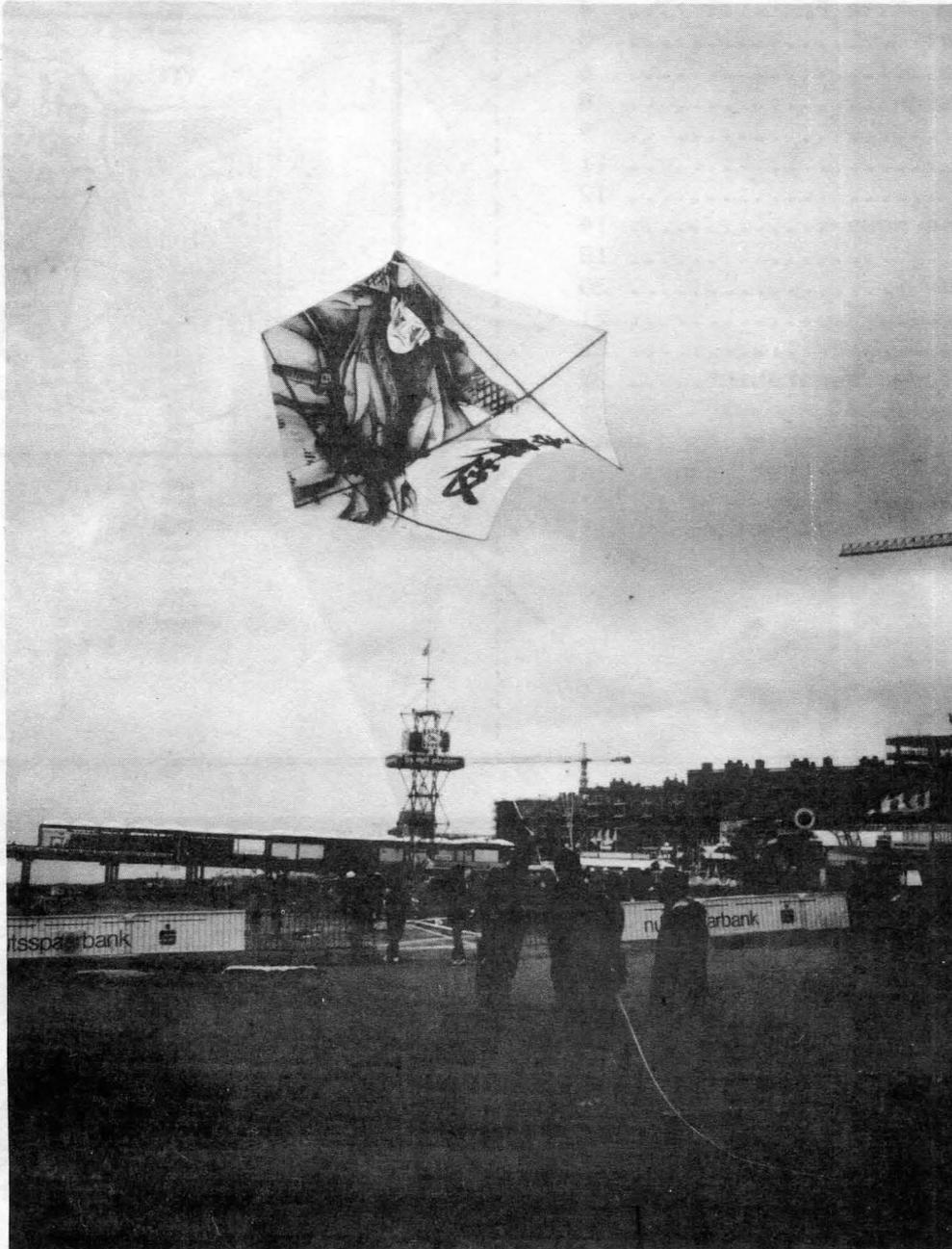


Our copy

85p

# THE KITEFLIER



## THE KITE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

with

MIDLAND KITEFLIERS NEWS

BRIGHTON KITEFLYERS AERODYNE

OCTOBER

ISSUE 29

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The photo on the front cover is a giant Rokkaku flying over the sands at Scheveningen, Holland.



# MALVERN KITES

We stock a large range of quality kites, materials, books and miscellanea.

MAKERS INCLUDE Wycombe Kite Co., Prof. Waldof, Vertical Visuals, Trlby, Flexifoil, Peter Powell, Windy Kites, Fennemore, Dan Leigh, Monday Lunch, Propius, Peter Lynn, Stratton, Gunter, Zammo.

MATERIALS Our 1985 range of materials includes many new fittings: rings, swivels, fibreglass rod, dowell, ripstop tape, ripstop, tyvek etc.

MISCELLANEA Books, Model Hot Air Balloons, Boomerangs, Frisbees—all weights, greetings and post cards, clocks, earrings, brooches.

KITELINE Braided kiteline from 23lb. — 1500lb., Twisted line from 20lb — 80lb, in bulk or short lengths. Kevlar (to order).

MAIL ORDER Send a stamp for a free copy of our illustrated mail order catalogue.

VISITORS Very welcome — see our impressive display of kites, photographs and accessories. We are open at weekends and bank holidays too — See catalogue for full details.

WE HAVE MOVED  
TO SPLENDID NEW PREMISES

THE WAREHOUSE, ST. ANN'S ROAD, GREAT MALVERN, WORCESTERSHIRE.  
TELEPHONE: MALVERN (06845) 65504

# THE KITE SOCIETY

31, Grange Road, Ilford, Essex IG1 1EU



**KITE SOCIETY**

---

Dear Reader,

We would like to start by saying that this issue marks the seventh anniversary of the Kite Society (in its various forms). During the last seven years we have seen many changes in the kite flying world - except, of course, for the usual lack of response and contributions from the readers that remains constant.

We have seen many kite groups, manufacturers and retailers come and go but overall the trend has been for a continuing, healthy, upward growth. More and larger kite festivals are now the normal state of affairs and we can report a healthy growth in membership. This applies especially to female kitefliers coming "out of the closet"!!!!

Let us all hope that as we come to the end of the 1986 kiteflying season that 1987 will be bigger and better with the weather kinder!

We have been contacted recently by the agent for Cochranes of Oxford (the manufacturers of Dunford Kites). They are interested in presenting 3 or 4 awards to the kiteflying fraternity. However, the problem is to propose suitable categories. We are hoping that you, the reader, may be able to help. We want you to:-

- a) propose one or more categories and
- b) nominate (if appropriate) a person for the award. We await your suggestions.

Plans are in hand to revamp the format of the magazine. We plan to include more photographs than currently used and therefore ask you to send us your pictures. Details of what, where and who should be included with the snap. Good quality Colour or B&W are ideal. Also we need more articles, news etc to fill the pages. Talking to some of our readers it appears that they think that we hear about everything going on - this is not the case. Don't leave it to someone else - do it yourself!

Within the pages of this issue you will find details of the Rokkaku Challenge. Those of you who have seen a fight between these kites already know what is involved and can appreciate the skill, those who haven't have something to look forward to. Whether you have or not the Rokkaku is an extremely nice kite to fly and is quite easy to make. So why not spend the long winter nights making YOUR kite for the Rokkaku Challenge and send back your entry form!

Gill and Jon Bloom

## BALI INTERNATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL

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Helen Bushell, secretary of the Australian Kite Association, sent us the following article concerning her recent trip to the Bali International Kite Festival 1986.

Bali kites are judged on harmony and movement. There are sections for Pecukan, Janggan, Bebean and Kreasi Baru kites, so kites from other nations are here for display only, to fly when the wind is too light for Balinese kites and to entertain the Balinese people. Everyone here is interested in kites.

They call them 'Layang Layang'. We hear the word in the streets as we are recognised as being connected with the festival. All the men and boys can fly kites and even small boys are able to build and fly quite intricate models of the great 18' kites that represent each village community

We visited a kite that had just been dedicated. Before it was an offering of fruits and flowers and we were invited to eat of the bananas. At another village a kite was in construction. It was laid out in the meeting hall and men were working stripping and jointing bamboo. The gamelon orchestra was practising and children watched or played. Everyone was relaxed as afternoons are for pleasure after a morning of work in the office, school or field. The children scampered for our gift balloons and a young man tested the 7' hummer that was to be mounted on the head of the kite.

After the first shock of so many small shops and happy families on motor scooters we soon settled in to the Balinese way of accomplishing everything efficiently without hurrying

Our bamboo bedroom has its own toilet and air-conditioning and a private gekko to catch our mosquitos. He chirrups in the night. We are in and out of the swimming-pool to cool our sunburn between flying sessions. We need sunhats, sunglasses, sun lotions, long sleeves and light cotton trousers with pockets. We are supplied with Bali brochures, T-shirts and sunhats with sponsor advertising and given delicious cakes from the Amsterdam Bakery. We visit the Temple of the Waters, the Art Gallery, the Batik Store, and the Monkey Garden. A monkey steals Simon's glasses and runs off. Someone barter them back for a piece of banana so we needed those too, or peanuts.

At the technical meeting papers are read in English from each of the groups. The Press is there, and at the Kite Festival, and pictures go into the papers and on T.V.

