

THE KITEFLIER

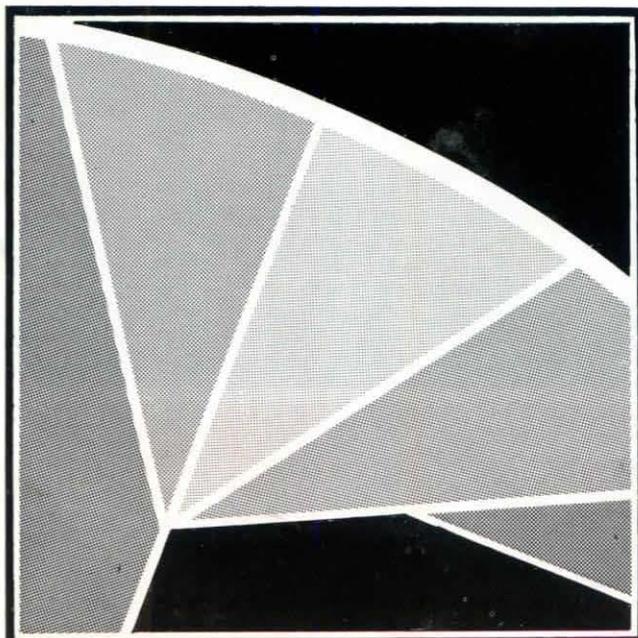
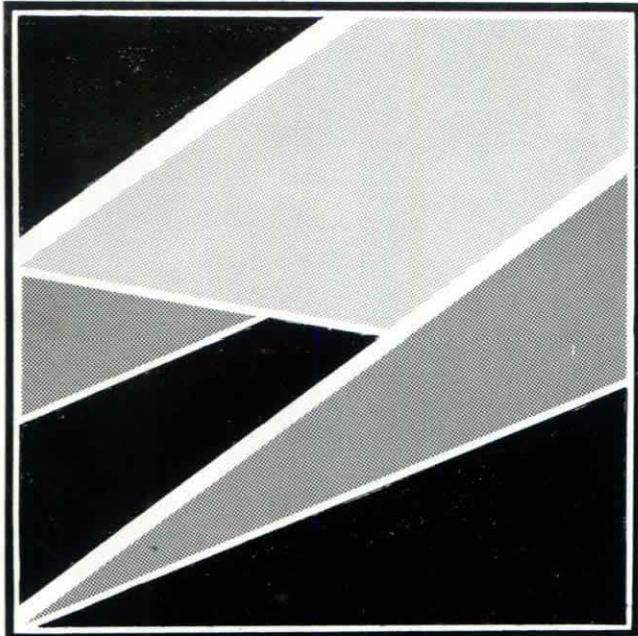
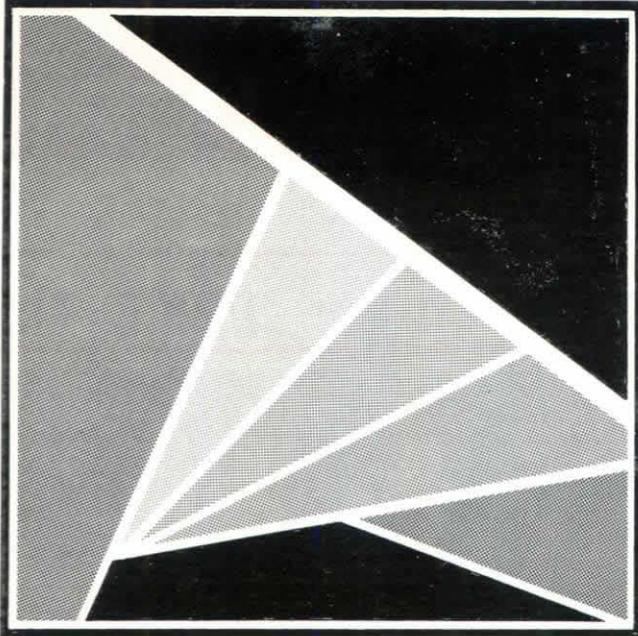
ISSUE 52

- JULY 1992 -

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NEWSLETTER
OF
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CONTENTS AND EDITORIAL

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Dear Member,

The Kite flying season is now well underway, and so far we have been blessed with good winds and fair skies at most events. One of the gratifying things that appears to be happening is the cross fertilisation between Single line and Sport Kites. We now have a number of Rokkaku teams which consist of sportfliers who have discovered the fun of Rokkaku fighting and lack of practice needed!

We would like to thank Martin Thomas who provided us with a STACK News for this issue, and also Derek Kuhn for producing such a good introduction for novice stuntfliers. We are always looking for new articles and information to put into the magazine so why don't you share your knowledge with fellow members.

Important changes are taking place within the Kite Society with the formation of the Convention Committee, but we need your opinions. Why not spend a few minutes filling in the questionnaire on page 24 and letting us know what you think.

Kite Society merchandising has always proved popular and at the moment we are sold out of Pin badges and Cloth badges. New items are on order (with a different colour kite) so please bear with us.

The front cover shows Derek Kuhn and friends at Heaton Park, Manchester during his marathon sponsored drive for the International Spinal Research Trust.

LETTERS

From David Robinson (Secretary - White Horse Kiteflyers)

May I, through the pages of The Kiteflier thank all of those kitefliers who attended the Swindon Kite Festival this year, especially those who braved the atrocious weather on the Saturday. I really felt sorry for the campers, however I think they were rewarded for staying on by the slide show given by Don Mock in the Marquee, thanks Don! A very special thanks also goes to those traders who braved it out all day on the Saturday I think they were rewarded by the large crowds who attended on the Sunday. Thanks again to all of you, it makes all of the hard work that goes into organising the event by the members of the White Horse Kite Flyers, worthwhile.

From Stephen Hill

I am a recent convert to the joys of kites and kiteflying. I have attended several of the larger festivals and write with some observations and suggestions.

36% of households do not have access to a car; 48% of women and 26% of men do not have a driving license. I do not drive or own a car. Might I make an appeal for organisers of events to include details of public transport in the information? Details of the nearest railway station and bus or coach service would take up little space but be of great use. This information should also be included in the local publicity for each event to enable and encourage even more local people to attend, which must be to the benefit of us all. Though addicts such as readers of this newsletter will travel all over the country, the majority of people attending events will always be local. Not to include this information is to ignore over a third of the potential audience.

This would be good practice for any activity. It is even more appropriate to kiteflying which, to quote your last issue, is 'an environmentally friendly outdoor activity'.

As many people will continue to arrive at the festival site by car, may I also suggest that we look at the organisation of car parking at festivals. Several of the ones I have attended have the appearance of a car convention or display, with the flying areas hemmed in by endless rows of cars. Despite some grumbles at the event and in your columns, the separation of the car parking area from the flying area was excellent and provided a far more visually pleasing backdrop to our 'environmentally friendly outdoor activity'. Exceptions should of course be made for people with disabilities.

Further refinement could include a bus from the nearest town or city to the field (decorated with windsocks perhaps) which could be used to get to and from the event, advertising the festival as it went. When looking for new sites we should also bear in mind public transport access, to include a service at weekends when the site is most likely to be used.

If we are to use the 'green' aspects of kite flying to promote it we should take the environmental impact of our activities seriously, and maximise attendance into the bargain.

LETTERS

From Stephen Billings

On Sunday 17th May I found a kite at the Brighton Kite Festival and as no one seemed to be looking for it I have brought it home with me. If anyone has lost a kite Mrs Billings can be contacted (during office hours) on 0604 766461, and I will be glad to return the kite to its owner either at another kite festival or through the post.

From John Crosby

I have made couple of Edo kites (first one 3' high bamboo and paper, the second 4' high bamboo and tyvek) which I have tried to bridle and fly without success. Through the pages of the "Kiteflier" could anyone give me some hints. I know it is flown bowed more at the bottom than at the top and the bridle lines should be roughly 9 times the diagonal but it still spins like a dervish. I don't want to put a tail on it unless really necessary. Is it worth an article on multi-bridling of flat kites.

From Fred Taplin

The Alcester Kite Fliers Tewkesbury Kite Festival got off to a fine start with bright hot weather but very little wind.

Don Eccleston of the MKF put on a very good static display. Martin Glover of the Bristol Kite Store managed ten 360 degree turns with a Liteflite. After a frustrating and very hot day, a superb Bar-B-Q plus a glass or two of good wine and lager chilled just to perfection, was very much appreciated by everyone. Sunday was just perfect with a good breeze. The stunt teams put on a very good demonstration, especially the MKF Flight FX, also Lionel from Leamington Spa made his Red Arrows look very realistic.

Steven, Mr Teddy Bear, did a good job with plenty of certificates handed out to the Brave Bears. On behalf of the Alcester Kite Fliers a BIG thank you to all the helpers and also to the many fliers who turned up. Thanks also to Tony and Ray for a good roving commentary. I hope everyone enjoyed themselves. Remember to have week 24 1993 pencilled in.

From Kevin Appleton

Conquer the Wind Great Yarmouth Beach Festival - May I through your columns extend the thanks of the Thorpe Kite Flyers to everybody who attended the above festival and helped to make it the success that it appeared to be. In particular thanks must go to the many teams that spontaneously gave arena displays. Your efforts were very much appreciated.

Before the last grain of sand had been washed from my kites there was talk of repeating the event next year and several ideas for improvements and a two day event have been initially passed around. Watch this space!

From Lesley Gilbert

This is not gripe or a "get at festival organisers" letter but a plea to learn from this experience. I am pleased to see that organisers have taken very seriously the dangers posed by stunt kites at festivals and have, appropriately arranged large arenas in order to separate them from single line kites and the general public. What does not seem to have been taken on board is that club fliers of single line kites are having to take pot luck and fly in what is a public arena.

With festivals growing in popularity with the public (and long may it continue to do so) the skies are becoming extremely crowded particularly with "bought on the day" kites. As a club flier with large single line kites I attend festivals in the hope that these will add a further dimension for the enjoyment of the public. However having now had two large, and potentially dangerous kites cut down at the last two festivals I am making a plea for arenas designated for club fliers. Don't get me wrong I don't mind a tangle (in fact I've struck up many a good friendship through them) but to have an expensive (in both materials and time) kite cut down and lost because of inexperience is both annoying and disheartening.

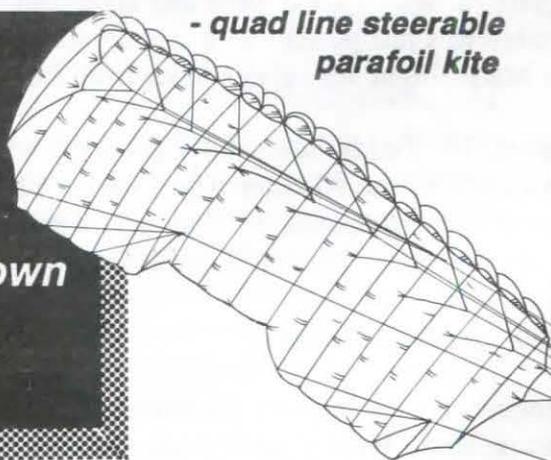
I would welcome comments and views from fliers and organisers on this subject.

