. He benefited from an informal education of tutors and visits from renowned scholars. His most famous work, first published in 1558, was entitled *Magiae Naturalis* (Natural Magic). In this book he covered a variety of the subjects he had investigated, including the study of: occult philosophy, astrology, alchemy, mathematics, meteorology, and natural philosophy. This was the first book in the West with a 'modern' kite described in it. From this publication he is widely credited as the man who brought kites as we know them to the western world. Although kites had been around for centuries in the East, they did not become popular in the west until the end of the 16th century.

Since 2003 when Roy first started printing onto ripstop he has progressed and perfected this method of printing, designs and photos onto rip stop nylon and other materials which has enabled him to use it for making items for all shapes, sizes and applications. Over the past few years the club has designed some interesting oneoff items using the printed fabric these include new banners and the playsail.



# JANUARY 2008 BRIGHTON KITE FLYERS AERODYNE

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### Coordinator/Chairperson:

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### Treasurer:

Dave McArtur  
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### Aerodyne/Website:

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### Club library:

(BKF members only):  
Dave Hollingworth  
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### Club Kites:

(BKF members only):  
If you want to use any of the clubs kites please just ask any member of the committee.

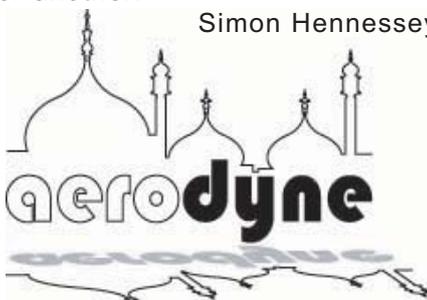
### Membership Secretary:

Matt Jones  
E membership@brightonkiteflyers.co.uk

## Thank you to all that made this issue possible

I would like to say thank you to those who made this issue of Aerodyne possible, Marion Reynolds, Greenman, Guy Reynolds, Corinne Hennessey, Ron Dell, Sandra Fletcher And Andrew Scott who have helped to make this edition possible. I must also say a very big thank you to those who have edited Aerodyne this month in one form or another.

Simon Hennessey



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## YOU KNOW YOUR A KITE NUT WHEN

Ron Dell was looking through his old kite magazines and came across a great little section called "YOU KNOW YOUR A KITE NUT WHEN" in one of his Australian magazines called "The Auz Kiteflyer". A few that were in the edition that he came across are quite funny, but I bet that Brighton Kite Flyers can think of others that are just as amusing if not more so.

So over the next few issues or as long as we keep getting new ones in, we will run a similar section in Aerodyne so please think of some and send them in.

An idea of the type of thing we are looking for is.

*You go out to buy a new car and take your kite bags along to check they fit.*

Please contribute to your club newsletter - even the smallest of items is welcome. Anything sent to the 'Editor' will be considered for print unless marked otherwise.

Contributions should be sent to:

Aerodyne  
c/o Simon Hennessey  
11 The Sheepfold  
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aerodyne@BKf.org.uk

*Deadlines dates;*  
January issue - 1 December  
April issue - 1 March  
July issue - 1 June  
October issue - 1 September

## SOME OF THE EVENTS LEFT FOR 2009

### July

11th - 12th July 2009  
Brighton Kite Festival



18th - 19th June 2009  
Eastbourne Extreme Display  
18th - 19th June 2009  
Dunstable Downs Kite Festival  
25th - 26th July 2009  
Kite Kamp Bishops Cleeves

### August

1st - 2nd August 2009  
Roy's Field Jolly Up 5  
2nd August 2006  
Royston Kite Festival  
8th - 9th August 2009  
Teston Bridge Kite Weekend  
8th - 9th August 2009  
Kite weekend RHS Chelmsford  
23rd August 2009  
Hunstanton Kite Festival  
29th - 31st August 2009  
Portsmouth Kite Festival

### September

12th - 13th September 2009  
Bristol International Kite Festival  
19th - 20th September 2009  
Margate International Kite Festival  
26th - 27th September 2009  
Kingsfold Steam and Kite Festival

Please note that although these dates are published in the Brighton Kite Flyers magazine it does not imply that the Brighton Kite Flyers will be at those events listed.

Whilst every care is taken to get the details correct in 'Aerodyne' the Brighton Kite Flyers cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions that may occur. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Editors or of the Brighton Kite Flyers.



## Events List

July 2009		
11-12	Brighton kite Festival, Stanmer Park, Brighton	Brighton Kite Fliers
11-12	Barmouth Beach Kite Festival, on the beach opposite the new Lifeboat Station, Barmouth, Mid Wales	bigdave_rikok@fastmail.fm
18-19	Eastbourne Extreme, Eastern Seafront, Eastbourne, BN22 7PR	01323 415442 www.visiteastbourne.com
18-19	Leominster Kite Festival, Berrington Hall, Herefordshire HR6 0DW	Karl Longbottom www.kitefestival.org.uk
19	Dunstable Kite Festival, National Trust Gateway Centre on the Dunstable Downs.	Martin Corrie
19	Morecambe Beach Kite Festival	dave@kitecollective.com
25 - 26	Kite Kamp, Newlands Park, Bishops Cleeve, Cheltenham	www.gvkf.org.uk
August 2009		
1-2	Jolly Up5, Cliddesden, Basingstoke	Kites Up
1-2	Sheffield Kite Festival, Parson Cross Park, Sheffield.	info@sheffieldkitefliers.co.uk
2	Royston Kite Festival, Therfield Heath, Baldock Rod, Royston	peteramitton@btopenworld.com
8-9	Teston Bridge Kite Weekend, Maidstone, Kent	Ron Dell
8-9	Kite Weekend, RHS Garden Hyde Hall, Hyde Hall Road Rettendon Common, Chelmsford	RHS
8	Sale Moor Kite Festival, Moor Nook Park, Sale Moor, Manchester	Tony Wade 01924 335985
15-16	Shrewsbury Kite Festival.	Sky Bums
15-16	June Webster Kite Festival, The Moorcock Inn, Middleton-In-Teesdale	malcolm.goodman@virgin.net
23	Hunstanton Kite Festival, Smithdon High School, Hunstanton, Norfolk PE36 5HY	
29-31	Portsmouth International Kite Festival, Southsea Common, Hampshire	The Kite Society
September 2009		
12-13	Bristol International Festival of Kites and Air Creations, Ashton Court, Bristol	Avril Baker
19-20	Margate International Kite Festival, Main Sands, Margate.	The Kite Society of Great Britain
27	Wakefield Kite Festival	Tony Wade 01924 335985 www.facelessco.com

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