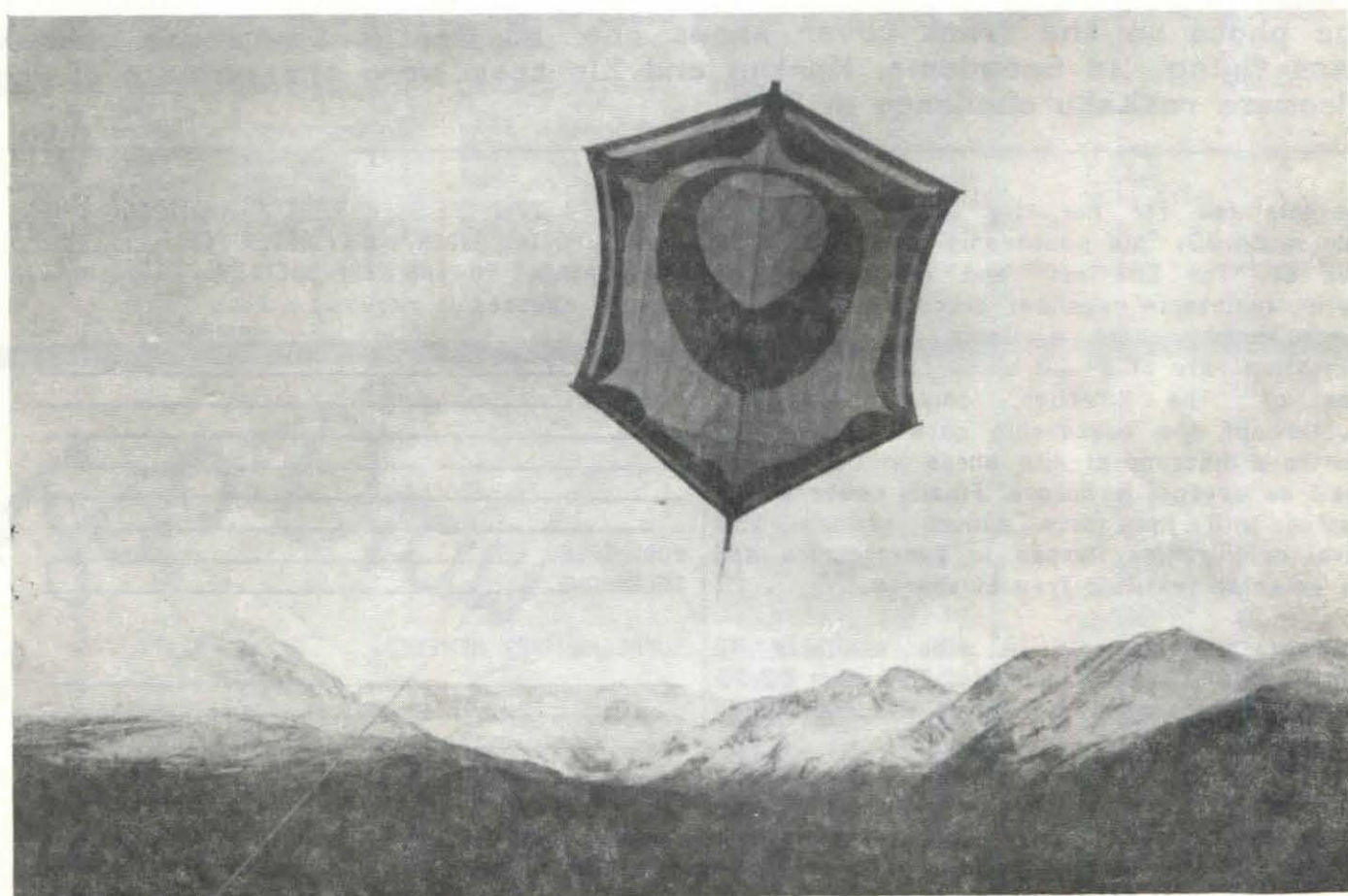


# **THE KITEFLIER**

## **NEWSLETTER OF THE**

### **KITE SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN**



**INCLUDING**  
**AERODYNE**  
**MIDLAND KITEFLIERS NEWS**  
**ISSUE 36** **JULY 1988**



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The photo on the front cover shows one of Martyn Lawrence's rokkaku kites flying in Snowdonia. Martyn and his team were the winners of the allcomers rokkaku challenge in York.

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 \_\_\_\_\_  
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# EDITORIAL

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Dear Reader,

This newsletter is rather special, it is the first time since our fifth anniversary issue that the newsletter has had 28 pages. It would be nice to have this number of pages every issue, but to do that we need YOUR contributions. Right, that is our usual moan over, on to other matters.

In the last magazine we forgot to mention that Greens of Burnley also give our members a discount. Their address is 336 Colne Road, Burnley, Lancs. BB10 1ED tel no 0282 39650.

We are pleased to say that the Rendezvous and the York Kite Festival was a success, and we are pleased to announce the winners of the various Kite Photograph (s) competitions here:- Best Single Kite Photograph 1st J.Skinner 2nd Alan Jones 3rd Kerry Adams. Best set of Kite Photographs 1st Geoff Adams 2nd Patrick Bonneau 3rd Martyn Lawrence.

One of the highlights of the York Kite Festival must have been the U.K. Rokkaku Challenge, which as far as we know produced a record number of entrants for a fight in the Western world - 18, and the all comers rokkaku challenge, hastily organised for the monday broke that record too! with a total of 19 teams entering, it was a very impressive sight with 19 kites battling out, who knows we might break our own record at one of the remaining heats at Shrewsbury, Wroughton, Washington and Bristol, so if you have a rokkaku be there! and help us to be Record breakers.

We now have a small booklet available, it contains ten kite designs, price 30p, please included a largish stamped address envelope with order.

We also have available an information pack containing useful names and addresses of sources of kite materials, priced at 65 pence again a largish stamped address envelope with order please.

Gill and Jon Bloom

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



# CORRESPONDENCE

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*From Peter Mason in response to Raoul Fosset's comments, on the kite photography article submitted by Peter, which appeared in the last issue.*

I have been an active kiteflier for seven years, during which time I have built and flown between 400 - 450 kites, ranging from six inches to 21 feet in span. I have previously flown light aircraft, sailplanes and hang gliders, and have considered the safety aspect of kiting (and indeed of any airbourne activity) of prime importance. This in fact was the very reason that I chose the kite mounting for the camera. I have given the matter much thought and experiment, and would suggest that a camera or other payload is safer when securely attached to a STABLE kite, (a delta Rogallo for preference) than if it were dangling from the tether line, for the following reasons:

1) Despite Raoul's warning that the weight of the camera will destabilise the kite during launch, I have found the opposite to hold true, the pendulum and inertia effect tends to make the kite less subject to sudden changes of attitude. In many hundreds of camera launches I have had no fraught moments, though I must admit to choosing flat sites with no obstructions. I always test fly the kite before attempting a camera launch.

2) The kite-mounted camera would also appear the safer option if one considers a line break, the camera attached to the kite will descend far more gently, and perhaps as importantly, be visible to people below. With the camera suspended from the line (as advised by most kite literature) a broken line would result in the camera free-falling, with dire results to both the equipment and anyone below. Even if the kite sustains damage (a broken boom, etc.) it will still descend far more slowly than a camera alone.

3) Considering handling, the method of lofting the kite separately is far more complicated, and apart from needing more helpers, makes the control of the kite more difficult, - if the wind drops, the camera will descend, and will have to be dragged along the ground until the tether line is taut again.

4) the kite-mounted camera is more versatile, as it can be utilised in nil wind conditions, by "Rocket" launching the kite and allowing it to settle into free flight, it can be tweaked gently into a circuit and landing.

In conclusion, I fully endorse Raoul's concerns regards safety, and would not advocate the lofting, over people or built-up areas of anything other than a teddy-bear and parachute!

*A short note from John Spendlove regarding the Gasko Matyas Box Kite which appeared in the last issue.*

Even when I was writing the short piece on the Gasko Matyas Box Kite copied from the Hungarian Kite Club newsletter, there was a small voice in the back of my mind asking "Wasn't there something like this somewhere else before?". Those of you who had to learn latin may recognise a



# CORRESPONDENCE

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"question expecting the answer 'yes'" ... but that's no use when the source of the earlier item can't be recalled. Well, eventually I did find it. In Kitelines, first quarter 1982, pp 36 & 37 is an article called Sky Art about a conference at MIT in 1981, including photos of a balsa and tissue kite like that of Gasko Matyas. It was made by a Spanish visitor, Jose Maria Yturralde.

I add this note purely to make sure I get the attribution clear. I do not mean to play down the ability or integrity of any party. I expect a lot of us have had a bright idea, then found later that we'd seen it before and forgotten the fact, or that someone else had also thought of it quite independently!

*From Jim Rowlands regarding the York Festival of Kites.*

My thanks to all those who braved the appalling weather conditions to attend this year's York Festival of Kites.

From the enthusiast point of view the festival was very successful, with plenty of fun competitions and just one or two demanding a little more skill. The programme was very full, probably too full I would agree, and amendments were necessary as the day went on. I'm sorry that some of you felt aggrieved by this but try as I might I cannot please all of you all of the time. It was a great pity though that there were so few non-enthusiasts to appreciate what enjoyment these festivals can actually be.

My sincere thanks both to you and the sponsors Malvern Kites, Peter Powell Ltd, Flexifoil, Bass North Ltd and Leeds Permanent Building Society.

This year's festival was, however, marred by several unfortunate incidents. All were serious but not necessarily for public discussion. What I am damned annoyed about though is the apparent disregard for basic safety. Some of you may remember a short piece I prepared for Kiteflier last year, in which the question of safety was raised and to which your reaction was loud silence.

Well the British kite flying community now have something to think about!

Try explaining to an elderly man, probably with a wife and family that additional safety precautions are unnecessary after he has suffered a gash across his head, requiring 7 stitches and which might require him to be absent from work for several weeks, caused by some moron attempting to fly a kite in the area designated as a car park - even though the York Festival site must cover 500 acres. As a beginner to kiteflying this particular offender could be forgiven - the rest of you idiots flying in the car park cannot!

*From Derek Kuhn, with reference to the review of Jim Rowlands' book which appeared in the April edition of the Kiteflier, addressed to*



# CORRESPONDENCE

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*O.Thomas.*

I think it is a great shame that that you have seen fit to criticise this book in this way. Please understand that, as I have not yet read the book, I cannot comment on the examples you quote in your review. My objection to this article is the way in which it was presented. It is obvious that some considerable time was spent in the preparation of this article, and I think that the results do you no justice. The impression I was left with was that of a cynical attack on what must have been a sincere attempt by Mr Rowlands to make a contribution to kiting in the U.K. and abroad. Your article is very destructive in its nature, and is not the sort of journalism I enjoy reading in the magazine which reflects the feelings of kite flying in the UK today.

