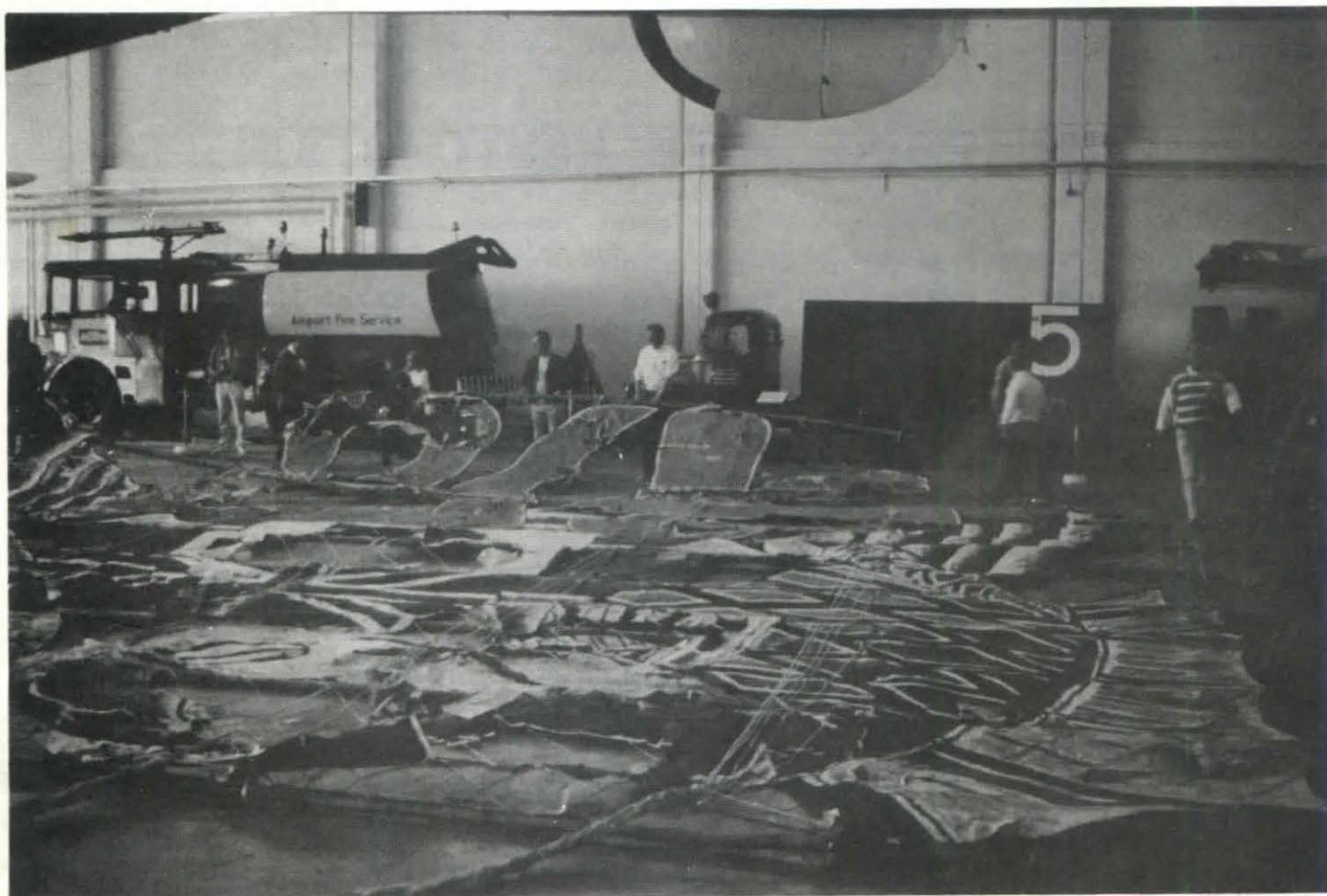


*our copy*

85<sub>P</sub>

# THE KITEFLIER NEWSLETTER OF THE KITE SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN



INCLUDING  
AERODYNE

ISSUE 33

OCTOBER 1987

# CONTENTS

EDITORIAL	3
LETTERS	4
TAILPIECE	6
THE RULES OF KITEFLYING	8
THE ARROW DELTA	9
HAMAMATSU KITEFLIERS	10
TONY'S BRITISH SILVER FIGHTER	12
HERE AND THERE	14
THREE STICK SHIELD KITE	17
THE GOODIES PAGE	20
EVENTS LIST	21
BRIGHTON KITEFLIERS AERODYNE	22

---

## JAPANESE KITE RESTORATION

The photograph on the front cover shows some of the keen(?) volunteers braving the mice to help unroll the large Japanese kite at Wroughton during the Science Museum Kite Fly on August 8th and 9th.

It was the first daylight that the kite had seen since October 1981 when the Japanese kite flying team flew the kite as part of the Royal Wedding celebrations - or at least tried to - the rain was just too much at the time. Since that time it has been stored in a hanger.

Once unrolled the kite appeared to have survived fairly well despite the mice nests and pigeon feathers!!

It was the general opinion that the large (40' by 42' approx) kite can be repaired so that it can be displayed or even flown. There is talk of a group of people getting together to have at least one restoration weekend. The aim is to have the kite in a state to attempt to fly it at the next Science Museum Kite Fly next year.

Wroughton is certainly one of the best kite flying sites in the country and local kitefliers, Ron Gunther and Neil Harvey hope to use the site on a regular basis. If you live in the area and are interested contact Ron at 12 Glenvum Close, Purton, Wiltshire SN5 9HA.

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



Dear Reader,

This issue comes at the end of another successful kite flying season. The festivals this year have been bigger and better than last year. From what we have heard it looks as if the festivals for 1988 will be even better for kiteflying.

One aspect of this is the interest shown by the Federation Aeronautique Internationale (F.A.I.). They wish to incorporate kiteflying into its organisation. See page 4 - Ted Flemings letter and Fred Marsh's letter.

We feel that the benefits of belonging to the FAI far outweigh the disadvantages but we would be interested in hearing what (if anything) you, our readers/members, think about the subject.

This year the first Rokkaku Challenge was a extremely successful event and we hope that next year more teams and individuals will take up the challenge and, of course, those long winter nights are ideal for making the kites. Those who have witnessed some or all of the 1987 Rokkaku Challenge can testify that it is an enjoyable event for both the participants and spectator.

Winners for 1987 were:-

Team - The Peacock Family  
Team Spirit - The Snowdon Kite Club  
Individual - David Clements

Hopefully by the next issue we should have another book to add to our mail order list and a new addition to the editorial staff(?).

GILL AND JON BLOOM

## LETTERS

From Ted Fleming:-

(The following has been reprinted from one of Ted's Editorials in the Great Ouse Kite Fliers newsletter as requested).

A pile of mail awaited me on return from summer travels including several pleas from Ron Moulton (BKFA). The gist of his anxiety is that the Federation Aeronautique Internationale is contemplating the inclusion of kiteflying as a sport to include under its international administration.

This international body based in Paris already co-ordinates all kinds of aero sport including microlights, gliders, parachuting, balloons, model aircraft, and medical matters for pilots, and it achieves all this through the national aero clubs, which are affiliated. In the U.K. this means The Royal Aero Club.

Ron is seeking a reaction which has not been forthcoming so far, which is not surprising as so little time has been allowed for contacting kitefliers in general, many of which are away on summer activities. The Kite Society had asked for more information and were told that there was none - it was up to kitefliers. I feel that this was most unhelpful. We all need to know what is likely to be involved in becoming associated with such august bodies, some benefits have been mentioned but kitefliers need to be informed as to their responsibilities towards the administrators.

Hold on - I hear you cry - do we need to be organised by such an organisation? A good question indeed, it raises a vision of endless committees, conferences, delegates and elected representatives. The whole matter needs time for discussion and perhaps a questionnaire circulated amongst all registered and known kitefliers, it's a pity that we don't have a national magazine.

The writers own view is that the majority of adult kitefliers see kiteflying as a fun thing to be enjoyed when wind, weather and mood is right - the yin and yang - well known and understood by the Chinese, the ancient home of the kite. However with the increasing numbers of fighting kite competitions (not my scene, but each to his own joys) and the use of very large kites, and parachuting bears it may well be that some degree of organisation is desirable to protect us from any "big brother" who may seek to deny us our pleasures. One should bear in mind that the Kite Society is only some 700 strong and the local club members are probably less than half or less if you discount those who are dual members, whereas people who fly kites run into many thousands, but it is from the groups that elected representatives would probably come. I look forward to further news with interest.

Following on from Ted's letter we have had some communication from Fred Marsh, vice-president of the F.A.I. Fred represents all UK air sports on the F.A.I. He says:-

In many developing countries the young and the old can only afford kite flying, everything else is much too expensive, hence my interest in kite flying.

## LETTERS

I thought you might like to know that the Royal Aero Club Of The United Kingdom, has representatives of all UK air sports on its Council. It may be that eventually some of the UK based kite associations and clubs would like to have closer liaison with us, and I shall be discussing this with Ron Moulton. We have every year an award ceremony, when our president HRH The Duke of York, makes the presentation of the various awards won for a great variety of achievements to Aero-modellers, glider pilots, parachutists etc. This might well be an area where the kite fliers would like to participate, and make nominations or achievements in designing, constructing and flying of kites., or to their administrators etc. This can be done, if their association/s were members of the Royal Aero Club.

You might be interested to know that almost all of the Royal Aero Club's member associations and bodies have their own newsletters and bulletins and it may be that there is further scope for liaison since we are all related through, what could well be called THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE AIR.

(See the Editorial for our comments on this subject.)

---

From Pat O'Driscoll:-

To all kiters in Hampshire BUT also to those who are isolated.

On turning to page 16 of the last issue of The Kiteflier you would have seen that Hampshire has the largest membership outside of Greater London of the Kite Society. Due to the size of the county, most of you are spread all over from the north to the south.

With the Kite Society's permission I therefore suggest that a branch of the Kite Society, known as the Hampshire Kite Society, be formed.

The aim being that of bringing together all of the Hampshire members under one banner, BUT with splinter groups living close forming local clubs or groups with regular get togethers.

In addition to the above, at least two flyings a year be held in varying parts of the County, with CAA approval for extra height, at the same time using the areas media, both daily and weekly giveaway, for publicity. So bringing in the locals with the hope that some will become members. The possibilities are endless.

Will you all please send me a note giving your reaction, include a stamped addressed envelope, and although I have little time to spare I will arrange the first get together.

To all those smaller counties bordering each other - how about you doing the same thing. Write to the Kite Society and they will publish it. This will help you form a branch of the Kite Society and help during the next year to double the 700 membership to 1,500.

Write to Pat at 12 Myrtle Road, Aldermoor, Southampton SO1 6GQ.

# TAILPIECE

Perhaps this article might be of interest to you. It concerns the rather neglected end of kites, that of the tail, and describes a way of making an efficient tail, which is both easy to make, and at the same time most unusual. I have never seen the idea described before, or seen it in use, although, if I call it unique, someone is bound to have come across it before.

For some reason, tails are not a very glamorous part of the kite scene. It isn't a weakness to use a tail, although, of course, we should always question the construction or adjustment of a kite which has to have a tail added to keep it stable in flight when it was originally designed not to need one. We also need a tail that looks right on the kite - who could imagine an English Arch-top with any other tail than the one made from paper strips spaced along a length of line?

For those kites which do need a tail, and there is no special traditional one which should be used, then a popular tail is the drogue. This is a fabric or sheet plastic cone with the tip cut off so that it is open at the base and the top. Things are so arranged that the wide end is kept open, and the drogue is attached to the kite at the end of a piece of line in such a manner that the wide end faces the kite. It is an exceptionally good tail, but it's a nuisance to make one, because it needs accurate setting-out and construction if it's going to look shipshape and behave in the way we need.

Here's a way, however, of making a tail that nearly matches the drogue in efficiency, and takes a fraction of the time and effort to make.

I call this tail a strip drogue, and it's very easy to make, but has all the characteristics of a good drogue - a high drag which varies with the wind speed.

To make it all you need is a plastic sheet from a shopping bag, a piece of springy plastic strapping such as is used for holding heavy parcels and boxes together, some sticky tape and a length of line to attach the tail to the kite.

You make it by carrying out the following steps:-

- \* Make a ring from the plastic strapping, holding it in its shape with sticky tape. The ring should be 7-10 cm. in diameter.
- \* Cut two rectangles of plastic sheet, each about 30 cm long, and wide enough to go around the outside circumference of the ring.
- \* Tape these two sheets in place round the ring so that you have a cylinder made of two thicknesses of plastic. One end of the cylinder will be loose and floppy, of course. Don't bother to tape the edges of the sheet running up the side of the cylinder.
- \* Cut the plastic sheet up the sides of the cylinder, so that you end up with lots of strips of plastic, 3-5 cm. wide, attached to the plastic strapping ring.

## TAILPIECE

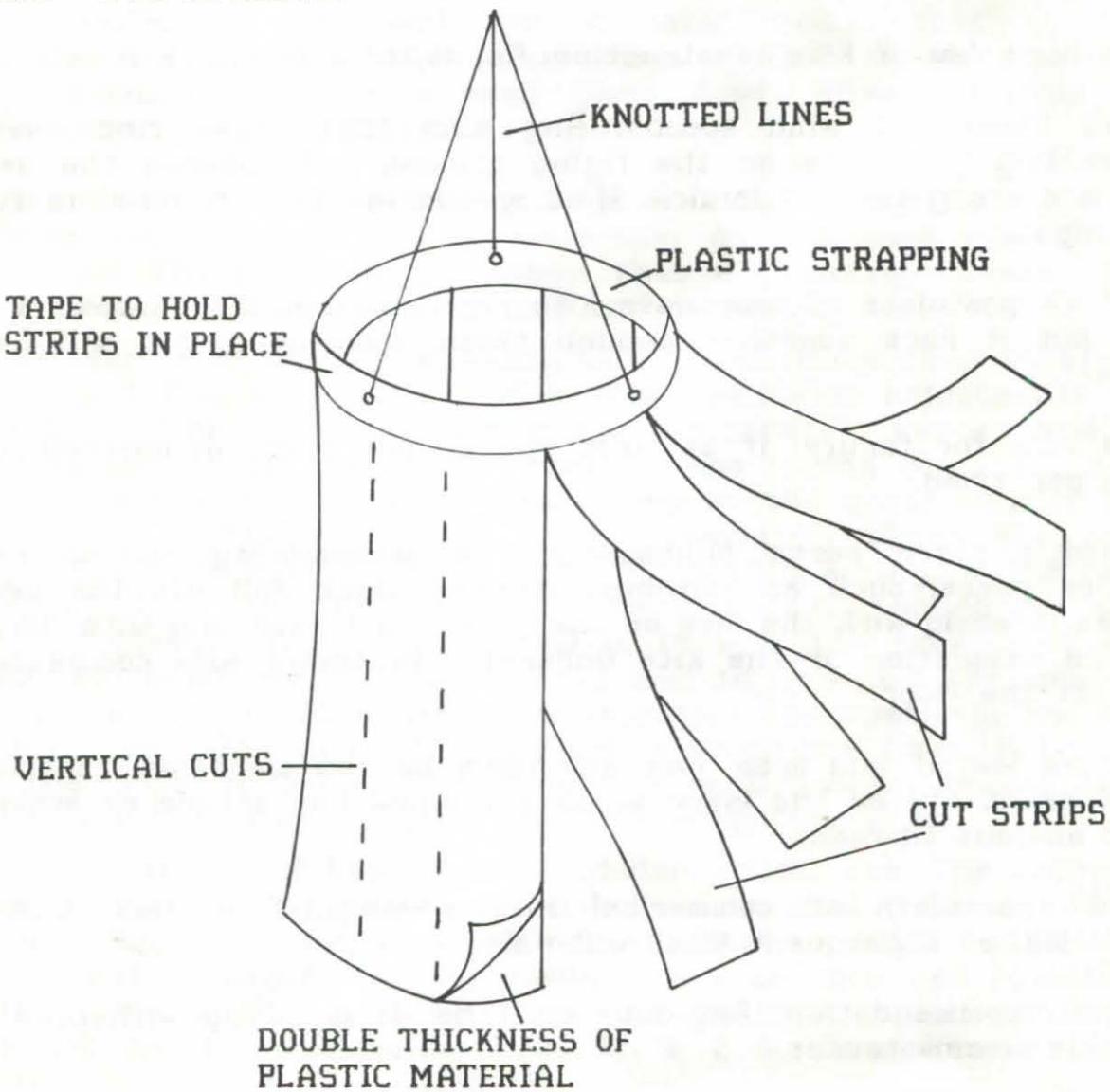
\* Pierce or drill three holes at suitable intervals round the ring, and attach three short lengths of line. The line isn't too important, but let's say about 30 cm.

\* Collect the free ends of the lines together, and tie a knot. This is the point from which the strip drogue is attached to the kite. Try a line about 1-1.5 metres long to start with.

And that's all there is to it! You will find that the strip drogue is a most efficient tail, with all the advantages of a drogue, but rather more spectacular. If you think that this is bonus, it makes a most interesting roaring, rustling sound when it's in flight. You can also, if you use red and yellow plastic, the yellow slightly longer than the red, make one or two strip drogues represent a "jet engine" with "flames" coming out of the end!

(The article above forms part of the contents of a publication on making simple kites which the author hopes to publish in early 1988)

© MIKE TIMMINS



# KITE RULES by AXEL G. VOSS

Here is a collection of experiences on kites and related items. The contents of these should, of course, not be taken seriously. If any of you have similar or other experiences that you wish to pass on Axel would be very happy to receive them. Axel's address is Brahmsallee 8, D2000 Hamburg 13, West Germany.

Oliver's rule for precision in kite making: Measure with a micrometer, mark with chalk, cut with an axe.

Malcolm's workshop principles: The one strut size you need will be the one missing from your strut stock. Leftover ripstop pieces never match carrying bag requirements, most kites projects require at least three hands.

Humphrey's dilemma of kite reel repairing: After the last of 24 mounting screws has been removed from a cover, it will be discovered that the wrong cover has been removed. After a cover has been secured by 24 hold down screws it will be discovered that the gasket has been omitted. Gladys' corollary to Humphrey's dilemma: After a reel has been reassembled, extra components will be found on the bench.

Peter's law: In any formula, constants (especially those obtained from kite making books) are to be treated as variables.

Bill's basic law of kite construction: Cut it large and kick it into place.

Axel's theory of wind speeds: Any wind that blows fine when you are assembling your kite on the flying ground, will collapse the very moment you are ready for the launch. Wind speeds will be expressed in furlongs per fortnight.

Martin's postulate of inanimate kite reproduction: If you take a kite apart and put it back together enough times, eventually you will have two of them.

Jim's rule for failure: If at first you do not succeed, destroy all evidence that you tried.

Peabody's spare parts philosophy: The accessibility, during recovery of smaller parts, such as stitching needles which fall off the sewing table, varies directly with the size of the part - and inversely with its importance to the completion of the kite underway. Peabody's wife comment: You can't fall off the floor.

Valerie's law: If you miss just one issue of any magazine, especially of the Kiteflier, it will be the issue which contained the article or story you were most anxious to read.

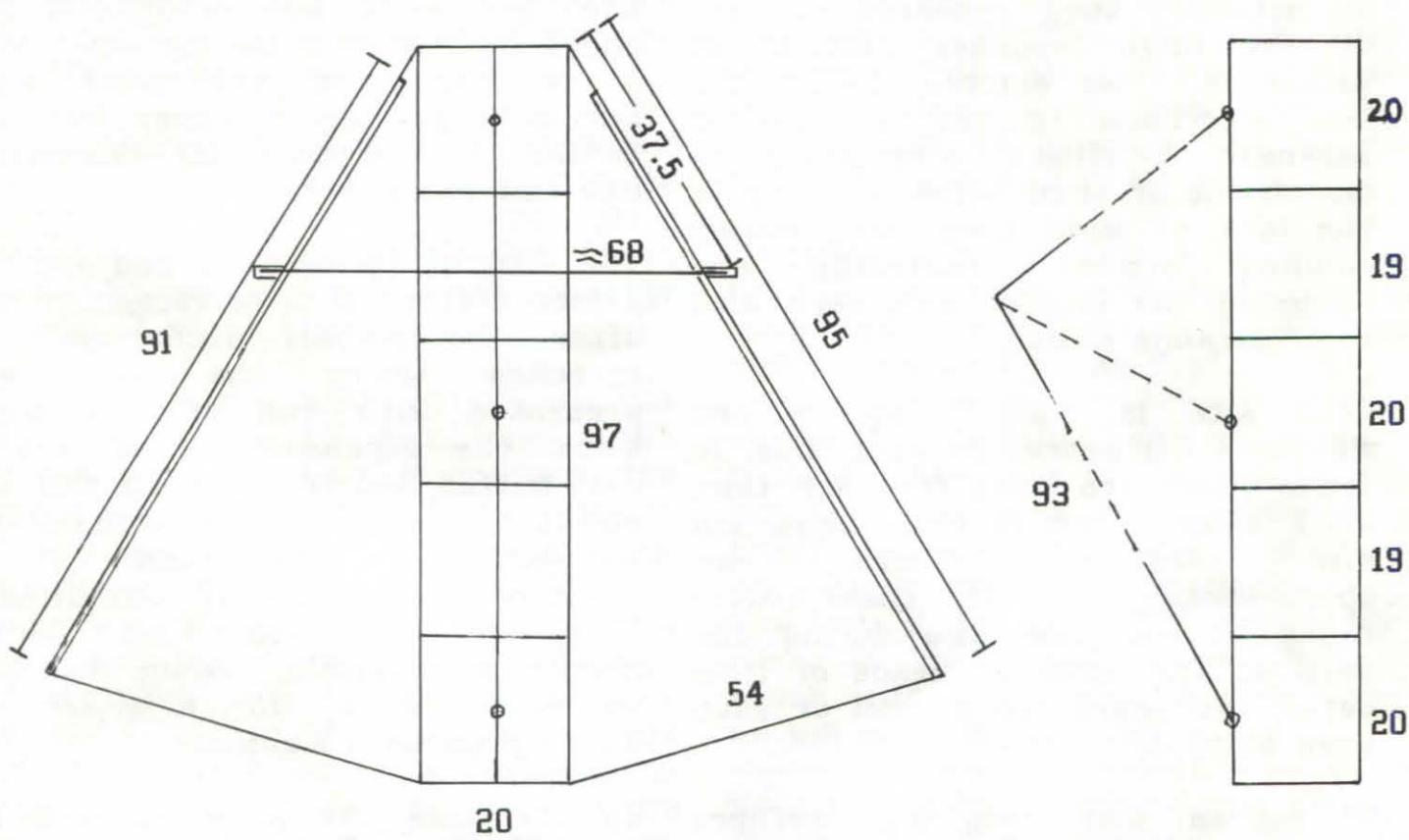
David's postulate of commercial kite making: If a test kite functions perfectly, all subsequent kites will malfunction.

Cody's recommendation: Any kite must be designed to withstand the worst possible circumstances.

# THE ARROW DELTA

Jean Latour

(This plan has been reproduced from the Cerf Volant Club de France magazine "La Lucane" issue number 42)



20      20

Sticks:-

3 x 97cm  
2 x 91cm  
1 x 68cm

All sticks are 6mm diameter.

All measurements are in centimetres.

# HAMAMATSU KITE FLIERS

It was on very short notice that we heard about some Japanese kitefliers that were paying a flying visit to Britain during July. They came from Hamamatsu, which is a large city west of Tokyo near the Pacific Ocean. It is on the "beach" during early May that the three day kite festival held. It is one of the largest and best known in Japan.

On Saturday they appeared as part of the Anglo-Japanese festival at Battersea. We arrived during the late afternoon to see a team of Japanese kitefliers attempting to launch one of their kites, but due to the lack of wind they were mainly running around frantically and bemusing the English onlookers with their strange antics.

Each kite is roughly square and measures 2-3 metres on each side. In Japan there are kites for each town block taking part in the Hamamatsu kite festival. There are approximately 100 of these kites flying at any one time during the festival. The kites are made of Mino paper and bears the symbol of each town block.

Of course, with only 60 kitefliers they were only able to give a hint of the true Hamamatsu kite festival, but what they lacked in numbers they more than made up for in enthusiasm, and as we watched the kites and the large reels being packed into an articulated lorry for their overnight journey to Birmingham, we wondered how the next day would unfold.

On Sunday the Japanese were due to arrive around 1.00pm but were held up on the motorway. When they finally arrived they quickly erected their 5 kites and were organising the teams ready to fight.

But the weather decided not to co-operate - the wind became erratic and the rain began to fall. However, undeterred the kites were hauled into the sky and local people (and dignitaries such as the Lord Mayor of Birmingham) were roped in to help on the lines. Each group's pulls being synchronised by rhythmic whistle blasts and chants of something that sounded like "soy sauce". However the time aloft was drastically cut short by the rain coming down with a vengeance and the kites were hurriedly put under cover but not before the ink used for decoration had run everywhere.

The City of Birmingham had laid on a late afternoon civic reception and after the normal exchanges and speeches where the City was presented with two of the large kites, the Japanese tucked into a cold buffet and fortified by this (or was it the wine?) were soon involving everyone in the room in a spontaneous display of enthusiasm. This was complete with waves, chants, and whistle blowing. Somehow we don't think the Aldermen of Birmingham were amused.

By the time the Japanese left, on two coaches, there was definitely good Anglo Japanese relations despite language barriers. Proving that kites can cross all barriers.

Hopefully the City of Birmingham will be inviting the Hamamatsu kitefliers back again next year for a bigger and better festival. We certainly look forward to that.

If you wish to see the kites two can be seen at Malvern Kites and another two are part of the Washington Kite Exhibition.

B  
I  
R  
M  
I  
N  
G  
H  
A  
M  
J  
U  
L  
Y  
1  
9  
8  
7

H  
A  
M  
A  
M  
A  
T  
S  
U  
K  
I  
T  
E  
F  
L  
I  
E  
R  
S



# TONY'S (BRITISH) SILVER FIGHTER

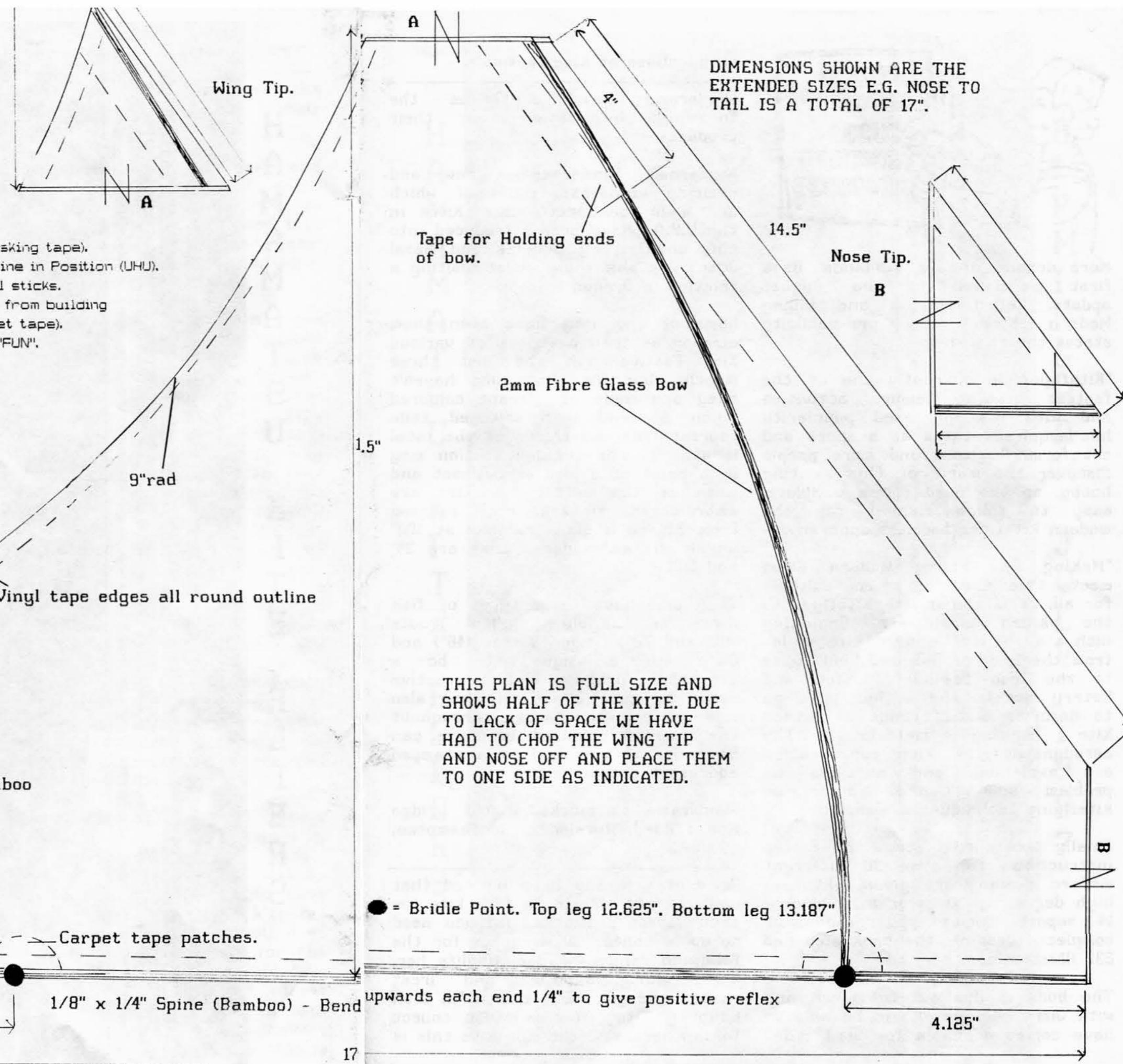
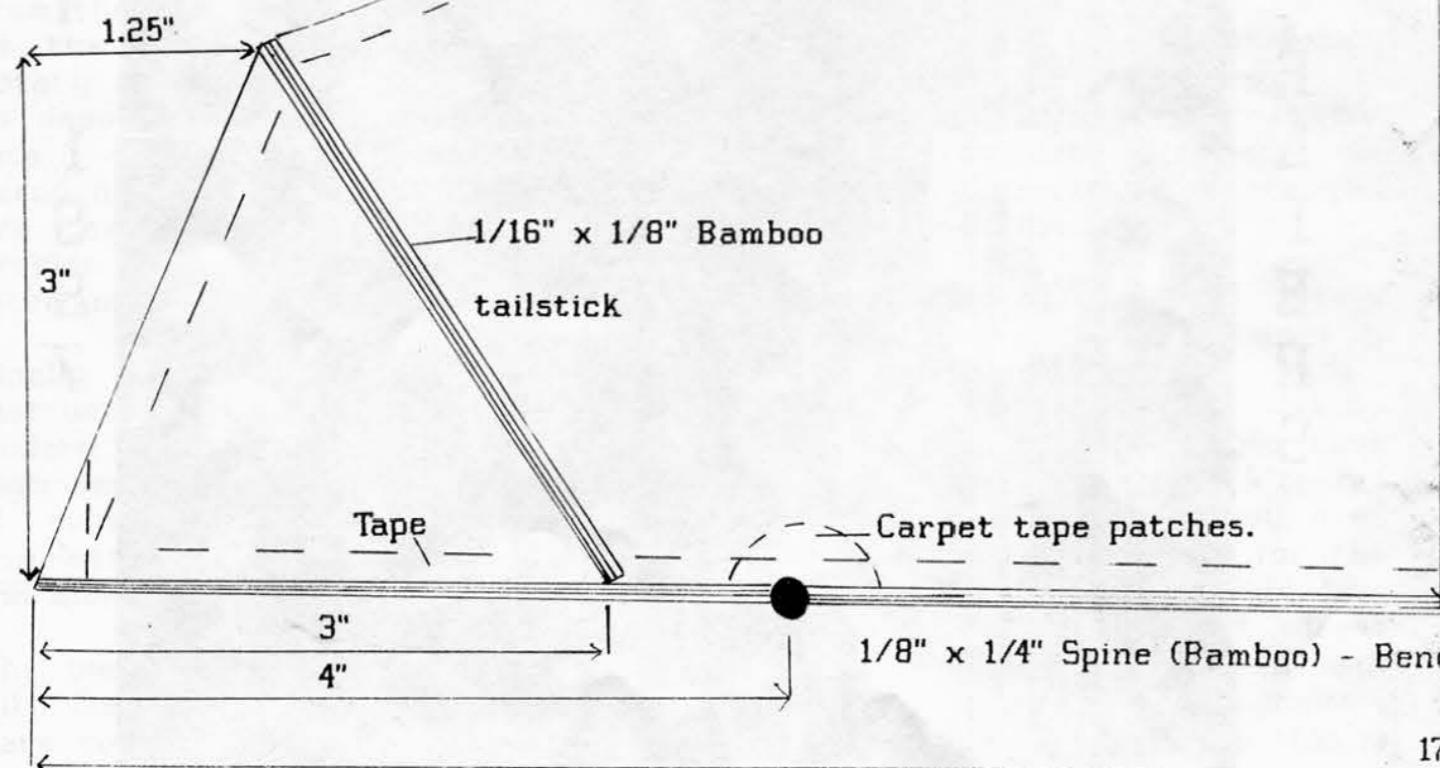
Designed by Tony Slater,  
Shrewsbury, England. September 1987.

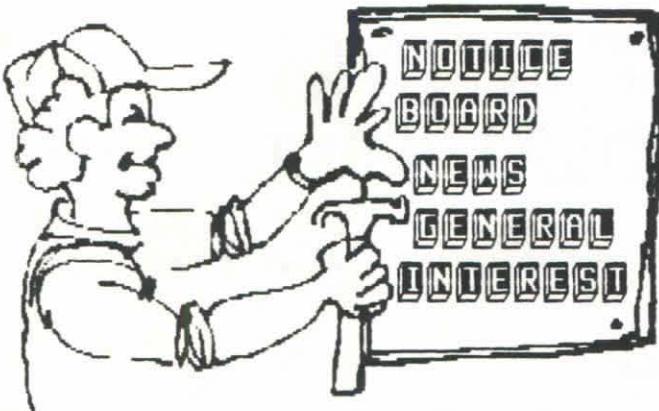
- 1) Tape down cover material to building board (use masking tape).
- 2) Mark out design. 3) Tape edges of outline. 4) Glue spine in Position (UHU).
- 5) Tape over spine (Vinyl tape). 6) Glue and tape on tail sticks.
- 7) Tape on fibreglass bow. 8) Cut round outline and lift from building board. 9) Fit reinforcing patches on face of kite (carpet tape).
- 10) Decorate to taste. 11) Bridle Kite. 12) Fly and have "FUN".

The Cover is made from silver polyester film available from camping shops or Millets and sold as emergency reflective blanket measuring 6.5' by 4.5'. Prices from \$1.75 to \$2.20.

Vinyl tape available from freezer shops or Lakeland Plastics, Windemere.

N.B. All sizes are given in Imperial inches as this is a British fighter.





More details of Jim Rowlands' Book first mentioned in the August update. Called Making and Flying Modern Kites, the pre-publicity states the following:-

"Kiteflying is currently one of the fastest growing leisure activities and with it's increased popularity has acquired status as a sport and art form. As more and more people discover the magic of this exciting hobby, so the need for a complete, easy to follow manual for the modern kiteflyer becomes apparent.

"Making and Flying Modern Kites meets this need in terms suitable for all, from the novice kiteflyer to the skilled enthusiast. Beginning with a survey of modern kite styles from the familiar Box and Sled types to the less familiar Parafoil and Rotary models, the author goes on to describe a full range of varied kite making materials. The aerodynamics of kite construction are explained, and sections on problem solving and advice on kiteflying techniques are included.

Finally detailed step by step instructions for over 30 different modern designs are given. With its high degree of illustration, including 14 superb colour photographs of completed designs, the book also has 232 illustrations."

The book is due out in March and with Jim's help we should be able to have copies available for mail order

or purchase at kite festivals.

---

Winderama have sent us the following information on their products:-

Winderama Windsocks - New and exciting windsocks, many of which are made for Spectra Star Kites in the U.S.A., have been introduced into this country by Douglas and Hazel Jones who saw them whilst visiting a relative in Oregon last year.

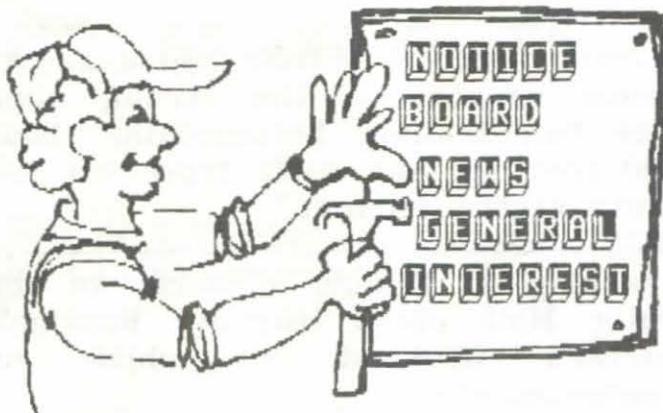
Some of you may have seen them already as they have visited various Kite Festivals in the last three months, but for those who haven't they are made of vibrant coloured nylon material with stitched tails representing two thirds of the total length. On the tubular section may be a print of a bird or sailboat and some of the better varieties are embroidered flowers etc. ranging from 30" to a giant rainbow at 100" whilst the embroidered ones are 35" and 50".

They also have three types of fish windsocks, namely Rainbow Trout (40" and 72") Golden Tetras (46") and Carp (38"). Designed to be a delightful drogue and attractive decor to your kite line, they also look great in the garden throughout the year. A coloured brochure can be yours if you enclose a stamped addressed envelope to:-

Winderama Windsocks, 2 Old Bridge House Road, Bursledon, Southampton, SO3 8AJ.

---

Some of you may have noticed that Cadbury are offering a free kite for their latest promotion. All you need to do is collect 30 wrappers for the following range - Fudge, Wildlife bar, Curly Wurly, Buttons and Treat ranges and you have a free "Hi Tech Cadbury Kite". You can also collect for an aerobatic two line kite this is



30 wrappers plus £3.30. The editorial staff, being ever so keen, managed to eat 30 bars in order to have one of these kites.

The result? The kite is a standard Diamond shape with a high density polythene cover and fibre glass struts. It is made by Worlds Apart Ltd who usually make the cheaper range of stunt kites.

Of course the best article is the Cadbury Guide to Kiteflying which comes with the kite, it contains the shortest precis of kite history, taken from Pelham, ever seen - 196 words!, and as for flying your kite it starts off with "Your Kite can be launched by running!" and although it mentions not to fly near electric power lines etc there is no mention of not flying near aerodromes or the fact that there is a 60 metre height limit. These are, however, mentioned in the instructions that Worlds Apart provide with the kite.

The Guardian recently ran an article about Peter Walter from Malvern Kites on their new Business page. The article describes how Peter turned a friends kiteflying hobby into his livelihood. Six years ago Peter gave up his job as an auctioneer cataloguer and launched Malvern kites.

Peter tells of his difficulties during the first four years, when he even had to sell his house to aid the business, however two new factors

helped to pull Peter from the mire. He moved to his present premises in Malvern and he bought the Wycombe Kite Company for £17,000. Business soon looked up and boosted turnover by 50% this year to £150,000.

Peter supplies 50 shops in Britain and exports to the U.S.A., Denmark, West Germany and Italy. Now Peter finds that shop sales, Wycombe Kites and mail order each provide around one third of his turnover and the last three months of the year outweigh July and August as his busiest time. Last year he was sending out 80 kites a day in the pre-Christmas mail order rush.

Peter sees a big future in printed promotional kites and has already completed orders bearing a CND logo and "Spurs up for the Cup".

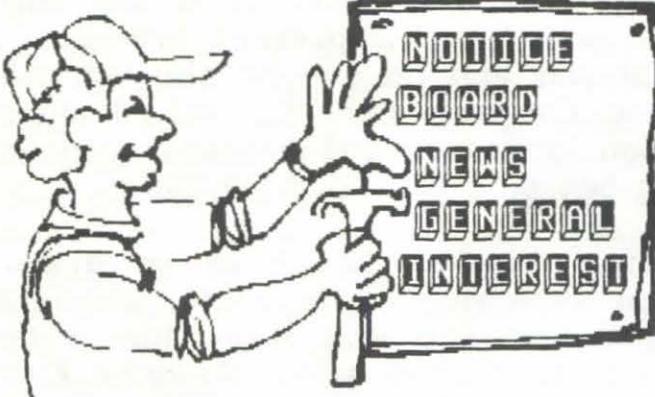
---

We have recently had an enquiry from a widow who would like to sell her late husbands kites. Apparently there are four kites one of which is very large and reels equipment etc. The lady is based in the Manchester area. If interested please get in touch with the Editorial Office and we will put you in touch.

---

News of a kite exhibition and kitefly. Firstly the kite exhibition. To quote the brochure - "A fabulous exhibition of kites, traditional and modern from China, Japan, USA and Great Britain." It does include the Japanese Kite Exhibition from Washington so should be interesting. It is being held at the Mappin Art Gallery, Weston Park, Sheffield, S10. Running from the 3rd to the 31st October, free admission. Opening times are Mon. to Sat. 10am to 5pm, Sun. 2-5pm.

In conjunction with this there are kite making workshops being held at the Art Gallery between 10am and 12 noon on the 17th October and during



the afternoon of the same day everyone is invited to fly their kites at Meersbrook Park between 1pm and 5pm. For more information phone Sheffield Arts Dept on (0742) 73400/73471.

A new kite maker has been spotted in Windy Tails, the newsletter of the Snowdon Balloon Kite and Hang Gliding Club. His name is Ian Noble and calls himself The Albatross Kite Company (we wondered if it is named after the original company?) Apparently the kites are all made from ripstop nylon with dowel spars and come complete with a pine handle and 200 feet of nylon flying line. We will endeavour to discover more for the next issue, but if you are interested the address is Ian Noble, 45 Kingspark Road, Cathcart, Glasgow G44 4TX. Telephone 041 632 2000.

Tony slater sent us news of the following Kite record which appeared in one of his local papers.

"Two Shrewsbury kitefliers have set up a new record at the York Kite Festival. Tony Slater of Meadow Farm Road and David Bloom of Sundorne Road used high winds to launch a 16 foot high Rokkaku hexagonal kite trailing a 2,000 foot tail, and it was the length of the tail that created the new British record.

"The kite was made by Paul Morgan of Shrewsbury, and despite controlling it with a 600lb breaking

strain line, it broke away after seven minutes in the strong wind. The tail trailing horizontally about 600 feet up, was made from red and white traffic ribands."

---

Recently an article appeared in the Daily Mail about Michael Bentine's perfect weekend, in which he confesses that:-

"If you want to go mad, try flying a kite on a day when there is no wind. In England I get caught every time by the weather; but I've got a system. I take the kite along to air displays, usually its raining so you take out all your flying equipment, kites, gliders etc. You pick up a glider, and the wind starts. You put that down and fly the kite. The wind goes mad. 'curses, a kite! I must stop this!' but it takes a while for the wind to drop then you pick up the glider again.

"I have a pilot's licence, but nowadays I very rarely fly. A lot of kites and models are flown by people like me, or retired pilots with fading eyesight. If you go out with a kite, or with gliders, the right kind of kids will find you. Once I was laughing with a bunch of kids when one pompous young boy said, 'Aren't you being awfully silly? At my school we are taught to conform'. Poor kid."

---

From L J Symons the following sad news was received.

It is with regret that I have to inform you of the death of Laurie M Preston of Barnstaple after months of illness.

He was a keen kite flier of the Devon Kite Fliers.

---

Seen in "Computing Today" an advert for Mannesmann Tally printers showing some listing paper being flown from weird bridles!!

# THREE STICK SHIELD KITE - FRESH WIND

The first version of this kite was made of Mylar, with light spruce, ramin and split bamboo spars, for very light winds. This one is simply made from heavier materials for fresher winds. The precise shape of the sail has been altered, as have the proportions, but these changes were made purely for the sake of convenience, and are not, therefore, significant.

The spar materials are 1/4"/6mm diameter ramin dowelling for the spine and split bamboo for both cross-spars: the leading-edge one is ca 11/32" wide and 3/32" thick, ie 9mm and 2.5mm, and the arched one is 1/4" by 3/32", 6mm by 2.5mm. Spar lengths are: spine - 33.5"/850mm, leading-edge spar - 18.9"/480mm, and arched cross-spar - 26 3/8"/670mm.

The sail material is parchment. Using thick polythene would have been cheaper, and maybe easier in some ways. The main advantage of the parchment is that it takes both glue and paint well. It is, of course, perfectly possible to make a poly kite with a perimeter line in a taped fold (I've used that method in making a biggish Rokkaku derivative), but where such a fold is glued down, the perimeter line is held in place more firmly, I feel. That is, of course, a matter of personal prejudice. Anyway, in this case, it was the fact that parchment takes paint better which influenced my choice.

The final dimensions of the sail are indicated below; that is, the measurements shown are those taken after folds to take the leading-edge spar and the perimeter line have been glued down. Allow 3/4"/20mm or thereabouts all round for these folds.

The larger drawing of the kite is to a scale of 1:10. The design does not, as it appears, have the spine and arched cross-spar on the same side of the sail as the bridle! The features are shown that way merely to save the necessity of including the decoration on the sail separately.

The bridle has four legs, strictly speaking, but it functions as a three-leg bridle. Personally, I find this method of bridling simplifies adjustments. In effect, one uses a single length of line to tie two separate two-leg bridles, then uses a ring or loop of line to join them at the towing point. In this instance, the bridle line is lengthened with a loop on the upper side of the sail. This loop has bights round the spine immediately above the rear bridling-point, and then extends back to be hitched to a ring at the rear point of the sail. That isn't as complicated as it sounds, though it's still more complicated than I'd like. The purpose is to stop the tearing of the sail where the rear bridle-leg is attached, and also to help hold the spine in place. One point to note is that the bridle is rigged comparatively far aft. When the kite is suspended by its towing-point, a plumb-line from that point would touch the spine at about 20cm from the leading-edge. Despite this, the angle of attack is nearer 20° than the supposedly typical 30°.

This kite needs a tail, and I have used a tubular plastic one. The previous light-wind version of the kite can be flown tailless in ideal conditions, so I suppose it can't be ruled out that skilful modification might make this version tailless, but I'm content to fly a kite with a tail now and again. (One disadvantage of tubular plastic tails is that they're hard to roll up neatly once they've got air trapped inside. However, a 2 or 3mm diameter hole

# THREE STICK SHIELD KITE - FRESH WIND

through the tail every 600mm or so will allow the tail to inflate in flight, yet bleed off air to permit rolling up the tail afterwards).

Details accompanying the main sketch:

1. Corner of sail at leading edge.
2. End of leading-edge spar, with small hole bored through.
3. Loop of garden wire through hole, to which lines are tied.
4. Bridle - front leg.
5. Bracing-line to front end of spine.
6. Bowing-line for leading-edge spar (depth of bow should be 60-80mm).
7. Short length of rubber tubing has hole punched through it and is attached to loop in perimeter line: it takes end of arched cross-spar.
8. Alloy ring is attached to loop of perimeter-line at pointed end of sail.
9. Loop is to fit into notch at end of spine.
10. Both sides of the doubled rear leg of the bridle are looped round the spine, and also round the alloy ring at 8. The spine passes through the ring to fit into the loop at 9.
11. A ring for the spine to pass through is lashed to the leading-edge spar also. (This is best done before the spar is glued in place). I have attached a piece of line to be fitted into the forward notch of the spine as the loop 9 is into the rear one. This may not be necessary, given that the bracing-line from the l/e spar ends serves a similar function, but it does prevent some distortion of the sail.

Bridle-leg lengths are approximately as follows: forward legs - 21 1/4"/540mm; rear leg(s) - 18 1/2"/470mm. Note, however, that the leg lengths vary with the size of the wire loop at each l/e spar tip. For that reason, the dimensions given for the forward legs are measured from the sail corner.

This kite was first tried with a 2-leg bridle. I supposed that as I should be using a long tail as a matter of course, I might be able to get away with such a simplification of the original light-wind kite, which also has a 3-leg bridle. I was mistaken. I varied the bridle-setting and tail-length without success. I could only get the kite to fly when I fitted the 3-leg bridle.

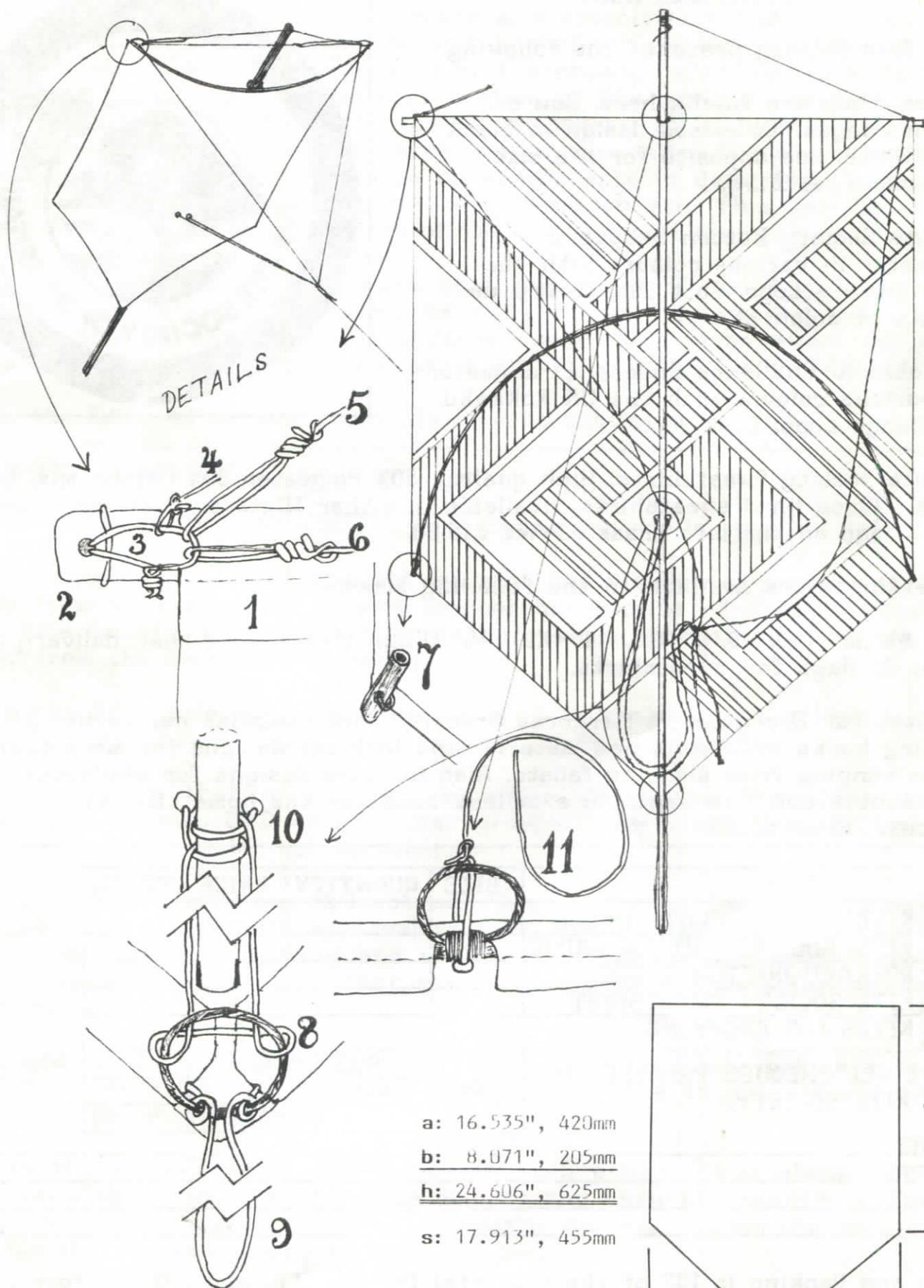
No loop or ring is shown for locating the centre of the arched spar because there ain't no such folderol. On this kite, I find it suffices merely to place the arched spar between sail and spine. Probably there isn't really very much pressure on it; the parchment is, after all, fairly stiff, and it is further stiffened by the glued fold containing the perimeter.

Erratum In Kiteflier no 32, July 87, p19 is my windhover plan . A note on the wing states that the minor cross spars (across the spine at E) has got no dihedral. True. There is no cross-spar at E. That should be at "F". Please accept my apologies.

John Spendlove

# Three-Stick Shield Kite: Fresh Wind Version

John Spendlove

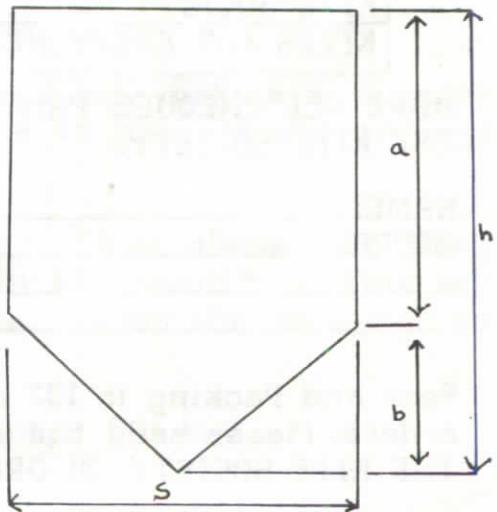


**a:** 16.535", 420mm

**b:** 8.071", 205mm

**h:** 24.606", 625mm

**s:** 17.913", 455mm



# 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.

Sweatshirts are available in the following sizes:-

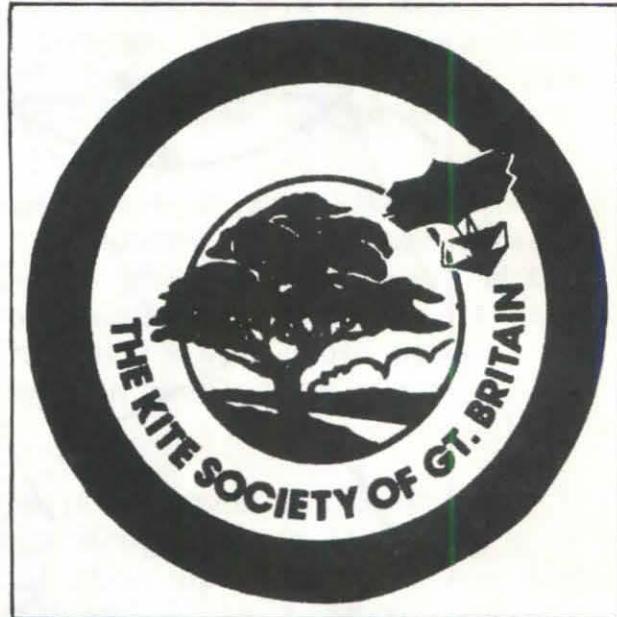
36" (S), 38" (M), 40/42" (L), 44" (XL), 46" (XXL). Please note that delivery is at least 28 days for sweatshirts.

5. Kites For Everyone by Margeret 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				
KITES FOR EVERYONE				
MAKE ALL CHEQUES PAYABLE TO THE KITE SOCIETY.		SUB TOTAL		
		POST AND PACKING		
		TOTAL		

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_



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.

# KITE CALENDAR FOR 1987/88

OCTOBER 18TH	Great Bentley	Great Bentley Green, Colchester, Essex. E.K.G.
OCTOBER 25TH	Godsworthy	North Devon. D.K.F.
NOVEMBER 8TH	Southweald	Southweald Country Park, Brentwood, Essex. E.K.G.
NOVEMBER 22ND	Thorndon Park	Thorndon Park, near Brentwood, Essex. E.K.G.
DECEMBER 6TH	Galleywood Common	Galleywood Common, Near Chelmsford, Essex. E.K.G.
DECEMBER 20TH	Hylands Park	Hylands Park, near Chelmsford, Essex. E.K.G.

## 1988 EVENTS

JANUARY 10TH	Wickford Memorial Park	Wickford, Essex. E.K.G.
JANUARY 24TH	Harlow Common	Harlow Common, Potters Street, Harlow, Essex. E.K.G.
FEBRUARY 7TH	Thorndon Park	Thorndon Park, near Brentwood, Essex. E.K.G.
FEBRUARY 21ST	Southweald	Southweald country park, Brentwood, Essex. E.K.G.
MARCH 6TH	Great Bentley	Great Bentley Green, Colchester, Essex. E.K.G.
APRIL 3RD & 4TH	Easter Extravaganza	Blackheath, London. B.K.A. *
APRIL 10TH	Great Bentley	Great Bentley Green, Colchester, Essex. E.K.G.
APRIL 24TH	Harlow Common	Harlow Common, Potters Street, Harlow, Essex. E.K.G.
MAY 1ST	Old Warden Aerodrome	Nr. Biggleswade, Bedfordshire. B.K.F.A. *
MAY 29TH & 30TH	York Festival of Kites	Knave'smire Race Course, York. J.Rowlands.Prov. *
JUNE 26TH	Summer Rally	Blackheath, London. B.K.A. *
JULY 3RD	Petworth Park	Kite Day, Petworth, West Sussex. J Mersey. *
JULY 30TH & 31ST	Festival of the Air	Washington, Tyne & Wear. A Sutherland. *
OCTOBER 2ND	Old Warden Aerodrome	Nr. Biggleswade, Bedfordshire. B.K.F.A. *
OCTOBER 9TH	One Sky - One World	Everywhere. Co-ordinated by The Kite Society.

EVENTS MARKED \* ARE MAJOR KITE FESTIVALS ALL OTHERS ARE LOCAL FLY-INS. FOR E.K.G. EVENTS WRITE TO THEM AT 34 MORTIMER ROAD, RAYLEIGH, ESSEX. OTHER EVENTS CONTACT THE KITE SOCIETY.

Membership fee for the Kite Society of Great Britain is £6.00. This membership fee covers four issues of "The Kiteflier" and five issues of "Update" an interim newsheet produced during the summer months. Also available is a reduced subscription rate of £4.00 which covers the four issues of "The Kiteflier" only. In addition production of the membership card entitles the holder to a discount at kite shops around Britain as well as several in Europe. Finally members are permitted into the twice annual national Kite festival held at Old Warden in Bedfordshire and other selected festivals free of charge.

Supplementary membership is also available to people living at the same address. This cost £2.00 and entitles the holder to discount and free entry to Old Warden.

Samples of newsletters are available from the address overleaf. These cost £1.00 each including postage.

If you wish to join The Kite Society please fill in the form below and send it to address given. 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 FOR \_\_\_\_\_ MADE PAYABLE TO THE KITE SOCIETY.

Type of membership required - FULL  
REDUCED

NAME. \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

POST CODE. \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE. \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPLEMENTARY MEMBERS.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please tick this box if you have any objections to your name and address being held on our computer system. The information is used for the sole purpose of sending you your magazines and other mailings from The Kite Society.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY.	RCVD:
	PROD:
	SENT:
	ND:

# AERODOME

## BRIGHTON KITE FLYERS



### THOUSANDS OF KITES, PEOPLE and CARS.

Sunderland Carnival was held every year. Apparently, the interest waned, so it was decided to stage the first Anglo-Japanese Festival of the Air last year. This year's Festival was held on the 2nd of August. It demonstrated that good sponsoring is the answer to a very good event. There were seven sponsors for this Super Festival which must now rank as the best in Europe.

The dominant feature was, of course, kites. These, coupled with four marquees; housing Arts and Crafts, the Komatsu Kite Collection, Bands and other musical items, attracted a huge crowd which Police estimated was 30,000, with 5000 cars parked in the vicinity. An unusual flying machine was a motorised Flexifoil flown by Frank McShane. Frank and his friend have tried to organise a kite festival at Edinburgh as part of that city's famous festival.

It was great to see hundreds of families taking part in the mass kite fly accompanied by the daylight fireworks display at the end of the day.

I would like to see 'Super Festivals' taking place at other venues, particularly near big cities. This would introduce kiting to thousands more, many of whom do not realise what great strides have been made in kitemaking and flying. This dream will only come true if sponsorship is forthcoming.

### TOPSYTURVY WEATHER ALONG THE SUSSEX COAST.

Weather conditions this season have been very unusual. The most extraordinary was one July night when 5 inches of rain fell in 4 hours in Hove, yet in Brighton; 4 miles away; only 1.75 inches fell.

Sunday 5th July saw stunters roaring in a Force 4 at Beachy Head, while 18 miles away on the same coast, Brighton barely made a Force 2.

There have even been days when The Red Hill has had Force 3-4 South-westerly while, only 2 miles away at Devil's Dyke, hanggliders have been flying in a Force 4 North-westerly.

### SCENIC KITE FLYING.

Petworth Park, featured in a number of Turner's paintings, must be one of the most delightful settings in the country for a Festival. It has a landscape of magnificent trees, a large lake with fish and wildfowl, roaming wild deer and black sheep and an imposing house - the perfect setting for a quiet days kite flying; none more so than the 1987 Festival held on Sunday 28th June. The day raised over £700.00 for Riding For The Disabled. This is a tribute to Joanna Mersey, who has generated over the years a very friendly, family atmosphere for this annual event (its friendliness was even commented on as far north as Sunderland!). The highlight of the Festival is always the Teddy Bear's Picnic with musical entertainment by a human bear while the children make short work of a huge cake.

### THE RAFA FETE at PARHAM PARK, STORRINGTON, SUSSEX.

Held on the 26th July this fund raising event for the Sussexdown Convalescent Home for ex-RAF personnel depended on the takings from the many stalls positioned in front of Parham House; built in the Elizabethan period. Musical entertainment was provided by the Horsham Silver Band and the Bognor ATC Band. There was a Force 3 wind throughout the dry day and with a CAA clearance to fly to 1500 the day was set for the BMISS operations - even dropping an Honourary ATC Sergeant was no problem!. Peter and Maureen flew their Delta and Malay kites, but the Flexifoils and stunters remained grounded due to ground level turbulence. Peter became Tarzan when his delta took to an oak tree. Three gliders from the Southdown Gliding Club circled the Rokkaku as it was being prepared with the assistance of ATC members to carry out the parachuting.

#### COUNTRY FAYRE at WORTH, Near Crawley.

On Saturday 20th June clearance was obtained to fly to 800 feet not 4.2 Kms from the end of the main Runway at Gatwick - and what was the wind? Barely 2 Knots. But that was not all! The delightful site was some 160 metres by 100 metres and totally surrounded by trees! This event was to raise funds for the restoration work at the 10th Century Worth Church. This is one of the finest examples of a Saxon Church in the country. The walls are Saxon, but the roof was renewed in 1870. It was found in 1986 that Death Watch Beetle infestation in the 14 inch by 12 inch timbers was severe. To combat this the timbers were soaked with chemicals. Unfortunately an exploding halogen lamp caused a fire destroying the roof. The cost of repairs is approximately £500,000, the major part of which is being paid for by the insurers.

Just on £4000 was raised at this event. Displays in the arena were given by the Gill Osborne School of Dancing and a Field Gun event provided by the Crawley based T.S. Cossack.

#### MENDIP HOSPITAL, WELLS, SOMERSET.

Held on Sunday 12th July, this event was in aid of the Friends of The Hospital. The invitation to attend was as a direct result of the Sunday Telegraph report and the club has been asked to attend again in 1988.

Dawn was superbly windless, and by mid morning the tremulous breeze barely made Force 2. The wind rose and fell with monotonous regularity - allowing first a flare to reach 1200 feet then wafting it down only to let the Strat 6 up a half hour later: but its life was short and both delta and Rokakku were gripped with same doldrums after brief periods of ascendancy. The main arena, however, fared better. A very impressive display was that given by a 70 strong childrens' Midsomer Norton Marching Band. The Beatle Crushers Clog Dancers in coloured dresses and floral decorated straw hats gave a clever display.

#### EAST GRINSTEAD LIONS CARNIVAL.

Bank Holiday Monday saw a stiff breeze blowing over East Court. Reaching 1500 feet was little problem in the Southerly; once the first sixty feet had been achieved; and as the day progressed the wind increased and remained fairly constant at Force 4-5 until late afternoon. The event itself had a Teddy Bear theme and some illustrious bears walked the well cut grass, including Garry Gatwick, Pooh and George. Once the initial trepidation had worn off there was a constant stream of headstrong bears all eager to take to the skies and prove that parachuting is easier than it looks; even if an Artillery Regiments 105mm Howitzer pointed precariously close. The ATC however failed to take to the skies in their glider despite many jibes from descending fauna, whose instant courage and altitude allowed them to both see the many stalls and drop in at will.

#### FORTHCOMING DATES.

OCTOBER 25 F/I Highdown Hill, NW Worthing, Sussex.

\* NOVEMBER 1 DIS George V Playing Flds, FELPHAM, Bognor Regis. 1000ft \*

"	8	F/I	The Red Hill,	Brighton,	Sussex.
"	22	F/I	Highdown Hill,	NW Worthing,	Sussex.
DECEMBER	6	F/I	The Red Hill,	Brighton,	Sussex.
"	20	F/I	The Red Hill,	Brighton,	Sussex.
JANUARY	3	F/I	The Red Hill,	Brighton,	Sussex.
"	17	F/I	The Red Hill,	Brighton,	Sussex.
"	31	F/I	The Red Hill,	Brighton,	Sussex.

## Old Tom's Guide to Kites and Weather Lore.

(Ed. Note; before reading please practice the following in your best old rustic Wiltshire/Somerset/Cornish accent- Arhhh (ten times), Ooh-Arhhh (ten times) and T'Master's Kite be up t'big tree (ten times)).

Following a trip to the West Country (well, Bristol Kite Festival- What!- you weren't there) our intrepid roving reporter managed to gleam these gems of wisdom from well known Kite Flying personality Old Tom;-

Q. "Tom, what signs in the weather do you look for before you go out flying"

A. "Well, young fellas me lad, me old beauty, you whippersnapper you (further rambles edited out-Ed.) before I's goes aflying I's sits down and thinks awhile about it- if it be a important Kite Festival that it will attract rain like a cowpat attracts a Stunter and if it be an informal flyin then it will be dead calm- no, when I's go out I's do it sudden so the Weather doesn't know I'm coming"

Q. "Do you wear any special clothes or badges when you go flying"  
A. "Naah, badges be for burks and fancy clothes be for nancies"

Q. "What do you think about modern kites?"

A. "There be nothing new under the sun- when I was young Mr Davis's dirigible life saving kite was all the rage and now Mr Powell and some Americans have come along with their "new" Stunt kites- we have a saying down our way- When cows lie down village Idiot be flying Stunter too low. And then there's these new-fangled tumbling kites- we used to call them a load of old rubbish being that they be kites that don't fly properly, but times change and the young of today prefer tumbling to tat".

Q. "Are there any sayings, proverbs etc you would like to pass on to posterity?"

A. "Now let me zee, Purple and Green should never be seen, my old friend Alec was fond of that and all his kites were purple and green, square sticks and canvas be sign of the Brookite, red sky in the morning is kitemans warning, Foskett kites, designed by lager, built by a robert and flown by...., red sky at night be something wrong at power station..."

Q. "Do you use modern materials for your kites?"

A. "Pahh, ribstick nyldo, only good for making knickers and raincoats. You can't make a proper kite from such flimsy stuff- you need a bit of substance- sack cloth and brown paper is about right and comes in decent kite colours- stands a good breeze too. And this glass reinforced rod- yukk- good for whips but not for kites- not stiff enough you know- naah, I be sticking to the old methods for my kites"

Old Tom will be signing copies of his book Rustic Kitecraft  
on Sunday 13th September 1987.

The Kite Store, 69 Neal Street, London WC2H 9PJ Tel; 01 836 1666  
The Kite Store 2, 3 Marlborough Court, London W1 Tel; 01 734 4320