

OUR COPY

65p

KITEFLIERS OCCASIONAL NEWSLETTER



ISSUE 13 OCT 1982

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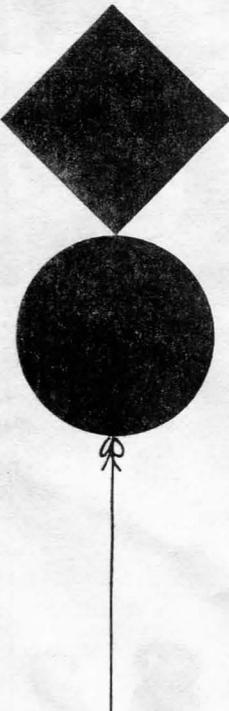


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Dear Reader,

This issue marks the third anniversary of K.O.N. Those of you who have been with us since the beginning will appreciate how far we have come.

Yet it is a sad reflection on British Kiteflying that during our first two or three issues, when we had perhaps fifty readers, we had more letters and information sent to us than we do now with over 350 readers.

We suspect that many of you are in the same position as we were about the E.K.A. files before we received them. That is the files would be bulging with useful articles. Unfortunately most of the information is dated and therefore no use. So basically we are still depend on you, the reader, for information. So keep writing!

Here are some suggestions of ways in which you can all help:-
Kite and Book Reviews. Have you just received a new kite or kite book. Tell other readers your thoughts on it and give them a chance to buy it (if it is good) or avoid it (if it is bad).

Topics For Debate. The newsletter is not a formal publication and offers an opportunity for innovative ideas to be aired with other kitefliers.

Lighthearted Contributions. Cartoons, jokes etc.

So get busy writing those articles for K.O.N. YOUR magazine.

For those who are going to contribute please note that the copy dates have been revised. Publication dates is the first week in the months of January, April, July and October. COPY DATE is ONE month prior to this.

GILL BLOOM

JON BLOOM

SUBSCRIPTION TO K.O.N. FOR ONE YEAR COSTS £3.00 FOR THE U.K., £3.50 FOR EUROPE. EVERYWHERE ELSE £3.50 LAND MAIL, £5.00 AIR MAIL.

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FROM GEOFF ADAMS:

Congratulations on getting together another issue of K.O.N. Once again you have managed to fill it with lively comment and interesting articles. The ads somehow give the mag a more conventional format, I am not critical of this, but I think I preferred the smaller A5 size.

Strange isn't it that kiting is becoming something of a vogue in the media, and it has much to command it in this respect, for several reasons. Kites fit in with the modern trend for leisure pursuits - any kind of craze (from Hula hoops to Rubiks Cube) attract media attention, but I strongly deny that kites fit into this category. On top of this kites are ideal for a quick picture. Some people will be attracted to something and then flit onto the next thing, leaving the truly dedicated addict. Also these days there are more and more festivals and with the cost of petrol people are being more selective. Lets hope that the devotees of today will instil their offspring with enthusiasm, I am trying, honest.

Ted Fleming's Ram Jet Delta is very interesting to me as I have been working on something similar for a while, delayed by work and DIY at home, it will appear eventually.

FROM RON MOULTON:

Your comment in issue 12 is certainly true as far as the media are concerned. I am having a succession of enquiries for use of kites in children's T.V. programmes and you'll be pleased to know that Rod and Emu will be launching a new series round about October 10th with an afternoon programme that involves about 20 kites being flown by children. This was filmed at Brockett Hall, Nr Ayot St. Lawrence on 6th July with kites provided by Colin Renwick. All I can say about the venture is thank goodness for the professionalism of 30 juveniles from the Young Actors Training School. They managed to get everything airborne at the expense of about 20 sets of lines and my own ultra-lightweight Delta which I put up

for one of the youngsters to fly when there was very little wind, and lo and behold, the little girl said it was pulling so hard that I had to let go, and of course it was in a thermal and disappeared upwards....

FROM PAUL CHAPMAN:

So, K.O.N. has now grown up and has become part of the establishment! Or has it? Indeed is there any form of establishment within the kite flying community?

CONGRATULATIONS!!!! on such a magnificent newsletter. On reading latest issue, I wondered how much was due to the late (lamented?) Nick Laurie, and if you will continue to get contributions of such quality. I enjoyed the old style K.O.N. partly because it was a rag. As such you allowed and encouraged all sorts of outrageous contributions. But will they still appear in print in the new style? (Ed. Yes.)

K.O.N. chastises us 'keen types' for not turning up at festivals. You may like my views on the topic. We went to the BKFA-MKF festival at Weston Park and, because I was not a BKFA member, were charged about a big blue to gain entry. Now compare my attitude to that event to how the NKG arrange their meets. We shall be going to Lyme Park Festival soon and will have COMPLIMENTARY tickets via the organisers because we will be part of the attractions (heaven knows why, but there it is!) I think most of us will travel a fair way to a meet, but are a bit put off if we are expected to provide entertainment for the public - at our expense.

This years NKG meetings have been quite entertaining. Malcolm Goodman turned up at Townley Park with an amazing selection of Chinese and Japanese kites following his worldwide tour. What was more amazing was that he flew quite a few of them! The weather on that particular day was interesting because the wind was N-S to begin with, then zero, and then S-N. This was explained away as a sea breeze by a glider pilot colleague even though it was 50 miles inland!!

Our beachfly-barbecue at St Annes was a blow out. We gave up because of the wind (it was moving a crate of beer downwind at a speed proportional to the amount drunk - a Flexikite was attached to a piece of string connected to the crate) and went to our place. Sheltered from the gale we enjoyed beer and food until Dave Green produced a HUGE Stratoscoop for manlifting. So I scared myself under it for a few minutes! Steven Hobbs turned up from Cranfield, where he is doing his PhD in kite meteorology - because of the train strike he cycled all the back but we don't know if he was using his flexifoil as a power source.

FROM SHAKIB GUNN:

Thankyou for K.O.N. 12 received airmail yesterday. Congratulations. I am sharing it around. It helped offset disappointment about EKA. For my own sub I received only one issue, and two colleagues who recently paid their sub received nothing but a membership card!

Michelle de Vries representing the Dutch Kite group is here. We hope to have them for the festival tentatively scheduled for 8 and 9 January 1983.

Feelers have also been put out to invite teams or individuals from Malaysia, Thailand, Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, USA and UK. In the case of the latter we have written to Valerie Govig and Ron Moulton respectively for them to suggest one, possibly two people, who might add to the colour.

FROM E.V. HARCOURT:

Congratulations on going "commercial" with K.O.N. - I always look forward to receiving my copy although nowadays I don't manage to get to as many kiting events as I would like to.

Incidentally can anyone explain to me, by way of a simple sketch, how to stow a multiple bridle. I just cannot understand the drawing on p.123 of the Penguin Book of Kites.

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We carry a good stock:- Vertical Visuals, Greens, Stratoscoop, Monday Lunch, J.K., Waldorf, Ace, Windy Kites, Flexifoil, Wycombe, Dan Delta and Fennemore.

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DISCOUNT DRAGON

Spreader bar is 1'3"380mm down spine.

End of spreader bar is fitted into flexible tubing on leading edge spar.

Spine 3'9"1140mm.

Spreader bar has dihedral setting.

Leading edge spars 2'11"890mm.

Cloth tape below sail reduces stretch.

Spreader bar 2'5"740mm.

Bridle is two leg from these points.

Width of tail is 1'1.5"340mm. Length of tail is 70'21.4m.

Thin pieces of split bamboo are taped across tail every 2'10"850mm or so.

Sail is thin polythene sheeting as used for shading greenhouses.

Spars are 6mm 25" ramin dowelling.

Split bamboo across tail came from a cheap window-blind.

Parcel tape was used to stick it all together, save for the length of cloth-based tape beneath the spreader bar.

1) The kite was cobbled together in a hurry, without a pattern, so tho' I've given precise dimensions, I'm sure they are not critical.

2) The pieces of bamboo across the tail were put there to keep it flat and reduce tendency to twist. They don't stop it twisting, and considering that they add a bit of weight, they might probably be done away with.

3) The characters on the sail - I know what they are meant to mean but I'm not certain I've got 'em right. So if anyone knows better, perhaps he or she could share that knowledge.

JOHN SPENDLOVE

PROJECT BRISEATOW

As some of us kite fliers already know, Greg Locke and Simon Carter of the Brighton Kite Fliers, made an attempt on the world record for a boat towed by a kite, on July 17th. That attempt failed but as you may or may not know Greg Locke is not the sort of fellow to be beaten, thus this second try.

Greg contacted me on Friday evening and asked if I would go once again on this venture as an official observer for the B.K.F.A. This I agreed to do, so we made arrangements to meet at West Wittering beach the following morning at 10.30 a.m.

The following is my report as the representative of the B.K.F.A.

I arrived at the beach at 10.00 a.m. and found Greg and Simon making preparations for the attempt on the record, which I must point out at this stage stands at 23.05 miles. At around 11.00 a.m. they got the tow kite airborne, but needed a fair amount of pulling on the kite to keep it up. This meant that the wind was not yet strong enough to put to sea, but according to weather reports from various sources, would get a bit stronger a little later. This turned out to be correct so with a fair amount of wind the project got under-way at 12.05 (a bit later than expected but better late than never). This was after I had checked that no means of motivation other than the kite was on board the catamaran.