We try out the field on the Friday. Lyn and Don Larry steal the show with a 45' spinning drogue by Steve Lamb of 'Catch the Wind' U.S.A. The German kites arrive just in time for the opening ceremony by the Governor's Deputy on the Saturday. As there is no wind the place of honour above the dancing boys in traditional costume is taken by the Australian 'Year of Peace' kite that will fly for sure because it is a modified Peter Lyn box. Dancing girls thrill the watching teams that have arrived in squads either carrying kites and accompanied by gamelon orchestra or with everything heaped upon a truck. The way is cleared by police because each kite takes up more than half the road and there are eighty of them. The flying field resembles a battlefield with groups of warriors in full regalia charging about under wild kites to form up for the fly-off.

For two days we sit under awnings reading the coloured flags that tell us when

it is our turn to fly. The crowds thrills to the soaring dual controls by all visiting teams and Singapore's team arrives with a frightening display of flexifoils that delight everybody by crashing a few times before the monster Balinese kites finally find the wind and get on with competition flying.

A few fall out of the sky and once the ambulance roared off with a casualty. As the wind dies the German team tows a huge parafoil trimmed with spinners around the field as a finale and ends in a tumultuous tangle as the truck turns. Everyone cheers and laughs and runs about together for three whole days and we have never had so much fun in our lives.

Every part of the Balinese kite is meaningful. The centre spar is the male symbol, the cross-bow is the female, on the Pecukan. In the Janggan an added triangle means Birth, life and death and the long tail is the symbol of 'Naga' the giant snake of freedom and prosperity. The huge fish Bebean has given us the universe so he represents North, South, East and West and protects space, water and the environment. The kites' great hummers roar above the crowd symbolising the unity and strength of the Hindu philosophy that permeates every activity in this tiny, sunny, fertile island of Bali.

Helen Bushell

~~~~~  
**YORK FESTIVAL 1987**  
=====

I have recently been in touch with the worthy gentry of York who have expressed great enthusiasm for another festival next year and the dates have been fixed for the 30th - 31st May which should be the weekend after the Spring Bank Holiday.

The festival will be preceded by possibly four weeks of workshops, in schools, community centres and youth clubs, presented by local kitemakers, myself, Fred Waterhouse, Bill Souten, Vercel Pinnock, Graham Marsden and Dave Ives, with also the possibility of a 'Master' class by an imported kitemaker.

As with last year there should be some money available to assist with the expenses of British Kitefliers. But rather than pay individuals, except perhaps where they are presenting a display in their own right, I would prefer each kite group to design and present a display at the festival for which they will be paid a fee, which may be used to assist group funds or pay expenses. This I feel will result in a fairer distribution.

Kite groups are consequently invited to create a display for the festival, stunter aerobatics, parachuting elephants, giant kites ... something which is visually attractive and will entertain. The rest of the festival, specialist, contests will be much to the format of last year - with, of course, a larger arena.

If kite groups wish to prepare and present displays at the festival there may be, subject to conditions which I am negotiating, the possibility of grants or discounts on the purchase of materials. If anybody is interested they should get in touch.

For further information contact me at 50 Old Brumby Street, Scunthorpe, DN16 2AN.

Jim Rowlands

## ROKKAKU CHALLENGE

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As mentioned in the last issue of The Kiteflier Martin Lester has proposed an International Rokkaku Challenge. In addition he has also proposed a challenge for Great Britain only.

For the British challenge the idea is one of a Grand Prix style contest with 3 or 4 challenges being held at selected festivals. Currently these are hoped to be Blackheath at Easter, York in May, Shrewsbury in July and Bristol in September.

Every entrant must attend a minimum of two festivals. Each festival will have three fights and the highest aggregate score will be the overall winner. The best score from any two festivals will be used to determine the British winner.

The editors have volunteered to be the judges at these events. Martin has suggested that the challenge will be restricted to a minimum 2 metre sail height with at least a two person team.

The Kite Society would also like to have a similar challenge, running concurrently with the main event. The same scoring system will be used but the event will be for small rokkakus, 1 to 1.5 metres high and solo fliers. This additional event will cater for the many kitefliers who do not wish to form a team - these smaller kites are also much faster and can provide an exciting fight.

One point of contention has been the matter of the flying line. From the point of view of safety and fairness no glass coated line nor Kevlar will be allowed.

~~~~~  
This will be a good place to tell you something about the Rokkaku.

The Rokkaku kite is indigenous of the Shirone city in the Niigata prefecture of Japan. Local kitemakers produce big Rokkakus specifically for the battles but smaller kites which are much more elaborate with traditional paintings on them are also produced in the region. The fighting kites can trace their history back 300 years but the 8 foot high Rokkakus are only 100 years old and are referred to as the Sanjo Rokkaku. This kite design allows for the spine to be removed to allow easier transport.

The Japanese Rokkaku is flown with a team consisting of 4 - 5 men and during the fighting there can be between 30 and 50 kites in the sky at any one time.

For a more comprehensive description of the Rokkaku see chapter 1 and 2 of Tal Streeter's The Art of the Japanese Kite.

~~~~~  
Interested in making a Rokkaku? Here are some hints and tips.

The basic Rokkaku shape can be based on a ratio of 5 units high by 4 units wide or, alternatively, a ratio of 6 high by 5 wide (see diagram).

A modern western kite is best built with spars that are robust, with

# ROKKAKU CHALLENGE

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attachments for bowing the two cross spars. The original Japanese versions used spars that were flexible enough to bow naturally. So for practical purposes fibreglass or bamboo spars, and tyvek or ripstop sail are the norm.

The leading edges need to be taut, hence fabric kites are best hemmed and cotton tape put around the kite's edges. However, it should be noted that the kite also needs to be slack either side of the central spar when bowed. This can be achieved by making the kite to be taut when flat - the bowing will cause the slack to appear.

Bridles seem to be either a four point or a six point. The six point bridle is the traditional Japanese fighting bridle with a stronger central bridle with weaker outer bridles. The four leg bridle works well so the answer is to experiment.

The length of the bridle varies according to the source of information so again it would be best to experiment but as a rough guide the top leg should be 3.5 - 4 units and the bottom leg 4 - 4.5 units.

Flying characteristics of a rokkaku may help with these experiments. The kites fly at a good angle and are remarkably stable in a steady wind (in fact they have been used for aerial photography). In a turbulent or changable wind they are easily knocked off course. This is where the fighting comes in. As well as trying to cut the line you can knock the kite over - not as easy as it sounds as your own kite is likely to come down at the same time!!

~~~~~  
If you are thinking of to entering either (or both) of the Rokkaku challenges you should complete this form and return it before 31st December 1986 to:-

Rokkaku Challenge  
The Kite Society  
31 Grange Road  
Ilford  
Essex  
IG1 1EU

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Team Event

Solo Event

(Please indicate which you wish to enter)

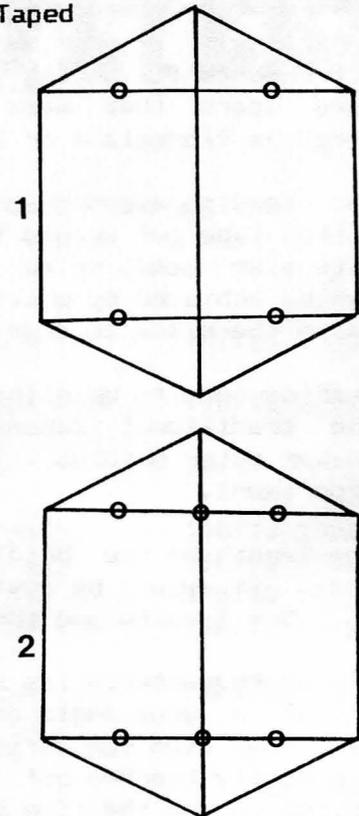
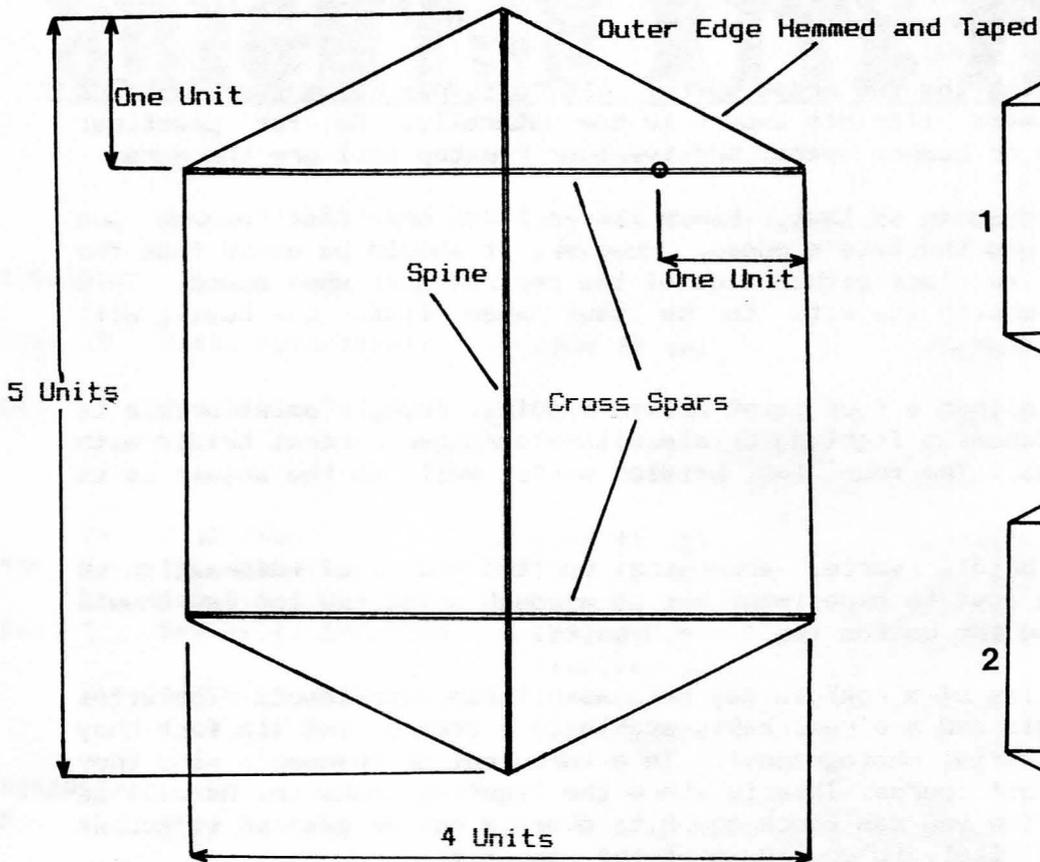
If team event please indicate the number of people in the team \_\_\_\_\_

If you have any queries concerning the challenge please write to the above address.

You will receive in due course a complete set of rules and venues for the event.

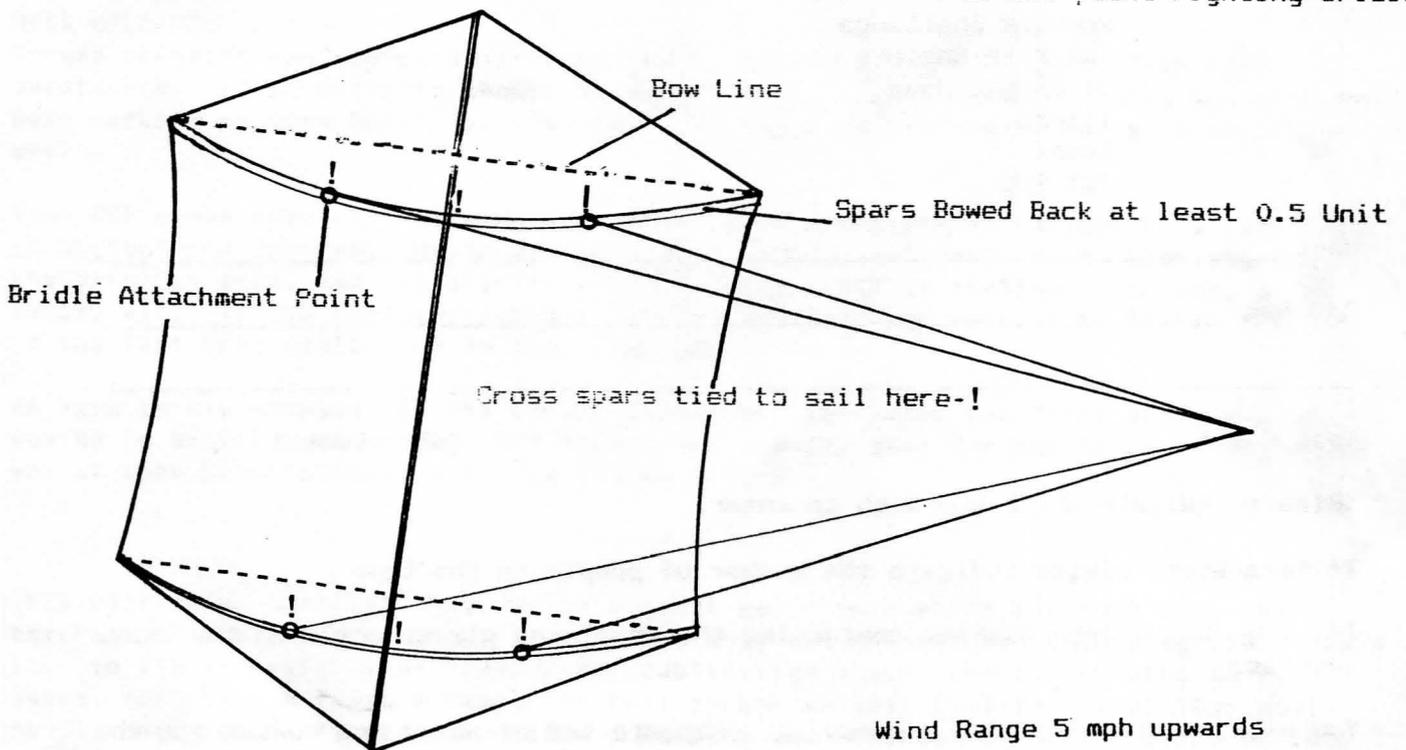
# BASIC ROKKAKU DESIGN

## Basic Configuration



## Possible Bridle Configurations

- 1) Four Point Bridle  
Best for small Rokkakus
- 2) Six point Fighting Bridle



## SAFETY AT FESTIVALS

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### A CODE OF SAFE KITE FLYING PRACTICE - FOR KITE FESTIVALS

If the 1986 season is to be remembered for anything at all, for me it will be the year of turning, the year that the joy of kite flying and the spectacle of the kite display at last came to the attention of the public at large. The year that kite flying passed from the plaything of little boys to become the joy of thousands both as participants and spectators.

The trend for the future also became much clearer. York, and certainly Washington, set the pattern for festivals in years to come - large, colourful, entertaining. But how will the Kite Society react to these trends?. Welcome them all with open arms?. Slap itself on the back saying how well it's done? Or as I shall try to suggest, ensure that those changes taking place do not threaten what we have come to regard as the better interests of kite flying.

From the first event of the season, to the final fly at Old Warden we have seen a major festival almost every weekend somewhere up or down the country. Even now with the start of next season some six months away the calendar of events is already looking pretty crowded as each new festival spawns many others, all claiming to be bigger, brighter and better than everything gone before.

1986 has also been the first year we have seen major sponsorships of kite festivals. Budgets of tens of thousands of pounds, unheard of only two years ago are now not uncommon, as commerce slowly awakens to the advertising potential of these events. But greater sponsorships demand more spectators, who demand more colourful, more spectacular, more exciting displays, which demand higher budgets, which require greater sponsorship .... and so the spiral continues. Most events if not initiated by kite groups have had at their helm an experienced kiteflyer to lead and advise organisers through the maze of regulations and conventions.

A third discernable trend however, though not really evident just yet is the presentation of events by bodies not usually associated with kites, but where kiteflyers are invited to present a display, perhaps merely as an afterthought to fill in a gap in the programme. Less experienced kite flyers are also being recruited to assist with events organised by numerous bodies, particularly local authorities, keen to jump on the latest band wagon.

On the one hand the future for kiteflying in Britain looks good. We have a large number of events, we are slowly attracting more sponsorship, providing the opportunity, the incentive and the finance to create and present even more spectacular displays. Yet on the other hand I also fear that the interest of kiteflying might, in generating this large number of competing events become overshadowed by the needs and desires of the sponsors. While I am not so naive to believe that the Kite Society could or should make demands of sponsors, I do believe to retain any credibility at all they should exert as much influence as possible in one particular direction - festival safety. I am consequently proposing the establishment of a 'Code of Safe Festival Practice'

I have spoken to a number of kite flyers on this matter, some who have been invited to fly kites while microlights and hot air balloons were trailing around the sky, others who are asked to participate in an event next to a busy motorway, the tale of the glass coated line at Washington is also sadly emerging, while we are all familiar with the kite flier who insists on flying

## SAFETY AT FESTIVALS

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a train of stunters from the middle of the car park. Clearly some code of safety beyond the standard code and specifically related to festivals is required.

What would this 'code' contain?. How would it be used?. What the code will not be, I trust, is a set of rules and regulations. What I feel it should contain however is a set of recommendations, pointing out the various dangers of which festival organisers should be aware. For example the code may contain recommendations on:-

Festival site - size. How many square metres are required per spectator.

Location - how near/far from busy roads.

Situation of flying area in relation to car park entrance, pedestrian areas.

CAA clearance, what it means. How to apply. What height to apply for.

Kite displays, manlifting, use of Kevlar.

Such a code quite obviously cannot be prepared overnight, nor by one person. It requires the considered views of a number of experienced festival organisers and kite exhibitors.

Your views on this matter are consequently sought. What the code finally contains, how it will work, whether it will work at all, is really up to you. But it is my view that unless some guidelines for safety are drawn up and observed then the chaos and danger that might ensue could threaten much of the achievement that we have all worked so hard to enjoy.

**Jim Rowlands**

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To start the process we would like to extract some points from the KON Kite Courtesy Code which originally appeared in issue 2 Christmas 1979.

Twin line stunters should avoid single lines. Separate flying areas should be provided.

Don't fly Manja when you are not fighting or you could end up literally fighting.

Try to emphasise that kite flying can be dangerous especially to youngsters who often do not appreciate that kites can kill if out into the wrong hands.

Take care when pulling in those big kites, they could be lethal. So again perhaps a separate area should be provided. In addition there should be no manlifting UNLESS precautions are taken.

Remember the sky belongs to everybody not just you.

## LETTERS

From R.H.Reeve

In the July issue of the newsletter is an article on Kite Law by Peter Lofting and in it he gives a sample letter asking the CAA for a block permit to fly above 200ft for photographic purposes. He has headed this letter with an address (of the CAA) and a telephone number but I'm not sure whether this is a genuine address or a sample only. I have rung this phone number several times but, so far, been unable to get an answer. (The number is correct - Ed).

I've been making and flying my own design kites for the past four years and have always had kite photography in mind. I now feel ready to go ahead and have decided to use a slightly modified double conyne for the purpose equipped with a radio controlled RICOH AF-50 camera.

Incidentally, I phoned Kidlington (Oxfordshire) Airport yesterday and asked to speak to a pilot who, in answer to my query, told me that the best colour for a kite from a pilot's point of view was a fluorescent Orange and the second best (and I have no doubt you will be as surprised at this as I was) is a fluorescent LIGHT GREEN. I don't know who the gentleman was but I found him most helpful. I have been thinking also that it might be a good idea to ask the local ATC if I should put some form of identification in letters and/or numbers on the upper side of the kite for the benefit of pilots. I should hate to find myself being blamed for someone else's foolishness.

~~~~~

From S Beardwood:-

Having run several kite workshops, exhibitions and lectures during the past few years I have noticed a growing interest in the more technical aspects of kite design and flying. I am asked questions about how kites fly, the affects of tails and other stabilizing features in modern designs. Very often, particularly in workshops, I find myself spending more time explaining the aerodynamics of kites to enquiring adults and older children than actually running the workshop. To get round this problem, and as an aid to talks etc. I have produced a computer program explaining the basic concepts of lift and drag, the importance of bridle settings, the effects of tails and bowing etc. The Beaufort scale up to 5 and some "do's and dont's" of kite flying.

If any member has access to a Dragon 32 or 64 computer I will be glad to send them a copy. It is written in BASIC and may be easily adapted to the needs of the user. There are two versions on the tape, one which requires a key press to run the sections and one which runs itself 'CEEFAX' style. Works on both Black & White and Colour sets with or without sound. If anyone would like a copy, just send me a blank computer cassette (C15) and £1.00 to cover P&P or just give me a call for details.

The address - 1 West Bottom, Hob Lane, Norland, Sowerby Bridge, HX6 3QL

Tel. Halifax 831927

~~~~~

The letters page is very short of correspondents - how about YOU contributing?

## GENERAL INTEREST

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The Snowdon Balloon, Kite and Hang Gliding club has produced it's first newsletter. Called "Windy Tails" it is a small A5 newsletter. It contains two good kite plans plus other musings.

If you wish to become a member of this group it will cost you £1.00 per year. For this you will receive a hand printed membership card, a badge, two stickers and the newsletter as and when they materialise. Send subscriptions with an A5 S.A.E. to:- Davi Jones, Treasurer, 57 Brachmelyn, Bethesda, Gwynedd.

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The Essex Kite Group's exhibition at the Chelmsford and Essex Museum caused interest in the local press. Photographs and short articles appeared in a number of locals.

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The science fiction book Kiteworld by Keith Roberts (reviewed in a previous Kiteflier) is now available in paperback. Penguin Books ISBN 0 - 14 - 008238 - 7. Price £2.95. Probably worth the money if only for the front cover illustration (kites in one direction, line in another).

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As mentioned in the last issue a Group of Dutch Kitefliers were going to attempt to break the world altitude record. Unfortunately it appears that the Kevlar line being used broke and all the line and kites plus the radio equipment was lost.

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A manufacturer called Autoline is producing kite kits based on eastern (mainly Japanese) kites. The catalogue appears to be a direct photocopy of "Kites - Sculpting the Sky - by Tsutomu Hiroi.

The prices seem quite high but how often do you have kits for centipedes and Edo kites.

For further details write to Autoline, Freepost, Liverpool, L4 4AB.

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The Northern Kite Group has had a change of leadership. The secretary is now Ron Ogden, 41 Ashfield Drive, Clayton Bridge, Manchester M10 6WJ. The editor of their magazine is John Rigby. Membership costs £5.00.

---

The Peacock and Adams families recently appeared in the London Weekend Television program "Wake Up London" providing a good 10 minutes entertainment.

Whilst on the subject of television Tom Pratt recently appeared as the guest judge on the B.B.C. programme "The Great Egg Race". The teams in the programme were set the task of taking aerial photographs of an oil rig. Obviously the

plan was to use kites but unfortunately there was no wind and therefore both teams ended up using balloons.

~~~~~

Dan Rounding has decided to cease trading. He started up this year as Kites in Action. He does however hope to organise a kite festival next year in the Ipswich area.

~~~~~

The American Kitefliers Association annual convention is to be held in Maryland next October (1987). Tony Cartwright has asked if anyone interested in forming a party to attend next years event should send their names to the magazine who will then pass them on. If you are interested then please send the name of all interested people to us by 31st December.

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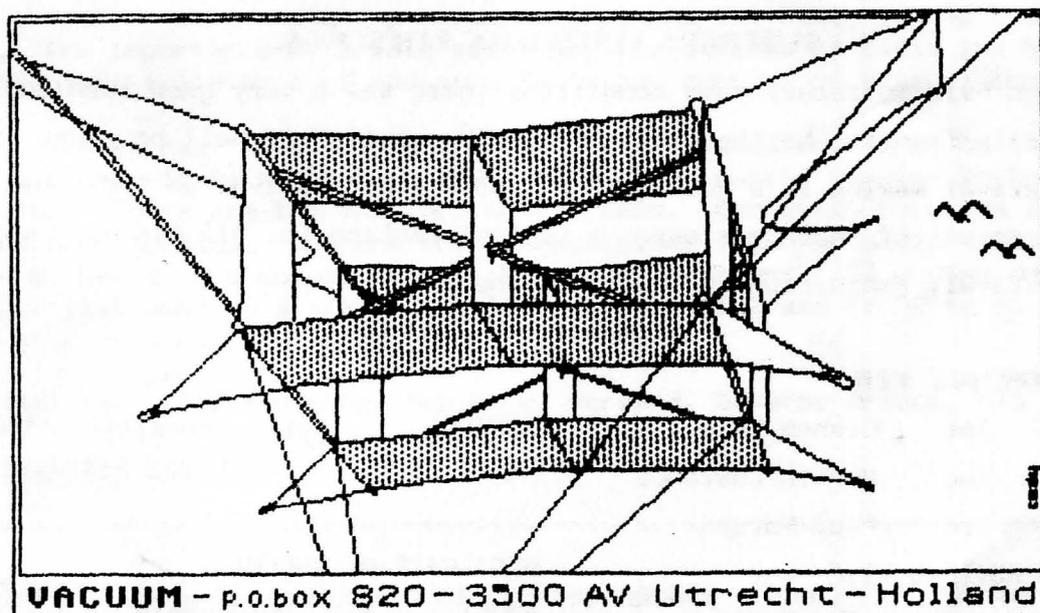
The A.K.A. also have a new address-it is:-

American Kitefliers Association, 6636 Kirkley Avenue, McLean, VA 22101

~~~~~

Whilst walking down Regent Street, London a number of kite related mugs were spotted.

The first was in the Reject China Shop with a set of three mugs depicting a Delta, a Box and an Eddy. The second was in Chinacraft with a colourful mug showing a seaside view with a number of eddy kites. The last one spotted is for the kids (very young). It is part of a Paddington Bear Nursery set showing Paddington Bear flying a Kite.





# MKEXTRA

## MIDLANDS KITE FLIERS NEWS

76 OXHILL ROAD, HANDSWORTH, BIRMINGHAM, B21 9RH.



### D A T E S   F O R   Y O U R   D I A R I E S

**SUNDAY 5th OCTOBER 1986.**

Old Warden Aerodrome, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire. **B.K.F.A. BI-ANNUAL MEETING**

**SUNDAY 12th OCTOBER 1986.**

Foremark Reservoir, near Repton, Derbyshire. **M.K.F. MONTHLY FLY-IN.**

**SUNDAY 9th NOVEMBER 1986.**

Midlands Kite Fliers Annual General Meeting, Holyhead School, Birmingham.

**SUNDAY 7th DECEMBER 1986.**

Walsall Arboretum Extension, Walsall. **M.K.F. MONTHLY FLY-IN.**

**SUNDAY 4th JANUARY 1987.**

Walsall Arboretum Extension, Walsall. **M.K.F. MONTHLY FLY-IN.**

**N.B. NEW DATE FOR THE A.G.M. Previous date cancelled as school is closed..**

**SATURDAY 11th AND SUNDAY 12th OCTOBER 1986**

Kite making and flying workshops at Prema Arts Centre, Durdley, Glous.  
The workshops will finish with flying on the common between Dursley  
and Stroud. (Sunday afternoon) **Everyone welcome.....**

### **STAFFORD'S FESTIVAL OF KITES 1986.**

Although held in rather damp conditions there was a very good turn out, especially from the Northern Kite Group. Hopefully we shall be repeating the festival making it a joint M.K.F. and N.K.G. Festival in 1987. Don Eccleston, the organiser of the event needs a special mention for all his hard work with the Festival, exhibition and kite workshops.

### **COMPETITION RESULTS**

#### **BEST HOMEMADE KITE**

|       |     |                 |        |     |                  |
|-------|-----|-----------------|--------|-----|------------------|
| ADULT | 1st | Graham Wyle     | JUNIOR | 1st | Harriett Arthur. |
|       | 2nd | Martin Lawrence |        |     |                  |
|       | 3rd | Paul Morgan     |        |     |                  |

#### **MOST BEAUTIFUL KITE**

|       |     |             |
|-------|-----|-------------|
| ADULT | 1st | Alan Davies |
|       | 2nd | Paul Morgan |
|       | 3rd | John Rigby  |

#### **BEST RATE OF ASCENT**

|        |     |                     |
|--------|-----|---------------------|
| ADULT  | 1st | Mike Hale           |
|        | 2nd | Tony Slater         |
| JUNIOR |     | Matthew Wainwright. |

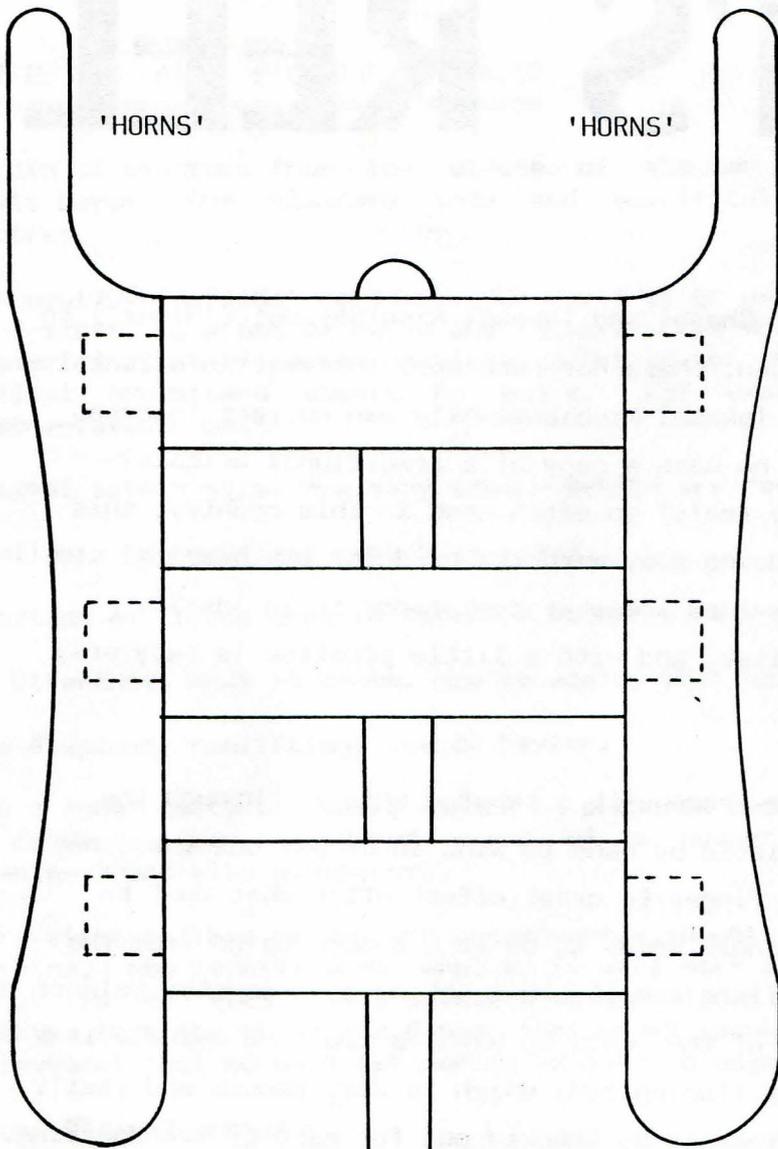
# NISHI'S REEL

With the lengthy visits of Eiji Ohashi and Takeshi Nishibayashi ('Nishi') to this country this year from Japan, there has been more interest in oriental and Japanese kites and kiting. Takeshi Nishibayashi's own current interest is in fighting kites for which he uses a copy of a traditional oriental fighting reel. Unlike 'deep sky reels' so often used in this country, this reel has no moving parts thus doing away with the need for any bearings etc. Although at first this reel may look somewhat cumbersome it is ideally suited for use with fighting kites, and with a little practise is very easy to master.

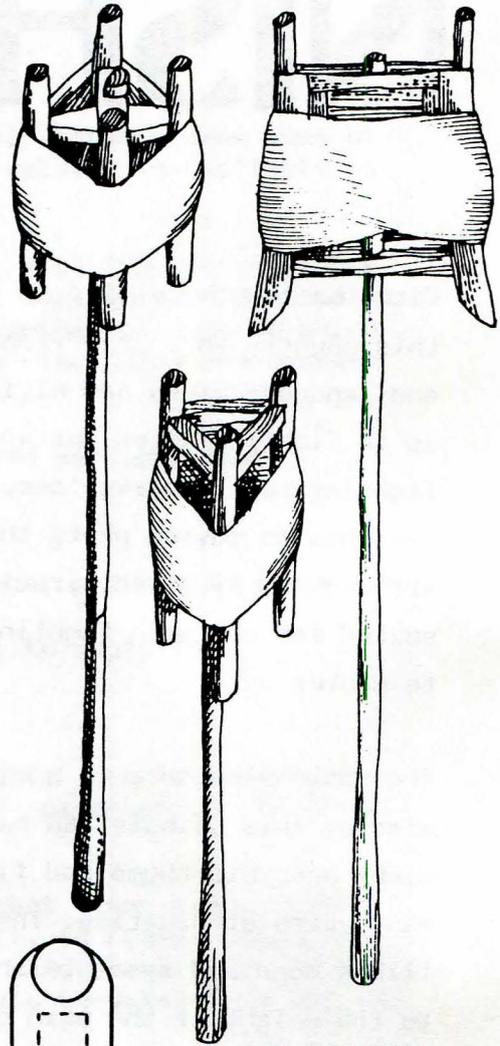
The basic structure is a simple frame with a tapered spindle through the middle. This spindle can be twisted by hand to wind in or pay out the line. Nishi uses his thumb and first finger to great effect after what must be many years of practise. The spindle needs to be long enough to go from the flier's hand and reach to the flier's armpit, thus acting as a counter balance to the weight of the main part of the reel. On Nishi's reel the spindle is a piece of tapered fibreglass (ex fishing rod) which is very smooth and easily twisted; being tapered it can readily be knocked out for ease of transporting. To gain extra momentum when winding in the line, the flier can twist the top of the reel by using the 'horns', this with practise makes for very rapid line reclamation etc. One very important item to remember with this type of reel is not to wind too much line in any one place, this is best achieved by using alternate 'horns' when winding in, say ten times before changing to the next 'horn'

**N.B.** It is recommended that good quality hardwood be used for the reel construction, even then it would be a good idea to use extra packing pieces to prevent the reel from being crushed when under the pressure of the tightly wound line.

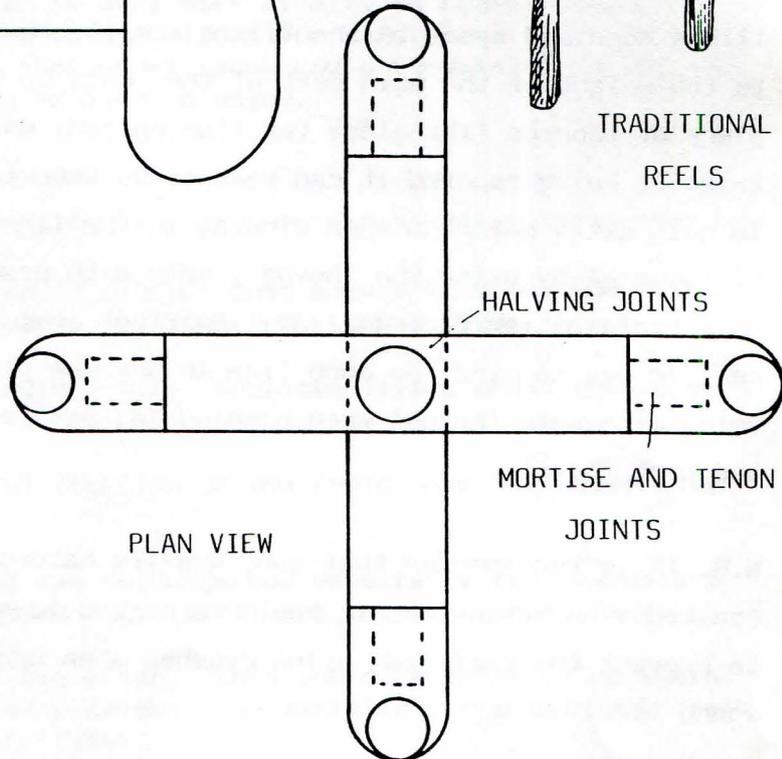
Bill Souten  
Midlands Kite Fliers.



TAPERED FIBREGLASS  
ROD (EX FISHING ROD)



TRADITIONAL  
REELS



PLAN VIEW

HALVING JOINTS

MORTISE AND TENON  
JOINTS

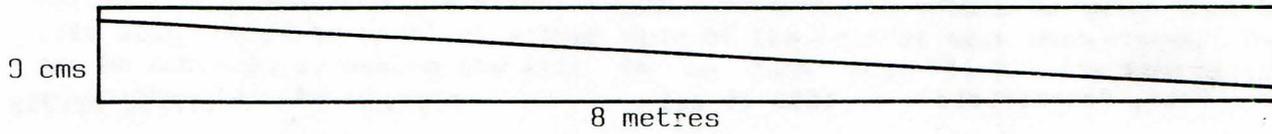
DRAWN APPROXIMATELY HALF FULL SIZE.

# " OREGON "

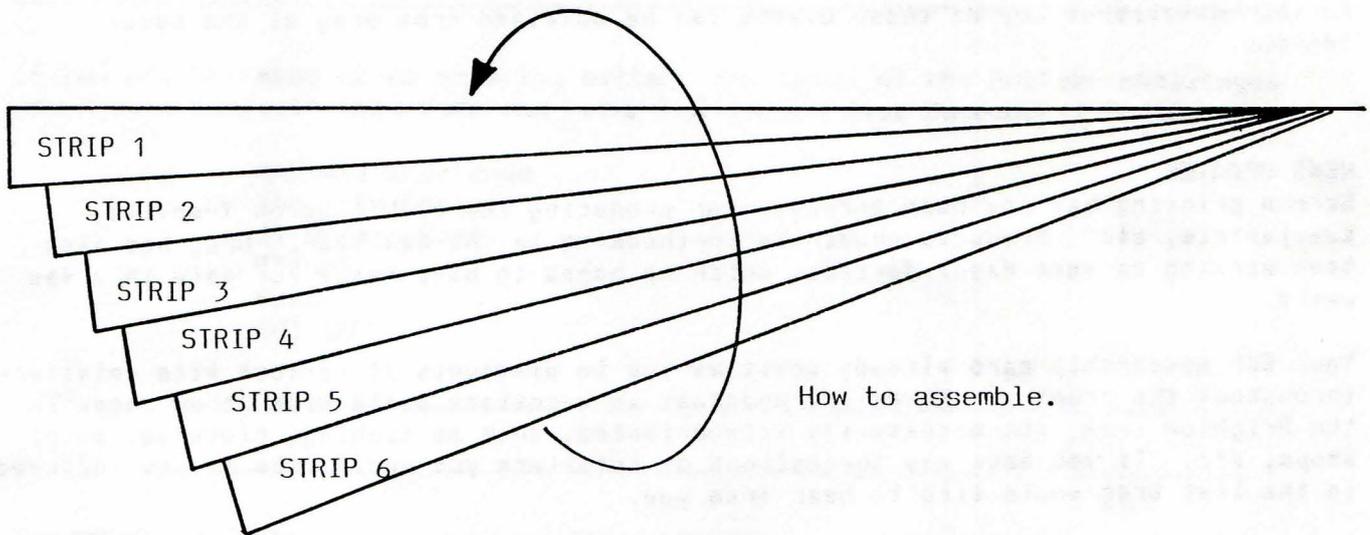
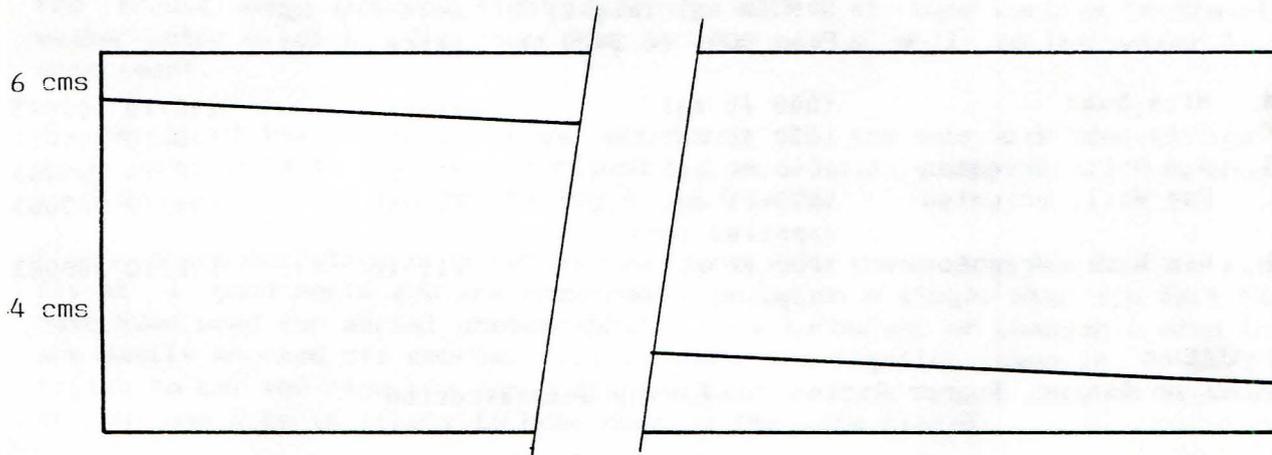
# SPINNING WINDSOCKS

Below are some very abbreviated instructions on how to construct one of the spinning windsocks seen recently at Old Warden. The instructions were sent by Jacques Durieu of the Nouvelle Cervoliste Belge. I hope my translation is fully comprehensive..... Bill Souten.

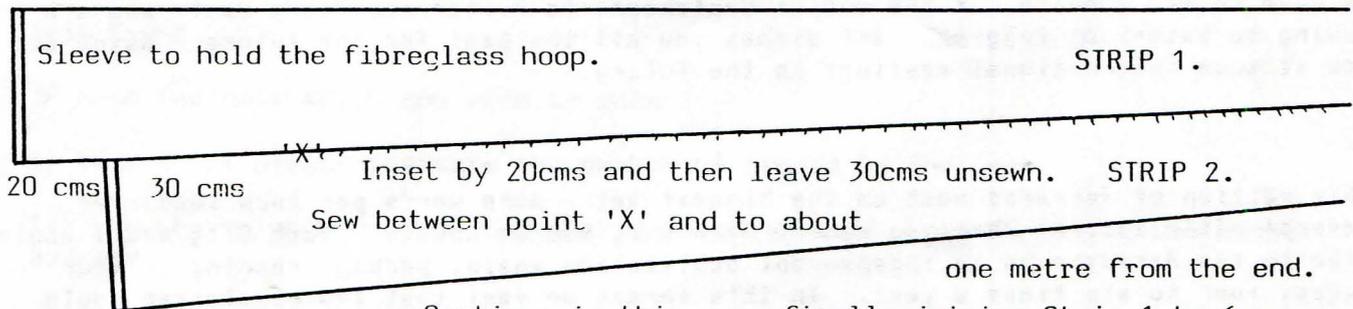
Cut three strips of spinnaker nylon in contrasting colours, 50cms by 8 metres.



Cut each strip along the diagonal according to the measurements shown.



How to assemble.



Continue in this way, finally joining Strip 1 to 6

Attach to the flying line using ball bearing swivel clips.

# Aerodyne

## **BRIGHTON KITE FLYERS**

October 1986

Aerodyne, Stephen Smedley, 86B Centurion Road, Brighton BN1 3LN

### EVENTS

|         |                    |                                                                 |                                        |               |
|---------|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------|
| Sept 28 | Rake, Petersfield  | 1500 ft agl                                                     | Fly-in                                 | 197/SU 821288 |
| Oct 12  | Red Hill, Brighton | 1500 ft agl (day)<br>500 ft agl (night)<br>From 0001 to 2400 hr | International<br>Kite Fly for<br>Peace | 198/TQ 285083 |
| 26      | High Down          | 1000 ft agl                                                     | Fly-in                                 | 198/TQ 100043 |
| Nov 9   | Telscombe Tye      | 1000 ft agl                                                     | Fly-in                                 | 198/TQ 391017 |
| 23      | Red Hill, Brighton | 1000 ft agl                                                     | Fly-in                                 | 198/TQ 285083 |
| Dec 7   | Red Hill, Brighton | 1500 ft agl<br>(applied for)                                    | Fly-in                                 | 198/TQ 285083 |
| 21      | Red Hill, Brighton | 1000 ft agl<br>(applied for)                                    | Fly-in                                 | 198/TQ 285083 |

### DEMONSTRATION

Nov 21 Arun Centre, Bognor Regis Flying demonstration

Further details of any of these events can be obtained from Greg at the usual address.

\* \* \*

### NEWS UPDATES

Screen printing has now been arranged for producing the club logo on T-shirts, sweatshirts, etc. Products should be forthcoming in the New Year. Greg has also been working on some Happi jackets, which he hopes to have ready for sale in a few weeks.

Your BKF membership card already entitles you to discounts at various kite retailers throughout the country. Moves are underway to negotiate deals with other shops in the Brighton area, not necessarily kite-oriented, such as fishing, clothing, model shops, etc. If you have any suggestions of retailers you would like to see included in the list Greg would like to hear from you.

We have to say goodbye, at the end of September, to Pieter and Petra Bentz who are moving to Waterloo, Belgium. BKF wishes you all the best for the future - maybe see you at some international meetings in the future.

\* \* \*

This edition of *Aerodyne* must be the biggest yet - more words per inch than ever before! It's amazing what you can do with only two A4 sheets. Both Greg and I would like to see *Aerodyne* as an independent publication again, perhaps running to four pages, four to six times a year. In this format we feel that the newsletter would really begin to fulfil its function - keeping you informed of what's going on in your area, soon enough after the event for you not to have forgotten about it. Presentation could also be improved, given more room to work with. The Brighton Kite Flyers are one of the most active groups in the country - more fly-ins, more demonstrations, and a group of well-informed members with a wide range of interests and backgrounds. With a larger newsletter we would really be able to do justice to

some of the unique events which are always taking place in the region. The Japanese kite workshops are a case in point. These occasions should be fully recorded for posterity - by us! The bottom line, however, is that unless we receive contributions from our members we will not be able to realise our ambitions. It's up to each and everyone of us to contribute something to the club in whatever way we can. I would like to hear what you think of the club's activities generally and *Aerodyne* in particular. Only with feedback from it's members can the club provide what people really want.

\* \* \*

#### JAPANESE KITE WORKSHOPS with Ohashi and Nishibayashi 14th & 15th August

During their three-day stay in Brighton these two gentlemen of Japanese kiting took many children and adults through a whirlwind of creativity and skill. Over the two days and during three workshops nearly 200 children experienced the skill and artistry of Nishibayashi and Ohashi whose superb displays on Brighton's beaches held everyone spellbound. It was an honour and an experience for the public to learn something of the ancient craft from two great masters, and the use of modern, Western materials by Nishi and Ohashi must surely give us all food for thought. For those of you who tried but did not manage to attend we hope that 1987 may offer a repeat performance, but take heart in the knowledge that we do at least have within the club momentos of the visit and that our guests returned to Japan with momentos of Brighton.

\* \* \*

#### 4th INTERNATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL, DIEPPE, 13th & 14th September.

It was a smaller party than usual that travelled to the 4th International Dieppe Festival. The Brighton Kite Flyers this year were honoured not only by the presence of David White but also by the proceedings in Dieppe being opened by the Lady Mayoress of Brighton. Saturday morning started dry with very little wind, but by 10am the skies over Dieppe front were filled with a myriad of colourful and imaginative kites. The rest of the day, however, was wet and windy, indeed so wet that many of the kite flyers retreated sodden by mid-afternoon. The dinner laid on by Jean Renoir and the CVCF in the evening helped to restore many flagging spirits. Originally organised for 200 people, chaos ensued when some 300+ attended the banquet. With true Gallic aplomb tables and chairs were thrown out of windows to make room for an impromptu buffet-style meal. The organisation, public address, and awards combined to fill this day with more than enough to satisfy any festival-goer. There were many sights which will stay in the mind: a 3 metre black and white Rogallo stunt kite being controlled by two people, one on each control line, fighting bravely to steer it away from a 150 ft radio mast; the joy of a little girl seeing her two teddy bears, parachuting from on high, swept away by the wind to be deposited onto the roof of a nearby building. Special mention must be made of the team from Thailand who showed great skill in manoeuvring their male and female fighter kites. This, for many people, was the highlight of this superb festival. The Thais presented a fighter kite to the British kite flyers and it is being held in the custody of Gill and Jon Bloom. I have no doubt that they will make its presence well known. All in all yet another festival which we should revisit in future years.

\* \* \*

#### KITING ANNIVERSARIES

|          |    |                                                                                                                                         |
|----------|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| October  | 7  | Kitefliers Occasional Newsletter first appears, Old Warden, 1979.                                                                       |
| October  | 16 | Kite flying banned in public places due to rioting between rival fliers, France, 1736.                                                  |
| November | 5  | Cody crosses Channel pulled by train of his own kites, 1903.                                                                            |
| November | 30 | BKF try to recreate S.H.R. Salmon's cross-Channel communication with a Dan delta, 1980.                                                 |
| December | 6  | Alexander Graham Bell lifts Army Lt. Thomas E. Selfridge with his 3,393 cell tetrahedral kite "Cygnet", Baddeck Bay, Nova Scotia, 1907. |

# 1ST INTERNATIONAL KITE-FLY FOR PEACE

OCTOBER 12, 1986



The first international kite-fly for peace - One Sky/One World - has inspired an international kite community to become active. Organisations in the following countries are currently committed or considering One Sky/One World festivals.

U.S.A., Hawaii, Germany, France, Italy, Netherlands, Canada, Sweden, Hungary, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, China, England, Belgium and Spain.

In England kite events are being held at the following locations:-

- Bristol - Ashdown Court  
Contact Martin Lester  
40 City Road  
Bristol, BS2 8TX
- Cleveland - Contact Malcolm Goodman  
44 Huntcliffe Drive  
Brotton  
Saltburn-by-sea, Cleveland.
- Norfolk - Norwich  
St James Hill  
Mousehold Heath  
Norwich
- Contact - Kevin Armstrong  
The Old Post Office  
Higham  
Colchester CO7 6JY
- Gwynedd - Pant Dreiniog Open Space  
Bethesda  
Gwynedd  
Contact - 0248 601 109
- London - Blackheath Common  
The Kite Society.  
31 Grange Road  
Ilford  
Essex, IG1 1EU

**M25. (25 Minutes to make)**

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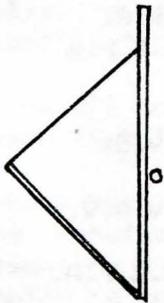
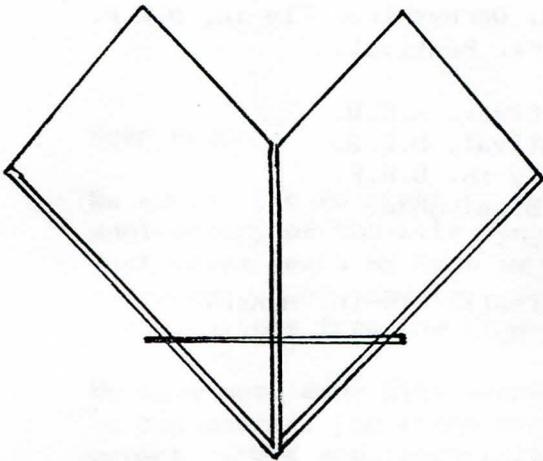
I recently made a small delta out of a left-over piece of ripstop. What else do you do with a piece too big to throw away and too small to make a real kite (!).

So I made a 25 minute kite, you take a square piece, make a cut halfway, fold it over, sew some sleeves and you have a good flying delta.

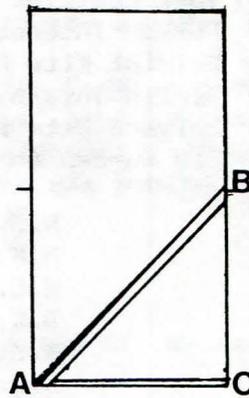
The keel is double faced but it does not matter.

The M25 is inspired by Tony Cartwright's T shirt (sorry I mean ARROWHEAD).

Note there is a stick inserted in the leading edge of the keel, tow point is somewhere on the 1st fifth of the edge.

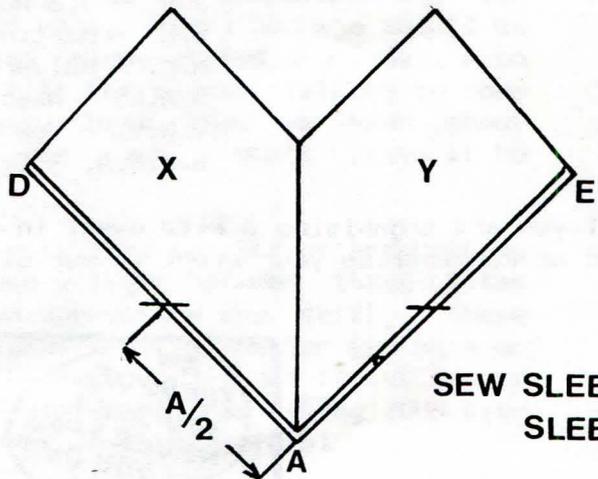


FOLD Y ON X

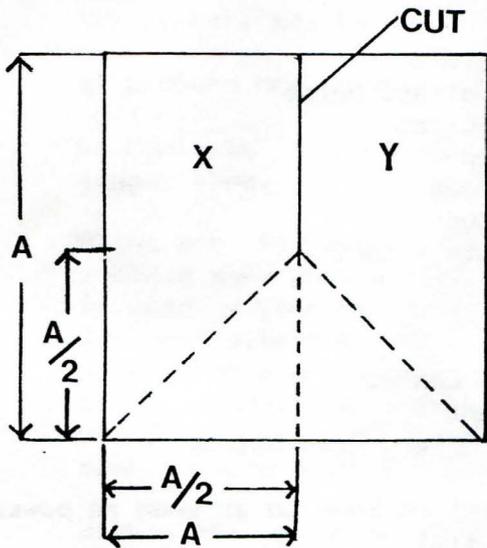


SEW SLEEVE AB  
SLEEVE AC

UNFOLD



SEW SLEEVE AD  
SLEEVE AE



Jean-Pierre Vandierendonck

## EVENTS LIST

=====

- 12th October One Sky One World. Internation Peace Kite Fly. See page 20 for festival locations and contacts.  
Red Hill, Brighton. One Sky One World event. B.K.F.  
Foremark Reservoir, near Repton, Derbyshire. Fly-in. M.K.F.
- 18th October Copenhagen Kite Festival, Denmark. Festival.
- 26th October High Down, Fly-in. B.K.F.
- 1st November Kite Festival East Dunkirk. Festival. N.C.B.
- 2nd November Kite Festival East Dunkirk, Festival. N.C.B.
- 9th November Telscombe Tye, Near Brighton, Fly-in. B.K.F.  
M.K.F. A.G.M. Holyhead School, Birmingham.
- 23rd November Red Hill, Brighton. Fly-in. B.K.F.
- 7th December Red Hill, Brighton. Fly-in. B.K.F.  
Walsall Arboretum Extension, Walsall. Fly-in. M.K.F.
- 21st December Red Hill, Brighton. Fly-in. B.K.F.

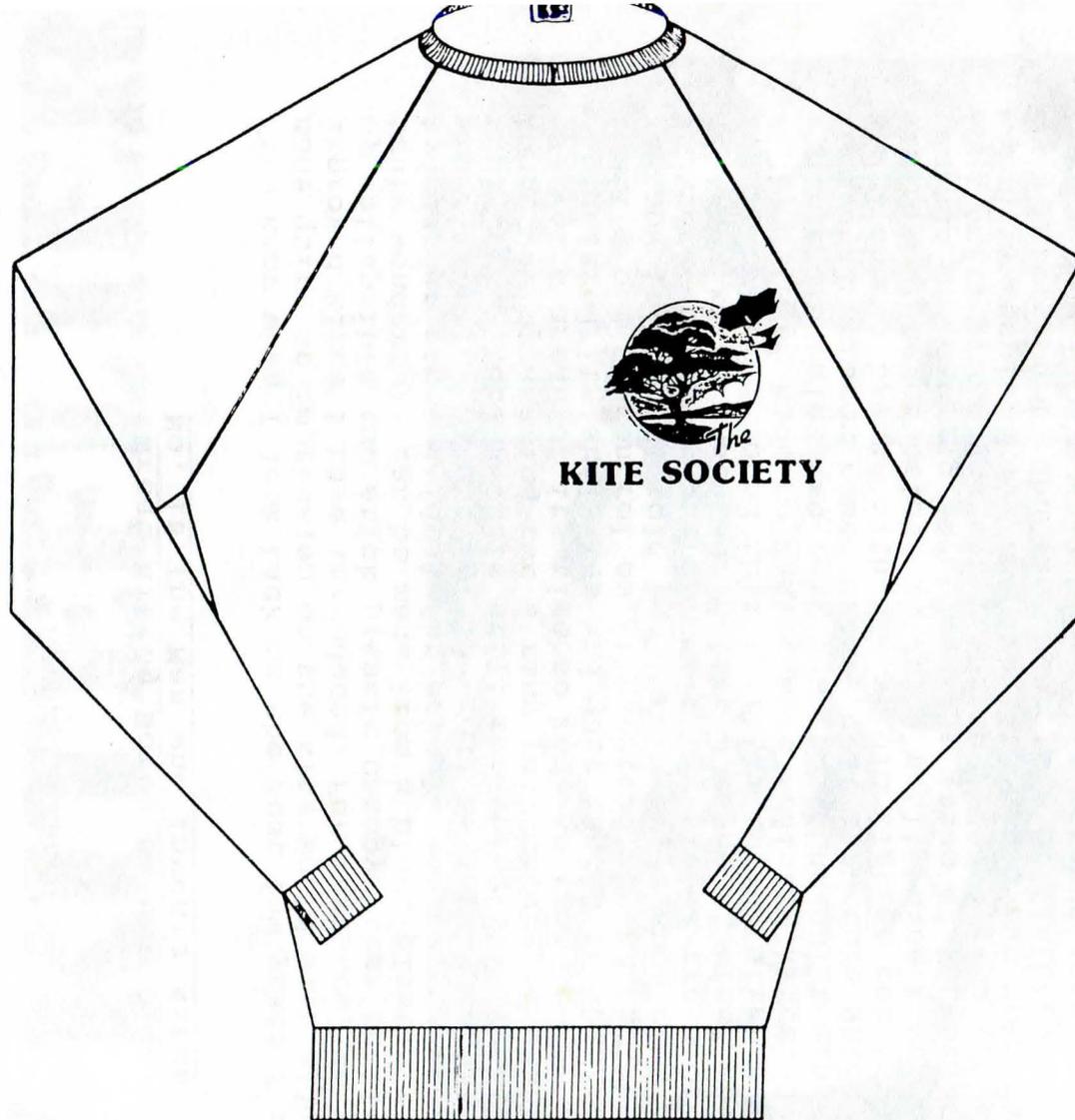
## 1987

- 4th January Walsall Arboretum extension, Walsall. Fly-in. M.K.F.
- 19th April Easter Event, Blackheath, London. Festival. B.K.A.
- 20th April Easter Event, Blackheath, London. Festival. B.K.A.
- 3rd May Old Warden Aerodrome, Biggleswade. Festival. B.K.F.A.
- 30th May York Festival of Kites. Festival. J.R.
- 31st May York Festival of Kites. Festival. J.R.
- ?? June Fokker International Kite Festival. Festival. V.O.
- ?? September Bristol Kite Festival. Festival. M.L.
- ?? September Berlin International Kite Festival. Festival. V.W.V.
- ?? September Malvern Kite Weekend. Festival. M.K.
- 4th October Old Warden Aerodrome, Biggleswade. Festival. B.K.F.A.

K.S. - The Kite Society  
M.K.F. - Midland Kite Fliers  
N.C.B. - Le Nouveau Cervoliste Belge  
B.K.F. - Brighton Kite Fliers  
E.K.G. - Essex Kite Group  
C.K.G. - Croydon Kite Group  
W.K.G. - Wessex Kite Group  
G.O.K.F. - Great Ouse Kite Fliers  
J.R. - Jim Rowlands  
M.L. - Martin Lester  
M.K. - Malvern Kites  
W.A.C. - Washington Arts Centre  
V.W.V. - Vom Winde Verweht  
B.K.F.A. - British Kite Fliers Association

If you are organising a kite event in 1987 then let us know so as soon as possible so we can include your event in our distribution list.





## THE KITE SOCIETY SWEATSHIRTS

High quality, 50% Polyester 50% Cotton mix, crew neck, fleece lined sweatshirts.

Available in either White or Grey Marl with a black logo on the left breast.

SIZES: 36" (S), 38" (M), 40/42" (L), 44" (XL), 46" (XXL).

The Kite Society logo is approximately 90mm by 130mm in size.

PRICE £10.00 each plus £1.00 for post and packaging.

Delivery will take about 28 days. Cash with orders please.....

# THE KITE SOCIETY

31, Grange Road, Ilford, Essex IG1 1EU

## INTERESTED IN KITES?

Are you wondering if there are any groups or organisations you can join?

THE KITE SOCIETY could be the answer. The KITE SOCIETY was created to encourage communication between kitefliers, both the novice and the expert.

The benefits of membership include :-

A quarterly publication of a newsletter to which members are encouraged to communicate. Plus kite plans, kite news and details of events around the country, both national and local.

Free admission to the bi-annual kite festival held at Old Warden, Bedfordshire.

Discount at kite shops throughout the U.K. and Europe.

Organised trips to international kite festivals.

### MEMBERSHIP FEE:

£4.00 per year for the U.K. £6.00 per year for the rest of Europe. All other countries £6.00 Land Mail or £8.00 Air Mail.

For this members will receive four issues of The Kiteflier and the benefits as listed above. Supplementary membership for a member living at the same address £2.00. For this low cost fee a membership card will be issued for discount and the entry into Old Warden.

### METHODS OF PAYMENT.

All cheques, postal orders or money orders should be made payable to the KITE SOCIETY.

\*\*\*\*\*  
 I WISH TO JOIN THE KITE SOCIETY AND ENCLOSE A CHEQUE / POSTAL ORDER / MONEY ORDER / CASH FOR  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
 MADE PAYABLE TO THE KITE SOCIETY.

Name .....

Supplementary members :-

Address .....

.....

.....

.....

.....

POST CODE ..... TELEPHONE NO.....

PLEASE SEND THIS FORM WITH PAYMENT TO THE ABOVE ADDRESS.

Badges are also available. These 4" x 2" badges with the words "The Kite Society" (no logo) embroidered on them cost £1.80. Background colour can be black or white. Thread colour can be one of Red, White, Blue, Yellow, Green, Black or Orange. If you are interested send us details of colour choice and cheque or P.D. made payable to The Kite Society.



Advertisement

Abridged report of the board of enquiry into the loss of the XFK-19 prototype "Stealth" Stunt kites.

The board was convened to investigate the total loss of the first two semi-scale prototypes of the "Stealth" Stunt kite during their first demonstration flight. Both prototypes were approximately two-thirds full size and incorporated the latest advances in profile smoothing, size reduction, e/m translucency and optically transparent materials. In preliminary tests both kites had performed well and given no indication of their presence (apart from some noise) either on radar or to observers.

In the demonstration flight the initial take off and climb to operating height proceeded normally. At this point the pilots flew into the designated demonstration area and then attempted an in-line stack manoeuvre (a manoeuvre specifically forbidden by the manufacturers) with the result that the accident then occurred. Both of the pilots reported the flying lines (for the demonstration visible kevlar flying lines were being used as opposed to the proposed operational boron-monoglass composite) suddenly becoming slack and dropping out of the sky. Subsequent examination of the recovered line ends revealed no trace of either kite.

An immediate detailed search of the arboreal infestation (an apple orchard) downwind of the flying site proved fruitless and as of this date neither prototype has been recovered.

Having considered the evidence the board has found that the accident was a direct result of the total invisibility of the "Stealth" Stunter causing a totally unexpected collision and subsequent line failure. Although both pilots were guilty of negligence in allowing the prototypes to approach this closely to each other the board recommends no action should be taken against them. The board would also make the suggestion that future operational practice should be to keep a minimum flying separation of twice the line length between each pilot.

It is the opinion of this board, given the importance of "taking the high ground" in the SDI (popularly known as the Start Wars program), that further development of the "Stealth" Stunt kite should be undertaken without further delay.

Er-um.....No, we don't know what the unmentionable ones are doing with an invisible stunt kite, but we do have plenty of nice, bright visible ones.

The Kite Store, 69 Neal Street, London WC2H 9PJ Tel:01 836 1666