By way of balance, please allow me to suggest that you could gain a more sympathetic audience by making your points in a gentler way without being too aggressive. It is often possible to give more force and meaning to statements made in this way. It will also help to lend an impression of sincerity to your work, rather than a sense of dismissal. I think that it would also generate greater respect if you could publish under your own name, that we may be able to address you by name rather than by implication. I would like to stress that this is a personal opinion only, and does not necessarily reflect the views held by any other individual or organisation.

Meanwhile, I look forward to reading the book in question. For all I know, you may be right in all respects, but we shall see...

*From Jim Rowlands on the same subject.*

The most detailed and highly regarded piece of work on ram air wings is that carried out by J S Lingard during the early 1980's. Lingard looked carefully at lift and drag components, coming up with some interesting results concerning aspect ratio, inlet height and depth, shrouding and angle of attack, all highly relevant to the design and performance of parafoils.

To quote from a paper published in 1986 - 'Several sections have been used .... but most wings use the Clark Y section with a section depth of typically 18%.'

I am surprised that the reviewer is not aware that the term 'Clark Y' refers not to a single aerofoil but to a whole family of sections, typified by a largely flat lower surface and a maximum section occurring at around 30% of the chord. An aerofoil may therefore have any number of section depths and still legitimately be described as 'Clark Y'. 4%, 6%, 10%, 11.7%, 15%, 18% and 22% Clark Y's are widely published.

*(If you have anything to say on the subject of kites and kiteflying then send your thoughts to The Kite Society, 31 Grange Road, Ilford, Essex IG1 1EU).*



# AN ANEMOMETER by SIMON HARBORD

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How many times have you wished you had a simple means of measuring wind speed at a field before flying your kites or before committing your precious newly constructed kite to the elements.

As a part time kite aerial photographer, these needs were brought home to me recently when stronger than expected winds nearly caused me the loss of some valuable equipment.

I did not like the looks of the cheaper types of wind meter and I didn't fancy the idea of paying out vast sums of money for a super hand held high tech anemometer with rotating cups, but this type looked like the sort of thing I wanted. Therefore, if I wanted a professional looking anemometer I was going to have to make it myself.

I consider myself not very well versed in the arts and mystique of electronics but the germ of an idea had formed in my head... If only I could make a set of rotating cups to turn a little coil round in a magnetic field surely enough current could be generated to deflect the needle on a suitably sensitive meter... I started visualising myself winding tiny coils and writing all over the world to get suitable magnets to make a tiny generator. Then Alan stepped in and put me right in a simple "question and answer" fashion.

Alan works in the electronics department of the company I work for, and during a tea break I was musing on the problems of my anemometer idea.

"What do you call a coil rotating in a magnetic field, used to drive pumps and things, Simon?".. This was easy. "A big electric motor". I answered confidently "So what do you get if you turn an electric motor, whether big or little, by revolving its shaft?"... (a long pause)...

"E-er no er, Elec.. Electricity.", I was amazed at my own brilliance.

"So what do you call the motor when it is being driven ?", Alan asked very patiently..

A ge.. A generator.???"

"Bingo"

Somehow it had never occurred to me that a generator or dynamo is virtually identical to an electric motor to all intents and purposes, only one is driving, using electricity, the other is driven, making electricity.

Alan kindly made me a list of electronic parts which would allow me to make my anemometer work. He even drew me a circuit diagram (fig 1) which I have included for all you electronics type. If you are like me then Simon's Simplified Version (fig 2) may make more sense.

I must say I felt that Alan stooping below his level a bit, normally multi



# AN ANEMOMETER by SIMON HARBORD

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megabyte input/output demodulated flip flop thingummy circuits for state of the art supercomputers are more like his bread and butter.

The following day, a rummage through my workshop produced an array of old electric motors, but seeing as there was nothing smaller than washing machine and lawn mower motors I decided to take a trip to my local friendly model shop.

The model shop provided me with a little motor and brass bush to fit the shaft with a grub screw to hold it on. The motor is a 1.5 to 4.5v type, no more than an inch high, and only cost £1.50. While at the model shop I also got a suitable sheet of plastic (about 1/16 inch) for making the rotor hub.

A walk round to the local electronics shop fixed me up with the other bits and pieces including the mysterious "1K 10 turn pots" which Alan had told me I would need. With the milliammeter the whole lot came to about £5 so I was quite pleased. Luckily I already had a soldering iron and some solder which was virtually never used as I bought it in a bad moment a few years ago when I thought I could mend the telly.. the black mark on the living room ceiling bears witness to my success. Anyway, if you don't have a soldering iron there are alternatives, but I would suggest you get one as this anemometer is the ideal project to cut your 'electronic' teeth on (and burn your fingers...).

Playing with the motor and meter I found it was possible to get the meter to deflect just by connecting the motor directly to it and twiddling the shaft so I had high hopes for the success of my project. I found it hard to adjust to the idea of all this free electricity with not a battery in sight, surely someone was going to sidle up to me and say "That'll never work without a superheat reverse polarity three stage amplifier circuit, Simon" and send my dreams crashing. But no... I soldered everything together, I could write an article on that experience alone, suffice to say, don't get 'over confident' with the soldering iron and where you put it. I fashioned a little hook on the edge of the bench, conveniently next to my hands.. There is nothing on earth to compare with the pain of having a soldering iron stuck up your nose when you bend down to pick up a dropped component.

Connecting everything together is fairly easy, though it was not immediately apparent to me from Alan's diagram what to do with the three pins on the 'ten turn pots'. If yours are the same as the ones I got it is purely a case of soldering the centre pin to one of the outer pins. A little thought and it is fairly obvious why. Wiring the switch is common sense as well and allows you to select whether the current from the generator is going just through the single 'pot' (low scale range) or through the other 'pot' and the 470 ohm resistor (high scale range). If you can't get exactly 470 ohms for the fixed resistor I don't think it will matter too much as the 'pot' has plenty of adjustment on it.

It was now time to make the twirly-cup rotor and for this I used 2 ping-pong balls sawn very carefully in half, glued onto a suitably shaped



# AN ANEMOMETER by SIMON HARBORD

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rotor hub made from the plastic sheet. Getting the right shape for the rotor hub was a bit tedious and my scrap bin ended up with a few prototypes but the shape shown in fig4 should do the trick.

The ping-pong ball cups are best tacked in place with a thin line of 'super glue' and then when they are positioned exactly right (this may take a few goes, hence tacking first) they can be glued properly with 'Araldite' or similar epoxy resin. Finally epoxy the brass bush exactly centrally underneath the hub. It is important that the hub and cups are made with care and are well balanced as the rotor fairly belts round in a bit of a breeze and any vibrations caused by imbalance are going to cause problems in the long run. A quick spray with black paint and the rotor looked so professional it could have come off the roof of the London Weather Centre ... Perhaps I could sell them a new one as theirs obviously doesn't work.

Anyway it was time for a trial run, I assembled all the bits and pieces and headed out of the back door and into a breeze. First problem was the meter decided to read minus 10. Back in the house the job of reversing the wires on the meter was done in about 4 hours!!! I think the dog must have eaten the solder because it never turned up. Anyway when I got back from the shops with new solder the actual soldering only took moments, though the man who came to invisibly repair the carpet was of the opinion that I must have left the iron lying on the carpet for ages. I could have sworn I had turned it off as soon as I had finished.

Anyway back to the anemometer. A quick check that the range switch worked and that the 'ten turn pots' worked to calibrate the meter all proved ok, though I think 'twenty seven turn pots' would be a more suitable name for them. It doesn't appear to hurt them if you turn them beyond the end of their adjusting range.

It only remained to find a suitable handle to mount everything in and after a lot of pondering I remembered the broken computer joystick in the upstairs cupboard, broken when a swarm of 'galaxians' descended unexpectedly down the screen of my daughters Sinclair Spectrum. It turned out to be the ideal handle for mounting the gubbins of the anemometer in. Just a bit of cutting and drilling and everything was secure with the 'pots' glued in with epoxy and their adjusting screws accessible through strategically drilled holes. I didn't glue the meter in at this stage as I wanted to be able to put a custom made scale in it after calibration so this was loosely fitted until final assembly.

With the joystick I used there wasn't sufficient room, and the shaft wasn't long enough to mount the generator inside so I neatly mounted it on top and painted it to match. The possibilities for doing the mounting will vary depending on what you come up with as a handle so I am not going to go into this in any detail, it is a case for ingenuity.

If you can't get a suitable joystick (try the second hand shops before giving up) then you could try - 1) Old Scalextric type controller, 2) Old



# AN ANEMOMETER by SIMON HARBORD

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torch, 3) Shampoo or similar bottle (suitable painted, may not look too bad), 4) piece of plastic pipe.

The final thing to do is calibrate the meter. This may prove to be difficult but I was lucky and managed to borrow a hand held professional anemometer from the local flying club and did a side by side comparison with the help of a firmly secured compressed air hose supplying the wind.

Other means exist like chatting up the local meteorology station, using the local weather reports. Try even consulting the local yacht club, but watch out or you'll spend hours explaining how to make anemometers to all and sundry. Another way is to find a windless day, have a friend drive the car at a fixed speed on a quite but straight road, stick your hand a long way out of the window (or sun roof) and make your marks.

If all else fails you can mark up your scale with numbers which have meaning to you and the conditions in which you fly your kites.

All in all at the end you'll have a very neat and professional instrument which, I hope, give good service and may even have introduced a few non-electric types to the joys of mastering the simple soldering iron.

Several people have asked me what the red button is for on the bottom of my anemometer and I've had some strange looks when I reply 'Zapping Aliens, of course'.

Next issue: A digital to analogue kite designer module for the Multivax 1900Z computer made from a base of a joystick and two old table tennis bats!!

## Parts List for Hand Held Anemometer

2 Ping Pong Balls

1 Sheet of Plastic (6 inch square should do) approx. 1/16" thick.

1 Small Electric Motor 1.5 to 4.5v.

1 Bush or Hub to fit motor shaft.

1 Small milliammeter (preferably with removeable scale).

2 1 K-Ohm ten turn potentiometers.

1 470 Ohm resistor.

1 Small 2-way switch.

Handle to put it all in.

Thin wire to join everything together.

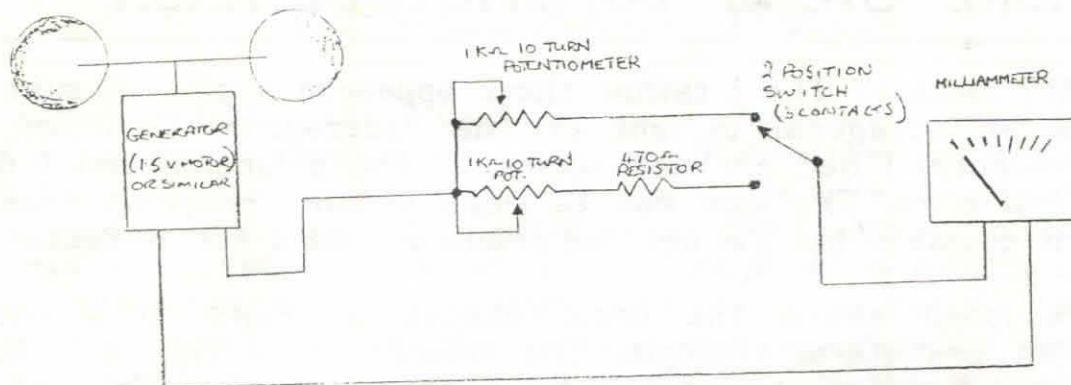
Solder

Soldering Iron

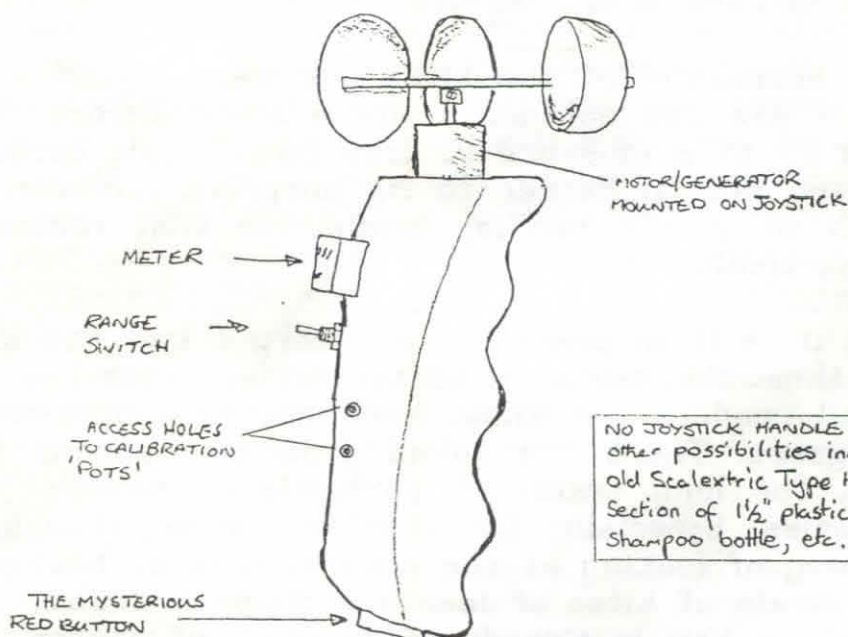
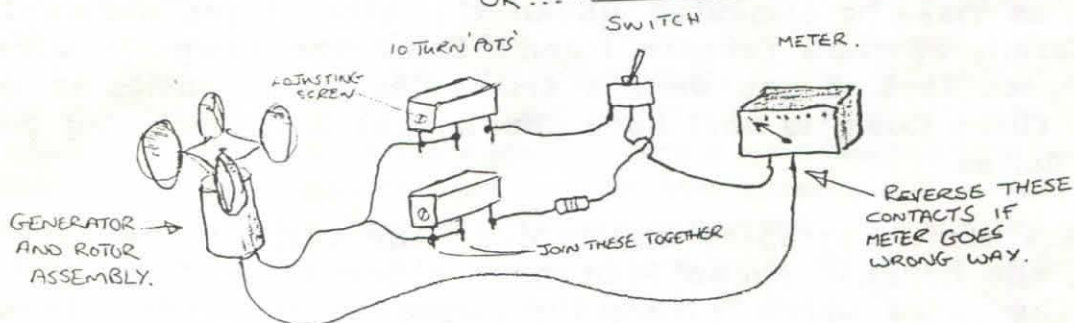
*(Simon has asked if anyone has an address of a supplier who could sell him a small geared winch suitable for kite work. He would like it to have exchangeable drums but this is not totally necessary. If you can help write to him at 2 Church Lane, Keelby, Lincs. DN37 8ED.)*



# ALAN'S VERSION

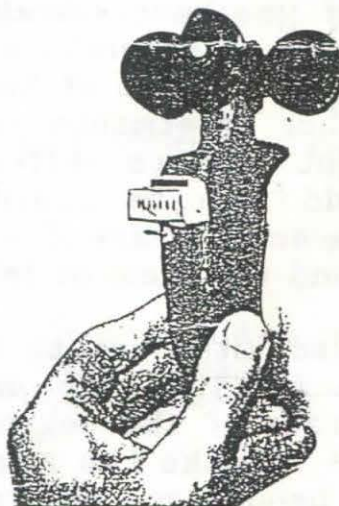
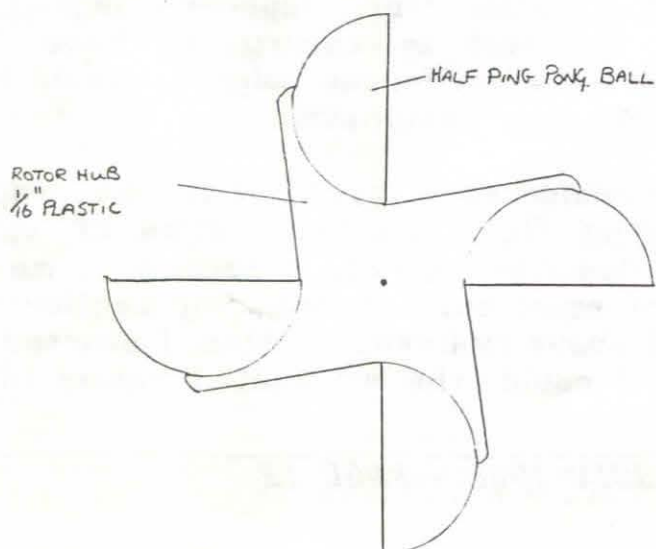


## OR ... SIMON'S SIMPLIFIED VERSION



NO JOYSTICK HANDLE?  
other possibilities include:  
old Scalextric Type hand control,  
Section of 1 1/2" plastic pipe,  
Shampoo bottle, etc.

### PLAN VIEW OF ROTOR



SIMON HARBORD 1988.



## MORE SIDES TO THE QUESTION

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In the April 1987 issue of *The Kiteflier* there appeared a plan of mine for a plastic quickie: an octagonal variant of the dodecagonal "Star of India" fighter. More recently I had another attack of the polygons, and I decided to try out a few more. The idea was to make regular polygons capable of tailless flight if possible, but I'm not too proud to add a tail if necessary!

The drawing supplied shows the basic shapes of eight such polygons, starting with an equilateral triangle. The triangle does fly, even tailless, but it has a short flare at the nose (a bit like that on some Rollers) and it also has a flap on the trailing edge like that on Ed Grual's Flapper delta. These features make it somewhat unlike the other kites shown. I haven't given full details of them because I don't think the design is worth it - I strongly suspect that if you want a triangular kite, a delta is your best bet. Various fliers (Nishi is one) have shown that it is perfectly possible to fly keelless deltas.

Different ways of fitting spars and bridling the various kites are possible. For example, the hexagon shown must have a bridle of at least three legs, whereas if the spars were differently placed so that the kite would fly point-forward instead of side forward, a two leg bridle might do.

On balance, I think the most successful of the kites I've made myself - of the selection shown, that is - are the octagon I wrote about before, and the hendecagon. This one is a bit of a nuisance to draw out, if only because eleven doesn't go into 360 very neatly! Rather to my surprise, however, it flies very well without a tail on just a two leg bridle. For that reason I supply fuller details of this particular kite.

Although (typically) I haven't done it in practice, in theory I had the idea of trying to make a polygon themeatic train. I'd better explain what I mean. Kite trains, as pretty well all readers will know, have become increasingly popular over the past few years. There are sound practical reasons for using reliable simple designs, for long trains in particular: diamonds and deltas are two obvious examples. Especially for shorter trains, though, I think there may be another way of looking at the matter: that of having a common theme. If you have a train of kites of identical shape and size, the theme would be one of decoration: this is already often used, of course - a train is made up of a series of kites of colour a, then colour b, then colour c and so on. Other treatments are possible, though - a train of Japanese style kites might feature different figures from Japanese legend, for example. It would also be possible, at least in theory, to have mixed themeatic trains, and a train of a number of different polygons would be an example. I commend the idea, at least, to your imagination.

If trains of mixed kites are to be considered, I guess that one practical difficulty to be faced is the differing flight characteristics of various designs. In the case of the polygons described above, it seemed to me that the best bet was to make the kites of equal surface area. My mentioning of the area of the hendecagon described above is linked to this. I started with an area and then worked out, where I could, the associated values of the



# MORE SIDES TO THE QUESTION

radius of the circumcircle and the side of the polygon. Working all this out can be a bit fiddly if you are bad at mathematics, as I am, but it is possible with a calculator (preferably a "scientific" one) and an encyclopaedia of maths or the like. Mind you, in some cases I needed several attempts! I list the formulae I used below, just in case anyone's interested. In each case, A=area, r=radius of circumcircle, s=side of polygon and a=central angle of polygon.

Triangle:  $A = \frac{3}{4} r^2 \sqrt{3}$   
 $s = r\sqrt{3}$

Square:  $A = 2r^2$   
 $s = r\sqrt{2}$

Pentagon:  $A = \frac{5}{8} r^2 \sqrt{10 + 2\sqrt{5}}$   
 $s = r/2 \sqrt{10 - 2\sqrt{5}}$

Enneagon:  $A = 4.5r^2 \sin a$   
 $s = 2r \sin a/2$

Decagon:  $A = \frac{5}{4} r^2 \sqrt{5 - 2\sqrt{5}}$   
 $s = r/2(\sqrt{5}-1)$

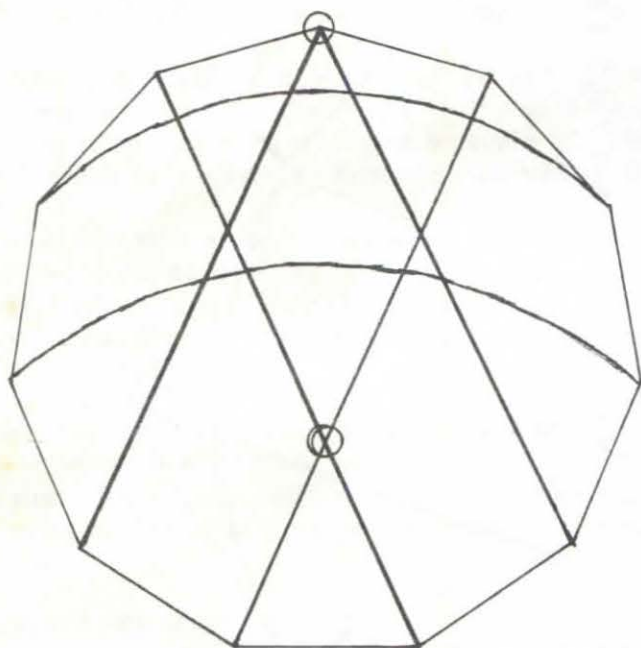
Hexagon:  $A = \frac{3}{2} r^2 \sqrt{3}$   
 $s = r$

Heptagon:  $A = 3.5r^2 \sin a$   
 $s = 2r \sin a/2$

Octagon:  $A = 2r^2 \sqrt{2}$   
 $s = r\sqrt{2-\sqrt{2}}$

Hendecagon:  $A = 5.5r^2 \sin a$   
 $s = 2r \sin a/2$

Dodecagon:  $A = 6r^2 \sin a$   
 $s = 2r \sin a/2$



Sail: High-density polythene - a large garden refuse sack.

Frame: Low quality bamboo from a blind, ca 3mm diameter, sanded but not carefully balanced.

Bridle: Two-leg, from points circled.

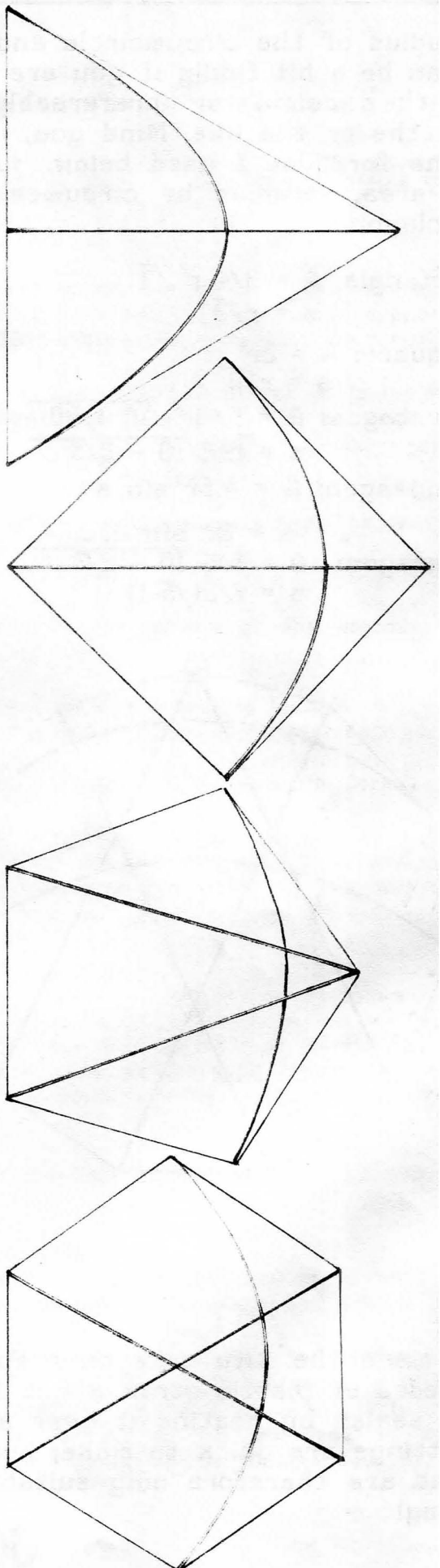
Spar lengths: 2 x ca 86cm and 2 x ca 78 cm for the straight spars, and ca 85.5 cm and ca 92 cm for curved ones.

The radius of the circumcircle is about 43.5 cm, and the sides are about 25 cm long. Area is ca 5,625 square cms, or about 6 square ft.

I made the kite collapsible for ease of transport. The spar ends fit into pieces of plastic straw about 1.5cm long, taped to the sail. One end of each is sealed by heating it over a flame while it is held flat by tweezers. Such fittings are quick to make; but please note that they are not very durable and are therefore only suitable for quickies which don't need to last very long!

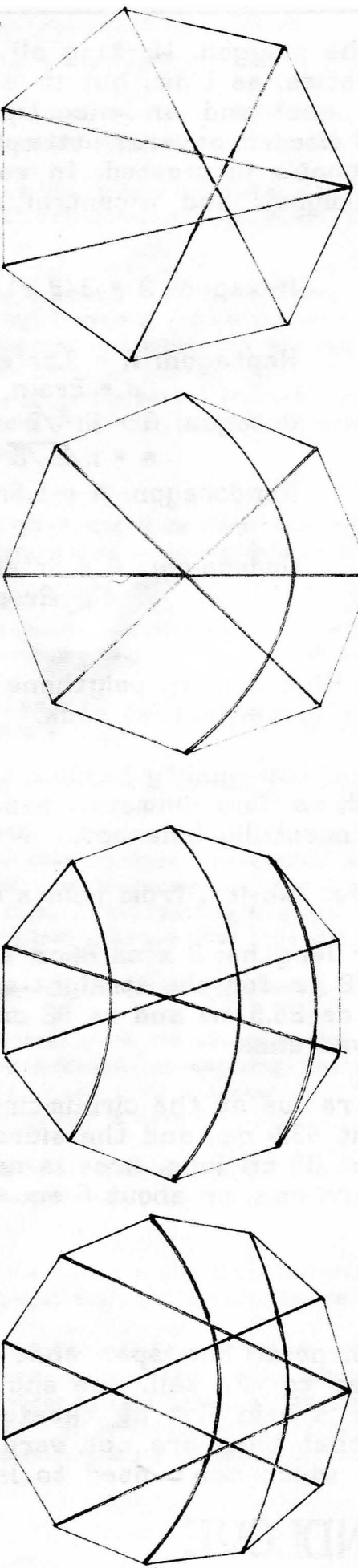
**JOHN SPENDLOVE**





SOME REGULAR POLYGONS

Each can be flown, but the flight-characteristics vary. Tailless flight is more easily achieved with some than with others. The flexibility of the spars can be an important consideration in this respect.





# GENERAL INTEREST

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## REPORT BACK

Fred Taplin has sent us the following report back.

The inaugural fly-in of the Alcester Kite Fliers held at the Alcester RFC was a great success with a good number of fliers in attendance, the club was officially opened by the Town Crier and High Bailiff.

The day was dull but dry, the wind was elusive, however most people had a try with a fair amount of success, but there is always one who has to go one better. That one being Graham Wyle from the M.K.F. He tried a conversion only to land his crystal straight down the rugby post, no prize but perhaps a new sport.

On behalf of the club I would like to thank everyone who attended. Dates for The Alcester Kite Fliers flyins held at Alcester Rugby Club, July 17th, August 21st, September 18th, October 9th (One Sky - One World), October 16th, November 20th.

## NEW MAGAZINES

Reproduced from Windsox, newsletter of British Columbia Kite Fliers Association:-

"Do you read 'Kitelines', the world's only kite mag? Only no longer; as of June 1988 there will be a new kite publication on the market, 'American Kite' published by the maker of Shanti Kite spools whose name escapes me. It will cover North American Kite news, plans, stories, as opposed to the international approach that 'Kitelines' takes. I hope they both prosper. I would like to see the day when both can be purchased on newsstands in Vancouver. The subscription rate for 'American Kite' is four issues (one year) for \$10.00, eight issues (two years) for \$18.00.

We have just seen a copy and it is very professionally produced. In some ways it reminds us of Kitelines but this is probably due to the adverts being the same. The Kite Store have said they will be stocking it so give them a ring in a couple of weeks. If you want to write to American Kite directly then the address is - American Kite, 480 Clementia Street, San Francisco, CA 94103 U.S.A.

News of new kite group in north Holland called Tacko Kichi. Founded on October 11th 1987 they already have two hundred members. They have just produce their first newsletter, and hope to produce one three times a year. Their first newsletter contains many interesting items including night flying with stunt kites. For further details we suggest you contact Cor de Jong, Elzenlaan 4, 1834 GD Sint Pancras, Holland.

News of another new newsletter. Produced by the French Kan Kite club (an organisation devoted to promoting stunt kites) the newsletter is called Kit et Kite and it contains comprehensive plans for the Hawaiian Stunt Kite, and an Ace type Kite, plus diagrams of many unusual free style stunt kite manoeuvres. Write to French Kan Kite, 2 Rue Hermann Lachapelle, Paris 75018, subscription is 100 Francs.

## REQUESTS FOR HELP

One of our newer members Alan Dittman would like to contact fellow kite fliers in the West Yorkshire area. Contact him at 18 Currer Walk, Steelton, Keighly, West Yorkshire, BD20 6TL.

We have had a request from member Penny Burnfield. She writes:-

I am working on a project on kites for my City and Guilds Embroidery exams. At present I am mainly looking at kites as decorative objects, but I hope to soon be making decorative kites which will fly as well! I would be pleased to hear from anyone who is interested in kites as "art". Does anyone out there have experience of making silk kites - what type of silk to use, and are there any special problems? Also is it possible to obtain "Mylar" anywhere in this country or is there a helpful supplier in the USA?

If you can help then write to Penny Burnfield, Terstan, Longstock, Stockbridge, Hants SP20 6DW.

We have had a request from David Harrison of TOC H. On Saturday 17th September TOC H is holding a festival in the grounds of Regents College, Regents Park, London. This event is to celebrate 25 years



# GENERAL INTEREST

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of community projects.

He would like someone to run an informal kite workshop to teach young people how to make and fly kites. Some contribution towards expenses may be paid.

If you would like to help TDC H then write to David Harrison, TDC H, South Western Region, Office 9, 26 Waterloo Street, Clifton Village, Bristol BS8 4BT.

## WARNING

You may have seen a number of reports about the chaos caused to planes flying into Heathrow airport early in May. The alert was caused when the kite, 5ft long with a 20ft tail, was spotted by a pilot who radioed air traffic control. The kite was flying both above 200ft and within two miles of the runway.

For this offence the person involved - not a member - faces a fine of £2000 and/or up to two years imprisonment. The CAA have to determine whether they have enough evidence to go ahead with proceedings.

## FROM THE PRESS

Early this year - April we think - Best magazine published a plan for making a delta kite. The design is quite comprehensive giving the detail a novice would need to make the kite.

## KITE COMPETITION

The chairman of the kite committee - P Butterworth - has sent us details of the Weymouth Kite Competition being held on the beach at Weymouth on 31st July.

It started as a fun event last year but was so successful that they have decided to offer a prize of 100.00 plus a trophy. If the event is successful once again then the prize may get bigger each year.

If you are interested in attending then write to P Butterworth, 4 Ranelagh Road, Weymouth, Dorset.

## CATALOGUES

Whilst we were in York we obtained a number of kite catalogues from the stalls attending the Rendezvous. The newest one is from A & K Kites. All of the kites are hand made and can be made to specific colours. The catalogue shows the standard kites plus, more unusually, Suruga and Hata. In addition to the catalogue kites they will make any kite to order.

If you are interested then give them a ring on 091 410 4723.

Seen in Whats Up? - the newsletter of the New Zealand Kitefliers Association - an advert reprinted from Flight International magazine. The advert was for original show posters depicting Samuel Franklin Cody. From around 1903 and measuring 51cm x 77cm they have been recently discovered. Limited in numbers they cost a mere £495 each.

If you are interested write to S.F.J. & P. Cody Heritage Collection, Vale Croft, Lysons Avenue, Ash Vale, Aldershot, Hampshire.

## EVENTS

News of the Northern Kite Group's Annual Kite Festival, it will be held on 17th July at Littleton Road Playing fields, Salford. From 10.00am to Dusk. For more details contact Ron Ogden on 061 682 9308.

Glasgow East End Kite Festival August 6th and 7th. We have been sent details of a two day pilot kite festival being held on the football pitches, Glasgow Green. The festival is a 'pilot' as it is intended that the event be held each year leading to an international festival in 1990. From July 25th to August 7th a number of workshops are being held to conclude with the festival. For further information contact Peter Scoles, Community Education Service, Dolphin Arts centre, 7 James Street, Glasgow G40 1BZ.



# RENDEZVOUS YORK

Rendezvous York, we think it can be said that this event was a success if for nothing more than the auction which raised over 700. List of donations and prices paid appear opposite). The auction was a success, mainly due to the generous response of the kite trade, every major shop/maker except Malvern Kites contributed to the event and for this we are very grateful, because if we had relied on the donations made by our members the auction would have been over in 10 minutes, that's not to say that the items members did contribute were not welcomed, they most certainly were, especially the beautiful decorated iced cake donated by Mrs Wellborn, which must have been the most unusual item. As people who were at the auction can confirm the event was only a success due to the marvellous efforts of Tony Cartwright and George Webster who acted as the auctioneers assistants, and most importantly - Andy King of the Kite Store who made a most impressive Auctioneer, when suitably lubricated with wine!. For the 9.00am start to the mad escape at 6.45pm the day was filled with many faces both familiar and new. The talks were well attended with over 30 in the audience in some cases, and the stall holders seemed pleased with their sales, but so far we have had so little feed back (one comment from someone who actually attended). It would be nice to have some more comments from the readership! We would like to repeat the event next year, but feel that we would like to rotate the event around different festivals so that all our members could have a chance to attend at least one event. In this respect we are looking towards the Bristol Kite Festival in 1989 (this is our tenth anniversary) and Blackheath in 1990. Obviously for Bristol the event would have to be on a Friday, and we would like an indication from our readers whether they would be interested in a rendezvous/hotel package, the format would stay basically the same with talks etc during the day, but probably we would organise a dinner in the evening with the auction held after the meal. We know that it seems early to start organising 1989, but we feel to make the event a success we need to start now, Bristol is usually the first weekend in September, so book it in your diary now!. Please we also need to know your thoughts about the rendezvous, so do let us know, and finally a big thank you to everyone who made this years event a success.

<u>DONOR</u>	<u>Price paid</u>	<u>Description.</u>
Tony Cartwright	9.00	100 % cotton T shirt with Edo Kite Design, American made, size XXL.
Tim Benson	35.00	Honeycombe kite, precision made.
John Barker	3.00	Gayla Kite Kit. All the bits needed to make a siled and an eddy. From the states.
Greens of Burnley	14.00	Stratoscoop 1
Martin Lester	3.50	World Kiting Festival cloth badge
Jon and Gill Bloom	3.50	Japanese Kite Association cloth badge
Martin Lester	25.00	One of Martin Lester's range of soft kites, a realistic space shuttle.
Gill and Jon Bloom	22.00	Gibson Girl kite reel. Part of the kit which was supplied to airmen during the war.
Jon and Gill Bloom	2.00	Create Kite Club cloth badge
Jon and Gill Bloom	2.50	4 metres plus of polyester film
Winderama	6.50	Rainbow Windsock, 100" long, nylon.
Denis Hawkes	6.00	Hand crafted Nishi Fishie Fighter Kite, made from Polyester film, bamboo, and fibreglass.
Paul Morgan	53.00	A 1.5 metre appliqued Rokkaku kite.
Greens of Burnley	16.00	Ten metres of ripstop
The Kite Store	21.00	Skynasaur stunt kite, complete with line and handles. Aerobat in blue.
Jon and Gill Bloom	0.50	Two ore printed kite plans. Printed onto Washi Paper.
Greens of Burnley	50.00	George Kite
John Barker	6.00	Part of the Project Kara Eddy team, this kite flew four miles out. Not up out.
Martyn Lawrence	22.00	Set of three ripstop fighters - diamond, octagonal and Korean.
Martyn Lawrence	26.00	4ft Appliqued Japanese Spinning top Kite - Entitled Metamorphosis.
A & K Kites	4.00	1 metre Rokkaku
Fred Waterhouse	8.00	1000 metres Braided 50Kg line
George Webster	9.00	Malaysian Kite Print
Allan Davies	6.00	Fish Fighter
Martin Lester	3.50	J K A Cloth Badge
Mrs J Wellborn	8.00	Decorated iced cake



# RENDEZVOUS YORK

John Barker	3.00 One of John Barker's superb hand painted big badges, in the shape of a rokkaku
Kite and Balloon Company	1.00 Escapade stickless kite, pocket size, complete handle and line, plastic.
Winderama	1.50 Carp Windsock, 38" long, nylon in the style of traditional Japanese carp windsocks.
Winderama	3.00 Nylon Windsock, 72" long, rainbow design
Kite and Balloon Company	1.50 Escapade stickless kite, pocket size, complete with handle and line, plastic.
Bob Foskett	10.00 Omega kite - complex box, triangular shape, 8 cells and 6 winds. Multi coloured
Jon and Gill Bloom	3.50 Japanese Kite Association cloth badge
Martin Lester	2.50 10th American Kitefliers Association Convention cloth badge.
Kite and Balloon Company	1.50 Escapade stickless kite, pocket size, complete with handle and line, plastic.
Kite and Balloon Company	1.50 Escapade stickless kite, pocket size, complete with handle and line, plastic.
Winderama	3.50 Nylon Windsock, 60" long, Union Jack design
Winderama	3.00 Nylon windsock, 72" long, rainbow design
W. Hudson	1.50 A bobbin of line Approx 20LBs
Greens of Burnley	13.00 Flare Kite
J. Skinner	16.00 A Kite Reel
Jon and Gill Bloom	0.50 Derby Mid summer kite festival 1984
Jon and Gill Bloom	2.00 Anger kite festival 1986
John Barker	5.50 One of John Barker's superb hand painted big badges, in the shape of a yakko.
Winderama	3.50 Nylon Windsock, 60" long, Union Jack design
Winderama	3.00 Nylon Windsock, 72" long, rainbow design
Tim Benson	45.00 Honeycombe kite, precision made.
Denis Hawkes	5.50 Hand crafted Screen printed with Japanese design, Suruga Kite.
Greens of Burnley	4.00 Winged Box
Kite and Balloon Company	1.50 Escapade stickless kite, pocket size, complete with handle and line, plastic.
Kite and Balloon Company	2.00 Escapade stickless kite, pocket size, complete with handle and line, plastic.
John Barker	16.00 Small Edo Kite 23.5" x 14.5" on Washi paper. Black printed and hand coloured.
John Barker	2.50 A rare collectors item, a plastic zippy fighter, celebrating the marriage of Charles and Diana, complete with line. Made by Skycrafts. In red plastic.
Martin Lester	4.50 World Kiting Festival T shirt size medium. From Tasmania.
Ron Dell	6.00 Five metres of ripstop, purchaser's choice of colour.
John Barker	2.00 Jim Whitenhouse non flying stunter kite, but has many fibreglass components.
John Barker	7.00 This sled kite was part of the Project Kara sled team. It flew three miles out.
Kite and Balloon Company	1.50 Escapade stickless kite, pocket size, complete with handle and line, plastic.
Kite and Balloon Company	1.25 Escapade stickless kite, pocket size, complete with handle and line, plastic.
John Barker	6.00 One of Jim Jordan's Tri-rangs
The Kite Store	55.00 Hawaiian team stunt kite. Colours red and yellow.
Gill and Jon Bloom	0.50 Berlin International kite festival poster
Gill and Jon Bloom	1.50 Kite flyers keep it up longer badge.
Jon and Gill Bloom	1.50 Dieppe international kite festival 1984
Steve Walton (Highflyers)	14.00 Ripstop classic roller kite in Mauve, yellow, & red made by Benson kites.
Kite and Balloon Company	1.25 Escapade stickless kite, pocket size, complete with handle and line, plastic.
Kite and Balloon Company	1.50 Escapade stickless kite, pocket size, complete with handle and line, plastic.
John Barker	2.00 A rare collectors item, a plastic zipoy fighter, celebrating the marriage of Charles and Diana, complete with line. Made by Skycrafts in Blue plastic.
Winderama	3.00 Nylon Windsock, 60" long, appliqued sail boat design
John Barker	8.00 A mystery white box ?
Steve Walton (Highflyers)	3.00 Ripstop semi-flex delta kite in white and blue.
Tony Cartwright	6.50 Enamelled Lapel badge with One Sky, One World Design.
John Barker	15.00 Part of original Eurostack flexifoil team, first flown in the late 70's, collectors item, this kite represents the french flag. Has new style spar.
Greens of Burnley	4.50 Winged Box
Jon and Gill Bloom	2.00 Long Beach Washington Kite Festival cloth badge.
The Kite Store	17.00 Spectra spider line, 200lbs breaking strain, on heavy duty handles.
Jon and Gill Bloom	5.00 One of a limited edition print depicts a kite maker on his journey from the mountains
John Barker	12.00 Small hand painted Rokkaku 25" x 19" on washi paper.
Winderama	1.50 Nylon Windsock, 40" long, silk screened sail boat design
Denis Hawkes	6.00 Hand crafted Screen printed with dragon design. Edo Kite, made from paper and bamboo.
Fred Waterhouse	16.00 Weifang 88 Grad bag containing set of four Festival badges, small Chinese bird kite,
Greens of Burnley	4.50 Winged Box
Jon and Gill Bloom	2.00 Long Beach Washington Kite Festival cloth badge.



# 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.

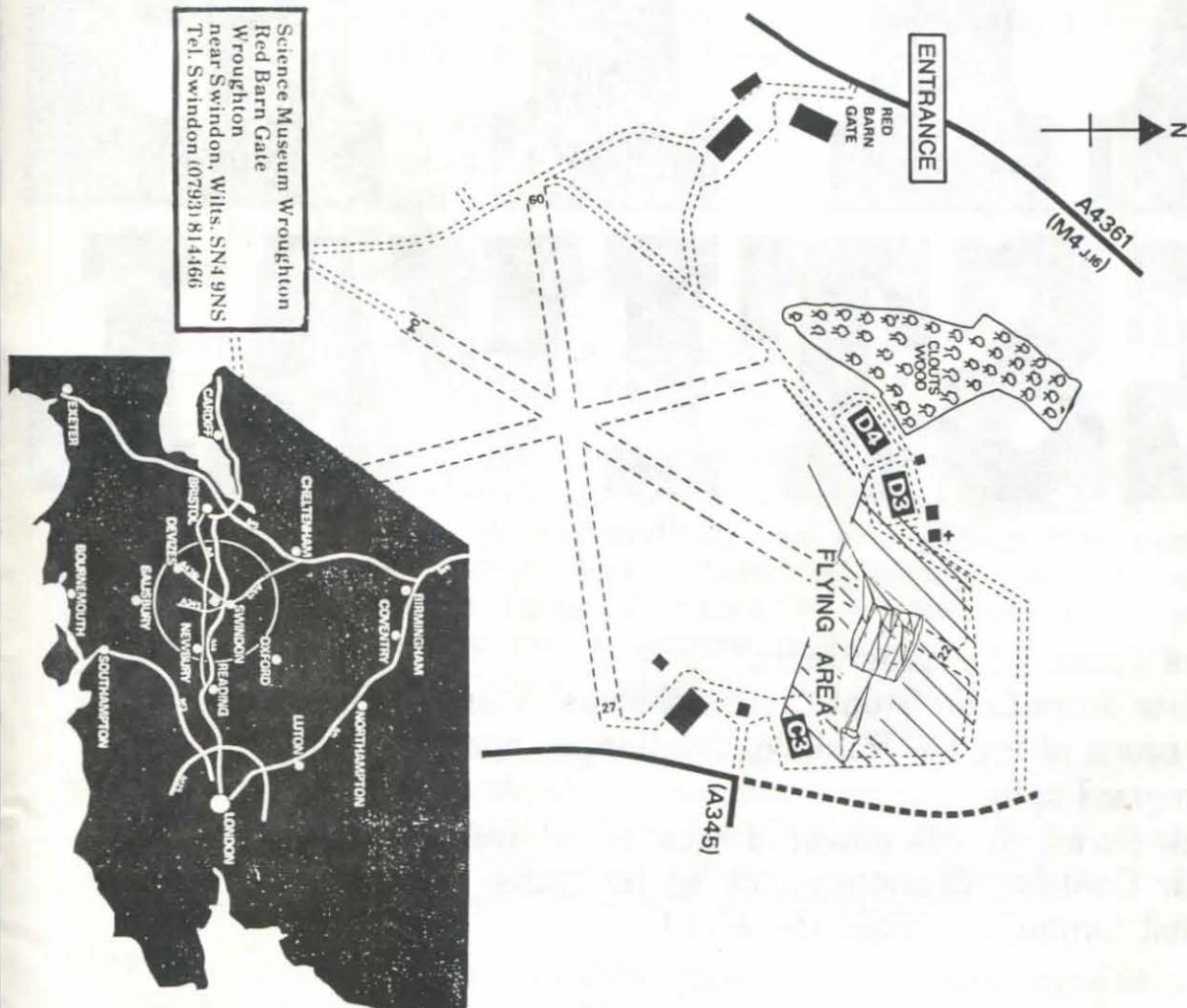
Camping facilities are available at £2.00 per night for tent or caravan payable to the Science Museum on site. Receipts will have to be shown to certify authority to camp. The camp site will be open from Friday evening, 5th August, for early arrivals.

As many of the members who attended last years event will confirm the flying site is one of the best in the country. Please do come along and make the festival bigger and better than last year. Remember the 4th round of the UK Rokkaku Challenge will be held - let's try and break the York record of the number of kites in the fight.

Free admission will be granted to participants upon presentation of the current gold Kite Society membership card or the BKFA blue membership card.

Over the two days there are going to be a number of competitions. Kite stalls will also be in attendance.

Science Museum Wroughton  
Red Barn Gate  
Wroughton  
near Swindon, Wilts. SN4 9NS  
Tel. Swindon (07931) 814466



SCIENCE MUSEUM KITEFLY  
WROUGHTON

AUGUST 6TH & 7TH 1988



**D**UE TO POPULAR DEMAND.....

# **BRISTOL INTERNATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL**

All the usual....., plus more.....!

The Kite Store Open Stunt Championships, Team & Individual.  
Final round of the UK Rokkaku Challenge, and the Bristol  
Allcomers Trophy.

Pocock Sprint, a kite powered race timed over 200 feet.

Fighter Contest, Grandmasters up for grabs.

Flexifoil Limbo, fly under the wire !

Martin Lester, 20a Backfield Lane, Bristol, BS2 8QW. Tel 0272-232084



# KITE CALENDAR FOR 1988

APRIL 24TH	Rother valley	Country Park, Wales, Sheffield, N.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 1ST	Walsall Arboretum	Walsall, West Midlands, M.K.F.	
MAY 1ST	Godsworthy	Porc Hill, Godsworthy, Nr Tavistock, D.K.F.	
MAY 7TH & 8TH	Capstone Country Park	Medway, Kent, J.S.	
MAY 8TH	St. Neots	Riverside Park, St Neots, Cambs, G.O.K.F.	
MAY 21ST & 22ND	Brighton Festival	Waterhall Playing Fields, Patcham, Brighton, B.K.F.	*
MAY 28TH	Rendezvous York	York, K.S.	*
MAY 29TH & 30TH	York Festival of Kites	Knavesmire Race Course, York, J.R.	*
JUNE 5TH	Walsall Arboretum	Walsall, West Midlands, M.K.F.	
JUNE 5TH	Bath Festival	Approach Golf Course, Victoria Park, Bath.	
JUNE 12TH	Priory Park	Bedford, Peterborough, G.O.K.F.	
JUNE 17TH, 18TH & 19TH	Fokker Kite Festival	Scheveningen, Holland.	*
JUNE 19TH	Godsworthy	Porc Hill, Godsworthy, Nr Tavistock, D.K.F.	
JUNE 26TH	Summer Rally	Blackheath, London, B.K.A.	*
JULY 1ST, 2ND & 3RD	Labruguiere	Tarn, France.	*
JULY 3RD	Petworth Park	Kite Day, Petworth, West Sussex, J Mersey.	*
JULY 3RD	Walsall Arboretum	Walsall, West Midlands, M.K.F.	
JULY 2ND & 3RD	Shrewsbury	Shrewsbury, M.K.F.	*
JULY 10TH	Grafham Water, South	Adjacent Plummer car park, Cambs, G.O.K.F.	
JULY 23RD & 24TH	Wessex Kite Festival	R.V.C.P., Netley, Southampton, W.K.G.	*
JULY 30TH & 31ST	Festival of the Air	Washington, Tyne & Wear, A Sutherland.	*
JULY 31ST	Oxford Kite Festival	South Parks, Headington, Oxford.	*
JULY 31ST	Godsworthy	Porc Hill, Godsworthy, Nr Tavistock, D.K.F.	
AUGUST 6TH & 7TH	Wroughton Kite Festival	Wroughton, Swindon, Wilts. B.K.F.A.	*
AUGUST 7TH	Walsall Arboretum	Walsall, West Midlands, M.K.F.	
AUGUST 14TH	St Neots	Riverside Park, St Neots, Cambs, G.O.K.F.	
AUGUST 21ST	Wells Kite Festival	Wells-next-the-sea, Norfolk.	
AUGUST 28TH	Godsworthy	Porc Hill, Godsworthy, Nr Tavistock, D.K.F.	
AUGUST 28TH	Bournemouth Festival	Hengistbury Head, Christchurch, Dorset, W.K.G.	*
SEPTEMBER 3RD & 4TH	Bristol	Ashton Court, Bristol, M.L.	*
SEPTEMBER 4TH	Walsall Arboretum	Walsall, West Midlands, M.K.F.	
SEPTEMBER 11TH	Ferry Meadows	Peterborough, Cambs, G.O.K.F.	
SEPTEMBER 17TH & 18TH	Dieppe Kite Festival	Dieppe, France.	*
SEPTEMBER 18TH	Godsworthy	Porc Hill, Godsworthy, Nr Tavistock, D.K.F.	
OCTOBER 2ND	Old Warden Aerodrome	Nr. Biggleswade, Bedfordshire, B.K.F.A.	*
OCTOBER 2ND	Walsall Arboretum	Walsall, West Midlands, M.K.F.	
OCTOBER 9TH	One Sky - One World	Everywhere, Co-ordinated by The Kite Society.	
NOVEMBER 6TH	Walsall Arboretum	Walsall, West Midlands, M.K.F.	
DECEMBER 11TH	Grafham Water	Adjacent Plummer car park, Cambs, G.O.K.F.	

EVENTS MARKED \* ARE MAJOR KITE FESTIVALS ALL OTHERS ARE LOCAL FLY-INS. BEFORE TRAVELLING ANY DISTANCE CONTACT THE ADDRESS BELOW.

E.K.G.	34 MORTIMER ROAD, RAYLEIGH, ESSEX
G.O.K.F.	10 LAXTON CLOSE, ST. NEOTS, CAMBS, PE19 3AR
B.K.A.	78 DONGOLA ROAD, LONDON N17 1EE
D.K.F.	"JU LES GLA", EAST WAYTOWN, GOODLEIGH ROAD, SNAPPER, BARNSTAPLE, NORTH DEVON
B.K.F.A.	WOLSEY HOUSE, WOLSEY ROAD, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD, HERTS.
M.K.F.	29 BRADBURY ROAD, SOLIHULL, WEST MIDLANDS B92 8AE
K.S.	31 GRANGE ROAD, ILFORD, ESSEX, IG1 1EU
J.R.	JIM ROWLANDS, 50 OLD BRUMBY STREET, SCUNTHORPE, DN16 2AE
W.K.G.	16 BRACKLEY WAY, HAMMONDS GREEN, TOTTEN, HANTS. SO4 3HN
M.L.	MARTIN LESTER, 40 CITY ROAD, BRISTOL BS2 8TX
B.K.F.	53 NEW ROAD, SHOREHAM BY SEA, SUSSEX.





# MKEXTRA

MIDLANDS KITE FLIERS NEWS

29 BRADBURY ROAD, SOLIHULL, WEST MIDLANDS, B92 8AE.



## M. K. F. at SHUGBOROUGH HALL

As announced in the M.K.F. NEWS FLASH the club was asked to give a display of kite flying at Shugborough Hall, Stafford during the weekend 9th/10th April. This was one of the many activities organised for this weekend by Martin Brown of the Church of England Childrens Society in order to launch the Societies national "children's week".

This event was sponsored by Josiah Wedgwood and Sons Ltd. who also donated prizes for the various competitions. The activities included a hot air balloon race, Horse and carriage demonstrations/rides, Horse rides, Craft Fayre, Fire Engine Display, Crime Prevention Display, Helicopter rides over the grounds and surrounding area, and of course the attractions and amenities of Shugborough Hall itself.

The Saturday morning started with a nasty surprise, snow! However it quickly disappeared and the first part of the morning saw kites from the M.K.F. and the Shrewsbury Kite Group high over the stately home. Unfortunately (from the kite fliers viewpoint) the wind dropped to an almost dead calm but this enabled the balloonists to put on a magnificent display, almost at our feet, as 17 of them set off on their race bathed in early evening sunlight.

As Saturday had been the Balloonists day so Sunday proved to be the kite fliers day with plenty of wind and warmer. After a morning of "free" flying 3 competitions were run:

1. The best home made Kite - won by Ken Wakfield M.K.F.
2. The fastest rate of ascent - won by Mike Hale M.K.F.
3. The best aerobatic display - won by Tony Slater S.K.G.

Many thanks go to Mrs. Elizabeth Lloyd-Smith who kindly agreed to act as an impartial judge (and a very interested and concientious judge at that!)

After the prizes, superb pieces of Wedgwood china, were presented to the competition winners by a representative of the company, it was confirmed to the organisers that the event would take place again next year, so do mark your diaries accordingly.

Don Eccleston





# MFEXTRA

MIDLANDS KITE FLIERS NEWS

29 BRADBURY ROAD, SOLIHULL, WEST MIDLANDS, B92 8AE.



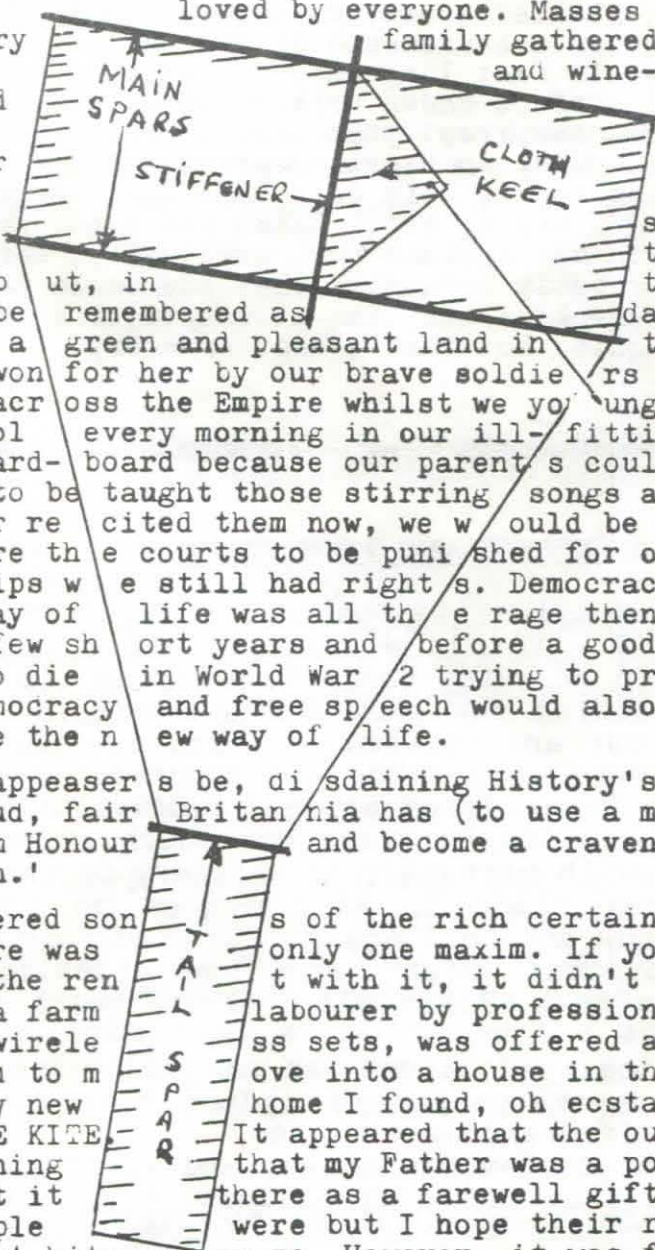
Ron Reeve

May 1988

As a boy in the 1920's and 30's I lived in a quiet Oxfordshire village which was surrounded by seemingly endless fields smothered, at the appropriate times of the year, with cowslips, buttercups, clover, cornflowers, moon-daisies and the blood-red poppies which, my Father used to say, '- you mustn't pick, my son. They are there to remind us of the soldiers who died in the war.' A landscape of brilliant colours such as will never be seen again in this once-fair land. Serene and shady woods overflowing with bluebells and primroses, golden cornfields and sail reapers, steam-driven threshers and the beautiful Shire horses which, even in those days when such creatures were commonplace, were greatly admired and loved by everyone. Masses of blackberries and sloes which every family gathered by the basketful for pies, jam and wine-making, freshly-picked mushrooms and wild-growing tomatoes. In those almost idyllic days we would go for a Sunday evening walk across fields and along leafy lanes enjoying the simple pleasures of rustic life. These things were of course but, in the hazy mists of time, they tend to be remembered as daily occurrences. England, truly, was a green and pleasant land in those days wallowing in the riches won for her by our brave soldiers marching and fighting their way across the Empire whilst we young boys marched proudly off to school every morning in our ill-fitting, second-hand boots, soled with cardboard because our parents couldn't afford the luxury of leather, to be taught those stirring songs and poems for which, if we sang or recited them now, we would be accused of racism and dragged up before the courts to be punished for our crime. In spite of the hardships we still had rights. Democracy, free speech and a law-abiding way of life was all there then. Little did we realise that, in a few short years and before a good many of the millions who were to die in World War 2 trying to preserve it were decently buried, democracy and free speech would also be dead and lawlessness would be the new way of life.

'In full command appeaser  
And the once-proud, fair  
Turned aside from Honour  
They died in vain.'

Kites? For the pampered sons of the rich certainly but for the working classes there was only one maxim. If you couldn't eat it, wear it or pay the rent with it, it didn't exist. And then one day my Father, a farm labourer by profession but a self-taught 'expert' on wire, was offered a good job in Oxford and so we had to move into a house in the big city. Excited exploring my new home I found, oh ecstasy of ecstasies, a kite. A REAL, LIVE KITE. It appeared that the out-going, middle-class tenants, learning that my Father was a poor man with three sons, had left it there as a farewell gift. I've never known who those people were but I hope their remaining days were as happy as that kite made me. However, it was far too big for me to fly on my own and so I had to enlist the aid of a grown-up cousin. He used to get it flying and then give it to me to hold while he held onto me.







# MAFEXTRA

MIDLANDS KITE FLIERS NEWS

29 BRADBURY ROAD, SOLIHULL, WEST MIDLANDS, B92 8AE.



Turning to speak to an onlooker who had asked him something about the kite, one day, he forgot himself and let go of me and the next second I found myself being dragged across the field on my belly at an alarming rate. It was on that day that I realised that Father had been telling the truth when he had told me of the 'Ooh-me-belly bird' which, he said, he had often seen when soldiering abroad. Apparently it had no legs and every time it came into land it was heard to cry - 'Ooh-me-belly, ooh-me-belly!' For the next three weeks I walked around involuntarily mimicking that bird. Terrified at the thought of losing my most treasured possession I clung manfully to the kite but, on seeing the large hawthorn hedge with it's entourage of stinging nettles looming up in front of me, I lost my nerve and let go of it whereupon it, obviously trying to be as cantankerous then as I am reputed to be now, floated gently down to earth in a slow spiral. I never knew the precise measurements of that kite but I have a vague feeling that it was 16 feet long and, if memory serves me correctly, of roughly the proportions shown here. I know that things always seem larger to a boy than they really are but it must have been pretty big to have been able to drag an eleven-year-old across a field as it did me. The spars and stiffener were of square wood strip and the stiffener was attached to the spars by metal hooks and eyes. When the war came in 1939 my Mother, with her husband and, eventually, her three sons 'away to the wars' and probably believing that she would never see any of us alive again, gave the kite away and it was to be quite a few years before I took up kiting again, but that's another story.

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## REFLECTIONS FROM SYLT.

The second Sylt Kite Festival took place in Wenningstedt on 9-10 April 1988. Sylt is a small island in the North Sea having the distinction of being the most Northern tip of West Germany.

After watching the snow during breakfast on the first day, the sun came out and roasted the bits the force 4 wind couldn't reach. There were many large and spectacular kites as one would expect from a large International festival. Notable amongst the giants was a replica Hargrave Box which supported two 30 metre wind turbines with virtually no catenary on the line!

Lunch took place in the marquee on the beach while we watched the snow and hail again. The wind rose a notch to force 5 in the afternoon which gave the Flexifoil Stacks ample opportunity to drag fliers all over the beach and halfway up the cliff.

The evening's highlight was staged by Joe Vaughn who gave a breathtaking demonstration of indoor kite flying at the local disco, using his Grandmaster Kites.

Sadly, the Sunday dawned wet and windy, but we were treated to a demonstration of Peter Malinski's cellular kites. As even the Germans refused to fly in a force 7 storm, we regretfully turned our footsteps towards home.

Many thanks to Volker Popp for the flawless organisation, and to Jurgen and Sibyl who made us feel so welcome.

Derek Kuhn





# MFEXTRA

MIDLANDS KITE FLIERS NEWS

29 BRADBURY ROAD, SOLIHULL, WEST MIDLANDS, B92 8AE.



## NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY SHOW - MAY 6-7 1988.

The Midlands Kite Fliers Kite Display Team put on a spirited performance before an incredulous audience at the Nottinghamshire county show.

Despite intense heat (compounded by Happi jackets) and having to carry all the gear from the car park to the arena, the team ran up and down for half an hour on the first day in almost totally calm conditions.

Saturday proved more favourable, and all the big spectacular kites came out at peak viewing time around midday. We even managed to raise a little money for charity in between!

Many thanks to all the team for their hard work, and also to Mrs. Armitage who issued the invitations.

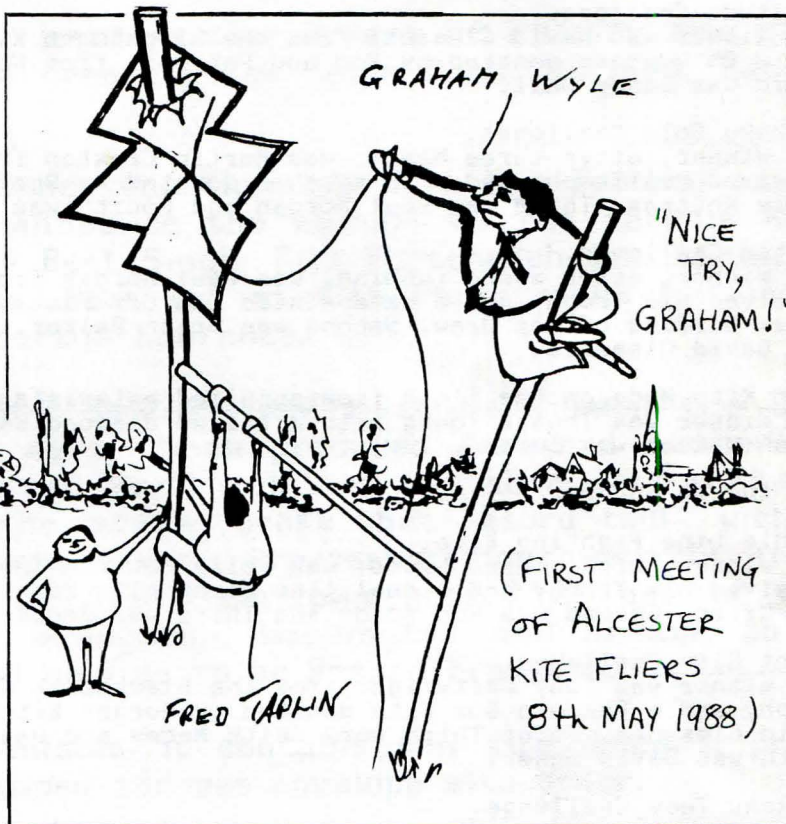
## YORK FESTIVAL OF KITES MAY 28-30 1988.

The auction on Saturday was very exiting : most items went for a fair price, with one or two bargains. I'll take more money next time! Unfortunately, I didn't get there in time for the talks or the film show, but everybody kept on telling me how interesting they were.

The kite flying started sunnily on Sunday morning with the help of a good breeze, but true to form by lunchtime everybody was under cover watching the downpour. Later, just as the kites dried out, it started again!

Monday was much better, with much appreciative applause from the public as competitions took place in the arena. Notable events were the mass Rokkaku Challenge, the Kite Limbo Competition, (prize : Super 10 Flexifoil!) and the coordinated stunt flying. It looks as though the Hawaiian stunt kites and all their derivatives are the ones to go for this year : believe me, they have to be seen.

Congratulations, as ever, to Jim Rowlands for all his hard work both on and off the field.



Derek Kuhn  
Secretary, Midlands Kite Fliers

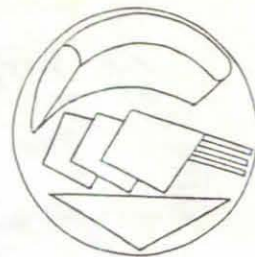
June 1988



# ACRODINE

The Newsletter of the

## BRIGHTON KITE FLYERS



### BRIGHTON KITE FESTIVAL.

Thank you to all who came to our festival. The weather was dry on both days with a gentle, if sporadic, southerly wind prevailing on the Saturday while a Force 4 east wind blew almost continuously beneath a cloudless sky on the Sunday. The attendance on the Saturday was low but the Sunday made up for it with full car parks and cars even being parked down the slip road from the A2038.

A lady from Winnipeg came along to show her skill with Indian Fighter kites and meet some of the English exponents; notably Ron Moody. It was delightful to see them both flying together. During the Saturday afternoon Joanna Mersey, organiser of the now famous Petworth Kite Festival, made her customary visit and, from all the clues gleaned, this year's Petworth Festival will be quite extraordinary.

The results of the Saturday competitions were;

#### Altitude Challenge.

The Winner was David Clements from the Blackheath Kite Association who received his Trophy and a £5 voucher donated by Ron and Pat Dell from Ron Macey. Second was Paul Morgan and Third was Danny Dell.

#### Rokkaku Solo Challenge.

The Winner, after three heats, was Martin Croxton from the British Kite Flyers who received his Trophy and a £5 voucher donated by Ron and Pat Dell from Ron Dell. Second was Felix Mottram, Third was Paul Morgan and Fourth was David Clements.

#### Lifter Challenge.

The Winner, after mucho running, was Paul Morgan from the Shropshire Kite Group who received his Trophy and a Handpainted One Off Festival Sweatshirt donated by Top Draw from Derek Harding of Top Draw. Second was Brian Palmer, Third was Martin Croxton and Fourth was David Clements.

#### Best Kite Made on the field from supplied materials.

The Winner was Thomas Young with a tailed diamond made with almost lightening speed. Miss Susan Watson was Second.

and on Sunday

#### Single Line Fighting Kite.

The Winner, after three heats, was Felix Mottram from the Blackheath Kite Association who received his Trophy and a dual line stunt kite donated by Ace Kites, from Roy Wright of Ace Kites. Second was Ron Moody and Third was Jacob Twyford.

#### Stunt Kite Challenge.

The Winner was Tony Cartwright from the Blackheath Kite Association who received his Trophy and a Pandora Box Kite donated by Morgan Kites from Paul Morgan himself. Second was David Clements. Joint Third were Keith Macey and Paul Burton, Fourth was Roy Wright and Fifth was David Saker.

#### Rokkaku Team Challenge.

The Winner was, after four heats, Martin Croxton's team from the British Kite Association who received his Trophy and two £5 vouchers donated by Ron and Pat Dell from Ron Dell. Second was Felix Mottram's team, Third was Paul Morgan's team and Fourth was David Clements' team.

#### Best Kite Made on the field from supplied materials.

The Winner was Sheila Palmer who received her Trophy from Di Locke.

The Trophy for 'The Best at the Fest' went to Ron Hughes.

The Cup for 'Young Kite Flyer of the Festival' went to 8 year old Andrew Hudson.

The Trophy for 'The Best Kite at the Festival' went to Paul Morgan.

The Great Nighttime Aerial Egg Race was won by Danny and Ron Dell who received a bottle of wine to complement their exceptionally egcentric unbroken egg.

Our thanks go to all those who donated prizes, the winners, the losers, the ingenious cheaters, the watchers, cheerleaders and managers; and to the stalwart judging of Ron and Keith Macey, John Barker and David White.

THE BRIGHTON KITE FESTIVAL WILL HOLD ITS TENTH BIRTHDAY PARTY AT WATERHALL, PATCHAM  
ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY 20th & 21st MAY 1989.

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## YORK KITE FESTIVAL.

our Roving Reporter David White.

I made the 250 mile journey to York primarily to see the British Stunt Kite Championship and, regrettably, was very disappointed. It was dominated by Hawaiian Kites flying at speed, looping, diving traversing and making a noise. One has to wear special gloves to fly them, and, judging by a super crash landing, launchers should wear crash helmets.

Judges Peter Powell, Martin Lester and Adam Sutherland must have had great difficulty in working out what manoeuvres were being performed. Why call stunts dervish whirls, eyeglasses and brassiere? It was boring to watch competitors perform such stunts.

For a stunt Kite Championship only standard stunters with tails should compete. This would help judges and spectators to follow the path of the kites. There should only be a Free Style Demonstration lasting 5-7 minutes for each competitor.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

SUNDAY 24th JULY. PARHAM PARK R.A.F.A. Sussexdown Fete. 10.30 - 17.30

Once again we have been invited to give a display at this event and we should have even more flying space available - using the field across the track as well as the one we used last year.

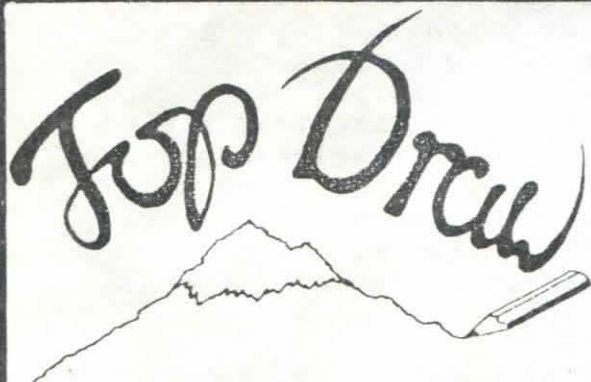
SUNDAY 8th AUGUST RUSPER F.C Spina Bifida Fund Raising. 12.00 - 17.30

This is a new venue. The aim is to display kites both in the air and on the ground and operate parachuting teddies from one of them.

Would members hoping to attend either of these please give Greg or Dave the nod in order that requisite passes can be obtained.

DATE	TYPE	GRID REF	CLUB	HEIGHT	VENUE	NOTES
10/7	F-I	198/TQ285083	BKF	1000ft	The Red Hill;BRIGHTON.	
10/7	DBP	182/ST571464	BKF	1500ft	Mendip Hospital, WELLS, Somerset	Friends of Hospital
24/7	DBP*	198/TQ060145	BKF	1500ft	Fete, Parham Park, Sussex	R.A.F.A
7/8	DBP*	197/TQ203375	BKF	1500ft	Rusper C.P. School, RUSPER, Sx	Spina Bifida
21/8	F-I	198/TQ100043	BKF	1500ft	Highdown Hill, WORTHING, West Sx	

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### FLEXIFOILS AT UNBEATABLE PRICES

6 foot	single colour	£39.95
6 foot	rainbow	£59.95
10 foot	single colour	£84.95
10 foot	rainbow	£97.95
16 foot		£219.95

Prices include control bar, line and bag

Add £1.50 per kite for postage and packaging

TO ORDER Send cheque/ postal order payable to TOP DRAW

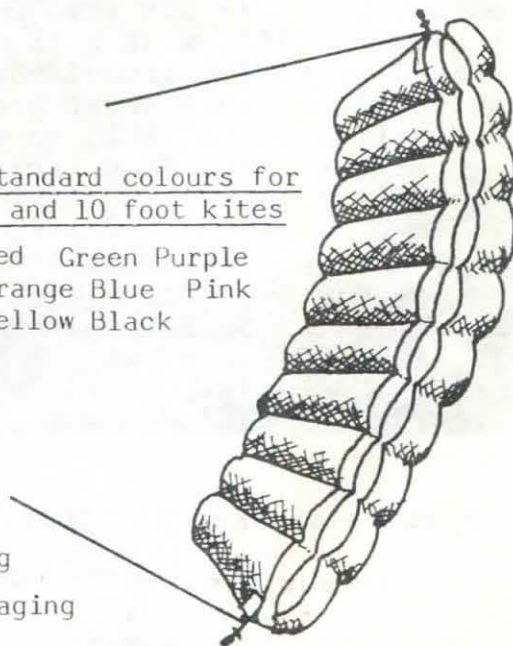
P O BOX 471  
LONDON SW18 3NR

All prices are inclusive of VAT

Please allow 28 days for delivery

### Standard colours for 6 and 10 foot kites

Red Green Purple  
Orange Blue Pink  
Yellow Black





No. 134 in the "Since you ask" series.

Some notes on the use of Kevlar and Spectra

First, Kevlar is the light brown fibre and Spectra the white fibre (in terms of colour). Second, Kevlar is a hard, abrasive fibre while Spectra is soft and slippery. Third, they are both horribly expensive flying lines but so much better than nylon/polyester that you can reach a state of resolving never to go back to anything else. Both are extremely strong fibres of approximately 1/4 to 1/3 of the diameter of equal strength nylon/polyester line which means they need special handling and usage.

Before tying either Kevlar or Spectra both ends should be sleeved with either nylon or polyester tubular braid to increase the effective diameter of the line and reduce stress within the knots. If you don't do this and knot the line directly you will experience one of the nastier characteristics of these lines- ie a sudden, unexpected break within the knot followed by the recoil of the line towards you. Similarly, if flying a train of kites on these materials each attachment point should be sleeved to prevent local stress concentrations cutting the line (viz. Flexifoil trains- the knot recommended for train flying destroys unsleeved Spectra/Kevlar in no time).

Usage; forget about using Kevlar in the company of other kite fliers unless you really know what you are doing (that means either you can fly a stunt kite literally blindfold, or, have a kite that is absolutely stable and utterly trustworthy)- the abrasive qualities of the line make it liable to render you unpopular! Spectra is far nicer, but it is soft, all other lines (except Spectra) cut it. However, Spectra does make Team flying with stunt kites much easier as the lines do not stick/bind when crossed or rolled around each other. Finally, unless your hand is adequately gloved, never grasp or pull on an uncovered kevlar flying line while it is in use- there is no better way of acquiring a neat, deep incision or even amputation of fingers, wiggly bits etc

Care; Kevlar hates sunlight (intense sunlight that is, not English "sunlight"), bleach (chlorinated swimming pools are the only "bleach" source you are likely to encounter) and ultra violet light (keep away from sun bed). Spectra seems to be chemically inert but cannot stand heat (Kevlar chars before it melts)- so don't use heat shrink tubing to sleeve it.

Spectra stocked in 150lb, 200lb and 500lb breaking strength.

Kevlar stocked in 100lb or 200lb breaking strength.

Price constantly fluctuating so please enquire.

The Kite Store, 69 Neal Street, London WC2H 9PJ 01-836 1666  
The Kite Store 2, 3 Marlborough Court, London W1V 1PJ 01-734 4320