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Since the article in the April Kiteflier a lot of people have contacted me about fighter kites. Ric Merry from Seattle U.S.A. has written to me with news of the fighter scene there. They mainly use Mylar and Nylon fighters and seem not to use Manja. I am going to the U.S.A. shortly and may perhaps get the opportunity to introduce them to the excitement of the real thing. Nest Lernoux, from Belgium has written and given me information on the fighter scene in Belgium, Holland and France. He informs me that there is a lot of kite fighting taking place in these countries, dominated in Holland by the Indonesians whose kites are slightly different to Indian ones but they still use sharp line. Perhaps in the future we might be able to make up a team to take on the fighters of Europe.

A number of people from around the U.K have contacted me, some of whom weren't even aware of the U.K. kite scene so it appears that copies of the Kiteflier are getting a wide distribution. Some wanted to know details about the strength of line to use and the availability of bamboo and kite paper, while others expressed surprise that Indian paper kites could survive our weather. In the past some of the kites imported from India were of poor quality and perhaps this has given paper kites the bad reputation. Most of the kites made in India are adequate for the short life where you don't get your kite back after a fight, but if a kite is made well and only flown in light wind there is absolutely no reason why it cannot be kept for a long time.

At many kite festivals in the past I have been approached by people who said how much they enjoyed seeing the movements of the kite but have been unable to find any for sale. This year several kite stalls have stocked them and as a result of this availability the numbers flying Indian fighter kites have increased. The kites are all hand made and do not always fly perfectly when first flown but they can be adjusted.

Tips - If the kite flies continually to one side, it could be that the bamboo is weak on that side. It is not possible to strengthen the bamboo, but it is possible to weaken the bamboo on the opposite side by applying careful pressure with your thumb or, as I prefer, a gentle bite of the bamboo will have the same effect. Try either of these methods and fly the kite, if it goes less to the side bring the kite in and weaken the bamboo some more. If the kite spins too much for your liking it usually means that the top section of the bridle is too short. It may not be possible to lengthen it but by shortening the bottom section of the bridle you can produce the same effect. To do this tie a knot where the bottom of the bridle is attached to the kite. Once again fly the kite and, if necessary, repeat the procedure. If on the other hand your kite will not spin enough for your liking, shorten the top section of the bridle. I have found Scotch Magic Tape to be the best material for repairing a damaged kite and carry a small roll in my pocket for running repairs. Tears must be repaired immediately as a small tear will quickly get larger and the kite can be damaged irreparably.

Can I make a plea to all fighters or users of manja at kite festivals. Please collect and remove all pieces of this line when the kite fighting competition is over because it can be dangerous particularly to children.

Please contact me on 0780 86389 if you would like to join a kite fighting club or even if you want to learn how to fly an Indian Fighter or just talk about them.

Anima Mundi Designs is a Brighton based company which specialises in artistic printing. AMD has recently set up an aeronautics division to produce large printed kites. The first offering is titled 'Zeus' and represents a one-eyed monster pictured in space.

"We plan to reproduce 100 copies of Zeus on a large (2m by 1m) hexagonal kite made from ripstop Nylon and carbon fibre. The image will be printed using a system which propels ink into the actual fabric of the nylon. This system has already been used successfully for printing spinnakers and comes with a three year guarantee. Furthermore, the sewing will be done by Arun Sails, who have had over 25 years experience at sewing ripstop. Some of you may not consider this is a wise move, but it is perfectly logical to use a sail maker to sew what is in effect sail material. A kite flies by virtue of its design and not its sewing!

"Prototypes have been built and flown. All have performed very well and proved to be stable in flight.

"Due to the high cost of printing, Zeus has been priced at £99 (+P&P & VAT). Orders can be placed by phoning Brighton (0273) 508040. But remember there will only be 100 kites produced."

Free Prize Draw: AMD will be offering one Zeus as a prize in a free draw. To enter, send your name, address (with post code) and telephone number to Anima Mundi Designs, P.O. Box 280, Brighton, Sussex, BN1 9UJ. Mark your entry 'Kiteflier' -- Thankyou.

Kustom Kites have designed and are manufacturing a totally soft 6ft sports stunt kite, called the 'Phaser' featuring the unique 'cathedral bridling system', it has the ability to perform

vertical take-offs, wing tip stands, and can be controlled to fly beyond 180 degrees! Plus high speed performance and excellent manoeuvrability. Sounds interesting then contact Kustom Kites about the Phaser and our range of performance kites. Telephone 0708 342655.

Inflights' new Twister kite. The Twister is the result of about a year's work by Jim Rowlands to develop a quad line parafoil, which can (almost) match the performance of the Revolution.

The six foot span Twister is based on the very successful Bladerunner, with additional lines to the trailing edge. Launching - upright or upside down - is very simple, much simpler than almost any other kite on the market. It performs the usual 360 degree axis turns; forward flight is quite fast and controllable; reverse motion - both vertically and horizontally can be achieved with a bit of practice and full breaking - making the kite come to a complete stop does not result in catastrophic collapse. It has been designed as a fun kite -but has performance qualities which would make it a good contender in competition - especially ballet.

Twister is available in a wide colour range, and comes complete with a pair of Inflight twin T Handles. Prices will vary from shop to shop but most will offer it below £100, some at less than £90.

The above information was supplied by the manufacturers and is reproduced as supplied. The Kite Society does not take any responsibility for or make any recommendations of the items listed.

The following is an extract of a report that will appear in the ISRT newsletter.

Over 100,000 people turned out on 20th April to support International Spinal Research Trust's first national Kitefly sponsored by British Gas. The skies all over the UK, from St. Austell to Glasgow, were filled with streams of colourful kites raising money for ISRT in 57 separate events.

Reports from around the country were good. The publicity received was first class and an excellent atmosphere prevailed at all the events.

Sponsorship money and donations are still coming in and although unfortunate kite distribution problems may affect the total, a substantial sum (around £35,000) will have been raised when we are able to tot up the final amount. All expenses were covered by British Gas and the sale of merchandise, which means that 100 per cent of sponsorship and donations will go straight into spinal research. We are extremely grateful to British Gas who made all this possible. Every single person who took part contributed to the success of the event. Many people raised several hundred pounds each.

Free national and local media coverage, at an estimated value of some £2 million, created considerable interest in the work of ISRT.

We are particularly grateful to Kite Society members who showed tremendous support for the event. Derek Kuhn of the Midlands Kite Fliers flew upwards of 50 kites in each of the five major venues, starting in Glasgow at 6.30am and finishing 600 miles later at Blackheath in London at 6.30pm. Colin Moy from Norwich, a member of Thorpe Kite Club, flew 100 figure-of-eight non-stop with a kite he made himself.

Five year old Jamie Mitchell from Hainault in Essex was so pleased to receive her kitefly certificate that she actually stood up in her school assembly and told everyone about the event and ISRT.

Our thanks must go to all our friends around the country, to the Kite Society and all the kite clubs and shops, Haven Holiday Parks and to the many celebrities who supported the event including Patron Norma Major, Roy Hudd, the teams from ITV's MotorMouth and Children's BBC TV.

Derek Kuhn sent us a short report on his sponsored drive.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, we did attempt to fly at each of the five major British Gas Kitefly/International Spinal Research Trust festivals on Easter Monday.

Well, we made it. It was hard work, and we got stuck in the mud at Manchester. The wind blew well at all the events, and with help we flew at least 50 kites at each one, raising at least £450 in the process. (It's still rolling in!) We were under way for nearly 12 hours, and travelled exactly 600 miles. It was certainly a marathon, but the result was obviously worthwhile.

Many thanks to all the event organisers for their cooperation, to John and Rena for arranging an invaluable mobile phone, to Sandy and Tony for putting us up, and especially to Ken Vinall for Driving, Navigation and Company.

We were wondering whether this constitutes a World record for the most Festivals attended in one day?

We have been asked by the directors of the ISRT to co-ordinate another event next year. So far we have agree to canvass the members and festival organisers to see what they think. What the trust is thinking of is rather than have five events on the same day scattered around the country have five events throughout the main kite flying season - say start with Blackheath and finish with Bristol. They would lend assistance with the cost of the festivals and have a presence but the actual organisation will be left to the kitefliers.

What do you think? Would you like to do it again on the above basis? Write and tell us.



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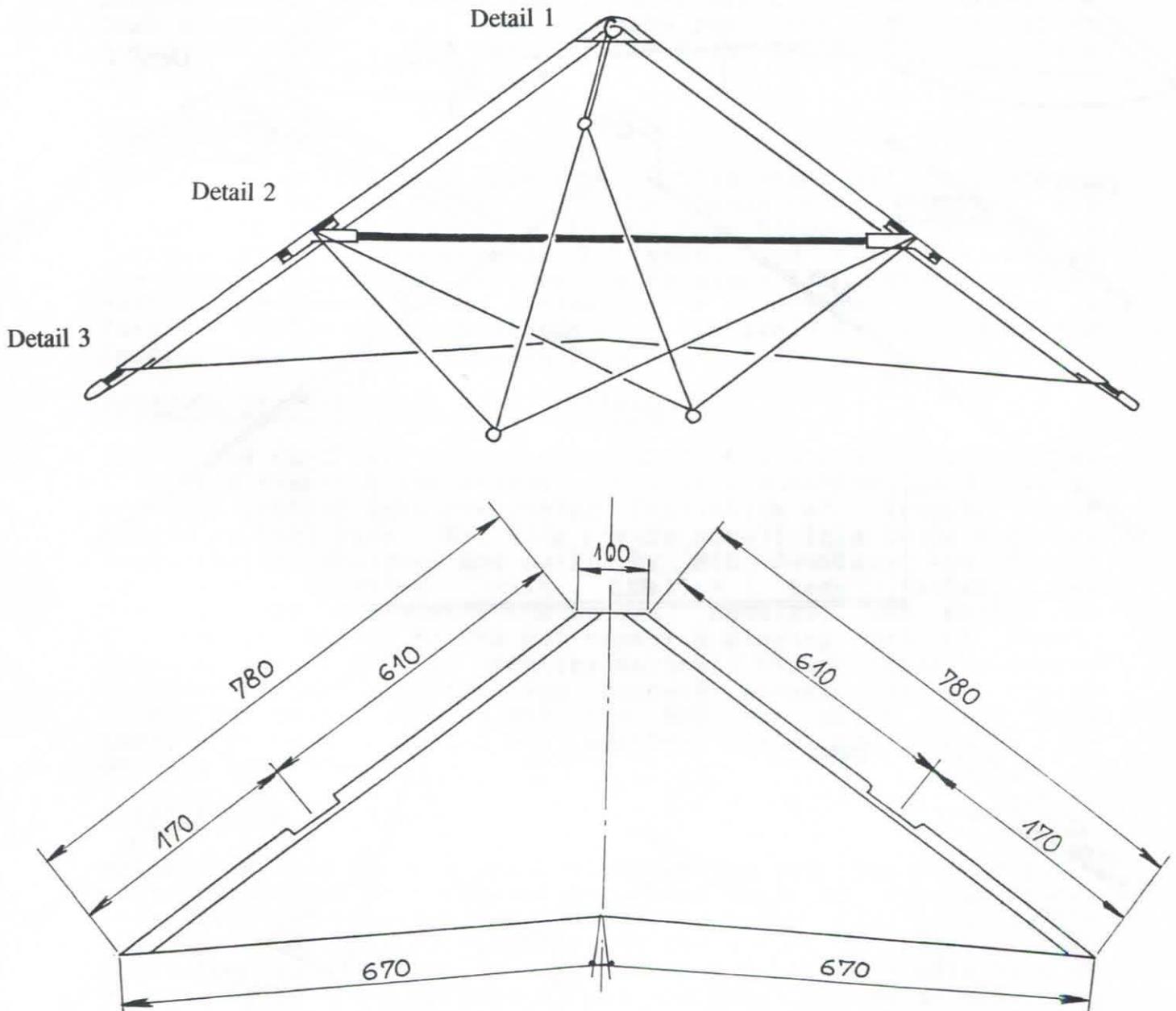
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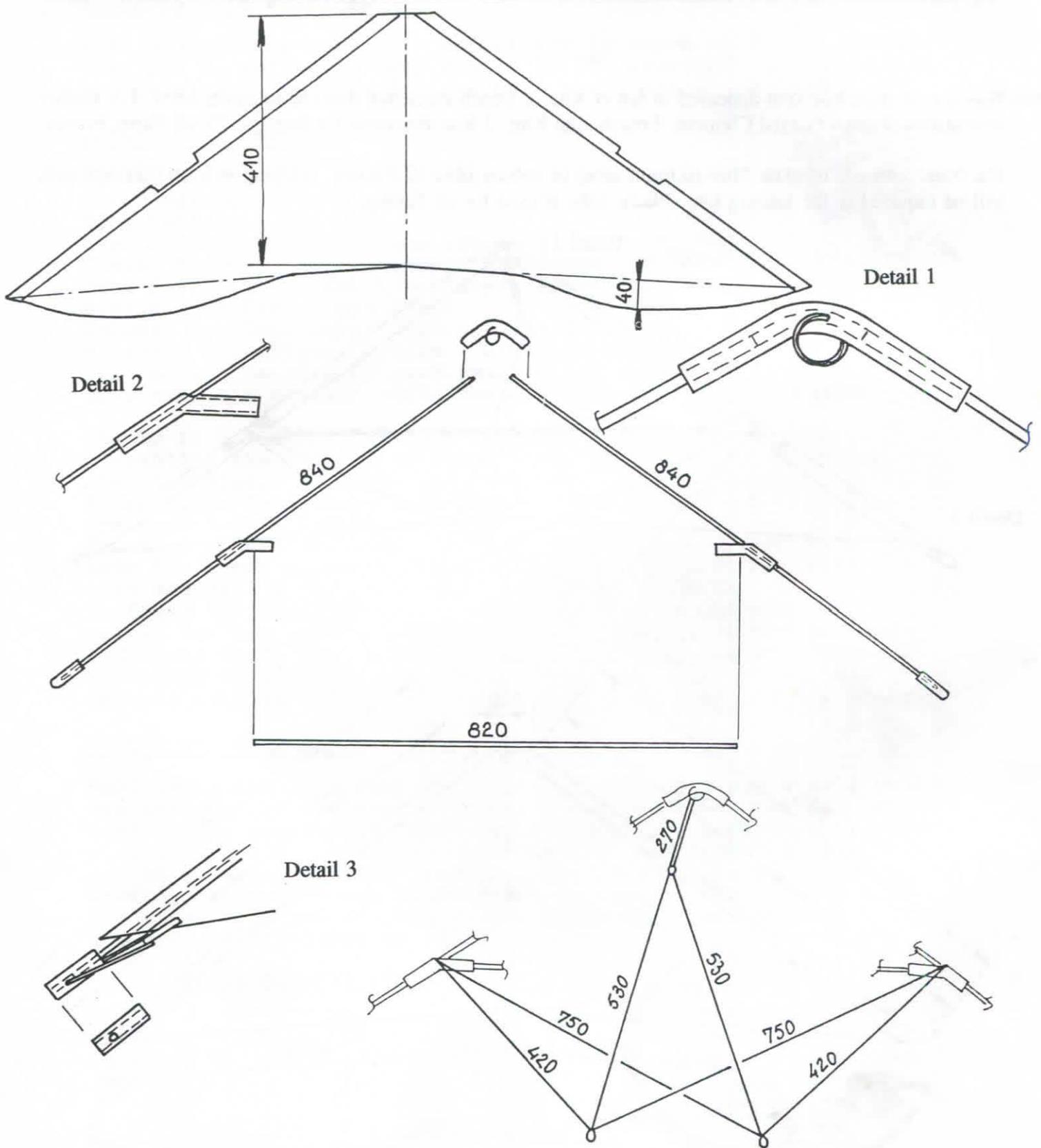
KITE FOR KIDS

This simple stunt kite first appeared in *Kit et Kite*, a french magazine devoted to sports kites. For further information contact Gerard Clement, French Kan Kite, 2 Rue Hermann Lachapelle, 75018 Paris, France.

The frame consists of glass fibre (0.6mm tube) or carbon fibre (0.55mm). If flying in train reinforcement will be required in the leading kite. Plastic tube is used for all fittings.



KITE FOR KIDS



S.T.A.C.K. NATIONALS

National Team Sport Kite Championships, Weston-Super-Mare, 30 & 31 May 1992.

History in the making - Flight FX, those well known funsters from Birmingham, are now the new U.K. National Team Champions. By winning the competition they also qualified as representatives for the U.K. at the World Sport Kite Championships which are to be held in Japan in August of this year.

The standards at this year's Team Nationals were, to say the least, outstanding. After a close precision event Slipstream from Bristol held a small lead over The Blast and Flight FX.

Saturday afternoon brought what can only be described as a series of moving experiences. Not just the complexity of the individual moves but the whole image of what true kite ballet is all about. Kites were flown with feeling and spirit, fliers were performers and the audience was undoubtedly entertained.

Unfortunately, there has to be a winner in competitive events and Flight FX managed to squeeze into first place with less than one point separating the top three. There were tears, smiles, high fives and handshakes. The emotion from the team performances spilled out of the arena and into the crowd.

Results were as follows:-

Masters Team Precision	1st Slipstream	85.10
	2nd The Blast	82.28
	3rd Flight FX	82.13
	4th XS	78.50
	5th Team Merlin	76.90
	6th Organised Chaos	66.70

Masters Team Ballet	1st Flight FX	83.20
	2nd The Blast	81.37
	3rd Slipstream	78.33
	4th XS	76.33
	5th Team Merlin	75.47
	6th Organised Chaos	66.17

Overall Masters Team	1st Flight FX	82.67
	2nd The Blast	81.83
	3rd Slipstream	78.33
	4th XS	77.42
	5th Team Merlin	76.19
	6th Organised Chaos	66.44



S.T.A.C.K. NATIONALS

Experienced Team Precision	1st Vapour Trails	66.70
	2nd Bad Attitude	59.53
Experienced Team Ballet	1st Bad Attitude	71.13
	2nd Vapour Trails	59.00
Overall Experienced Team	1st Bad Attitude	65.33
	2nd Vapour Trails	62.85

Also held during the weekend was a pairs ballet competition. This ever popular format proved an interesting event both for fliers and spectators. Experienced class was won by Vertigo, (Simon Dann & Richard Marsh) and Masters pairs was taken by the Exe Pilots, (Ian Rawson and Graham Welland). Very worthy of mention has to be made of the runners up, The Sky Runners, Alistair Hammond and Patrick Lane, ages 12 and 13 respectively, beat some of the UK's more infamous fliers with a superb routine. Undoubtedly, names to look out for in the future.

Special thanks to all who helped to make the event everything it was and more.

Without doubt, Flight FX will be worthy representatives at the World Cup in Odawara, Japan. In order that they can attend the event without having to sell all but their souls, S.T.A.C.K. U.K. has embarked on a crusade to raise funds. The cost per person for participating will be somewhere in the region of £2000 and despite generous assistance from the hosts there will still be a considerable amount of money to be found.

If you would like to assist our National Team in their challenge for the 1992 World Cup, please participate in any of the following schemes:-

S.T.A.C.K. U.K. merchandising is available, including embroidered polo shirts, T-shirts and sweat shirts. Also a limited edition pin is available - a must for collectors.

An auction of special items will be held at the U.K. Individual National Championships during the weekend of 25 & 26 July at Elstree, Hertfordshire.

An opportunity to own the Ultimate Kite Bag. Raffle tickets are on sale for a chance to win kites and equipment valued at over £1000. This incredible prize will be awarded following a draw at the above mentioned event.

For details of any of the above or on any matters relating to S.T.A.C.K. U.K., please contact Martin Thomas, S.T.A.C.K. U.K. National Director, c/o The Leading Edge Kite Supply Co., Baildon Craft Centre, Browgate, Baildon, Shipley, West Yorkshire BD17 6BP tel/fax 0274 532899.



The Pin Pratt Page goes International! - This issue contains words from the Cloisonne King (David Gomberg) and in the next issue we hope to have news of Badges from the antipodes courtesy of Anne Whitehead of New Zealand - beware this page could be taking over the whole magazine - now there's an idea.

Let us get down to the interesting bits - New Badges.

1. Weymouth International Kite Festival Badge. An interesting design in red, white and blue, looks to me like a sheriff badge. 300 of these were produced and the majority of these were sold at the Kite Festival, but an unknown kite trader was reputed to have purchased some of the remainder, and I brought a number so see me at the Kite Society Stall. Price £3.50.
2. The White Horse Kite Fliers Badge (£2.50 for silver more for gold) available from David Robinson - so see him at kite festivals. The badge is a tasteful design of a horse shoe with a horse and kite design inserted into it. There were 200 silver metal badges produced and 50 gold metal badges. By now these gold ones are probably all gone but Janet was swapping them for three to one so check it out.
3. The Kite Society UK Rokkaku Challenge 1992 Badge is now available in Gold and white. Only 200 of these folks so see us at the stall soon. Price £3.00.
4. Now here is a rare one. A badge from Ken Knight - you know the guy who always has that impressive display of windsocks hanging from his gypsy caravan - it is a very simple badge. Basically it is a black badge saying "Kenny's Kites". Apparently this badge took 18 months to arrive and there are only 100. Ken has already given loads away but he might be persuaded to part with a few for £2.25 each that is of course if he can find them!

Well that it for issued badges but there are quite a few in the pipe line:-

A new Kite Society of Great Britain Badge - the kite will be yellow instead of Red only 200 of these.
A Kite Store Invitational something or other badge for some kind of competition at Bristol.
A Bristol International Kite Festival Badge. (Let us hope it arrives in time this year!).
A support your national Stunt (sorry Sport) team (produced by STACK).
A new colour from Skybums (rumoured to be Blue).
Martin Thomas (Leading Edge) keeps muttering about producing various product related badges.
The Kent Kite Klub should have one soon.
Alcester Kite Fliers are also producing one. (Neville Wing has written to tell us that the pin is being produced by Universal Insignia, P.O. Box 27, Tewkesbury, Glos. Tel 0684 295641. Apparently this firm has no set up charge).

Finally the Poole Kite Fliers are in the process of producing a badge. I've seen the prototype and they look

quite good.

Finally finally Tony Slater is rumoured to be producing an attendee badge for next years Shrewsbury Kite Festival.

The Pin Challenge 1992

We can now officially announce that The Champion Pin Head for 1992 is Ron Dell of Kiteability whose sartorially elegant outfit stunned the judges. But it was a close run thing with Tony Slater running a very close second. For a first challenge we had quite a good turnout of seven contestants and a special thanks must go Andy King who managed to transport his badge collection via British Rail (and he only left it on the train once!).

The Pin Challenge will be an Annual event taking place at the convention so start those collections going for 1993.

Pin Seeker Newsletter

Yes the 2nd issue has finally arrived and once again its full of Jon Ronschriber badges. But it does contain a nice colour photocopy of fifty badges which you can order from Jon. Jon and Jill will be attending the Bristol Kite Festival so British pin collectors will be able to haggle face to face. If you are interested in the Pinseeker Kite Club the address is Paint The Sky, 828 N.W. 23rd, Portland, Oregon 97210 U.S.A. tel 503 222 5096.

Pin Point

Finally a little tip from our Pin head Champion (or maybe Pat?) - if you have problems with pins falling off(!) then replace the clip with a plastic earring retainer, it's lighter and much more secure.

New Mag??

David Gomberg is considering starting an international Pin Collectors magazine. Your Pin Pratt has already written back supporting the idea and we hope to be able to bring you more news in the next issue.

Advice from the King

A terrible sense of sadness swept over me when I read that many Kite Society members have contracted "Pin Fever". This will undoubtable be the most devastating export from the New World since Sir Walter Raleigh began shipping tobacco home over three hundred years ago!

That being said, I've been invited to offer a few collecting tips to those of you newly infected with the virus.

Building a collection is easy when you first get started.

The first step is to try and ascertain what pins are available. The easy way to do this is to take a look at what other people are wearing. International guests are particularly good targets and can often be persuaded to part with a collectible item after you have plied them with a few "welcome to Britain" beers.

If you become aware of a pin but are unable to pry it loose from the owner, try contacting the source directly.

Here in the states, there are four principle sources of kite pins: stores, clubs, kite events and individuals. The American Kitefliers Association publishes addresses for affiliated clubs, member merchants and even individual members. All you need to do is find out who made the pin and write them directly. Faxing adds an element of urgency to the request. Offer to purchase or trade for a local pin.

If you are particularly desperate, you can try writing to all of the clubs and stores. That will prove effective in getting your collection going, but not particularly efficient. Only about a quarter of the clubs and stores have pins but some carry a broad selection.

Perhaps the best news is that pins in the UK are still new and collections relatively small. This makes it easy for you to catch up quickly. Over here, the larger collections are hovering around 400-500 distinct and different pieces. Starting fresh can be intimidating.

So my message is - jump in now while you have the advantage.

Note: The AKA can be reached at 1559 Rockville Pike, Rockville MD 20852 U.S.A. or by fax at 408 647-8483. A directory comes free with membership which is \$20 (US) per year. Currency conversion can be handled best by VISA or Master Card.

DAVID GOMBERG

Ron Dell expressing his delight in being awarded the Champion Pin Head Trophy

Photo courtesy of Derek Kuhn.



KITEFLYING IN MALAYSIA

Imagine our surprise when one evening in April we received a phone call asking if any of our club members would be interested in attending a festival in Malaysia. The only drawback was that the festival was in three weeks time and a reply was needed by the following day. Not daunted we set to work and after two hours of phone calls we had four members who could take up the offer. As there were only three tickets available the selection was by toss of a coin with the loser magnanimously donating a number of his kites for the trip.

Three hectic weeks ensued - inoculations, malaria tablets, negotiating excess baggage and airline tickets, faxes and letters to Malaysia, borrowing and collecting kites, repairing those on the 'not got round to it' list, completing and adding to those on the drawing board (or sewing machine) - the list was endless and all too quickly take-off day arrived.

The journey went smoothly until we lost our baggage in Kuala Lumpur only to discover it was to be automatically transferred to the internal flight to Kota Bharu. Being sceptical we then scrutinised the loading of the plane and sure enough two large ski bags were on the pile, however Don's glee turned to dismay as he saw his bag miss the doorway and rock the plane. Cold comfort that we had superglue and "anyway the jungle's full of bamboo so what's the problem?" (Needless to say nothing was damaged and it did provide a source of entertainment whilst we waited).

We arrived at Kota Bharu at 11pm hoping that someone would be there to meet us and from that point onwards the Kelantan Tourist Information Centre representative Roselan Hanafiah took care of our every need. The five day long 10th Malaysia International Kite Festival was organised by the State Government of Kelantan and jointly sponsored by Malaysia Airline (MAS) and Malaysia Tourist Development Corporation. The state of Kelantan is renowned for maintaining its cultural traditions one of which is kite making and flying and, with competitors coming from all over Malaysia having qualified in their own state to take part, it is considered the event of the year.

Incorporated in this festival were three other popular traditions, top spinning, giant drums and coconut percussion all of which added wonderful colour, sound and excitement to the occasion. With opening and closing ceremonies, traditional dancing and displays of Bersilat (self defence), kites being judged on the ground as well as in the air, this was like no festival I have ever attended in the Western World.

The Malaysian section of the festival was organised as a competition where each group of contestants - there maybe up to 12 in each heat - parade his home-made kite in front of the panel of judges. Points are awarded for the intricacy of the design and artistic creativity. However, the most marks are awarded to the angle of the kite whilst flying during a 10 minute flying spell. The nearer a kite is to the vertical the higher the marks it can obtain. In theory, a flier could obtain 50 percent of the total marks by an angle of 90 degrees. A further 20 percent is awarded to the length of time a kite remains in the air with two points being deducted every time the kite crashes. The final element in the assessment is 10 percent awarded to the noise made by the hummer, if fitted. The traditional kite is the Wau Bulan but there were sections for birds, butterflies, dragonflies, ships, serpents and even cartoon characters and the order of the day seemed to be the bigger the better. All built of traditional materials namely bamboo and paper, many were decorated with feathers,

KITEFLYING IN MALAYSIA

material, paper streamers and paintings to produce a colourful and spectacular display.

By contrast the International section was judged on teamwork, number and variation of kites flown thus ensuring a display in the sky throughout the day. For a number of reasons only three countries were represented, China, Japan and our UK Team of Don Eccleston, Allan Gilbert and myself from the Midlands Kite Fliers. Sadly the team from Thailand had to withdraw at the last minute because of the troubles in their country but what we lacked in numbers we made up for in camaraderie.

Allan upheld the UK tradition (set by Adam Sutherland in 1990) of most colourful dresser and Don showed his legs! The Chinese contingent from Weifang, Shi Ge and Liu Yu Kui displayed many beautiful silk kites and a magnificent dragon kite but for two days found the wind hardly strong enough to show them off to their best advantage. The two man Japanese team, Masao Hashimoto and Sadao Sakai brought numerous traditional kites and from time to time gave a display of stunt kite flying. Being the only team from the west we were asked many questions about materials and design of our kites and several people asked for plans. We sat up one evening until 2am assembling dozens of small plastic sleds to give away on the final day to the children. Aply assisted by our minibus driver Salim Husain they were distributed in about 10 minutes and suddenly the air was full of red, green, yellow and blue sleds. I suspect a number of youngsters had been commandeered as instant nieces and nephews as the adults were as delighted with them as the children.

The festival commenced each afternoon around 2pm and each morning visits had been arranged to local craftsmen's workshops for the international participants. Being such a small group this enabled us to get to know each other well and Masao Hashimoto soon became known as Mr Discount for his skill in bartering not just for himself but also on behalf of others in the group, this all done in a lighthearted manner with the Malaysian craftsmen entering into the spirit of the game. Don achieved instant admiration for managing to land a spinning top on the dais at his second attempt (a fluke really as it stuck in a crack) and in spite of something resembling a trolley dash round a supermarket our guide Roselan failed to find a single batik shirt in the bazaar big enough for Allan much to the amusement of the rest of the party.

All too soon the festival came to an end with, on the final evening, a dinner at a local hotel and entertainment in the form of singing and dancing by the Kelantan Tourist Centre Group. Our team declined to do a turn (if you heard Allan and Don singing you would know why) but composer Shi Ge from the Chinese team and folk singer Masao Hashimoto with backing from Sadao Sakai gave very professional renderings of their traditional songs. The following day we said our goodbyes to the Chinese team and later that evening Don too set off for home.

On looking back the memories of our stay in Malaysia are of overwhelmingly friendly and courteous people who delight in sharing their traditions with visitors. If the opportunity presents itself my advice is go there and take part in an experience of a lifetime.

LESLEY GILBERT

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EVENTS LIST

MAJOR KITE EVENTS - U.K.

August 2nd Middle Wallop, Hampshire. Contact Ron Moulton.
August 16th Hengistbury Head, Dorset. Contact David Webster.
August 29th, 30th Portsmouth International Kite Festival, Hampshire. Contact The Kite Society.
Sept 5th, 6th Bristol International Kite Festival. Contact Bristol Kite Store.
October 4th Old Warden, Biggleswade. Contact Ron Moulton.

MAJOR KITE EVENTS - EUROPE

Sept 19th, 20th Dieppe, France.
Sept 26th, 27th Damp, Germany. Contact Wolkensturmer.
Sept 26th, 27th 9th Berlin Kite Festival. Contact Michael Stelzer.

LOCAL EVENTS

The White Horse Kite Fliers have fly-ins on the second Sunday of every month. These are held at Barbury Castle Country Park, Near Wroughton, Swindon. Contact Ron Gunther.

The Great Ouse Kitefliers have regular meetings throughout the year.

August 9th Nene Country Park, Peterborough.
September 13th Grafham Water, South Side, Cambs.
November 1st GOKF AGM Lunch, Riverside Park, St Neots.
December 13th Priory Country Park, Bedford. Contact Bob Piron.

The Blackheath Kite Association meet on the second Sunday of each month at Blackheath, London. Contact Tony Cartwright.

The Essex Kite Group have meetings throughout the year. Contact Kathleen Pike.

The Nomansland Kite Fliers meet on the fourth Sunday of each month at Nomansland Common, Wheathampstead. Contact Carole Peacock.

The Alcester Kite Fliers meet at the Alcester Rugby Ground on the third Sunday of each month. Contact Fred Taplin.

Kite North meet on the 1st Sunday of each month at locations around the North of England. Contact Adam Sutherland for location.

The Devon Kite Friends meet on the second Sunday of each month and during April to September they also meet on the fourth Sunday. All events are at Pork Hill, Mid Devon. Contact John Skinner.

EVENTS LIST

The Midland Kitefliers have fly-ins on the first Sunday of each month at Sutton Park. Contact Alan Gilbert.

The Thorpe Kite Flyers meet every Sunday morning on Thorpe Recreation Ground, Laundry Lane, Thorpe, Norwich between 9.30am and 12.30pm. Contact Kevin Appleton.

The Northampton Kite Fliers meet on the first Sunday of every month at The Race Course, St Georges Avenue, Northampton. Between 10.00am and 4.00pm. Contact I.C. Kites.

The Highly Strung Kite Club meets on the first Sunday of each month. Contact Graham Holdstock.

The Northern Kite Group have meetings as below:-

August 16th	Temple Newton House and Grounds, Leeds.
September 20th	Heaton Park, Manchester.
October 18th	Baildon Moor, Shipley, near Bradford.
November 15th	Littleton Road Playing Fields, Salford.
December 20th	Norland Moor, Sowerby Bridge, West Yorkshire. <u>Contact</u> Ron Ogden

The Brighton Kitefliers have meetings throughout the year. Contact Ray Oakhill.

The Chiltern Kite Group have meetings as follows:-

Maidens Grove - 20 September, 15 November.

Pinkneys Green - 16 August, 18 October, 20 December

Contact Roger Lawton.

Other Events

July 26th	Kingston Lacy House, Winborne.
August 2nd	Therfield Heath, Rotston.
August 15th, 16th	Teston Bridge, Maidstone. <u>Contact</u> Ron Dell.
August 30th	Shorne Country Park, Gravesend. <u>Contact</u> Ron Dell.

CONTACT DETAILS

Tony Cartwright, 78 Dongola Road, London N17 6EE. 081 808 1280.
The Bristol Kite Store, 39 Cotham Hill, Bristol, BS6 6JY. 0272 745010.
Graham Holdstock, 63 Cranleigh Drive, Whitfield, Dover, Kent, CT16 3NW.
John Skinner, 12 Oak Road, Bishopmead, Tavistock, Devon, PL19 9EZ.
Ron Gunther, 12 Glevum Close, Purton, Swindon SN5 9HA. 0793 770784
Kathleen Pike, 34 Mortimer Road, Rayleigh, Essex.
Fred Taplin, 20 Henley Street, Alcester, Warwickshire.
Alan Gilbert, 23 Evesham Road, Leicester, LE3 2BD.
Carole Peacock, 61 Windmill Avenue, St Albans, Herts AL4 9SJ.
Bob Piron, 8 Bowhill, Bedford, MK41 8EP. 0234 261835.
Kevin Appleton, 37 Eastern Avenue, Thorpe-St-Andrew, Norwich NR7 0UQ.
Ron Moulton, 2 Avenue Rise, Bushey, Watford, Herts, WD2 3AS.
I.C. Kites, 12 Willow Close, Spratton, Northampton, NN6 8JH. 0604 843374.
Adam Sutherland, 20 Durham Place, Birtley, Tyne & Wear, DH3 2AY.
Mrs Ellis, Charisma, 14 Sandown Road, Lake, Isle of Wight. 0983 402871.

Dave Robinson, 61 Bridge End Road, Stratton St Margaret, Swindon, SN3 4PD. 0793 824208.
Ray Oakhill, 6 Hartfield Road, Saltdean, Sussex, BN2 8RE. 0273 306842.
David Webster, 16 Brackley Way, Hammonds Green, Totton, Hants. SO4 3HN.
Wolkensturmer, Hansastrasse 52, 2000 Hamburg 13, Germany.
Michael Stelzer, Eisenacher Strasse 81, 1000 Berlin 61, Germany.
Ron Ogden, 41 Ashfield Drive, Clayton Bridge, Manchester, M10 0WJ.
Ron Dell, 2 Garfield Road, Enfield, Middlesex, EN3 4RP.

KITE SOCIETY CONVENTION 1992

The Kite Society's convention and festival held at Scunthorpe was certainly memorable (if for nothing else than the amazing smoke displays laid on by British Steel).

The decision to move the convention further north so that more of our northern members could attend seemed to be a wrong one. A hand count at the convention showed that there were more people from Bristol! Consequently the convention was not as well attended as in the past but there was still a good group of people attending most talks. We would like to thank all the lecturers - Martin Thomas, Andy King, Stafford Wallace, Alan Wenham, Paul Morgan and Jim Rowlands for all their efforts. The Saturday meal and Auction was a more subdued event than previous, but we would like to thank all the people who so generously donated items. Three items stood out - Paul Morgan's superb Randy Tom lookalike Stunt kite, Helene Morgan's Totem Pole box kite and Colin Barefoot's Wave Rokkaku. Thanks must also go to the many people who bid for the items, but a big thank you must go to Andy King who really had to work hard (as did the helpers during the evening - thanks to them as well).

The Festival was poorly attended both by the members of the public and on Monday by the wind. So whilst everyone got a good sun tan there was little flying. Still fliers seemed to be enjoying themselves.

We have left the most important thank you to last. Most of on site organisation of the convention and the festival was done by Jim Rowlands. Thanks Jim.

The accounts from this years event shows a loss of £352.93 which reduces the money available for the next convention. Note that it could have been much worse if it had not been for a donation from Yorkshire Electricity of £1000.

INCOME

Received from Auction	1318.00
Meal ticket sales	815.00
Stall income	615.00
Yorkshire Electric Donation	1000.00
	=====
Total Income	3748.00
Less Outgoings	4100.93
	=====
Loss	(352.93)
B/F from 1991	3498.70
	=====
C/F to 1993	3145.77

OUTGOINGS

Art work	25.00
Insurance	75.00
Cost of meals	950.00
Lecturer/Helper Exps.	250.00
Printing	135.13
Post/Stationery	78.27
P.A.	573.53
Site Hire/Toilets	
Security etc.	1904.00
Convention Hall Hire	110.00
	=====
Total Outgoings	4100.93

KITE SOCIETY CONVENTION 1992

The "AGM" at the convention produced a lively and interesting debate, with a number of points being raised from the floor. There were a number of topics discussed but the main topic was the development of the Kite Society convention. There seemed to be a consensus that it was vital that the convention be associated with major kite event (either in existence or planned) so that all the convention monies could be used solely for the convention and not, as in the case of Scunthorpe, used towards the kite festival. The problem with location was then raised and it was suggested that the convention be held in the North, South, East and West rotating around these areas. Another proposal was that Kite Society members should pay a registration fee to attend the convention and this money would be used to improve the facilities provided.

Other matters raised included increasing the membership fee. It was proposed by the members attending that the fee should rise to £10.00 per year - what do you think? The increased fee would allow the Kite Society to provide more services to both the members as well as the general public.

Perhaps the most important result of all this talk was the formation of a Convention Committee and several people volunteered, or were press ganged. These were Martin Lester, Avril Baker, Derek Kuhn, Martin Thomas, Jim Rowlands, Malcolm Goodman, Andy King, Tony Cartwright and, of course, ourselves to keep all that lot under control. The first "Meeting" of the committee will be at Washington where it is hoped that some general consensus will be reached. However, we feel that it would be nice to have some feedback from the membership at large and to that end we have included a questionnaire where we would like you to express your opinions. Please complete the form below and return it to The Kite Society, 31 Grange Road, Ilford, Essex IG1 1EU by the 1st September. A summary of the results will appear in the October issue of The Kiteflier.

CONVENTION

Preferred Location _____

Preferred Timing: _____

Bank Holiday Weekend

Friday/Saturday/Sunday

Content of Convention: _____

Workshops Lectures

Other - Please Specify _____

Would you attend an evening meal: Yes No

Price Range _____

Would you be prepared to pay a registration fee?

Yes No

If so how much? _____

Do you want a Kite Market? Yes No

Any other general comments regarding the convention. _____

OTHER MATTERS

Would you be prepared to pay extra for insurance cover? Yes No

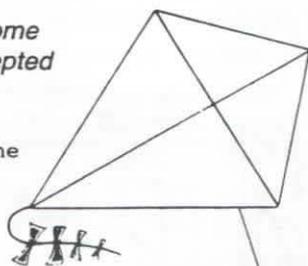
What other activities and services would you like the Kite Society to provide? _____

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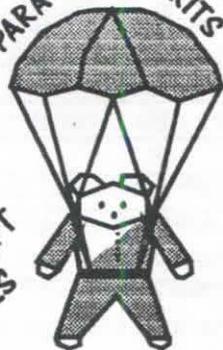
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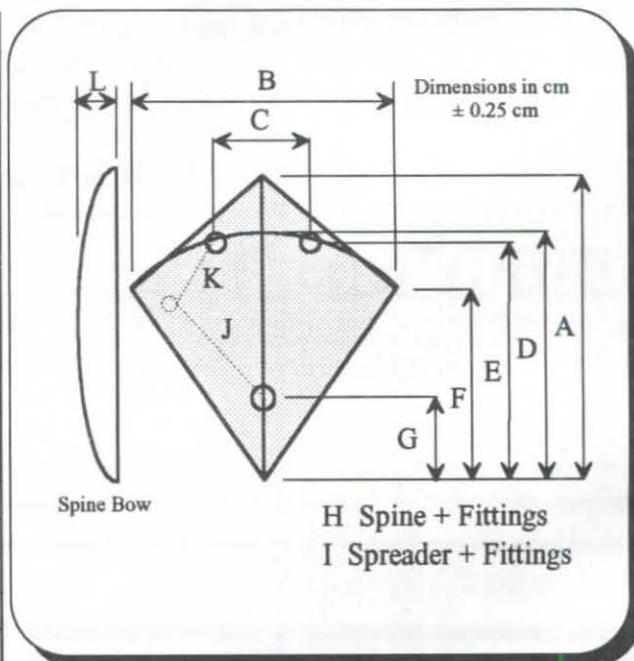
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3 Stunt Kites for Beginners

Reviewed by Derek Kuhn - Hon. President, Midlands Kite Fliers

Ace, Trlby and Space are three very similar kites which are ideal for beginners to stunt kite flying. It is often difficult to recommend an easy stunt kite which can be enjoyed by a novice, will last a long time, and doesn't cost the earth. Is there actually any difference between these kites? This article makes a comparison.

Dimensional Comparison			
Dimension	Trlby	Ace	Space
A	89.5	92.5	89.5
B	93.0	92.0	87.0
C	42.0	42.0	39.5
D	71.0	76.5	76.5
E	67.5	72.5	73.0
F	56.5	58.5	57.0
G	25.0	27.5	26.5
H	90.0	93.0	90.5
	5mm dia	3mm dia	3mm dia
I	99.5	100.5	97.0
	5mm dia	4mm dia	4mm dia
J	56.0	58.0	58.0
K	48.0	46.0	45.0
L	7.0	5.0	7.0
Area sq. m.	0.42	0.43	0.39
Weight gm.	122.0	82.0	82.0



It can be seen that all three are very similar in size, but the Trlby is half as much again in weight.

All three kites come in tubular clear plastic with the label at the top. The Trlby label has colour photos, and an extra sheet of instructions. The Ace label is black on yellow and includes instructions and an address to ask for further information. The Space label and instructions are an interesting blue and yellow on white card, and contain clear and informative drawings, a list of spares and details of Avon Kite Fliers.

The contents of each bag is similar: the spreader is rolled up in the sail which has the spine already fitted. Twisted dacron line comes pre-wound on plastic handles, and the knot onto the handle can be clearly seen. Trlby and Ace came with about 50 m, but Space provides 60m. An 11m polythene tail is supplied neatly wrapped and bridles are provided on a piece of card which ensures no tangles before they are fitted. The Trlby has two spare link clips - very kind, but of no obvious use.

Most people don't read instructions (do we?), so assembly should be as foolproof as possible. The Space and Ace are easy to assemble, but the centre retaining clip could be missed. The two spreaders on the Trlby have to be inserted into long pockets before assembling to the dihedral piece. The Ace tended to bow the wrong way which could affect take-off, but sorted itself out when flying.

The Trlby sail is made from a curious soft low-density ripstop nylon, and is screen printed green and grey on a white base. The others are normal high-density: the Ace is two colour asymmetrical split, and the Space is made from a single piece of material. The Space kite was very well made, with a single line of precise stitching all round the perimeter. The Ace is similar, but the Trlby showed signs of fraying from under some hems. Holes for bridle fixings

THREE BEGINNER STUNT KITES

are cleanly die cut on Ace and Space, but hot cut on Trlby. The Trlby showed signs of fraying around all holes, and the hole for the bottom bridle is cut through the central seam, which is not then over-sewn to prevent unravelling. Fittings on each kite are high-impact nylon mouldings, the Trlby has a dihedral piece for the spreader in place of the other's retaining clip. The Trlby bridle allows some adjustment from a larks head knot onto the towing rings, but Ace and Space tie an overhand loop before the larks head, thereby preventing adjustment: during testing, it became clear that no adjustment was needed. Top and bottom reinforcements are Dacron tape on Trlby, and glass reinforced adhesive tape on Ace and Space; no additional protection is given for the spreader, but no appreciable damage was seen anywhere after extensive testing (and crashing).

Launching is generally straight forward, and these three behaved perfectly. Assisted launches (mind the tail around the legs), face-down launches and pegged out on a leading edge all worked well. Face-up proved impossible unless some obstacle could be used to help stand the kite up.

Landing is not usually a problem, but controlled landing is not even explained in the instructions. The kites were landed either by flying into the wind to one side until they stalled, or by a power dive, turning quickly just above the ground, then walking smartly forward until the kite landed. The Trlby was difficult to control as it went into the wind, and tended to land heavily and unpredictably; the other two were better behaved. Landing downwind needed some practice, and the kites tended to fall backwards, preventing re-launch. The Trlby proved difficult to hold pointing upwards, so landings were really only arrivals.

The wind window maximums for Space and Ace were 90° vertically and 120° horizontally with tails. The Trlby window was 75° vertically and 95° horizontally. All the kites could be flown without tails, but were less controllable, tended to move sideways, but turned in very tight circles. Tails assist control and are pleasing to watch: ground passes, flying into the wind and landing are much improved, but precision turns are not as tight. Three figures were performed - square, circle and power dive, plus a ground pass and a stable flight above. The Trlby was imprecise on the square and circle, especially near the ground, and the upward leg of the power dive always seemed wobbly. Ground passes were difficult, and maintaining a stable position above resulted in the kite tipping to one side. The Ace proved good in all manoeuvres, but also suffered as the wind decreased near the ground: stable flying was interesting because the kite appeared unstable, but always recovered unassisted. The Space kite was also good, but seemed more capable nearer the ground. Tight turns were easy to control, and ground passes were great fun especially the near misses. All the kites flew well in a strong wind, but the Trlby was more controllable, probably due to thicker spars.

Crash worthiness is enhanced with fibreglass spars and Nylon sails, and none of the reinforcements suffered damage despite the (reluctant) maltreatment during the tests. The dihedral piece of the Trlby broke after one severe impact, which was probably due to a missing location ring (which normally prevents the dihedral sliding up the spine) which distorted the kite, and placed undue stress on the brittle plastic.

The kites must somehow be transported home, and the most obvious way is to remove the spreader, roll it up in the rest of the sail, and slide it back in the bag it came from. Trlby and Space were fine in their large heavy duty tubular polythene, but the Ace bag was too thin and flimsy. Tails are difficult to roll up again, especially if wet or damaged, and are virtually impossible to get back into the bag. They can be wrapped around the kite, but there is a great temptation to stuff them all into a carrier bag until the next outing.

In conclusion, there is little difference between these three kites. They cater for a specific market, and as interest in kites continues to grow world-wide, they are well placed to meet the needs of a budding enthusiast or to occupy a few hours on the beach. The similarity between the kites reflects their pedigree, although the Trlby now seems a little dated and rather heavy. The Space, despite being a relative newcomer to the field, is every bit as good as its competitors, and is ideally placed to provide beginners with many hours of satisfying stunt kite flying.

Trlby is produced by Trlby Products Inc. in the USA and retails for around £23. Ace is manufactured in Spain by Joseph Gispert and costs £18.50. Space retails at £14.75 and is made by R.S.M.Leisure in Bristol, England.

NOMANSLAND KITE FLIERS

Geoff Adams writes:

Looking through the last Kiteflier at the local groups I found no mention of the Nomansland Kiteflyers. Anyway I was going to write a short letter to you with the accompanying picture showing the hard core of NML fliers showcasing their new sweatshirts and badges and some of the trophies won by members over the years. We don't set ourselves up to win specifically we just seem to have done quite well for a fairly small club. This year the "Blue Wedge" will again be prominent at most major festival.

We hold monthly flyins on the 4th Sunday of each month. The dates for 1992 - July 26th, August 23rd, Sept 27th, October 25th, November 22nd and January 3rd (moved away from Christmas for the annual new year "Blow The Cobwebs Away" day).

Annual Events include Red Nose day, Children in Need. We also do charity bear dropping days. The Nomansland stunt league (Jan, Feb, March), Christmas do fly-in followed by retreat to warm house for drinkies and mincepies etc.

We also have a very social gathering, especially in summer - picnic atmosphere with a heavy emphasis on a helping hand to new and frustrated would be kitefliers. Founded in 1985 (November) there are now 40 - 50 members and no fees are charged. A very enthusiastic bunch who participate at all levels single line, dual line etc. Contacts are Geoff Adams, 6 Pembridge Close, Bovington, Herts HP3 0QH or Carole Peacock, 61 Windmill Avenue, St Albans, Herts AL4 9SJ.

KENT KITE KLUB

Fiona Addy writes:

The Kent Kite Klub (yes the spelling mistake is deliberate) has now been running for approximately 9 months (pregnant pause). We have been plagued by a distinct lack of wind at Tonbridge Recreation Ground on the 3rd Sunday of every month since November so I really do mean running! Our membership has increased from our original committee of 9 members to nearly 10 times that many including single and family members. We have members from all over the country too, not just Kent.

Our original 9 reflect the diversity of kiteflying in Britain today. We have interests and expertise in sport kites, team kites, funkites single line kites, Rokkaku fighting kites, Indian fighting kites, novelty kites, parachuting teddy bears and kiskedee car racing. We have held individual precision flying competitions, demonstrations and tuition at our regular venue and have been invited to demonstrate the many aspects of kiteflying to groups such as cubs and schools and at various functions in Kent.

At the Blackheath Easter festival our Chairman, Chris (I'm in Charge) Croft, provided the bouncy Castle

which not only raised money for both spinal research and B.K.A. but also kept the youngsters entertained while mum and dad enjoyed the kites. We also erected our hostility/hospitality suite for members and invited guests to impress all present with a warm and welcoming ambience (alcohol and membership application forms were optional). At this event we entered the pairs ballet competition. Our team - Brahms and Liszt flying together for the first time came 10th and we all felt very proud of them. We also entered two teams for the Rokkaku Challenge and although we didn't win we learnt a lot from this first endeavour.

Then there was the Kent Kite Klub Kiskedee Car Challenge. This must be one of the oddest events ever to be staged at a Kite Festival and quite typical of the crazy side of the Klub! The highlight of the weekend was Klub committee members, Dave Clements, flying his winning Innovation routine. What an exhibition and what an example to all his fellow Klub members of the standard to which we all strive! Our efforts over this weekend were rewarded by remarkable media coverage - we were interviewed by the Guardian, the Telegraph, The Kentish Times, Radio 5 and Childrens BBC! Not bad for a new Klub.

Contact for the Kent Kite Klub; Secretary - Fiona Addy, 95 Seagull Road, Strood, Rochester, Kent ME2 2QJ. Tel 0634 727238. Meetings - third Sunday of every month, 1pm, Tonbridge Recreation Ground.

AVON KITE FLIERS

The Avon Kite Fliers now have a new committee with Tom Oates as Chairman and Martin Baker as secretary. A.K.F. meet at Ashton Court on the 2nd Sunday of each month. Access for cars is through Longwood Lane (same as kite festival) gate.

Contact and membership details are available through Martin Baker at the Bristol Kite Store on 0272 745010.

Fly-ins this year will include Rokkaku battle, "Kite Doctor", Indian Fighters. We are also encouraging social events during the summer including BBQ's and joint fly-ins with other groups.

WINDSOR KITE FLYERS

The Windsor Kite Flyers are a group of kite flyers who fly regularly in Windsor Great Park. We meet on an informal basis with a regular fly-in on the second Sunday of every month, with non-flying meetings in the Prince Christian Pub, Kings Road, Windsor.

If you are new to kite flying we will help you to improve your technique, and often you can try out different makes and models of kites. If experienced, you can help as well. Some of the group can also give hints and tips on building your own kite.

If you are interested contact Syd McDonald 0344 86690 or Gordon Wilcock 0784 482030.

Sent in by Stephen Hill

There is an excellent collection of kites from all over the world at the Pitt-Rivers Museum in Oxford. Fishing kites, complete with spiders web lures, fighting kites and others. There are also several large drawers of kites not on public display, which can be viewed if you contact the curator in advance. The Pitt-Rivers Museum 60 Banbury Road, Oxford. Tel 0865 270927. Open 1pm - 4pm, Monday to Saturday. Does anyone know of kites held at other museums?

This may be old hat to more experienced kite makers, but after trying many brands of glue when working with traditional papers and silks, I have found the answer: flour and water paste. Not only is it friendly to the material, and to your fingers, but it is cheap and can be made as thick or thin as you wish. There are two tricks to making it however. Firstly it should be boiled and stirred. Secondly the addition of sugar makes it tacky enough to position things correctly. The mixture that works well is: 4 tablespoons of flour, 3/4 pint of water and 2 tablespoons of sugar. It should be boiled for about 10 minutes, the sugar added, and then allowed to cool. If you are working with thicker papers such as Thai mulberry, it can help to apply it while still warm. Whether stoneground or wholemeal is best, I have still to establish.

Mick Parsons who runs West Cornwall Sport Kite Centre is trying to organise a Sports Kite Summer tour in the west country. He is looking for Team Fliers to take part in this tour full training will be given as well as equipment, and it is hope that the team will be experienced enough to enter team competitions by the end of the season. The team will tour for 8 weeks in a "kite Bus", will put on shows and displays and will be paid on

commission. So the more you display the more you are paid! Interested? Contact Mick Parsons on 0736 331233.

A new book on kites called "The Usborne Book of Kites" by Susan Mayes has just been published. This book is designed for children and is 32 pages long. It contains plans for a paperfold, diamond, dragon, birdie and square kites. Unfortunately nearly all the plans have been designed to be as complicated as possible and is the worst introduction a child could have to kiteflying. Still the graphics are nice! The book is published by Usborne Publishing Ltd ISBN 0746007086 Price £3.50.

Ron Moulton's and Jim Rowlands kite books should be out in August or September so keep an eye out for them.

The Northern Kite Group have produced a number of very good kite booklets. The Junior Introductory booklet would be ideal for school use price £1.00. An English Centipede takes flight costs £2.00 but is an excellent 28 page in depth booklet on making and flying a centipede written by Chris Wainwright. The NKG have also produced The Northern Kite Group Book of Plans, two volumes £2.00 each. These are plans taken from past issues of Kite, aimed at the experienced kite maker, providing ideas rather than finer details.

Also available is a set of safety prints which help to get across the messages of safe flying, ideal for workshops, displays etc cost £1.00 per set.

These are available from Stuart Beardwood (The NKG magazine editor) at 38 Salisbury Place, Boothtown, Halifax, West Yorkshire HX3 6NB. (The Northern Kite Group magazine Kite is also

worth looking at, contact Stuart for details).

Windthings who have a shop in Edinburgh (11 Cowgatehead, Edinburgh, EH1 1JY tel 031 220 6336) have now opened another shop, in Glasgow. The new shop is at 3&5 Gibson Street, Glasgow GL12 8NU tel 041 334 3336. Windthings produce an excellent catalogue including a very comprehensive range of single and sports kites including some fairly unusual items. Catalogue is available from the above address.

Spotted by John Barker recently on the Beeb - A holiday programme about Australia at one stage showed kites (stunters) as an extra cost addition to one tour package, ie hire of and tuition on stunt kites. John also listens to Radio 4 Archers, as he heard the episode where Caroline Bone was on Lakey Hill with a couple of kids flying stunters. How about that stunters mentioned on the Archers! Sport Kites Soaps coming soon?

For those well travelled kite fliers who like to coordinate their luggage with their kites, Antler produced a series of bags, knapsacks and school cases called "With Flying Colours" which features a rather nice kite design - they also do a bum bag. Could this become the in accessory! Only problem - the items are pricey, but then it is Antler.

Air-Crafts Competition Result. Congratulations to Miss J Blackwell of Ramsey St Mary on winning the Zepher 70 donated by Air-Crafts in "Guess the Line Length" competition
The actual length on the Sky-Winder reel was 510.78 metres. Thanks go to all participants who helped to raise funds for spinal research.

Off-Cuts and Thread Ends - Reports from our undercover agent, A Nonymouse - these are the things that the rest of you can't be

bothered to tell us.

The members of Flight FX - Bob Tactful, Mad John, Digital Ian and Hernia Hall have asked for their thanks to be passed to all who have helped them in their season to date. Names too numerous to mention but you know who you are. Also a special mention to everyone who has contributed to the S.T.A.C.K. U.K. Japan Challenge Fund. (P.S. Does any one know where they can borrow a pink Rolls Royce?).

Hot on the heels of Ponytailitis comes the new ultimate kite accessory, Babyitis. The next Generation of up and coming kite flyers are already on their way. Congratulations to Avril and Martin Baker, Laurie and Tim Paget and Helmut and Ingrid Georgi (Fly High Drachen -Austria), all of whom are expecting new additions later this year. (Is this anything to do with not being able to team practice during the winter?). Team Sky Bumps are rumoured to be appearing at the Bristol festival for a once-only performance.

Following the news from the Paget household it has been announced that Field Director Supremo, Paul Reynolds has now replaced Laurie as No.3 in the Blast. Sorry Paul but the thought of your legs in chequered shorts is a little too much to bear.

Jim Rowlands has launched a new addition to his range of inflatable kites. The Twister, a soft quadline kite, is expected to retail for around £90 and initial reports are very complimentary.

The world famous Decorators have recently announced a temporary (?) withdrawal from the competitive kite circuit. This will leave them free to concentrate on developing their superb demonstrative skills and in particular, their quad line flying.

Check out two new additions to the Windy Kites Range. A cute blue swallow tailed bird and a baby bat are especially good value for money.

The latest edition of American Kite magazine carries a superb article on Martin Lester. Brilliantly written, by the lovely Sarah Kent, the entertaining interview is accompanied by a series of appropriate photographs.

A number of traders have been to be grumbling that too many trade spaces are being allocated at kite festivals, especially in view of the current economic climate. Comments about disproportionate fees and the like are also being voiced. Please don't mutter about it. Write and tell us your views. We would also be pleased to hear from the people who keep the traders in business - the buying kitefliers. What kind of trade arrangements would you like to see at festivals?

A kite team with eight fliers!!!! Surely not! Strange but true. Crossing the competitive boundary and boldly going where no team has gone before. Team XStream - a combined team consisting of the members of Bristol based XS and Slipstream managed to fly a full routine together as an eight person squad at the recent UK Team Nationals at Weston Super Mare. The result was simply spectacular. The biggest team in existence?

We can confirm a recent rumour that Gill Bloom does now own and fly her very own stunt kite. The convention auction at Sunny Scunny saw Gill happily parting with Jon's hard earned readies for a LiteFlite kindly donated by Andy King. Whatever next?

(I feel I must defend myself here - Jon and I currently own at least five stunt kites, including an

original Flexifoil and a POD delta stunt kite, and I am not a kept woman! It was my hard earned money).

News has just reached us of an event being planned for the "Closed" season. Word has it that a number of prominent names from the kite world are intending to stage a kite sport weekend. None-too-serious competitions such as quadline football, balloon catching with Indian fighters, blindfold stunt kite flying, buggy racing and anything else they can think of are planned. Further news as we receive it. Anyone got any suggestions for competitions, ridiculous or otherwise? Let us know.

Remember to smile when you're at the next festival. You might just end upon television. Channel 4 have commissioned a pilot video with a view to a major series on sport kites. Many of this year's main stunt kite competitions have already been captured for future editing. In addition, the recent UK National Team Championships at Weston Super Mare was filmed by HTV for a short documentary due to be shown around Xmas time.

Whilst mentioning Weston Super Night-Mare, Sunday's impromptu Rokkaku battle took on a slight new twist. In an effort to alleviate the boredom of a rather slow fight, Romney Johnstone of the Decorators fame produced a large knife. Whether this was to intimidate the teams or simply bring the competition to a close is not known. Romney "Flick" Johnstone will be assisting us at all future rounds of the UK Rokkaku challenge in an effort to stop certain fliers from not joining the fight proper. You have been warned.

Portsmouth International Kite Festival - August 29th and 30th

This festival is being jointly run by the Kite Society and Portsmouth City Council. The Festival site is Southsea Common a large grassed area with many local facilities including a large leisure centre, so there is plenty to keep non fliers happy.

The festival itself will have the usual range of displays and competitions, including a Portsmouth Rokkaku Challenge as well as a round of the UK Rokkaku Challenge, and there will be an Altitude Race as well as a Blind Fold Stunt event. We hope to have a good mix of overseas guests, including a group from Malaysia, a large European contingent, as well as fliers from the U.S. and it is hoped that Peter Lynn from New Zealand will also be able to attend. So we have all ingredients for a first rate festival.

Kite Society members will have their own reserved car parking but to take advantage of this Kite Society members need to apply for a car pass from us.

Accommodation for the event has been arranged in the local polytechnic halls of residence which are sited on the edge of the common. Cost for this accommodation is £12.50 per person per night including breakfast. Both single and double rooms are available (but the doubles are in short supply so book early). To book this accommodation contact Julie Yelf on 0705 827681. There are plenty other hotels and bed & breakfast establishments in the area. Here is list of some of the nearest in Southsea:-

Queens Hotel, Clarence Parade tel 0705 822466. Sandringham Hotel, Clarence Parade tel 0705 826969.
Seacrest Hotel, South Parade tel 0705 733192. Solent Hotel, South Parade tel 0705 875566.
Stacey Court Hotel, Clarence Parade tel 0705 826827. Saville Hotel, Clarence Parade tel 0705 822491.
Bristol Hotel, Clarence Parade tel 0705 821815.

For details of other hotels and camping sites you should contact the Portsmouth Tourist Office on 0705 826722.

On the Saturday night there will a buffet served in the on site Marquee, with a licensed bar and we are promised some musical entertainment. Tickets for this hot buffet will cost £6.00 per person, £3.00 for children and are available from the Kite Society but numbers are limited so book early!

Kite traders are welcome on the site and contrary to some rumours that are doing the rounds it will cost £75.00 for the two days no matter how large or small the stall. If you wish to trade please contact the Kite Society.

Please complete the form below and return it, with any payment, to The Kite Society, 31 Grange Road, Ilford, Essex IG1 1EU before 15th August. Cheques should be made payable to The Kite Society.

EVENTS NEWS

Name: _____

Address: _____

Post Code _____ Telephone _____

Buffet Saturday 29th August. Adults _____ Children _____ Vegetarian Yes No

Car Pass (one pass will cover both days) _____



Bristol International Kite Festival 5th and 6th of September

The Festival will once again have a full programme including lots of stunt kite displays, rokkaku battles, indian fighting, The Kite Society's Single Line Championships, children's workshops and a comprehensive range of food and kite stalls - plus, this year, there will be a number of overseas visitors who are doing the European Tour.

For all the following - Car Passes, Accommodation, Camping, and the Saturday Night Party - Applications have to be in by 1st September at the very LATEST. Please enclose a stamped self addressed envelope with application and send to Avril Baker, 10 Saville Court, Saville Place, Clifton, Bristol BS8 4EJ.

Accommodation: There is a kite festival special rate available from Redwood Lodge Hotel and Country Club. The Redwood is ideally located for the kite festival being only a 5 to 10 minutes walk from the festival site. The lodge has a number of sporting facilities including a swimming pool. The special price (available for friday, saturday and sunday nights) is £25.00 per person for a double or twin or £35.00 for

a single, price includes full English Breakfast.

Other accommodation: a comprehensive accommodation brochure is available from Avril (please enclose a SAE)

Camping: The organisers would like to thank the people who camped last year for making such a good job of cleaning the site as it means that once again the campers can use the same site with all its facilities - toilets, showers etc. The camp site will be available from Friday through to Sunday cost is £5.00 for the weekend, please note spaces are limited so book early.

Car passes: free parking will be available for Kite Society members. Again SAE to Avril.

Saturday Night Party: This year the Saturday night activities will take place on the festival site. There will be a Marquee with space heaters! and the food will be served by one of the food vendors on site. Tickets cost £10.00 per person, £5.00 for child. For this you will receive a ticket for production at the food vendor, and free booze (until it runs out - but you are welcome to bring your own). Both Carnivores and vegetarians will be catered for. After the food there will a short auction to raise money to pay for next years overseas guests, this will be followed by an illuminated (well a few spotlights) and musically accompanied (Barry on the P.A.) night fly.

Check List for the Festival:

1. Accommodation - Redwood Lodge or other
2. Camping
3. Car Passes
4. Saturday Night Party

All from Avril at the above address by 1st September. Please enclose a SAE.

Dieppe International Kite Festival 19th and 20th September.

The 7th International Dieppe Kite Festival will take place between the 12th and 20th of September with the main weekend being the 19th and 20th of September. Once again there will an impressive gathering of kite flyers from around the world including U.S.A., Brazil, New Zealand, Australia, Japan, Thailand and Korea. This is the one international kite festival not to be missed.

For English Kitefliers it is an easy journey, using the Newhaven to Dieppe ferry (the festival site is within very easy walking distance of the ferry terminal). If you are an AA member there is a special promotion (with a special voucher you should have received with your AA Magazine) available at AA shops 50% can be saved on the standard return "All-in-Car" fare with Sealink (Stena line). They also have an European Short Breaks brochure in which they do a short break to Dieppe with a choice of accommodation.

EVENTS NEWS

Registration for all of the U.K. attendees is being coordinated through the Kite Society and you should complete the form below for each person attending. Registration will entitle you to a free meal on the Saturday evening. In addition there is free accommodation available in a hostel as well as free camping for Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights - space is limited in the hostel so register early. Indicate on the form if you wish either of these.

Name: _____
Address: _____

Post Code _____ Telephone _____

Meal Saturday 19th September. Yes No
Hostel Yes No Nights required. _____
Camping Yes No Nights Required. _____

THIS FORM SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THE KITE SOCIETY, 31 GRANGE ROAD, ILFORD, ESSEX IG1 1EU BY 7TH AUGUST.

Other Events

Mick Parsons of West Cornwall Sport Kite Centre is organising a week long kite festival at Gwithian which is near Hayle in Cornwall. The Dates are from September 26th to October 4th, and the whole festival is in aid of a Down Syndrome Charity. During the week there will be attempts at the World record for speed racing with kite buggies as well as displays of power kites etc. There is ample car parking and camping near the site and trade stalls enquiries are welcome (there is no charge for trading but traders will be expected to donate prizes). Further details from West Cornwall Sport Kite Centre, 5a Green Market, Penzance, Cornwall TR18 2SG. Tel 0736 331233.

The Canterbury and District and the Tunbridge Wells and District Samaritans are joining forces to hold a Kite festival at the Palm Bay Recreation Ground in Thanet as a way of raising funds and to increase awareness of their service available to all age groups. Those traders selling kites and related equipment who are willing to give demonstrations throughout the afternoon will be entitled to a free pitch. Also, any clubs able to attend and give demonstration flights will not be charged the admission. For further details contact Heather Town on 0843 228727 or 0892 545596.

Ian Brett of the Northampton Kite Fliers (0604 843374) has written to inform us of The Northampton Hot Air Balloon Festival being held on 14th, 15th and 16th of August at The Northampton Racecourse. This along with other activities will feature kite flying.

KITE SOCIETY SINGLE LINE COMPETITIONS

The Kite Society of Great Britain National Single Line Competitions.

These competitions will once again be taking place during the Bristol International Kite Festival, 5th and 6th of September. These competitions are an ideal opportunity for kitefliers to display their kite making skills to both their peers and members of the general public.

The rules for all competitions are as follows:-

The competition is open to Kite Society members only.

All kites entered must be the product of the entrant and be entirely home made.

No person who earns more than 50% of their income from kite making will be allowed to compete.

Each entrant can enter as many categories as required but only one kite can be entered for each category.

The competition categories are:-

1. Flat Kite
2. Soft Kite - one with no rigid spars
3. Cellular Kite
4. Peoples Choice (this category is decided by public voting during the event).

All competitions will take place simultaneously. Please listen for announcements over the P.A. for the exact time.

Each entrant will be required to register with the judges who will tour the competition area and, for the flat, soft and cellular categories) award marks in the following areas:

1. Craftsmanship.
2. Flight Characteristics (the kite must fly).
3. Artistic Design.

Each area can earn a maximum of 10 points.

So all it needs is for members to get busy with their creations and register on the day.

THE KITE SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The Kite Society of Great Britain was founded in 1979 and, since then, has grown to be recognised as the leading organisation for kite flying in Great Britain with over 1500 members worldwide.

The main vehicle of communication between members is the quarterly publication "THE KITEFLIER", which is published in January, April, July and October every year. THE KITEFLIER contains news of forthcoming kite festivals, kite retailer news, kite plans, kite group news and a comprehensive events list.

In addition the Kite Society organises an annual convention, and kite festival, where guest speakers are invited to talk about their specialist area of kites making and flying. At the same time the Annual Dinner and Kite Auction is held giving members the opportunity to obtain rare and unusual kites at reasonable prices.

Other benefits of membership include free, or reduced, entry into selected kite festivals in the U.K., special parking arrangements where possible, discount - from 5% to 15% - on all kite purchases from the majority of kite retailers in the U.K.

A membership "year" runs for four issues of THE KITEFLIER, plus other occasional mailings. Each member receives a membership card entitling them to free entry and discount.

If you wish to join the Kite Society please fill in the form below and send it, with your payment, to the address shown. All cheques, postal orders and money orders should be made payable to The Kite Society and, for overseas members, should be drawable in the U.K. and be in sterling.

Membership Type	Fee
Individual	£5.00
Family - all members in the same household.	£7.00
Overseas - Europe and Surface mail.	£7.00
Overseas - Airmail	£10.00

=====
Name _____

Family Members

Address _____

Post Code _____

Telephone _____

(*) This is a RENEWAL / NEW MEMBERSHIP. (For renewals please give old membership number _____).

(*) New members please state which issue your membership should start with JANUARY / APRIL / JULY / OCTOBER.

Please send this form with payment to:

THE KITE SOCIETY of GREAT BRITAIN
31 GRANGE ROAD
ILFORD
ESSEX, IG1 1EU.

The information given above will be held on computer. The sole purpose of this is to send you your magazines and other occasional mailings from The Kite Society. (*) I have / do not have objections to the above information being held on computer.

(*) Delete those not applicable.

FLY THE PRO CHEETAH

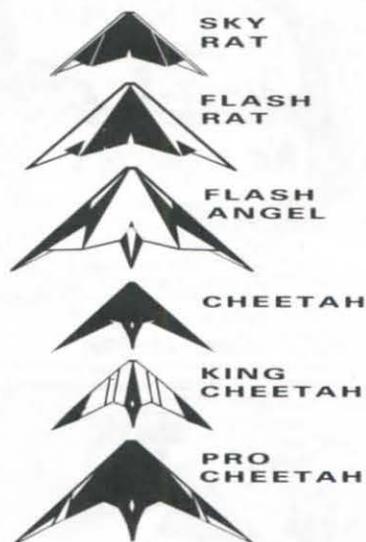


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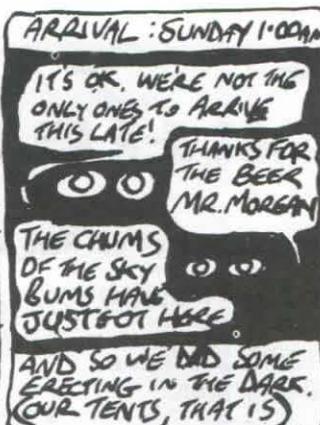
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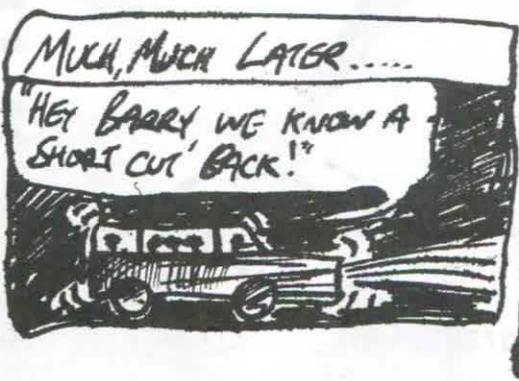




EUPHORIA SETS IN: DREWSKI ENTERS THE INDIAN FIGHTER COMPETITION, BUT HAS TO SNEAK OFF QUIETLY AS HE TREADS ON HIS REEL AND BREAKS IT BEFORE THE FIGHT BEGINS! OOPS!

PAT & RON, THE PATRON SAINTS OF KITEFLYERS ENABLE GROUCHO TO ENTER THE SCUNTHORPE ROK OPEN.

THE HOURS PASS: - MAD EDDY STRUTS HIS STUFF DRESSED IN HIS SOLDIER WINDSOCK. THEN IT'S TIME FOR A SHORT STROLL TO THE PUB. →



... THERE WON'T BE ANY BEER LEFT!

... JUST KEEP WALKING. MR. MORGAN IS ON OUR TAIL.

SUDDENLY THE PRESTIGE OF OUR ROMANOV CHALLENGE PLACING (AND THE EFFECTS OF THE BEER) HITS DREWSKI, THE SAMURI BANDIT..... INTERESTING - CAN BE DANGEROUS



Aerodyne

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BRIGHTON KITE FLYERS

Hi fellow kite nutters! No doubt you are enjoying this new kite season as much as I am so far. It's hardly been worth unpacking bags between Festivals! Hope you have been rooting for the local heros "TOP MARX" - "The Menacing BKF Team Rokkaku Crew" (It's not over yet)!

BRITISH GAS FLY

Despite the unfortunate lack of wind this event had an excellent turn out at Waterhall, Patcham. Many thanks to Colin Embers, who raised £500 from sponsorship, to Air Born Kites for raising a further £600 plus sponsorship to come, and also for making the event possible. Last, but by no means least thanks to Mrs. Hutt for re-donating her prize of a Pro-Stunt Kite for a further raffle at the Brighton Kite Festival. All monies to the International Spinal Research Trust.

WEYMOUTH INTERNATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL

Yes - the hard core have been on their travels yet again! Our first big event of the season - brilliant sunshine, good winds, and sand getting into everything. Initiation of "Groucho" (not Goucho or Karl Marx - Mr. King please note)! This being our new team rokkaku, designed and built by Mik Jennison and fought by him together with fellow team mates, Ray Oakhill, Andy Dalglish (the Samurai Bandit), and myself in true warrior style. We did not expect a placing out of twenty four, but gave our all, creating mayhem - wiping those seasoned fighters "Organised Chaos" was success enough for us (sorry boys)! Our team interview with the BBC was sadly wiped from their showing of Parallel 9 - another claim to fame on the cutting room floor!

SWINDON KITE FESTIVAL

Saturday proved to be a good waterproofing test for our tents - but good to chat to some familiar faces again in the meantime. Late afternoon provided excellent conditions for lofting the club mega Cody, BKF Stratoscoop and for a spot of stunt flying until the sun went down. The White Horse mob very kindly laid on an excellent barbie (veggie kebabs and all)! and an entertaining evening was spent watching Don Mock's slide show. Having managed to get Groucho well and truly "treed" and rescued in one piece (phew), Ray, Andy and I were astounded to find that we had scored sixth place in the UK Challenge event. Thanks to all the WHKF for a thoroughly enjoyable weekend - what a marvellous bunch (and they juggle too)!



BRIGHTON KITE FESTIVAL

What a scorching weekend - definitely in touch with the powers that be! An estimated turn out of 10,000 provided an excellent two days; and our extended car park still proved too small.

Competition Results

Altitude Challenge - