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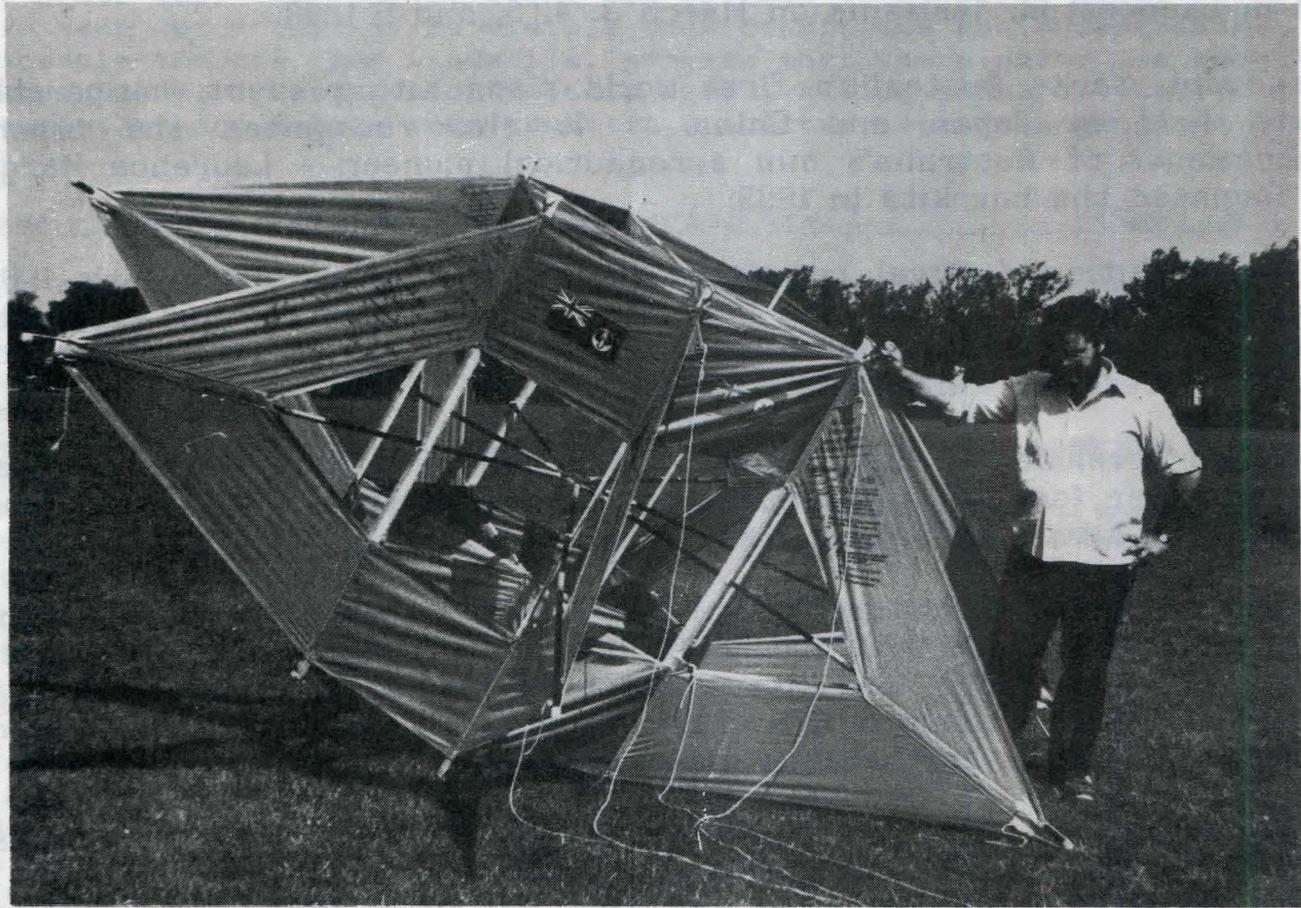
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THE KITEFLIER

NEWSLETTER OF THE

KITE SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN



**INCLUDING
AERODYNE**

ISSUE 32

JULY 1987

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The picture on the front cover is of the Chandler Bicentennial Star produced in Tasmania as part of the run up to the World Kite Festival to be held in Launceston, Tasmania on March 3, 4, 5, and 6 1988.

This event marks Australia's first world class kiting event, comparable to others held in Japan and China. It also recognises the important achievements of Australia's own aeronautical pioneer - Laurence Hargrave, who invented the box kite in 1893.

The world kiting festival committee have set Sunday March 6th 1988 as Laurence Hargraves Celebration Day, and it is aimed to have at least 100,000 people flying a kite across Australia on that day. It is hoped that 150 overseas kiteflyers will attend the festival.

In a major prelude to the festival, there has been designed and made, by Dave Chandler (one of Australia's international class kite flyers), a huge 7 pointed star kite. This kite is made from green and gold ripstop nylon.

The kite measures 44 metres from tip to tip and stands 1.2 metres high. Its construction demanded over 100,000 millimetres of sewing. The flag of every Australian state adorn the kite which is scheduled to visit no less than eight major kite festivals in 6 countries during 1987 as a method of alerting people to Australia's forthcoming Bicentennial.

Qantas airlines are carrying the kite around these countries at no charge. So far the kite has flown in Singapore, New Zealand and Washington D.C. During September and November the kite will visit every state capital in Australia for one week. Each week will conclude with a kite day for which the star will be one of the major attractions.

The kite is collecting messages of goodwill and signatures, and British kite flyers will be able to see the star and add their message at Blackheath, Washington and Wroughton.

The Kite Society is acting as Qantas kite liaison officer for Great Britain so if any of our members are interested in travelling to the Launceston for the festival please contact us.

**THE KITE SOCIETY
OF GREAT BRITAIN
31 Grange Road,
Ilford, Essex.
IG1 1EU.**



Dear Reader,

Just a few quick reminders this time.

Firstly - we finally have cloth badges available. These are 3" diameter embossed badges in black on white. See page 20 for ordering details.

We have also started building up a stock of unusual kite books for purchase by you. The first book on our list is Margaret Greger's Kites For Everyone. Again details can be found on page 20.

Lastly, remember the Wroughton Festival. It has been arranged that Kite Society Members can gain free entry upon production of their membership card - it is even better value this year. Please support this festival and help make it an annual event. (John Barker says the site gets 9 out of 10 and that's without flying on it!!).

GILL AND JON BLOOM

ONE SKY - ONE WORLD, OCTOBER 11TH 1987

You may remember that last year the worlds first international kite fly for peace was held on October 12th. This event attracted 10,000 participants and was witnessed by over 40,000 people worldwide. The event took place in 14 countries at over 90 locations and over 10,000 kites took to the sky.

Last year in Great Britain 829 kites were flown by 494 kite flyers and they were watched by 3,180 spectators.

This year the event is being held on October 11th and we would like to collect together a list of events that will be taking place in Great Britain. It doesn't matter if it is just one kiteflier or a 1,000. If you are planning to fly for One Sky One World let us know. In the October issue of The Kiteflier we can present a comprehensive list of locations.

We already have some locations - these are Walsall Arboretum Extension, The Broadway; Thorndon Park, Brentwood; Blackheath, London.

Please fill in the form and return it to the above address.

ONE SKY - ONE WORLD REGISTRATION FORM.

NAME OF FESTIVAL ORGANISERS _____

ADDRESS _____

LOCATION _____

LETTERS

From Jim Knowles:-

Further to your letters about the weather here are three rules that may be useful.

Rule 1. If the clouds come from the left hand side when you stand with your back to the surface wind then the weather will normally get worse in the next few hours.

Rule 2. If the clouds come from the right hand side when you stand with your back to the surface wind then the weather will normally get better over the next few hours.

Rule 3. If the clouds are moving at a course that is at right-angles to your body when you stand with your back to the surface wind then the weather will not change.

Surface wind must be unaffected by trees, hills etc.

There is some truth in a number of 'old wives tales'. For example:-

"Red is the night shepherds delight" - the red sky indicates a cold front has passed and a period of settled weather is on the way if the red colour is the setting sun reflected on clouds very high in the sky.

"Red is the morning shepherds warning" - the red sky indicates an approaching warm front that will bring rain with it if the red sky is caused by the rising suns light reflected on clouds high in the sky.

"Rain before 7 fine by 11" - this is often true: rain rairly lasts more than 4 hours in Britain.

This "weather lore" may not look much next to a Cray-2 computer at the weather centre but it is a reasonable guide. My family and I use it when we are walking and have found it fairly reliable - but no guarentees!

From Jim Rowlands:-

Home at last, after a tiring but all the same very enjoyable weekend, for I trust everybody.

The enlarged programme of this years festival involving kitemaking classes, kiteflying demonstrations with the odd contest or two, provided the mix of entertainment, education and fun that make up a successful event which this years York Festival of Kites undoubtedly was.

The most important element however was you, kitemakers and kitefliers of the Kite Society who worked very hard to create such an enjoyable event and on behalf of the York City Council, and the other sponsors Malvern Kites, Bass North, Leeds Permanent Building Society and British Telecom a very warm and sincere thankyou.

Also my personal thanks for your help and support and for the kind gift

LETTERS

which will be drunk at the earliest suitable opportunity.

From Ann Rowlands:

It was with regret that I could not be with you all at the York Festival. I seem to have missed an enjoyable weekend from all accounts.

I would like to thank you all for the beautiful flowers and good wishes, as Jim would say I am a great lover of flowers and they were greatly appreciated.

Hope to see you all in the not to distant future.

From John Barker:

Thanks for the Update.

I saw Pat O'Driscoll's woven glass "tube" at Brighton and although it seems to do what he claims for it, I can't see it ever being the "Breakthrough" he seems to think it will be. Patrick Bonneau said he thought of putting the tube over a "greased" dowel, impregnating it with GRP resin and hopefully obtaining a stiff GRP tube.

Greg's new site is very good. It has one or two slight drawbacks in having a hill either side i.e. it's a valley, but it is about a mile long by 500 yards wide. It has toilet facilities (permanent), a cafe and it was well mown and with the wind from the S.W. it will blow right along the site. Everyone agreed that future BKF festivals should be held there as the other site in comparison is quite naff. At least with the Waterhall Playing Fields there were no motor bikes roaring up and down.

One incident occurred which gave a graphic demonstration of why you should not mess with power lines. One of the drawbacks of the site is that down one side of it runs a 10 Kva twin power line to the Groundsmans Cottage (North Shepcote had a power line as well) and although there was a dearth of BMISS drops guess where the one successful drop ended up? You've guessed it, dangling on the power line (No names no Packdrill) (Not one of mine). Super ted was left suspended for most of the afternoon. When the festival was over a certain person (again N.N.N.P.) attempted to recover the bear with a wooden flag pole.

This went on for some time when all of the sudden there was a big flash, a shower of sparks and a big puff of smoke accompanied by a dull thump, not a bang a definite thump. Fortunately the bear was OK but the certain person said that if he ever had a reason for calling the electricity board that was it. Come the boards vehicle, and not long after a second one roared up. The bear was removed expertly and the electricity guys said that the reason two vehicles came was that when their dispatcher told them that a parachuting Teddy Bear was caught on the line it sounded so daft they had to see it to believe it. A happy outcome but it just goes to show that even those little power lines are lethal. I was told to my opinion that the lines were insulated, no they don't bother, they just insulate the wires at the poles. Makes you think eh!

LETTERS

In reply to Geoff Warren.

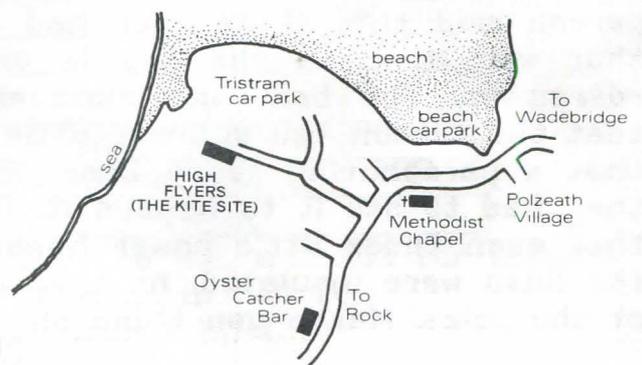
Kiting is not secretive, far from it. In fact if you need details of any kite most people will let you put a ruler over theirs. As for not getting the info you require in Kiteflier it is simply a matter of bunging the Kite Society a few £50.00 notes and they will provide you with all the back issues which have contained plenty of kite plans, kite photography info and a thousand and one other items of kiting info which you would expect to have been in a newsletter which is in it's 32nd quarterly edition. Subscribe to Kitelines by all means but don't expect every issue to contain everything they have ever published and the same applies to the Kiteflier. Oh and if you need detailed info on a Flexifoil just ask to peruse the next one you see and if you do intend to make one the best of British luck to you as the only people in the U.K. to my knowledge who have made successful flexifoil copies are the Chingford Group and they didn't get it right the first time. Also remember that the Flexifoil is a patented kite as are quite a few others.

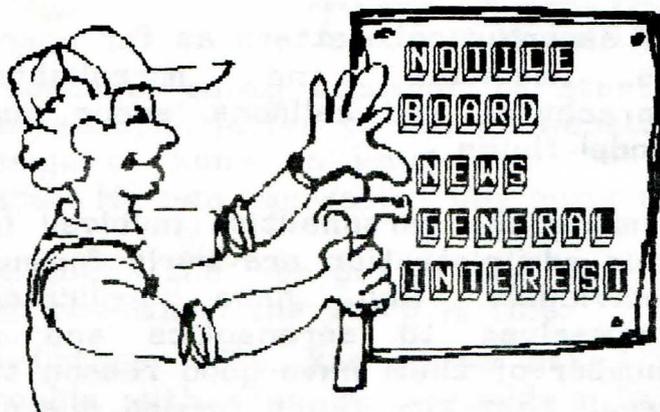
Re Norman Kings grouse. Can he honestly say, hand on heart that he has never tethered a kite (thats a kiting impossibility). Kiteers wear different hats at different times. Sometimes a lunatic Fringe Bear Bouncing Hat. Is Norman the thin edge of the wedge re Kite Fragmentation? I can see kiting going the same way as lots of other sports etc. if he has his way. As in shooting for instance. "He's beyond the pale as he uses a pump gun and wears Cammo" and I'm not as I wear Tweeds and shoot side by side. Ad nauseum, Boring, Boring, Boring.

HIGHFLYERS

KITES & ACCESSORIES

**THE ONLY KITE SPECIALIST SHOP IN THE
SOUTHWEST. KITES FOR THE NOVICE
AND THE EXPERT. ADVICE AND HELP IN
CHOOSING A KITE
THAT **WILL** FLY.
THE KITE SITE
ABOVE TRISTRAM
CAR PARK
POLZEATH
Tel(020886) 2567**





The following was sent to us by Dan Leigh:-

Found: At St.Olave's Church Hall, York on Friday May 29th, one pair scissors. Owner must make positive identification. Contact D Leigh at 54 Osborne Road, Pontypool, Gwent, NP4 6LX or phone (04955) 50875.

On the subject of lost and founds the following items were found at the Petworth Festival.

One Glove!, one dog/goat tether and one Blue Russell Hall. If anyone wishes to claim one (or more) of the above please contact the editorial office or see us on the flying field.

Some time ago we mentioned that there was going to be a Cody Exhibition at the Museum of Army Flying. The following snippet was given to us by David Webster.

"Visit the new Cody Exhibition now on at the Museum of Army Flying, Middle Wallop. Exciting displays including some of Colonel Cody's kites and memorabilia; many items seen for the first time in public. Truly an interesting display of this pioneer of British flight."

The Museum of Army Flying, Middle Wallop, Stockbridge, Hants. SO20 8DY. On the A343 Salisbury to Andover road.

If anyone has seen this exhibition we would be interested in receiving a

report for publication.

In the information leaflet sent to us by the London Tourist Board the following workshop was spotted.

4th August - Kite Making. Playtower, Ladywell Road, SE13. 1100 - 1300. Book in advance on 01 690 3302.

From the Daily Mail, Thursday June 11, Dermont Purgavie's America column.

Staphone Peyron, a 26 year old Frenchman hopes to sail board across the Atlantic, a 3,300 mile journey in about 50 days, alone. The interesting point is:-

"Peyron intends to sail his windsurfer for eight to twelve hours a day and then put up a kite to pull him along in the prevailing westerlies while he lashes himself on and tries to rest."

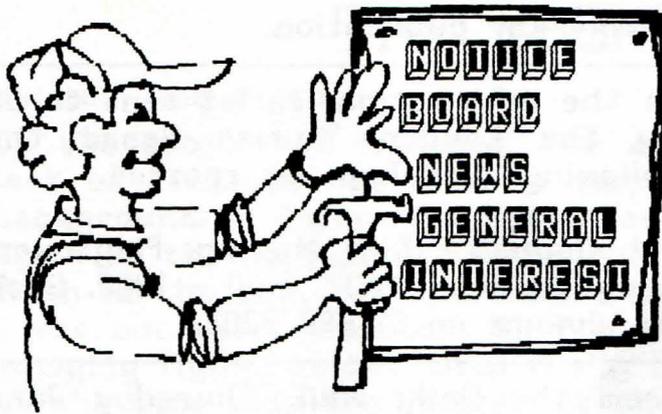
We have not heard any more about this but will let you know.

The Guardian had two photographs taken at Blackpool's first kite show recently. The two shots showed a Martin Lester (or as the Guardian spells it Leicester) Icarus flying, or at least attempting to fly, near the Blackpool Tower. The article states that "Exhibitors at the show brought along sharks, sailing ships, space shuttles and box kites".

Continuing with the news.

The Daily Mail, Monday June 1st, in their Business to Business column was titled "Flying a kite for that move to the country". The article was about the move of Brookite from their London base to Okehampton in Devon.

It had some interesting facts which included the fact that Brookite not



of aeronautical matters as far apart as medicine and microlights, parachutes and balloons, space and model flying.

"Among the personalities involved in this administration are world famous individuals who have dedicated themselves to aeronautics and a number of them have good reason to recall that kite flying formed one of the original bases from which aviation evolved. Imagine my pleasure on having a call requesting a review of the international position of kite flying today. The real purpose was to discover whether there was sufficient activity to justify kite flying as a subject or discipline for unified international administration."

We have responded to Ron's request for some further information and will keep you in touch to progress. However, if you have anything to say about this matter please write to us and let us know.

We are hoping to receive permission to reproduce an article written by Alan Coren that appeared in Punch on April 22. The article followed an advert for Ferrari ram kites which had appeared in the Guardian. It is written to the Editor of the Guardian and takes exception to some of the descriptions used. For example Multi-coloured, non-rigid, etc. Keep waiting!

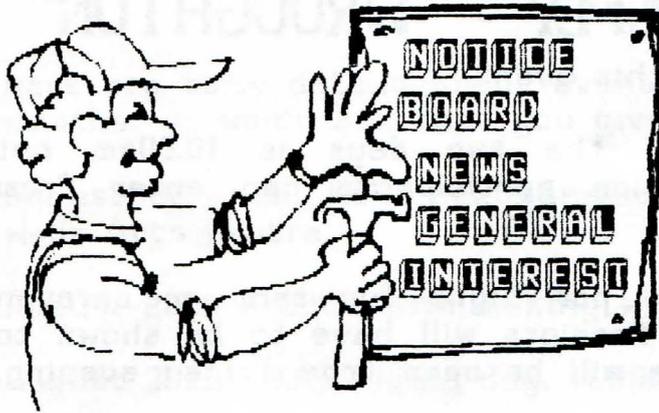
In this issue you will see an advert for a new kite shop HIGHFLYERS. The kite shop is situated on the North Cornish coast in the village of Polzeath. It's position on the Atlantic coast means there is always a wind or sea breezes so it is perfect for kiteflying. The shop has a good display area and a wide range of kites are stocked. Daily kite demonstrations are given through the season and mail order is planned

only made kites but when they started made boxed games as well. Peter Harrison, owner of Brookkite, is quoted as saying "We're even exporting to places like HongKong. We make high-quality spinnaker nylon and cloth kites and there's one thing certain about the business ... most children come across a kite at least once in their lives. Our kites are made to last and once they've bought one of ours they won't need another."

For those of you who have children belonging to Barclays Bank Super Savers club keep an eye open for issue sixteen of the club magazine. The junior section is devoted to kites and kiteflying and has a number of kites featured. There is also a very good, short article about kiteflying. A bit brief but obviously room was restricted. The Kite Store provided the kites and there is a chance to win two of the kites shown. You just have to be a member of the club and send in your entry.

From Ron Moulton came the following.

"Federation Aeronautique Internationale. Does this title mean anything to you? Perhaps not but it is the single most important organisation in aviation worldwide. It administrates world records, unifies competition regulations, safety standards and runs meetings throughout the year mostly based in it's Paris Headquarters for all kinds



from mid-summer.

A new kite magazine has appeared on the European scene. Called "RUKWIND" which means something like "wild wind". Produced by some of the Flemish kitefliers it has been produced in their mother tongue for the other flemish kitefliers of Belgium. If you are interested in receiving this then you should write to "RUKWIND", Chazallaan 176 bus 5, 1030 Brussel, Belgium.

In the last issue of The Kiteflier we carried an advert for Benson Kites. Since that time he has produced a catalogue with diagrams of the complete range of kites produced. Write to Benson Kites, 8 Moorland Avenue, Baildon, Shipley, West Yorkshire, BD17 6RW.

If you are interested in these kites have a look at the Kite Store as well. They have just started stocking Benson kites. The Kite Store have also received the first consignment of UFO Sam Kites. Selling for £7.95 the dedicated collector should have one! Of course if you wish to see one flying you should go into Hamleys of Regent Street to see a special stand just inside the main door. There you will find a number of television screens displaying videos of the kite in flight. Please ignore the salesman as according to him the kite comes with 200' of cable to fly with.

Whilst you are in the Kite Store

wander round to Neal's Yard and look out for the Kite Wholefoods.

KAPWA (Kite Aerial Photography Worldwide Association) have produced a special edition of their magazine to go in hand with the festival being held at Labruguire next July to celebrate the centenary of the first aerial photograph from a kite.

Written by Geoffrey de Beaufort it sets out the arguments and proof relating to the claim that Arthur Batut was the first to take a photograph from a kite. It is quite interesting and if you are interested let us know.

Whilst on the subject of Labruguire the date has not yet been decided but is almost certain to be the first week of July. We will, of course, keep you informed.

Norman King has started to produce jumpers with a kiting interest.

Hand finished drop shoulder round neck jumpers. Made to your measurements in machine washable 100% acrylic 4 ply yarn with three colour M.K.F. motif on chest. Main colour Grey/Blue has been chosen to emphasise the motif. Contact Norman King on 0788 832654 for further details or to ask him to do a design for you.

Joanna Mersey, Organiser of the Petworth Festival has asked us to say that they raised £700 for the Riding for the Disabled, twice last years total.

Next years event is to be held at the beginning of July with Portaloos on site.

Denis Hawkes won the Festival award for best kiteflier - congratulations!

SCIENCE MUSEUM KITEFLY - WROUGHTON

Final details have now been received for this event.

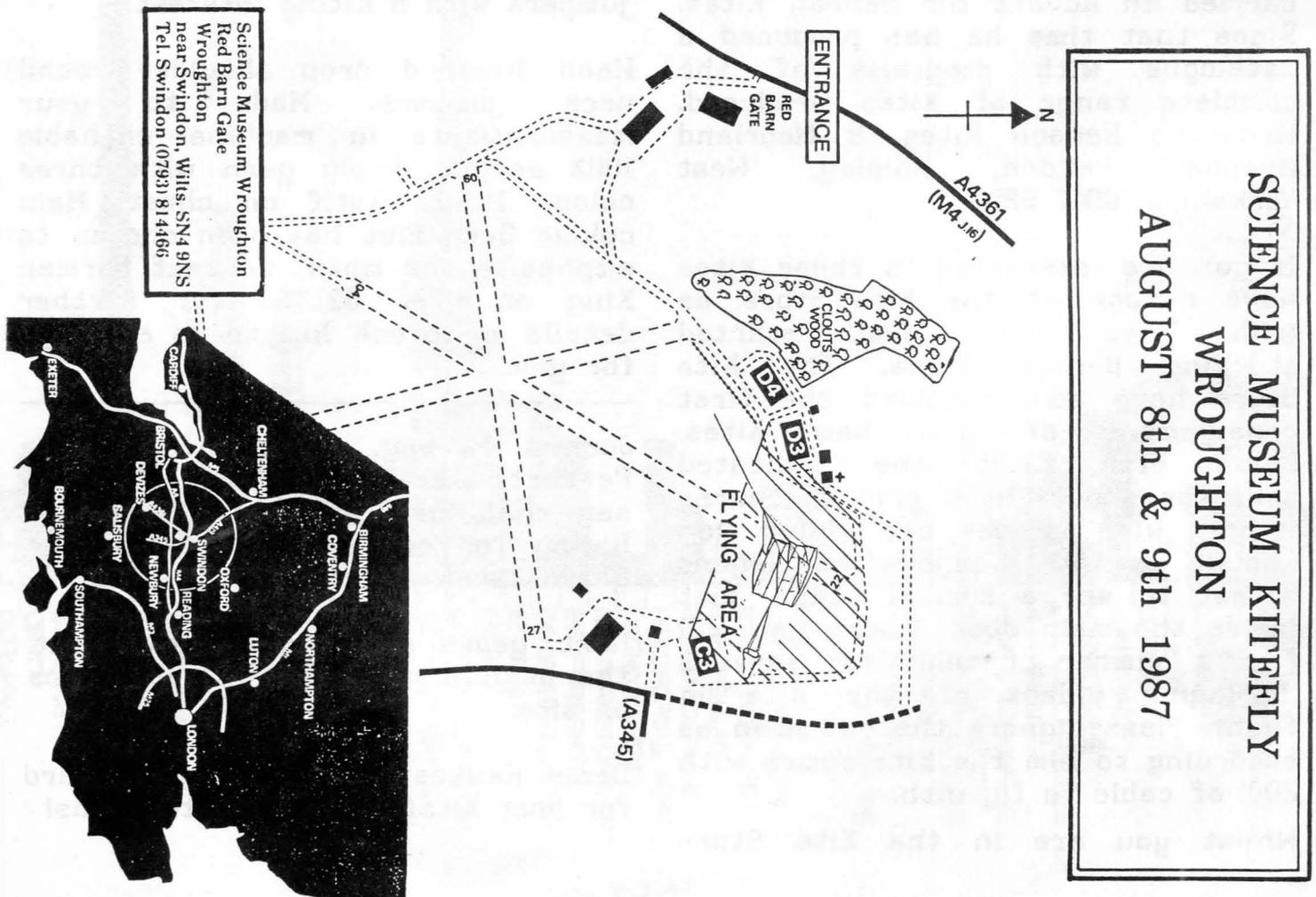
The official opening time on each of the two days is 10.00am but organisers/traders and the free admission participants can enter from 8.00am.

Camping facilities are available at £2.00 per night for tent or caravan payable to the Science Museum on site. Receipts will have to be shown to certify authority to camp. The camp site will be open from Friday evening, 7th August, for early arrivals.

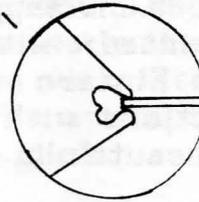
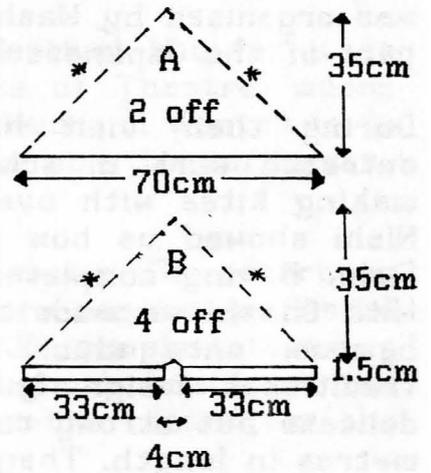
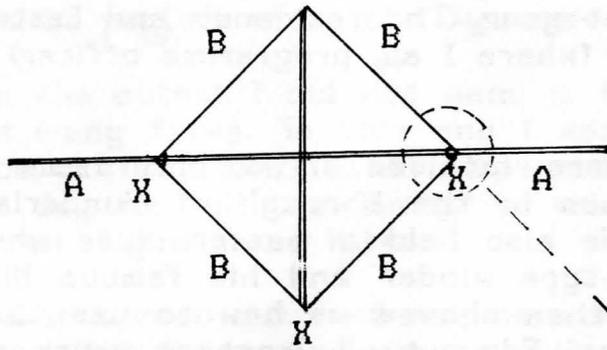
During the meeting it is intended to unravel the giant Japanese kite and if possible undertake some restoration preparatory for eventual display or even fly. Interested volunteers would be more than welcome to assist in this commendable project. Please bring whatever materials you feel might be needed.

Free admission will be granted to participants upon presentation of the current gold Kite Society membership card or the BKFA blue membership card. Please note that if you requested a car pass you do not now require one.

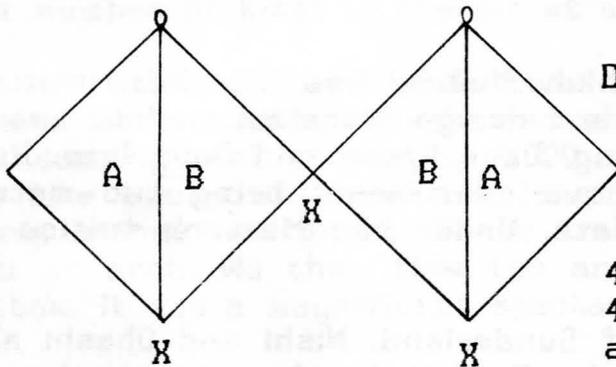
On Saturday 8th August there are contests for the most beautiful kite, the most colourful kite and the most innovative kite. Sunday is for the festival fun-fly, a kite clinic for novices and kite sales stands.



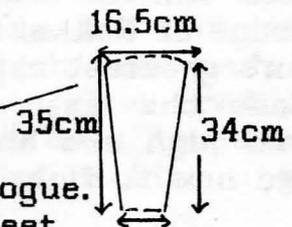
SERENDIPITY



Detail of spar pocket.



4 off required for drogue.
4 lines from drogue meet
at point 35cm in front of
drogue.



MATERIALS: Ripstop Nylon, 6mm Dowel, 9mm Dowel, 0.5" ribbon.

All edges marked --- are hemmed. Those marked with * are reinforced with ribbon. Two of B are joined with one of A to form a pocket for the 6mm spars. Small pockets are fitted at the tips of wings A to accommodate the cross spar, which is 14m long. Two B wing tips are slightly overlapped, and sewn to form a 1cm square pad. The other two B wing tips are treated in the same way. The upright spar is fitted so as to sit on these pads and is cut to a length that will cause a good tight fit. This is all that is needed to hold the spar in place. If so desired, an elastic band could be used to hold the upright spar to the cross spar.

Two loops are fitted to the rear of the kite for the drogue. The drogue should be flown approximately 2 metres behind the kite. Bridle is three legged from the points marked X. This kite seemed able to fly in almost any conditions and will probably even thermal. (It will even fly quite well with the upright spar removed!).

PETER HULCOOP

25 All Saints Crescent, Cove, Farnborough, Hants, GU14 9DD.

WASHINGTON - FESTIVAL

I have been putting some thoughts down on paper about Nishi and Ohashi's residency and the Festival of the Air last year. The residency and Festival was organised by Washington Arts Centre (where I am programme officer) as part of the Japanese Festival.

During their visit Nishi and Ohashi were involved in a programme of outreach work in schools and playschemes in the Borough of Sunderland making kites with over 3,000 children. We also held a master class where Nishi showed us how to make a Korean type winder and his famous Nishi Fishi. Having completed construction he then showed us how to use them. With Ohashi we made a 50 x 35 cm (approx) Edo out of Japanese paper and bamboo, onto which we painted, with sumi ink and Japanese dyes a traditional design featuring Kintaro and a Carp. We then bridled these delicate but strong constructions with a complete suit of bridles about 10 metres in length. They flew beautifully.

We also ran a Rokkaku weekend in which Nishi's and Ohashi's intimate knowledge of Rokkaku shape, proportions and design, were married to two of Britain's greatest exponents of rip stopping, Dave Green and Dave Ives. Here we made the most handy rokkakus I have ever seen, being two metres (approx) high and able to track like a Hata. Under the Master's tuition we learned how to fight with these kites.

As well as these works in the Borough of Sunderland, Nishi and Ohashi also attended Cervia and Scheveningen Festivals. In Britain they were welcomed guests at York, Shrewsbury, Battersea Park London, Brighton, Cleethorpes and Edinburgh, as well as taking part in a children's television programme.

Nishi and Ohashi's main work however was in the schools and playschemes. Their charm and warmth was a great hit with the children. Not only were they delighted with the kites, Ohashi brought over his amazing collection of Spinning Tops "Koma" which in some cases eclipsed the kites in popularity.

Nishi in the main made winged sleds out of sheets of A3 paper on to which we photocopied a Samurai outline which the children coloured at will.

Ohashi made a diamond kite square in shape and the cross spar bent like a Hata's. This he flew with a tail.

For older children both Ohashi and Nishi made a five stick Edo, again using Samurai printed Japanese paper. Some flew tailed, others tailless depending on the maker's perseverance with the bridles.

Our two guests were assisted by the Arts Centre's Community Arts Team who also did the tedious task of winding up over 4,000 kite strings for the workshops, using nothing more than an old reel to reel tape recorder, some bulldog clips, sewing thread, cardboard, tape, and an incredible amount of patience.

The kitemakers residency was to culminate in the 'Festival of the Air', this

OF THE AIR

was also to be the opening ceremony to the Japanese Festival proper which would be performed by the Japanese Ambassador to Britain.

From the outset I did not want it to be just a kite festival but for it to have many faces. To this end I assembled a programme of Theatre, music, dance, art and craft stalls, Japanese drumming and lots more. I wanted it to be a day for "all the family" to relax and enjoy and be able to participate in even if you hated kites.

Kites, it turned out however, were the flavour of the season. The afternoon of the 14th September was amazing, around 3.00p.m. there was an estimated 20,000 people on the site (with an estimated 28,000 people attending throughout the day). The sky was filled with kites, everyone's heads pointed skywards and having that "kite look". We attempted to set a record for the most number of kites in the air at one time.

The two weeks before the Festival of the Air however had been a time of frenetic kite activity. Ohashi and the Community Arts Team had undertaken the daunting task of making 4,000 small diamond kites which were made into five kite trains of increasing length. Each train was one colour, red, blue, yellow, orange and green. These trains we flew with both ends tethered to form an arch. We then flew the arches inside one another making a giant rainbow. It was a magnificent spectacle visible for miles.

Nishi also was not idle, he beavered away on his centipede made from rectangular polystyrene meat trays, fibre glass and teased out string, with a rotating head featuring the British and Japanese flags bearing the word friendship. Nishi also designed a giant four metre ripstop version of his winged sled with a 100 metre rainbow tail. On the day of the festival he got as many people as possible to sign the kite which flew straight from the drawing board, or rather the beer mat, it had been designed on.

One week before the festival things really started hotting up. I had sent out invitations to international kite fliers, and we were helped on the lead up to the Festival of the Air by Tal Streeter, Malcolm Goodman, Daves Ives, Sayoko Akabane and Tim Gibson. They all busied away helping with Nishi and Ohashi's kites as well as making their own contributions for the spectacle on the 14th.

At the weekend our ranks were swelled with the arrival of Jilly Pelham, Dan Leigh, Martin Lester, Peter Waldron, The Greens of Burnley and Peter Powell. They and many others contributed to a day that will be remembered by all present.

We put up two trophies. The Rokkaku cup which was won by the Komatsu B team after an interesting tustle. The competitions were ably run by Bill Souten who stepped in at short notice. The other award was the Kenkadako Trophy, this was won by a visiting American Peter Agar, who through no fault of his own missed the presentation by the Japanese Ambassador. I applaude his success being up against the master himself 'Nishi'.

FESTIVAL OF THE AIR

Another part of the visit was Ohashi's kite collection. Ohashi brought from Japan 130 traditional Japanese kites which were exhibited for five weeks in the Sunderland Civic Centre along with his Spinning Tops. Komatsu UK kindly sponsored the Arts Centre to buy 50 of the kites which are now available as a touring exhibition. I have also managed to photograph all the kites and made constructional drawings and notes so that this information will not be lost.

That is a very brief summary of an exciting four months of kiting activity. The details require a lot more time to set down than I have at the present. However, I feel that some note should be made of the summer achievements which I am sure, along with other kiting initiatives in Britain, furthered the ideas of kiting as friendship. As Ohashi said on his arrival in Britain "It is very far from England (Britain) to Japan, but it is the same sky. By flying a kite in the sky I would like to build a bridge of friendship between England (Britain) and Japan".

This years event is taking place at the Northern Area Playing Fields, District 12, Washington on Saturday and Sunday August 1st and 2nd.

The Saturday is devoted to kiteflying on a free for all basis with the preliminary rounds of the Kenka D'Ako cup and the British Rokkaku Trophy (Note this is not part of the Rokkaku Challenge) taking place.

The Sunday has the finals of these two competitions, demonstration kiteflying by Nishi and Ohashi as well as a craft market, Japanese food, non-stop entertainment, exhibitions tent with the Komatsu Collection of Japanese Kites, costumes and calligraphy, and Japanese goods beer and Sake tent. Of course kites are also being flown with kite fighting, record kite trains, man-lifting kites and Ohashi's Flower - the premier performance of this sky art construction - a bouquet of over 2,000 kites.

If you are interested in attending and are looking for somewhere to stay the George Washington Hotel is offering reduced rate accommodation at £17.50 per person per night including full english breakfast. All bedrooms have private facilities, colour TV and tea/coffee facilities. See enclosed leaflets for more details.

ADAM SUTHERLAND

EVENTS NEWS

Here are some details about events that are being held over the next few months. We would ask that you give your support to these events.

August 28 - 30: Wells-next-the-sea, Norfolk, Kite Festival organised by the Wells Arts Centre.

August 28th & 29th: Kite making workshops with Don Dunford.

August 30th : Kite flying day. 11.00am - 4.00pm.

This is the first kite festival in the area, and it's intended to attract both local people and holiday makers. Since it's a new venture, support from established and experienced kite flyers would be very welcome. Further information from Eleanor Richards at:-

The Wells Centre Limited, Staithe Street, Wells-next-the-sea, Norfolk NR23 1AN. Tel. Fakenham (0328) 710130.

Eleanor says that she hopes this will be the first of a series of kite festivals in the Norfolk/Suffolk area. Contacts with other enthusiasts in the region would be very helpful!

The following letter comes from Claire Howson of the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Please encourage your members to come to our Kite Extravaganza on Sunday 2nd August 1897 at:

The Broadbridgeheath Sports Centre, Nr Horsham, West Sussex. 12.00
4.30pm.

We hope to have between 400-500 youngsters between the ages of 7 - 15 flying kites 50 at a time with the help of venture scouts and guides.

There will also be various displays. If any of your members have unusual kites please can they contact me.

We hope it will be a fun day and that we will raise a lot of money for M.S.

Please contact Claire at 6 Woodstock Close, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 4YT.

The Capital Balloon Club is holding a balloon meeting at Danson Park, Bexleyheath on July 25th and 26th. Kite demonstrations and flying can be held up to 3.00pm when there is going to be a display of model aircraft.

This meeting is to the benefit of the Multiple Sclerosis Society and is the fourth time it has been held.

If you are interested in seeing the balloons take off then you will have to be there at 7.00am!!

WHERE ARE OUR MEMBERS?

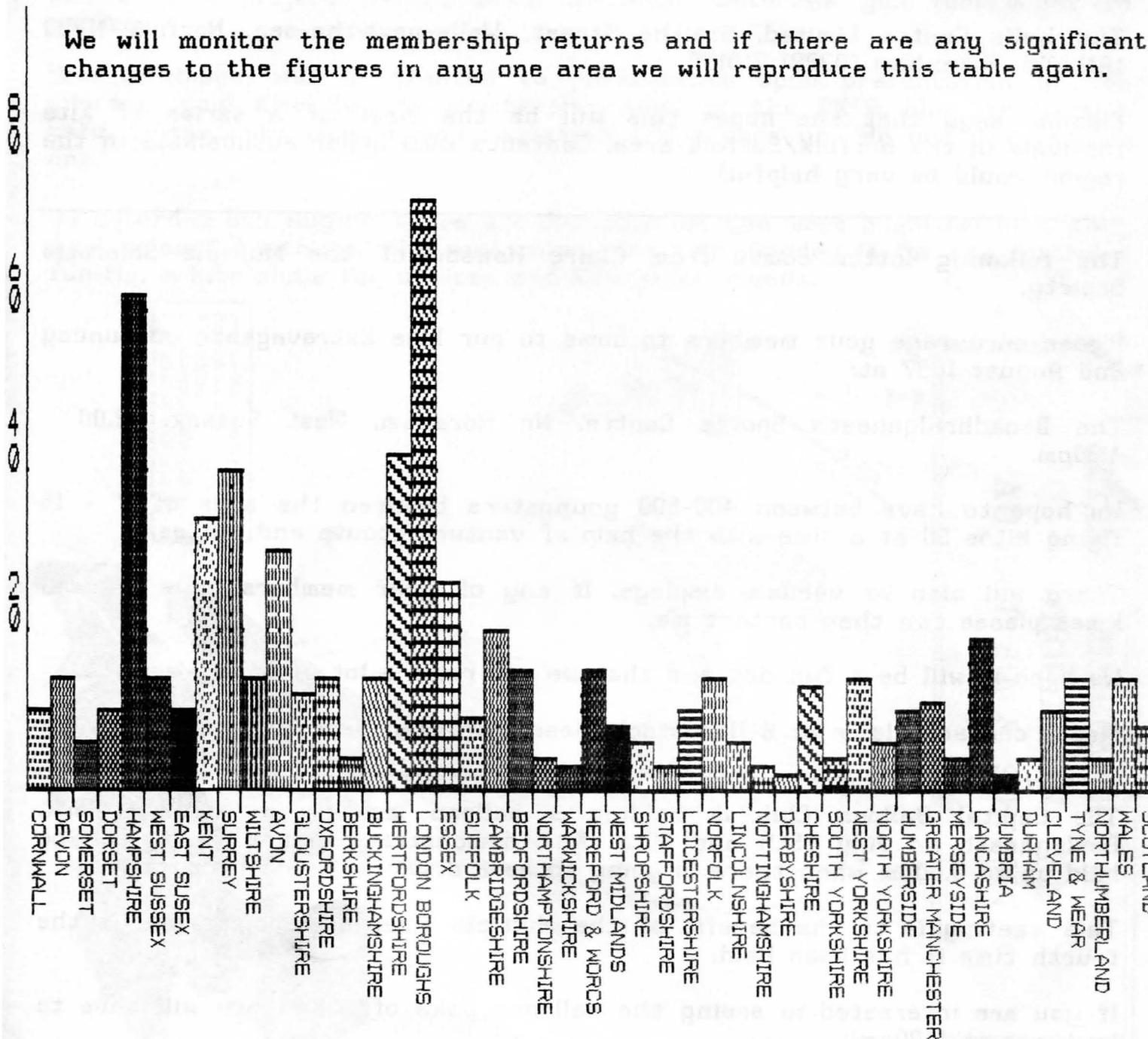
We thought that you may be interested in a breakdown of membership by county within England, Wales and Scotland. Our findings are reproduced below in the form of a table.

It represents approximately 700 of the members. We have excluded the overseas members for reasons of clarity.

As can be seen from the graph there is a significant lack of members in Scotland and Wales and there appears to be (not unexpectedly) a large number of members based round the local groups. There are some exceptions to this notably Kent, Surrey and Hertfordshire.

If you see that your county is low on members then why not promote both kiteflying and The Kite Society or even start a local group.

We will monitor the membership returns and if there are any significant changes to the figures in any one area we will reproduce this table again.



THE SPENDLOVE PAGE

Traditional sarky comment to start: I was interested to learn from Ron Reeve's open letter to George Webster that I'd had no success with the kite design of Ron's on which the "Cheyenne Pebbler" in the April Kiteflier is based. My own impression was quite the contrary.

OK, that's the jibe out of the way; here's the serious comment. As far as I can remember, the story is this:

In October 1986, Ron Reeve asked for help with a design he was having trouble with. Though I couldn't help, I wrote to sympathise, as I'd had similar problems with such a hybrid of Cody and Flaix elements; later, I learned that others had, too. In replying Ron included a plan of a kite like the "Cheyenne Pebbler". I modified this design a little, made a successful miniature version, and gave Ron the details of it ... or so I thought. Evidently I mixed up what I wrote to Ron with what I'd mentioned to someone else; I quite thought, for example, that I'd sent a snap of this kite both to Ron and to you, but obviously I didn't.

So now I'll try and rectify my mistake! I enclose a photo of the kite flying, though it may not be good enough for publication, and I'll enclose a plan too. (I wonder if Ron's belief that the kite I made was unsuccessful derives from my having said I wanted to build a full size ripstop version, and then not writing any more? The explanation is my not having got round to making the kite rather than my having done so and found it unflyable!).

Next subject: Books on kites available at the central library in Preston, Lancs. which is the Harris Museum and Art Gallery building on the Market Square. The collection is largely remarkable for what it does NOT include, viz. The Penguin Book of Kites! They used to have at least two copies of the hardback edition. Whether these were culled officially, or simply stolen, I don't know, though I fear the latter may be the case, in view of the fact that older and less satisfactory books are still there.

I'm very sorry I couldn't get to the Blackheath event, but I fear I'm unlikely to be able to get anywhere really for the foreseeable future. But that, of course, doesn't stop me flying! Though I missed an NKG event this weekend, the good weather we've had recently has enabled me to get out with a kite most days. This afternoon, for example, there was barely a breath of wind, and I had my doubts about getting either of the kites I had with me aloft at all, but my fears were groundless. Despite considerable haze, there was enough sun for thermals, and I was able to fly first a Dan Leigh special I got at York last year, and then a Monday Lunch Flare, second hand from Peter Walters at last year's Malvern meeting. Then I went back this evening with some home made kites, such as the tissue fighter types, varying between around 17 and 65 cm spine, and the "Starfighter" high density polythene kite, which is 91.5cm long, and has a felt tip design "nigroque simillima cycno" on it. Less successful was a Thai fighter our Anne brought me back from a holiday in Thailand; I just can't master it, though I came closer to doing so this evening than I have done when I've tried it before. Incidentally, I can recommend a braided polyester fishing line called Black Spider. The stuff I have is 5kg/11lb though it's true that this evening I could have done with a lighter line. It is only marginally thicker than button thread, with the advantages of being both braided instead of

THE SPENDLOVE PAGE

twisted, and stronger.

On the subject of fighters, I've mentioned before my mild surprise at the lack of evidence I've seen of much interest in kiting among people with a background of Indian/Pakistani/Bangladeshi cultures, since we hear now and again of the popularity of the sport of kite fighting. Well, it may just be a flash in the pan, but there were at least half a dozen fighters flying when I was out this afternoon. So far as I could make out, the kites were just enjoying flying, rather than really fighting their kites, which were nearly all of the type with the fishtail at the back of the sail. (The exception looked a bit more like a King Kiskeedee does).

As usual I nearly forgot St Georges Day as an excuse for kiting. Seeing a flag reminded me, but only late in the afternoon. There was no wind to speak of, so using a 'Scoop or something to lift a full size cloth flag was out of the question. I had to cobble up a light wind kite, quick. This is an excuse for me to plug my high density poly. Whole Bag Rectangle (Des. J.S., pub M.Greger) yet again. Colouring in solid red with marker pens can take ages, even if you have the marker? Never mind, tape on some tissue instead!

In fact, this St George's Cross Kite only just flew. Because I was in a hurry, I made the tail - simply an extension beyond the trailing edge of the sail of the vertical element of the cross - of red crepe paper, which isn't the lightest of materials as you know. Also I used a basic 3-leg bridle, as usual, not the 5-leg one which spreads the load on light spars better but takes longer to adjust. So the spars bent back markedly, even in the light airs, letting the sail spill air more than it might have, and the tail was obviously heavier and more drag creating than was necessary. I suppose the ideal would have been a tail of high density polythene, just like the sail itself. I may have given a description in a previous letter some time last year of the kite this is based on. No sign of a letter to you in my notes. Ah well, here it is now.

LIGHT WHOLE BAG VARIANT

This is based on the "Whole Bag" kite series in Margeret Greger's book Kites for Everyone. The original is a very basic square kite I suggested to her. This variant is intended for light winds.

Sail: a large high density polythene bin-liner; the size I have is (nominally) 30"/76.2cm deep, 45"/114.3cm round the rim. Cut the bottom off the bag and slice open the tube this leaves; you get a sheet roughly 75 x 114cm.

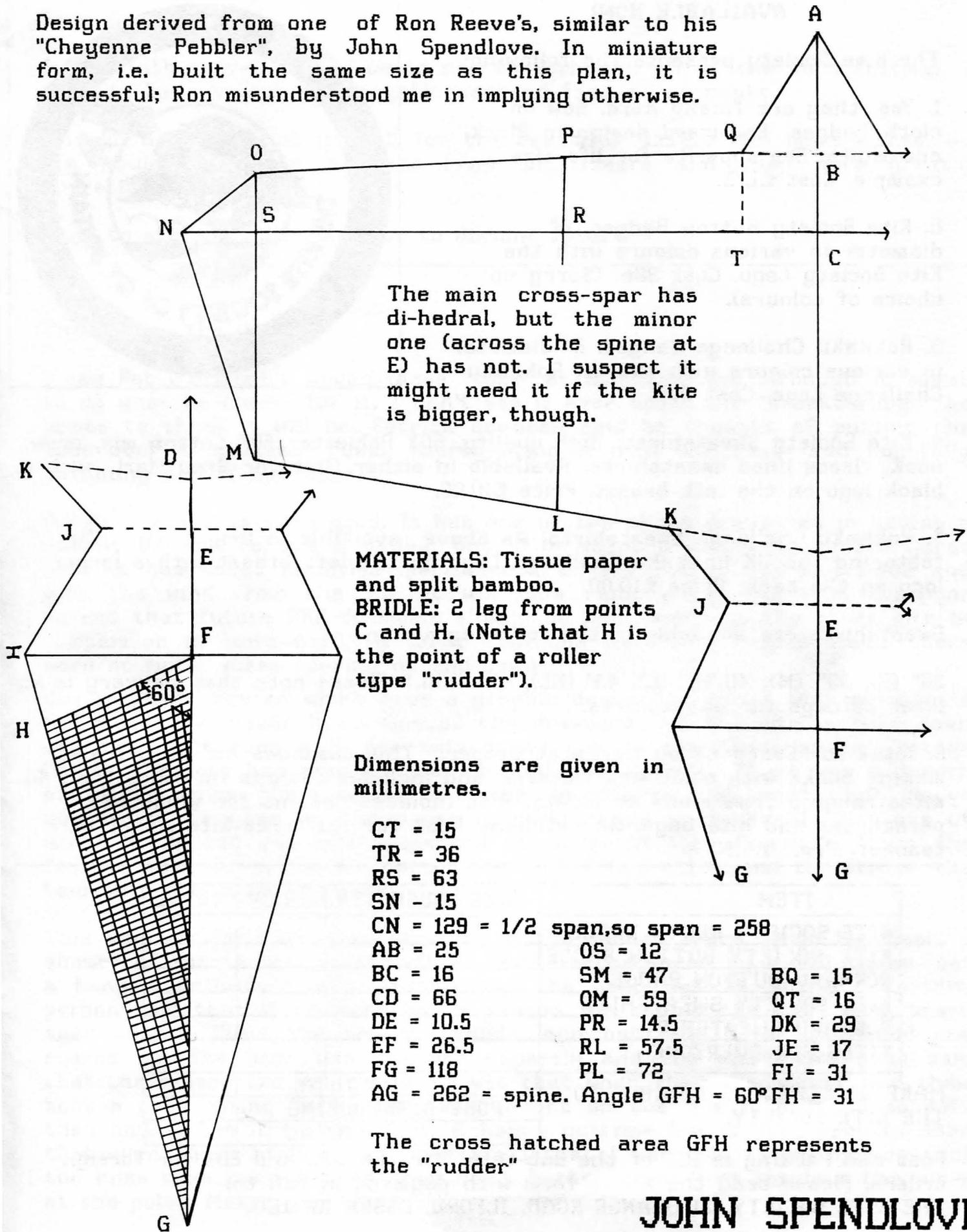
Spars: Use plastic straws to make a leading edge spar a little longer than the 1/e itself, and tape it on with a slight projection each side. Just bend back these projections to make pockets to take the ends of the two diagonal spars of 1/16"/1.6mm square section spruce. 36"/91.5cm long. Pieces of straws can also be used to make the pockets for the other ends of these spars.

Bridle: Use a 5-leg bridle - from the crossing point of the diagonal spars and from near each end of both the spars. This is to spread the load on them. If you use a 3-leg bridle, you need heavier diagonals e.g. 1/8"/3.175mm diam. ramin dowelling.

Flight: In fact, flight is merely passable, not brilliant, but the low weight does permit flight of something other than a delta in a low wind, for once! I'd suggest a desired windspeed of around 2 Knots.

THE WINDHOVER.

Design derived from one of Ron Reeve's, similar to his "Cheyenne Pebbler", by John Spendlove. In miniature form, i.e. built the same size as this plan, it is successful; Ron misunderstood me in implying otherwise.



KITE SOCIETY GOODIES

AVAILABLE NOW!

The Kite Society presents the following:-

1. Yes, they are finally here. Sew on cloth badges. Embossed design in Black and White. See opposite for life size example. Cost £1.75.

2. Kite Society Button Badges. 2" diameter in various colours with the Kite Society Logo. Cost 30p. (Sorry no choice of colours).

3. Rokkaku Challenge Badges. 2" diameter in various colours with the UK Rokkaku Challenge Logo. Cost 30p.

4. 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. Price £10.00.

5. Rokkaku Challenge Sweatshirts. As above available in Bright Red only featuring the UK Rokkaku Challenge Logo on the left breast with a larger logo on the back. Price £10.00.

Sweatshirts are available in the following sizes:-

36" (S), 38" (M), 40/42" (L), 44" (XL), 46" (XXL). Please note that delivery is at least 28 days for sweatshirts.

6. Kites For Everyone by Margaret Greger. This combines her earlier kite making books with much new material and includes designs for more than 40 kites ranging from sleds to facets. Also includes designs for windsocks, parachutes and kite bags. An excellent book for the home kite maker or teacher. Price £5.50.



ITEM	SIZE	QUANTITY	PRICE	TOTAL
KITE SOCIETY CLOTH BADGE				
KITE SOCIETY BUTTON BADGE				
ROKKAKU BUTTON BADGE				
KITE SOCIETY SWEATSHIRT				
ROKKAKU SWEATSHIRT				
KITES FOR EVERYONE				
			SUB TOTAL	
			POST AND PACKING	
			TOTAL	

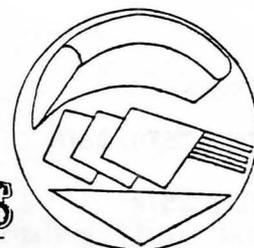
MAKE ALL CHEQUES PAYABLE TO THE KITE SOCIETY.

Post and Packing is 10% of the sub-total for the U.K. and 20% for foreign orders. Please send the above form with payment in full to:-
THE KITE SOCIETY, 31 GRANGE ROAD, ILFORD, ESSEX IG1 1EU.

AERODROME

The Magazine of the

BRIGHTON KITE FLYERS



EDITORIAL.

It always pays for those who have albums of kite photos, press reports, etc.; to show others the virtues of kiteflying.

In my case this has led to the club being asked to give a demonstration and display for The Royal Air Force Association Fete at Parham Park on the 26th July. Through the generosity of the Trustees of Parham Park Ltd. the RAFA have been offered the use of the grounds of Parham House, a beautiful and historic Elizabethan house on the Pulborough road (A283), just West of Storrington, West Sussex. The profits from the Fete will go the Sussexdown Convalescent Home for ex RAF personnel.

I also noticed the lack of young kitefliers at the Festival and wonder if, despite the previous editorial comments, we are tending to ignore the babes in favour of the giants.

BRIGHTON KITE FESTIVAL.

Many thanks to all who came along to our Festival on the 10th May. The weather was kind, though a Force 4 north wind blowing over a small hill created turbulence in the arena. This played tricks with the train of 49 Yakkos flown by the Clements family.

However, it was ideal for those kites flying over the 50 metre mark.

Ron Moody showed how Indian Fighters should be flown in his usual professional style. Martin and Peter staged the antics of their Icarus kites made by Martin Lester.

Mention must be made of the attendance of members of the Drummond Spastic Centre. This group won the first 'Opportunities for the Disabled' Kite Flying Award of a Stratoscoop 3.5 presented by Shell UK., in 1983.

It must have delighted Elsie Macey when it was announced that Ron and Keith had won the BKF Trophy; awarded in recognition of the efforts that epitomised the sport of kite flying. Winners of the other Trophies were;

The Challenge Shield for Altitude	- Danny Steer.
The Challenge Shield for the Greatest Lift	- Robert and Martin.
The Brighton Trophy	- Ernest Barton.
The BKF Shield	- Elias Antar.
The Junior Cup	- Oliver Webster.

It was very encouraging to hear many kilters thanking Greg for the Festival arrangements at the new site.

Another very good organiser; Joanna Mersey, of the very friendly Petworth Festival, came along. We hope that profits from that Festival, to be donated to The Riding for the Disabled, were a record.

Unexpected visitors to our festival were the Director of the Dieppe Festival, Max Gaillard, and his interpreter friend. (Ed. I wonder what was actually said? Time will tell.)

The overhead high tension cables were not noticed by a Teddy Bear which decided to land on them ! How does one train a Ted not to do this ? Maybe JB has some ideas. (See Roman Candle for developments.)

Greg and Di finished the day at 7.30 after a 6am start - true dedication to kite flying.

DATES LIST.

DATE	TYPE	SHT	GRID REF	LOCATION/NOTES
JULY 5	FI	199	TV594963	Beachy Head, Nr Eastbourne, Sussex.
12	DH	182	ST572464	Mendip Hosp, Wells, Somerset.
19	FI	176	SU804778	Chapel Common, Rake, W. Sussex.
26	DH	198	TQ060145	Parham Pk, Storrington, W. Sussex.
AUG 2	FI	198	TQ285083	The Red Hill, Nth Brighton, Sussex.
16	FI	198	TQ100043	Highdown Hill, Nth Worthing, Sussex.
30	FIH	198	TQ391016	Telescombe Tye, Saltdean, E. Sussex.
SEPT 13	FIH	199	TV594963	Beachy Head, Nr Eastbourne, Sussex.
27	FIH	198	TQ285083	The Red Hill, Nth Brighton, Sussex.
OCT 11	FIH	198	TQ285083	The Red Hill. Fly For Peace.
25	FIH	198	TQ100043	Highdown Hill, Nth Worthing, Sussex.
MAY 24/25	FH	198	TQ287088	Waterhall, Patcham, Brighton, Sussex.

SCENIC KITEFLYING.

The Red Hill figures prominently in the events list. This site is the best in the Brighton area for kiteflying, as one can fly in winds from every point of the compass. It is 450 feet above sea level with good views of the built up areas from Brighton to Worthing and of course the sea. On a very clear day, the Isle of Wight can be seen 45-50 miles away, while the radio mast above Ventnor is visible when conditions are exceptional. Noticeable too are four windmills, proving that there never has been lack of wind for kiteflyers. Unfortunately from a kiting point of view, the site is earmarked for a huge roundabout in connection with the proposed Brighton Bypass.

The Second York Festival. by Greg Locke.

Another excellent festival from the Rowlands stable, and even the rain was hard pressed to cool the enthusiasm on the Saturday; and obviously gave up on the Sunday.

It would probably be easier to say who was not there than list the kites and attendees; but mention should be made of those treasured doyens from Japan, Nishi and Ohashi, whose experience and expertise continue to amaze and delight both hardened kites and first time spectators alike.

Of course Icarus and the shark flew, as well as most of Eric, Ohashi's Peace kite, the Clement's stunt train and the versatile doggies from Mr Moody.

Maybe, however, the major contribution that this festival gave to kiting, was the bringing together of so many of the keen kites.

This obviously gave rise to discussions and perhaps one of the most noteworthy was that relating to the need for a dedicated, intelligent and mature national co-ordination.

It is only by our own efforts are we going to pull ourselves out of the 1800's and get the world AND the CAA to recognise that Kiteflying is a major International sport with its own specific needs and requirements.

DEATH IN THE AIR.

A few weeks ago at the Dyke on the South Downs, north of Brighton, a pilot was killed when his hang glider collided with a model aircraft in mid-air. This emphasises the fact that we, who use airspace, must observe the regulations of the Civil Aviation Authority, and that Insurance Cover is a wise precaution.

We may not totally agree with all the regulations; but they are a guideline for all airspace users; and each of us, by recognising them, can have some peace of mind regarding our own safety.

Editor:- David White, 12B Selborne Rd., HOVE, BN3 3 AG, East Sussex, England.

FILL THE SKY

AGAIN!



STOP PRESS.....
Final round of the UK Rokkaku Challenge, the Bristol Allcomers Rokkaku Cup, Jorvik Dragon, Allan Davies and Andrew Vermes Kite Train, Displays and demonstrations of all sorts of kites, come and show yours off!
More space than last year, better facilities, Saturday night meal on a boat.....
.....basically it will be BIGGER AND EVEN BETTER than last year!

Bristol Kite Festival

5+6 September, Noon till Dusk, Ashton Court.

Contact: M.Lester, 40 City Rd, Bristol, BS2 8TX.