When they had cleared all the local boat traffic, and when safely on their way, I started off along the coast by car to try and keep ahead of them and to keep them under observation with the help of a good pair of binoculars. This I managed to do with the help of my wife Elsie, my son Keith and Greg's wife Michelle as navigators and spotters.

We eventually arrived at Selsey Bill at 14.00 hours with the kite just visible on the horizon and still making good headway.

At 14.20 the "cat" was only 500 yards offshore and seemed to be still going well. They turned the headland and started off for the next leg of the trip which would take them about a mile or a mile and

a half from the shoreline, but as you all know, the wind is very fickle, and as on the previous attempt let them down again and the Stratascoop once again dropped into the sea, so that was 7 miles wasted, to say nothing of the time. At 15.00 hours the "cat" was pulled from the water onto the East beach Selsey, so once again it looked like failure. You would think that they would have given up at that point, but not a bit of it. At 16.30 the wind freshened, and with a big grin on his face and fingers crossed Greg said to Simon "Come on, lets go". So at 17.00 hours they started all over again. When they had got out of range of my binoculars, we all made a dash for the next place it would be possible to pick them up visually and that was Bognor.

At Bognor we could see no sign of them and began to be concerned for their safety. However, we decided to check with the local Coast Guard, and was told that they had them under observation and that all was well.

By the time we got back to the sea wall, we spotted them, well out to sea, and going great guns. At this point they were making about 5.6 miles an hour.

From Bognor on to our next contact point at Worthing.

Once again, we could not see them at first, but at 20.00 hours they came into view over the horizon exactly where the Coast Guard told us they would be.

It was getting dark but it didn't seem to matter too much as they only had a short way to go to get to their target, which was Brighton. We got a thumbs up sign from Greg and a signal that he was going to carry on, so off we dashed to Shoreham Harbour. We spotted them still going strong so decided to get to Brighton ahead of them. Yet again we checked with the Coast Guard as it was dark and difficult to spot them out at sea. To our dismay, they told us that the kite had once again come down into the sea at a point just East of Shoreham Harbour, at a place called Portslade-on-Sea only a stones throw from their destination.

A quick dash along the road brought us to

where the "cat" was beached and the end of yet another record attempt, the time 22.13, but after some hot tea and a rest we worked out that the record could still be possible.

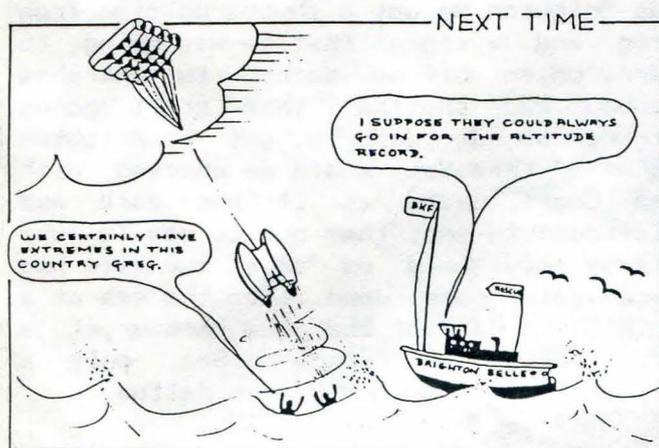
We all returned to Greg's house and proceeded to make the measurements and calculation necessary to check our theory. At this point I must add that our calculations were based on a straight course, so in fact, a greater distance than 25.60 miles was covered, but as they had no means of measuring distance on the "cat" itself the shorter distance had to count for the record.

I am delighted to be able to report that the record was broken, as the distance covered was exactly 25.56 miles beating the old record by a little over 2 miles, although not as far as hoped for, a new record nevertheless. For those of you who would like to work out the distance for yourselves, these are the details for you: Started at 50 degrees 44 mins 07 secs North, 0 degrees 46 mins 22 secs West. Finished at 50 degrees 49 mins 10 sec North, 0 degrees 12 mins 30 secs West. I feel sure that everybody involved in kiteflying will join me in congratulating Greg and Simon on this magnificent effort. Well done lads.

P.S. I heard that they may be contemplating crossing from Brighton to France, a trip of about 80 miles. A little ambitious maybe, but nothing is impossible. There is nothing like success to breed success.

RON MACEY.

OFFICIAL OBSERVER FOR THE B.K.F.A.





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Fairy New to Kites

№ 11

LEAVING VLISSIGEN OUR HEROES LEG IT FOR SHEV...



MEANWHILE, PEACEFUL SCHEV, UNAWARE OF APPROACHING MAYHEM, BASKS PEACEFULLY IN THE SUN...

ARRIVAL



THE KIDS ARE CORRECT, FOR SUDDENLY INSTANT MAYHEM IS UNLEASHED UPON THE BEACH



MEANWHILE UP IN THE CODY BASKET



MAKING A STABLE KITE by C. COMPTON

STEP ONE.

Ensure that kite has a slight nose up aerodynamic pitching moment. The use of cambered wings will require a tailplane or other feature to counter their nose down moment.

Test by launching fairly steeply nose down like a glider, no kite line attached, kite should pull out of dive in a short distance. Steps 1 to 3 can be done indoors.

STEP TWO.

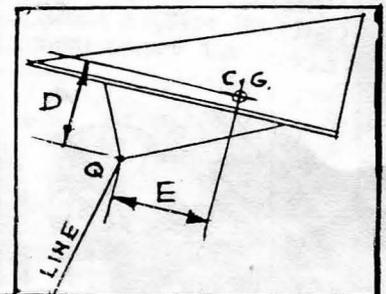
Arrange C.G. position so that kite, if held flat (horizontal) and dropped, will either fall flat or glide gently backwards. It must not pitch forward.

STEP THREE.

Fit a two legged bridle, fore and aft, or a keel as shown. Ensure that a hard pull on bridle will not bend kite such that nose up trim shape (see step one) is distorted.

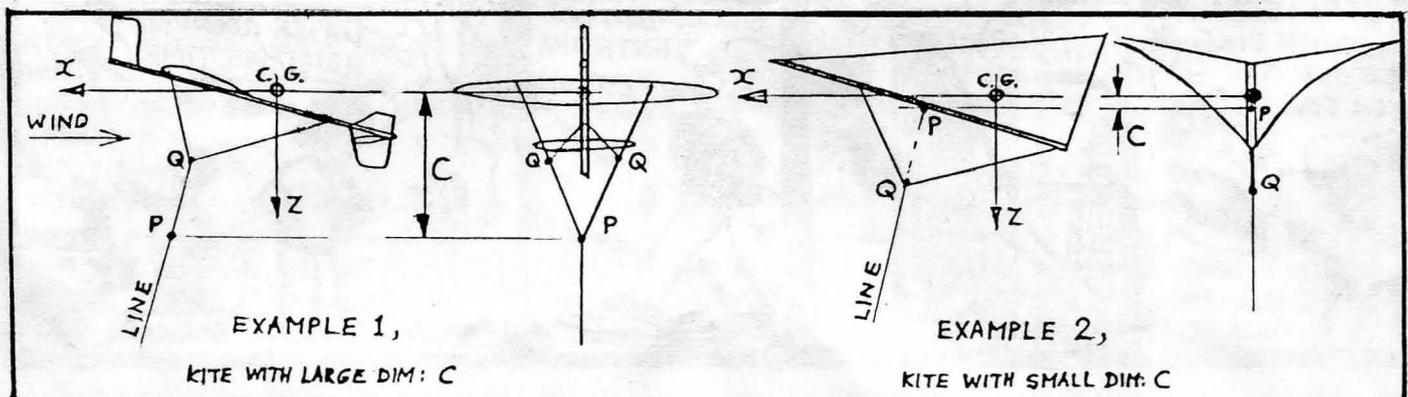
STEP FOUR.

Fly kite and modify bridle according to the following chart.



LONGITUDINAL STABILITY FAULTS AND CURES.

FLIGHT FAULT	CURE
Kite oscillates in pitch.	Increase Dim D or move tailplane, if any, further aft.
Kite falls backwards steeply in lulls, or charges forward when very high making line go slack.	Decrease Dim D.
Kite pulls hard but does not fly to a good angle up.	Increase Dim E or increase AR or camber of wing.
Kite does not pull hard enough for the strength of the wind, lies too horizontal.	Decrease Dim E
Kite does not fly at all.	Proceed to step five, then return to step four.

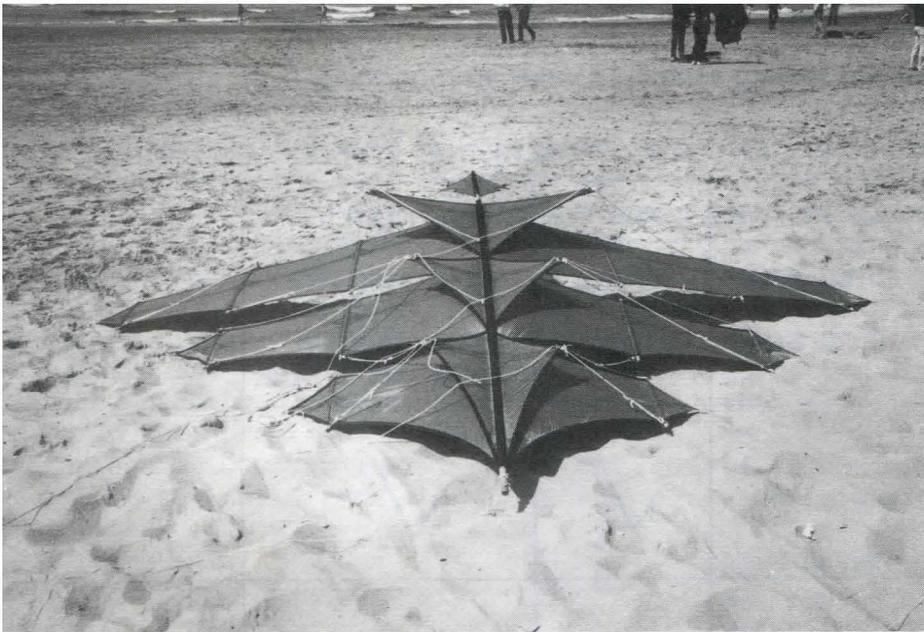


STEP FIVE.

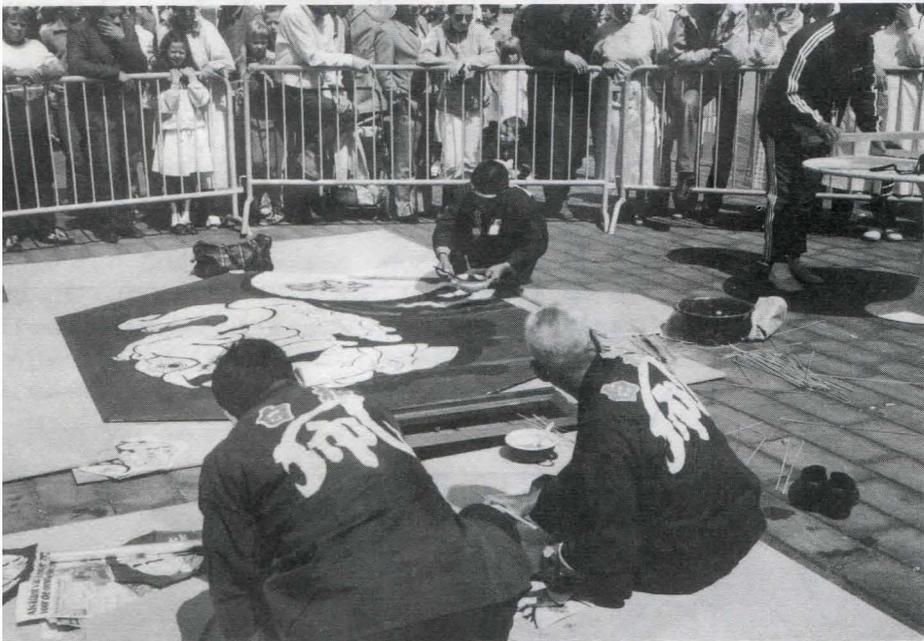
Modify kite according to the following chart, if need be, but keep C.G. in same place.

LATERAL STABILITY FAULTS AND CURES						
FAULT	YAW OSCILLATION HUNTING	TICKS INDICATE		CURES FOR		FAULTS LISTED.
		DUTCH ROLL OR FIGURE EIGHT	SPINS RAPIDLY IN CIRCLES	DIVE SIDEWAYS IN GUSTS. OR HANGS UPSIDE- DOWN & WON'T RISE	ROLL OSCILLATION OR RISES THEN ROLLS ON BACK	
CURE						
CHECK SYMMETRY CHECK THAT WINGS AND FINS DON'T TWIST.			✓	✓		
> DIMENSION C SEE BELOW.						✓
> DIHEDRAL OR PUT FINS HIGH ABOVE C.G.				✓		✓
HIGH FRONT FIN:-> ITS SIZE, AR, OR DISTANCE FW'D & ABOVE C.G.			✓	✓		
LOW REAR FIN:-> ITS SIZE, AR, OR DISTANCE BEHIND & BELOW C.G.	✓	✓	✓	USE BOTH TOGETHER		
> WING TIP WASHOUT OR > DIH OF ANY WING FWD OF C.G. OR DEC'R DIH OF ANY WING AFT C.G.		✓	✓			
REDUCE WEIGHT OR > AREA OR SPAN.		✓	✓			
REDUCE MOM OF INERTIA ABOUT Z AXIS OR > MOM OF INERTIA ABOUT X AXIS.		✓	✓			
REDUCE DIHEDRAL & REDUCE ANY LOW FRONT FIN.		✓				
> DRAG AT WING TIPS.	✓	✓	✓			

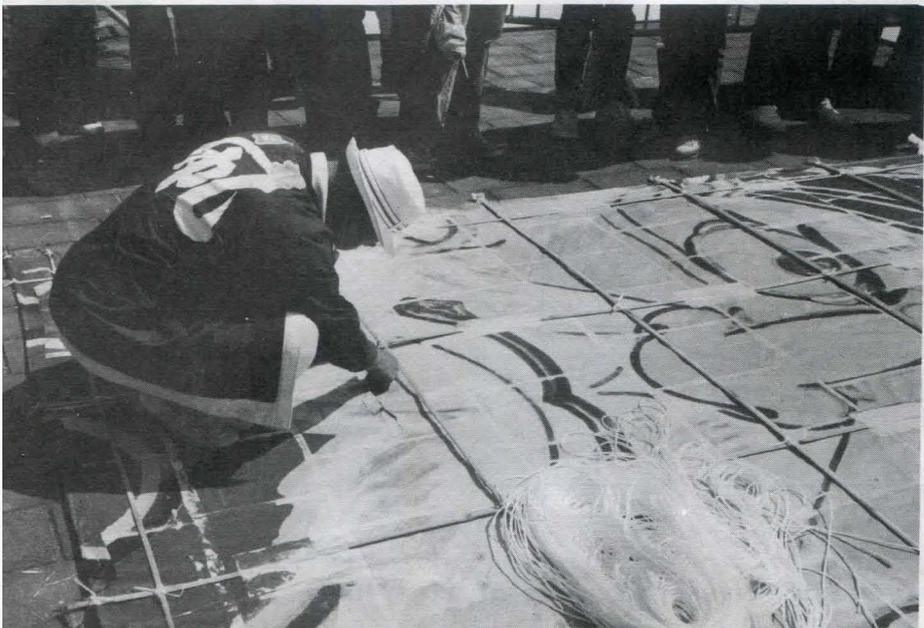
p=point where sideways components of line force acts on kite.



Nico Van Den Berg's nylon cloth six winged Cody - based on the Paul Chapman article in the N.K.G. magazine. Nico finds stability difficult to achieve, even in light winds it needs a drogue.



Members of the Shirone team painting Sanjos using traditional brushes and paints. Note the shoes!



The final touch - bridling a large Edo - notice that the bridles are made of synthetic material not traditional hemp.

SCHEVENINGEN FESTIVAL

Once again the intrepid Global kitefliers braved the boredom of a seven hour sea journey to sample the delights of Holland's premier kite festival. Once again Gerard Van Der Loo had laid on a host of exciting happenings.

The fun started almost as the eager kitefliers stepped from the coach. The large Japanese kiting contingency had gathered outside the Scheveningen Circus and the idea was that all the other kiterfliers were to meet there and then march en masse, with kites held high, towards the sea front.

This was achieved in a typically Dutch manner, with the kites being issued with noise makers, and the whole procession being lead by the local Oom-Pah band. Despite the frivolity, however, most of the English kitefliers were full of praise for the Japanese kites that emerged from a beautifully proportioned wooden trunk. They were the most perfect, three dimensional kites that I had even seen, ranging from the bizarre, a chicken complete with comb and claws, to the exquisite, a crane perfect in every detail. In fact more perfect than the real thing!

These were all made from Japanese paper and bamboo and looked very fragile, but as we were to see later they were actually very strong and extremely airworthy. Along with these kites the Japanese had bought several Edo kites and some small Sanjo-Rokkaku. These were to be seen aloft on the Saturday afternoon when the clouds lifted and the sun shone. The sight was something truly breathtaking, these large Japanese kites have a beauty totally lacking in western style kites, and seeing these few kites aloft made one hunger after a trip to a Japanese kite festival.

Most of the kites aloft were furnished with hummers which sang in the afternoon breeze and sounded strangely eerie, and clearly proved how once they were used to frighten armies! The larger Edos needed whole teams to loft them and obviously required very complicated bridle adjustments once aloft, although this was easily achieved as the milliard of kite lines all passed through a small loom. Perhaps the most impressive sight of

that warm afternoon was the large Edo in full graceful flight aloft along side the Cody team - truly a case of the best of the Eastern kites meeting the best of the Western kites.

Of course these were not the only kites aloft that Saturday afternoon. Facets in various shapes and sizes were well represented, as were Lecornu's ladders. Also performing well was Vertical Visual's Dragon which was being flown on two lines which seemed to increase its undulations. In fact the whole site was full of kites too numerous to mention, and the Global kites retired late, only to return for a spot of midnight flying before returning to await the next day.

Sunday morning greeted us with rolling clouds and rain, but these cleared before most kites were abroad. The Japanese however were soon demonstrating kite making along the sea front. They used preprinted paper to make some large (and small) Sanjo. The design on these kites was however rather weird, at first sight the design was just that of a old man, but closer examination revealed that the face was made up of dozens of men very much like an Escher painting. Definitely something I had not seen before on a Japanese kite. These kites were all hand painted by the Japanese, and it did seem strange to see them sitting cross legged painting, as you would imagine their ancestors had done for hundreds of years, and yet still wear the latest digital watches.

Later as the wind increased the Cody team was raised as was the Belgium 'George' man lifting team. As the crowds gathered Europe's largest kite was launched.

The beach was full of interesting kites, each one of which could take a page to describe. Everywhere you turned there was something new, and really it was too much to take in, but kites that stick in my memory are a large 9 celled box kite in the fashion of the front cover of Tsutomu Hiroi, a winged box kite full of eastern promise (see front cover) and an amazing kite which could best be described as a pot pourri of kites which was hideous in some respects but had a certain charm too!

The kites were still flying as the Global kites sped their way towards a night of lechery and debauchery in Amsterdam's red light district. However, that fellow kiteflier is another story.....

Footnote next year Gerard is proposing to have a three day kite festival starting on the Friday with a symposium and dinner leading to the normal two flying days. KON is thinking of organising a trip for next year. See the next KON if anything materialises.

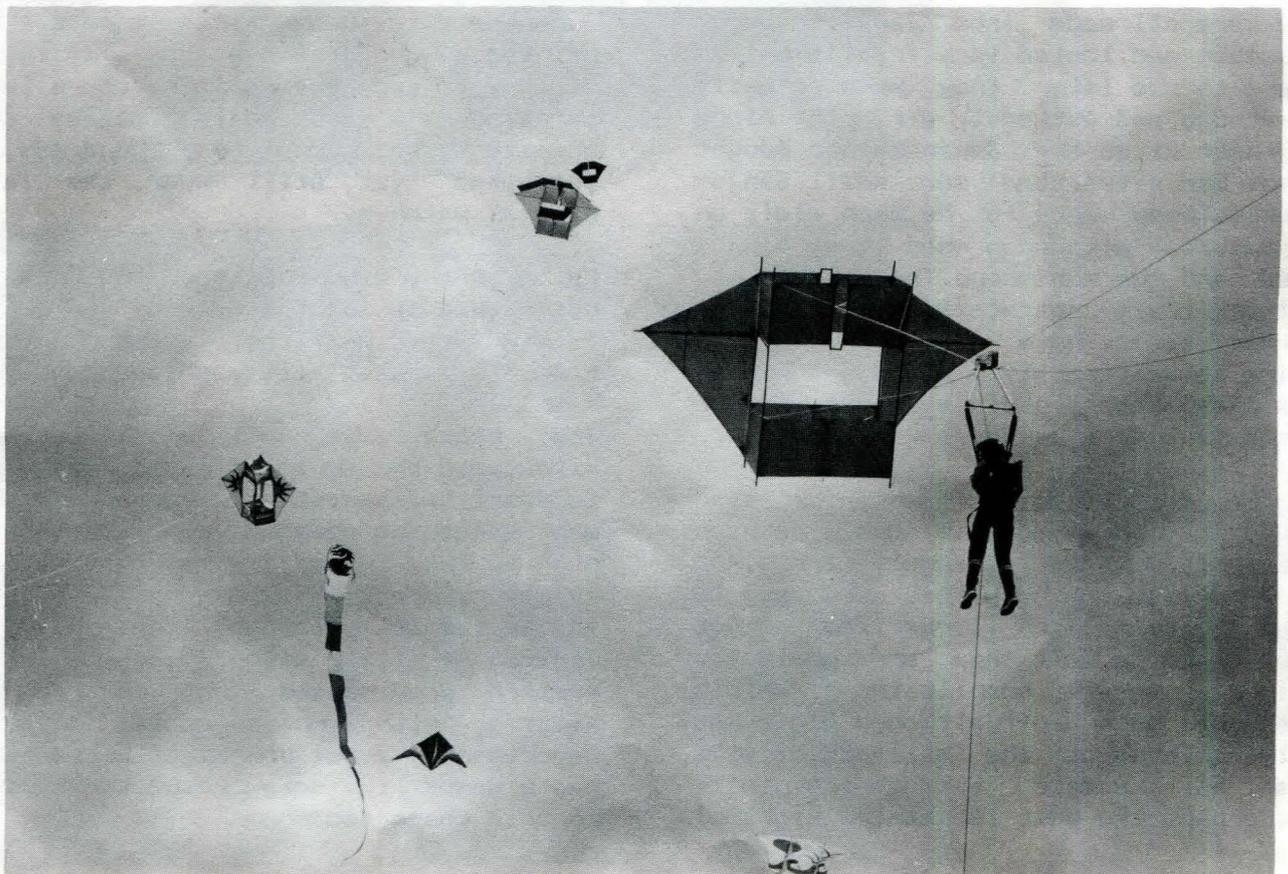
The Belgium Kite Festival:

This was organised by the new Belgium Kite Group. The site is rather like Scheveningen i.e. a large expanse of sand, unfortunately it did not attract the kitefliers in any large numbers. Nick Morse was there with his Codys as were the Dutch Cody team, and during the two days of the kite festival the Codys were lofted numerous times, including lifting two people in the basket, something I had not seen before. The Belgians also had

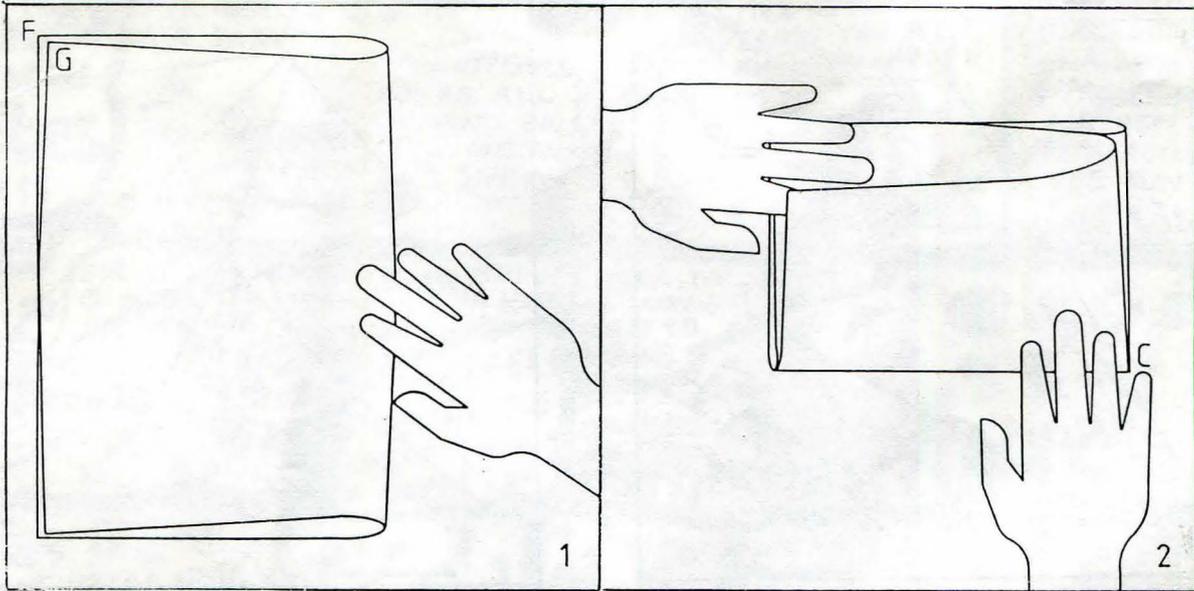
their man lifting team based on a design of the 1900's (see photo). They had more success, managing to lift a member of a parachuting display team considerably higher than the Cody team. Apart from the teams there were very few kites in the sky, and the highlight of the day had to go to the daylight fireworks, which rather than rely on normal fireworks produced such items as large elephants and strings of flags and balloons from rockets - certainly different.

Also on show at the local arts centre was a nice display of Japanese kites, including some that had been left by the Japanese in Holland, certainly there were some unusual designs that I had not seen before, but we were unable to get any further information about them.

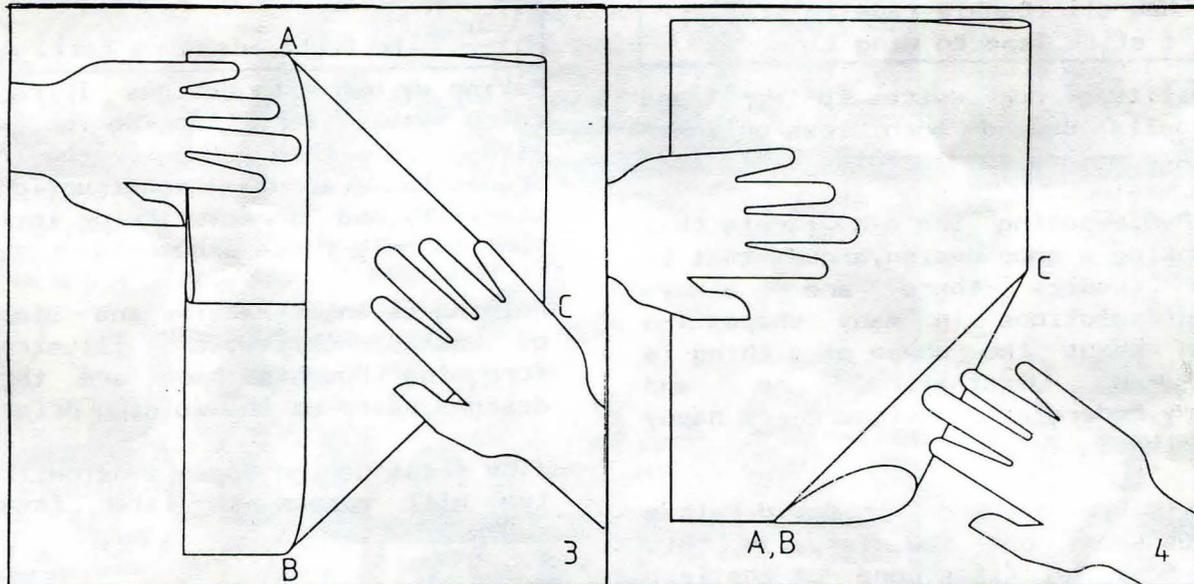
The Belgium Kite Group has now been reformed and since its formation a few months ago boast 30 members. They produce an excellent bimonthly magazine (in French). Membership is 300 francs for a year (about £3.50). Further details can be obtained from Jacques Durieu 45, Rue de la Houssiere, 5873 Hevillers Belgium.



SPLIT KEEL

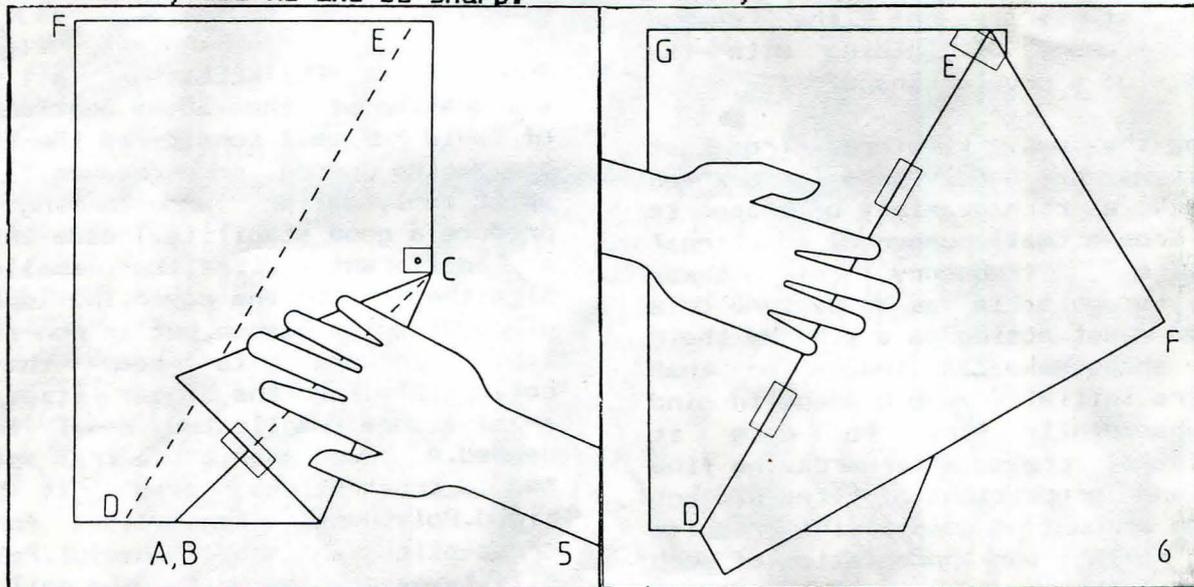


1,2 (News)papersheet 30x42 cm doubled twice,no sharp crease.



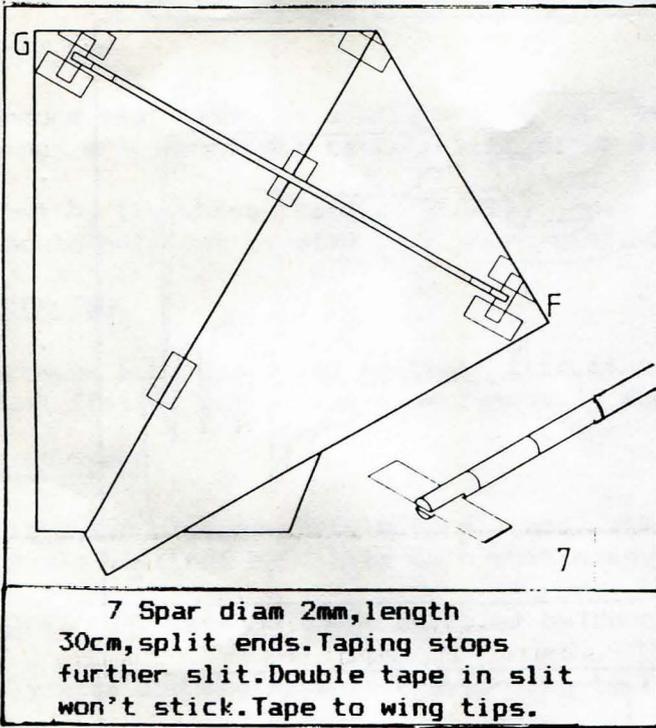
3 Roll and turn AB vertical, fold AC and BC sharp.

4 Unfold and reverse first crease, B on A.



5 Fold sharp and symmetrically, fix tape, fold BC.

6 Fold wings (crease DE).



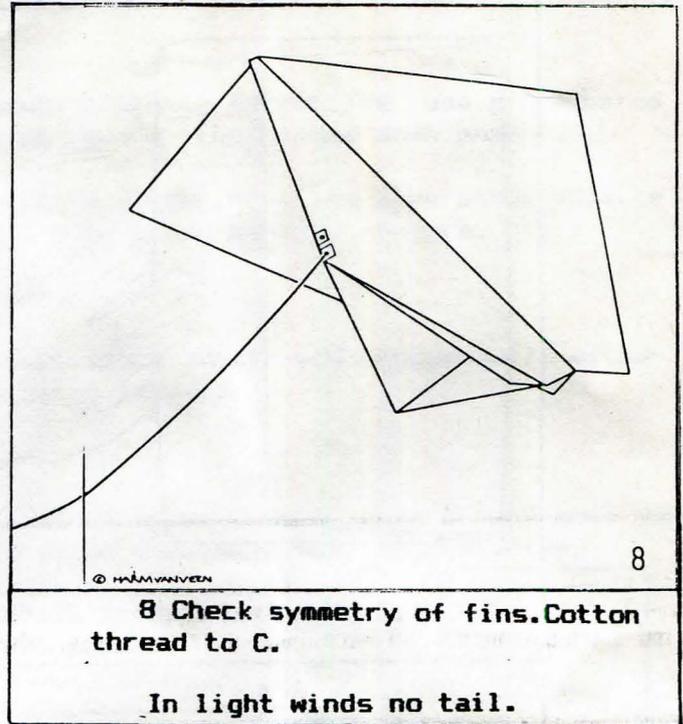
7 Spar diam 2mm, length 30cm, split ends. Taping stops further slit. Double tape in slit won't stick. Tape to wing tips.

"The ability of our devices to 'work' and get results depend much less on their shape than we are apt to think."(1)

David Pye, exposing the many facets that go to making a good design, argues that to achieve results there are always different solutions in many shapes. The decision about the shape of a thing is mainly an aesthetic one and arbitrary. Modern kite designers are happy to know that.

From David Pye on design to David Pelham on kites seems not too far... In his Penguin Book of Kites one of the last pages shows a small keel kite, to be made by folding an A4 writing paper. The striking simplicity of the design combines economy of folding with the aesthetics of a regular shape.

Surveying the many kiteforms from East and West, we can hardly take for granted that such a rich variety of shapes is derived from a small number of functional demands. The frequency of these patterns, recognisable as a picture or a symbol, or just acting as a sign by their regular shape, make an indication that kitemakers initially have a shape in mind and subsequently try to make it fly. Analysis comes afterwards. The fine shapes and proportions of kites did not arise on account of good flying results but just reflect our appreciation of such design.



8 Check symmetry of fins. Cotton thread to C.

In light winds no tail.

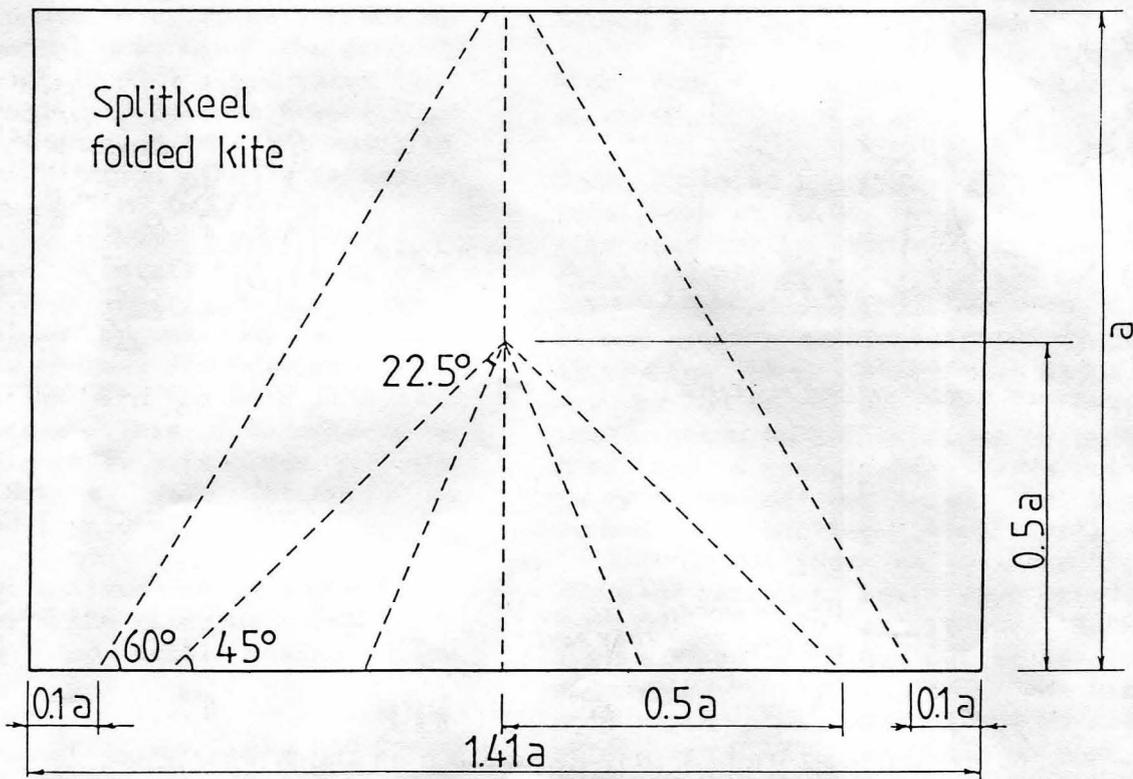
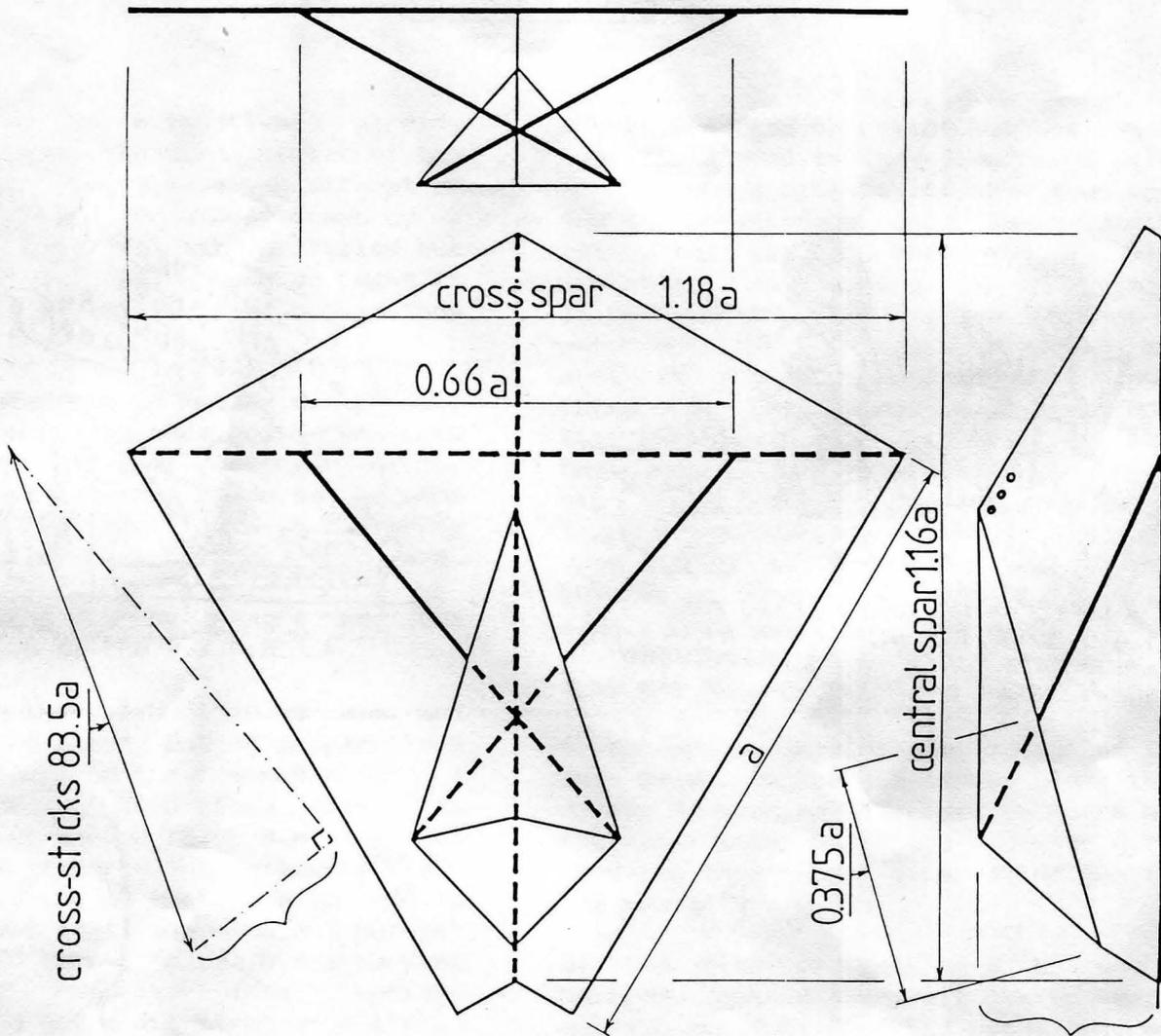
Making my own kite designs I repeatedly catch myself first looking for a shape I like and then count the rational arguments about construction and stability, and moreover, being inclined to mention only these arguments.

Folding is an attractive and simple way of making kites. To illustrate the foregoing thoughts here are three kite designs, based on the folding principle.

(The first design appears below. The other two will appear in later issues of K.O.N.)

(1) David Pye, The Nature And Aesthetics of design (London: Barrie & Jenkins Ltd. 1978), p 14.

The first, SPLITKEEL, is a further elaboration of the above mentioned kite of David Pelham. I considered the keel too big. Making some more creases, I got a split keel, smaller and turning out to produce a good stability. I made this kite at different sizes; the smaller the size, the thinner the paper. The spar is a piece of split bamboo, put in non-sticking tape pockets to keep the kite collapsible. For the bigger sizes (e.g. a=1m) a more complicated dowel frame is needed. A bowed spar, a central spine and two cross-sticks make it fully rigid. Polythene connections for the cross-sticks are useful. Polythene film, tyvek or ripstop for the sail.





IF WE'RE HAVING BAKED BEANS FOR LUNCH DEAR, DOES THAT MEAN WE'LL HAVE GALE FORCE WINDS IN SOUTHERN AREA'S LATER ON?

J. BARKER

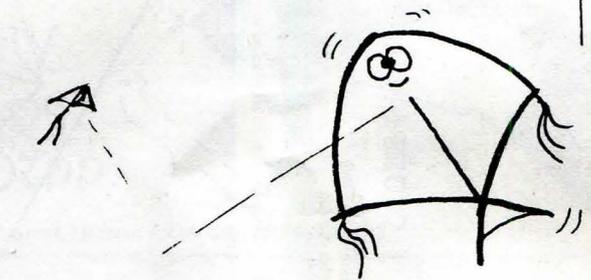
REST ASSURED MY BOY DREAMS ABOUT 40 FOOT KISKEEDEES ARE QUITE COMMON



J. BARKER



HEY WHATS THE SHOOTER FOR? THE NEXT FIGHTER FLYING ON MANJA THAT COMES NEAR MY LINE.



HIC ONCSHH UPON A TIME ALL I SAW WASH PINK HEFALUMPS AND NOW ITS ROTTEN ANGEL FISH.



ITS NOT THE KITEFLYING THAT WORRIES ME, ITS THE FACT THAT THEY DONT HAVE A T.V.

J. BARKER

REVIEWS

You either like it or you don't. The design of Vertical Visuals Mirage, but most people admit that it looks impressive in the air.

The design is something of a cross between a Peter Powell (with underfin) connected to a split Delta making a kite with overall width of just over 5' rigged with Ramin dowels.

To erect it can be rather like putting up a deck chair but it is best to first lay the kite flat on the ground with the bracing lines and the bridle in an untangled state and slip the cross spar assembly between the two layers (or wings).

The spar ends fit into PVC tube locations, the whole thing being foolproof but make sure that the bracing lines are tight and that everything is symmetrical before the off.

This particular kite has been flown from Brighton to Blyth in winds fair to foul and when rigged correctly presents no real vices except that it will tend to dive in heavy gusts if at fairly low levels.

Surprisingly it has yet to break a spar (famous last words).

In a fairly gentle wind it will fly at a really high angle and both feels and looks good.

It's sink rate if the wind drops is higher than a lightly built conventional Delta but one word of warning, if the wind gets up prepare for lead lined boots because it doesn't know when it is time to go home.

One observation is that when the kite was first flown it had a tendency to crab to the right which sometimes ended in a dive to the death.

This has resolved itself seemingly through the centre joint on the cross spars becoming more free allowing easier adjustment, or perhaps it is just improving with age (like most of us).

Julian Smith.

The Super 10 is a kite which raised quite a few eyebrows when it first appeared and once we managed to lay our hands on a copy it was easy to see why. Definitely the second generation in the Flexifoil story, the Super 10 at first glance seems to be merely a stretched version of the original. However, we are assured that the airfoil section is completely different and the sail is very much thinner in cross section than its smaller brother. At the current retail price, review copies of this kite are as scarce as hens teeth, however, we remedied this situation by collaring a well britched owner of one.

So what do you get for your hard earned greenies? The sail, which is made from very good quality ripstop is approximately 10' by 2' and has eighteen cells. The flying spar is very interesting as it comprises a normal flexi spar connected by a solid GRAFIL carbon fibre rod which is both very light and very strong. In fact if you drop this rod it rings like a piece of alli tube. A very neatly designed telescopic control bar connects to the kite by 150 lb braided nylon line.

What does it fly like? The Super Ten seems able to remain aloft on less wind than its smaller brother, due perhaps to its larger sail area. When the wind gets up it really takes off like the proverbial scalded cat. It really storms around the sky going like a bomb and emitting a really loud scream.

At times in stiff wind it nearly has you off your feet the way it pulls and in a short time you feel rather worn out. Unlike the smaller version, in flight the Super 10 only turns down its wing tips, the centre section with the carbon fibre remains fairly straight whereas the smaller version flies with a constant varying curve.

So if you must have the latest from the Flexifoil Co., individually numbered and reputed to be strictly quality controlled the Super 10 is the kite for you, however, the current retail price may take the wind out of you sails as it is £75.50 (July 1982).

The Wessex Kite Festival:

This was the Wessex Kite Group's first kite festival and was held at the Royal Victoria Country Park. This is a nice site which runs alongside Southampton Water, but the site does suffer from the kiter's nightmare - trees and also a large tower situated in the middle of the site (more of this later).

Arriving early Saturday morning we greeted the keen kites who had camped overnight and were busy helping to erect the organiser's tent. During the morning the wind increased and there was a fair selection of kites aloft, although perhaps the event of the morning was the QE2 leaving dock. For one moment we did wonder whether Greg was going to kite sail his "Cat" across her bow but he declined.

As the day progressed the T.V. and Radio arrived, and during a flying display for the cameras the KON team managed to get our 150 foot Hexagon tail caught around the aforementioned tower. We had given up hope of retrieving the kite but an intrepid (or mad) ranger risked life and limb to rescue the kite! All this fuss rather distracted from Greg starting out with his kite-cat for another record attempt. Of course the media much preferred the disaster area. In fact, later a local reporter asked if we could reconstruct the kite wrapped around the tower - unfortunately our reply is unprintable.

The fine weather however did not last the day and by late afternoon the rain had set in, but by Sunday the weather had cleared itself and left in its wake a tremendous wind which was to hamper the kite flying all day, resulting in the large number of public present seeing very few spectacular kites as no one was going to risk damaging them. However, despite this the public certainly seemed to enjoy themselves.

Perhaps the most striking thing about this festival was that despite the tremendous hard work put in by Patrick O'Driscoll, including providing camping facilities very few kite fliers actually turned up which was a great pity as it is a nice location. If Patrick repeats the

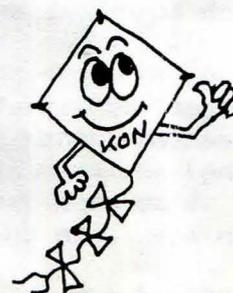
festival next year it would certainly be worth a visit.

Kite Exhibition in Wales:

This exhibition was held in the Aberystwyth Art Centre and covered most of one floor. The kites were quite cleverly arranged with all their lines running down to the appropriate labelling card. The kites represented were many and varied and covered most of the generic types. These were nicely complimented by some very large information boards which traced the development of the kite. Perhaps the most interesting kite for me was an original Dan Leigh Delta lent by the designer himself who also had some interesting thoughts laid out on a board beneath the kite. Of course the unusual kites were represented, this time by three Glass Indian Fighting Kites.

All in all it was a good exhibition to entice the average member of the public, however, the real event to display the kites was to have its problems...

The kite flying display was scheduled for Bank Holiday Monday at Ynyslas Sands, site of many kite record attempts. The KON team was of course the first kites there - who else would bother with a force 8 gale blowing torrential rain across the Welsh mountains! Still we did actually manage to loft a kite (before it was turned inside out by the wind). It was certainly a day for those Brookites that never seem to fly. Later the BBC arrived to film, so the few kites that were huddled around keeping out of the wind had to smile and appear as if they were enjoying themselves. Actually despite the weather quite a few kites did turn up, just goes to prove that we really must be mad!!!!!!



For those kite makers amongst us who are interested in obtaining large quantities of ripstop the following may be of interest.

Howe and Bainbridge are willing to sell ripstop to kites, BUT they only want people who are interested in rolls of about 100m. All the ripstop is 41" wide and is available in a variety of colours. First quality is from £1.40 +VAT+postage per metre and seconds from £1.00+VAT+postage per metre. For the seconds colours are as they come so it would be best to phone to check that they have the colour. For the firsts colours are as required. For orders of over £200 postage is free.

Lengths of less than 100m are sometimes available but phone for confirmation of colour etc.

The address to write to is: HOWE AND BAINBRIDGE LTD. THE OLD SCHOOL, 218-220 BARNES LANE, SARISBURY GREEN, SOUTHAMPTON. TEL: LOCKSHEATH (048 95) 83255.

Spotted in the Sun of 3rd August 1982 the following article.

"Inventor Gerald Franz, 56, set out for England from America yesterday in a canoe towed by kites...but gave up after an hour.

For those who wish to have a high quality swivel a Ball Bearing swivel is available from the following address. C. FARLOW & CO. LTD. 151 FAIRVIEW ROAD, CHELTENHAM.

They are described as follows. "The genuine ball-bearing reliable swivel - ten stainless steel balls take up the torsion. Resistance is practically nil to Spinning Baits. (Or twisting bridles.)

Spotted in the local Hallmark card shop Snoopy kites. Priced at £1.99 and made from plastic and square section wood.

If you are travelling in Germany over the next few years you might like to visit the new kite store which has opened in Bremen. The address is DER DRACHENTADEN, THOMAS KIBELKSTIES, ALTER POSTWEG 45, 2800 BREMEN 1, GERMANY. Thomas has arranged several kite festivals over the last two years and hopes to have quite a large one next year. We will keep you posted.

He is also organising an exhibition to take place sometime next year. He is therefore interested in hearing from anyone who would like to loan him kites for the exhibition. Also he would like photographs of kites and kite related articles. The exhibition is going to cover the social and economic aspects of kites as well as the leisure aspects.

Borrowed from the NKG magazine 'KITE'.

Here's a cheering little item from the June 1982 edition of BP Oil News - one of the BP company's staff newspapers. It was headed 'Boffins rise to 400ft job' and reads:

Question: how do you sample emissions from a refinery flare stack 400ft in the air and downwind of a very hot flame? Answer: very carefully - and not always in the most conventional way. This is what happened at Grangemouth refinery recently when kites were used to lift sampling devices above the flare and safely recover samples.

The credit for the novel recovery idea goes to the Feasibility Studies Group of Special Products Branch at Sunbury. They were already testing the kites, in the form of specially adapted parachutes, as a possible means of saving fuel in sea-going commercial vessels, and they agreed to have a go with them for the refinery job - first making sure the ropes were light enough not to damage plant.

In the afternoon the wind began to blow and a large parachute was launched from upwind of the flare on a fixed line reeved through a block on the kite and returned to a winch from which it could be paid out. The sampler box was hung from a predetermined point on the fixed line.

"The kite went up without trouble but we were surprised by the extreme turbulence in the plume of the flare, and the lines became entangled," said senior physicist Dr Roger Duckworth. Another launch stabilised the kite perfectly at 600ft with the sampler hanging in the plume at 400ft. Next day the wind was in the opposite direction and a number of satisfactory launches were carried out downwind of the flare.

"The experiment can be considered highly satisfactory, showing great promise," said Dr Duckworth. "It proved that a parachute kite can be flown in very restricted circumstances, and that routine sampling of flare plumes can be carried out in this way at much less cost than hiring a crane or a helicopter."

In September's issue of OPTIONS magazine there was a short article on kites. There was a short piece about obtaining information about kite events from you know who. A photo with the article showed 7 kites borrowed from the two shops in London.

As you may have already seen Saffery Balloons is offering some old balloon ripstop at 50p per metre. The samples we were sent are very good and it is well worth buying.

On the cover of the September issue of Creative Photography there was a picture of a model holding a Spectra Star kite. The picture was one of the set used in the Bowater Papers calendar and was taken in Iceland.

Information just received from America. A company called KITECO is manufacturing the "exciting UFObia FLYER, a very unique spinning kite."

The kite is actually a variation on the rotor Kite. The company is currently doing a special deal for quantity and further

details are available from KITECO, PO BOX 6284, TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA 90504, U.S.A.

In the new KITELINES magazine there is a mention of Clive Hart's KITES: AN HISTORICAL SURVEY. There is a revised republication of the 1967 edition. We are unsure if it is being published in this country but we will inform you as soon as we know.

Also in KITELINES is an advert from Vertical Visuals in which there is a kite they call a Vertifoil. The kite seems to be a cross between a Jalbert parafoil and a Sutton Flow Form.

A new range of stationary by Farhana Design and Company Ltd. The design is a blue background with red, green and yellow kites. The design is available on wrapping paper, gift tags and cards.

Seen in Susan Reynolds discount bookshop in Picadilly "Flying Kites in Fun, Art and War" by James Wagenvoort. Published in 1968 it is full of interesting and unusual photographs and articles. The best news of all is that it only costs 50p.

Peter Walter of Malvern Kites is hoping to take on the exhibition boards from the Aberystwyth Arts Centre. He hopes to be able to interest other art centres and the like to display them with kites from the shop.

For those people who are into making dresses (sweety) a lovely Japanese Kite print has been transferred onto cotton fabric. Unfortunately we have only seen it made up in dresses and not on the roll.

10th OCTOBER	BLACKHEATH, LONDON. FLY-IN. B.K.A.
10th OCTOBER	DEVILS DYKE, BRIGHTON, SUSSEX. FLY-IN. B.K.F.
17th OCTOBER	ERNULF SCHOOL, ST. NEOTS, CAMBS. FLY-IN. G.O.K.F.
17th OCTOBER	HARROGATE. FLY-IN. N.K.G.
24th OCTOBER	THORNDON PARK, ESSEX. NYLON MEET. FLY-IN. E.K.G.
31st OCTOBER	DEVILS DYKE, BRIGHTON, SUSSEX. FLY-IN. B.K.F.
7th NOVEMBER	WORKSHOP, HOLYHEAD SCHOOL, BIRMINGHAM. WORKSHOP. M.K.F.
14th NOVEMBER	BLACKHEATH, LONDON. FLY-IN. B.K.A.
21st NOVEMBER	OTTERSPOOL PROMENADE, LIVERPOOL. FLY-IN. N.K.G.
21st NOVEMBER	NORTH WEALD, ESSEX. COTTON MEET. FLY-IN. E.K.G.
5th DECEMBER	WALSALL ARBORETUM, near BIRMINGHAM. FLY-IN. M.K.F.
12th DECEMBER	BLACKHEATH, LONDON. FLY-IN. B.K.A.
19th DECEMBER	HYLANDS PARK, CHELMSFORD, ESSEX. XMAS PAPER MEET. FLY-IN. E.K.G.
19th DECEMBER	BLACKSTONE EDGE, near ROCHDALE. FLY-IN. N.K.G.
9th JANUARY	BLACKHEATH, LONDON. FLY-IN. B.K.A.
16th JANUARY	SOUTH WEALD, ESSEX. TYVEK MEET. FLY-IN. E.K.G.
13th FEBRUARY	BLACKHEATH, LONDON. FLY-IN. B.K.A.
13th FEBRUARY	THORNDON PARK, ESSEX. MYLAR MEET. FLY-IN. E.K.G.
6th MARCH	HYLANDS PARK, CHELMSFORD, ESSEX. P.V.C. MEET. FLY-IN. E.K.G.
13th MARCH	BLACKHEATH, LONDON. FLY-IN. B.K.A.
27th MARCH	THORNDON PARK, ESSEX. SILK MEET. FLY-IN. E.K.G.
4th APRIL	EUROPEAN KITE EXTRAVAGANZA, BLACKHEATH LONDON. FESTIVAL. B.K.A. **
17th APRIL	GREAT BENTLEY, COLCHESTER, ESSEX. TISSUE MEET. FLY-IN. E.K.G.
1st MAY	OLD WARDEN, BEDFORDSHIRE. FESTIVAL. B.K.F.A. **
17th JUNE	SCHEVENINGEN INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL, HOLLAND. FESTIVAL. V.O. ** (P)
18th JUNE	SCHEVENINGEN INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL, HOLLAND. FESTIVAL. V.O. **
19th JUNE	SCHEVENINGEN INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL, HOLLAND. FESTIVAL. V.O. **
26th JUNE	BLACKHEATH SUMMER FESTIVAL, BLACKHEATH, LONDON. FESTIVAL. B.K.A. **
2nd OCTOBER	OLD WARDEN, BEDFORDSHIRE. FESTIVAL. B.K.F.A. **

G.O.K.F.	GREAT OUSE KITE FLIERS, 12 CLOVER ROAD, EATON SOCON, ST. NEOTS, CAMBS.
E.K.G.	ESSEX KITE GROUP, THE CROFT, HOWE STREET, GT. WALTHAM, CHELMSFORD, ESSEX.
B.K.F.	BRIGHTON KITE FLIERS, FLAT 1, NORFOLK TERRACE, BRIGHTON, BN1 3AD.
M.K.F.	MIDLAND KITE FLIERS, 76 OXHILL ROAD, HANDSWORTH, BIRMINGHAM, B21 9RH.
N.K.G.	NORTHERN KITE GROUP, 50 PARK LANE, CONGLETON, CHESHIRE, CW12 3DD.
B.K.F.A.	BRITISH KITE FLIERS ASSOCIATION, P.O. BOX 35, BRIDGE STREET, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD, HERTS, HP1 1EE.
B.K.A.	BLACKHEATH KITE ASSOCIATION, 29 WELLINGTON STREET, LONDON, SE18 6PW.
V.O.	VLIEGER OP, GERARD V.D. LOO, RYSWYKSEWEG 74, DEN HAAG, HOLLAND.
(P)	PROVISIONAL.
**	DENOTES MAJOR FESTIVAL.

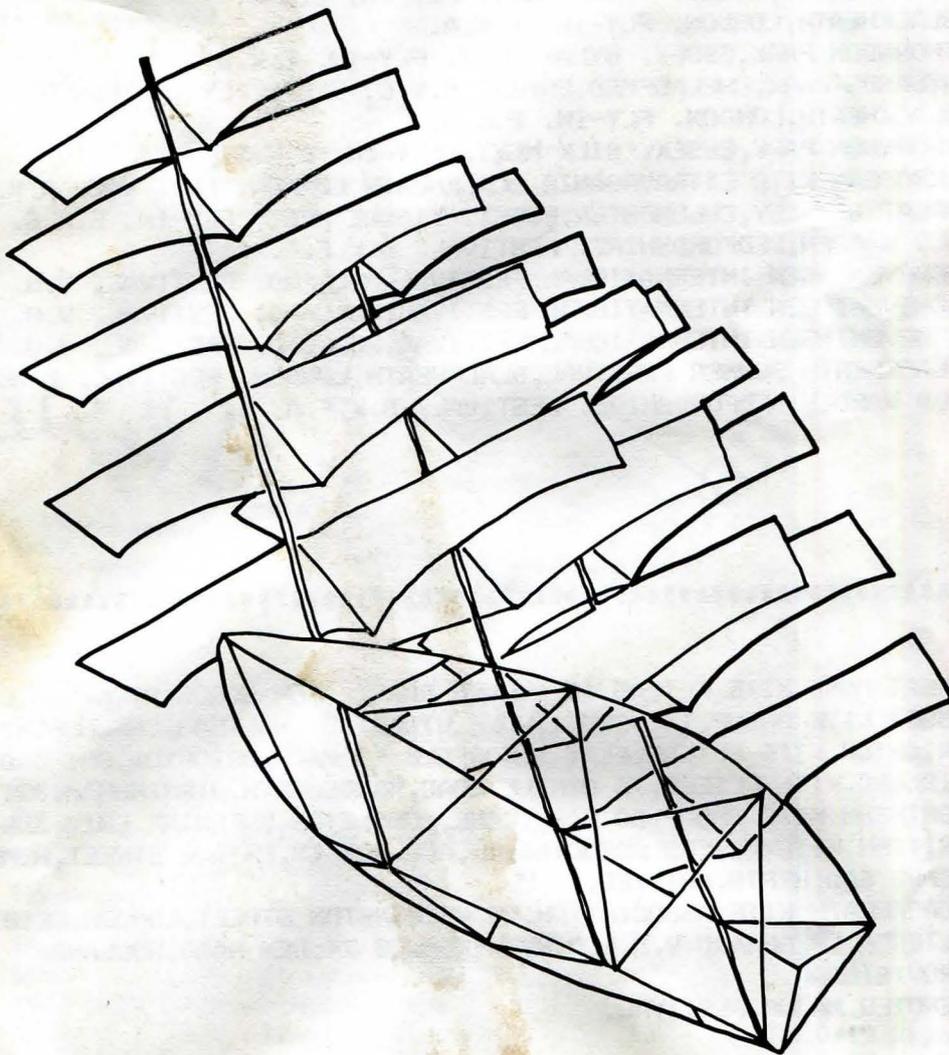
IF YOU HAVE ANY EVENT THAT YOU WANT PUBLICISED, ON THIS PAGE, IN THE NEXT ISSUE WOULD YOU PLEASE SEND YOUR DATE AND DETAILS OF WHERE THE EVENT IS TO US BY THE 7th DECEMBER 1982.

The Concise Oxford Dictionary defines a Kite as, "Toy consisting of light wooden etc. frame, usually in form of symmetrical quadrilateral or of triangle with segment of circle on base, with paper etc. stretched over it and usually with long tail, flown in strong wind by string."

Now we are not saying that the dictionary is wrong, but we have well over 100 different shaped kites made from a wide variety of materials, that will fly in all sorts of winds.

If you are not satisfied with our selection, you could always make your own, from our full range of materials.

Send a SAE for a price list, or call in and see for yourself one of the largest selections of kites in the world.



The Kite Store Ltd

69 Neal Street, London WC2H 9PJ, England. Tel 01-836 1666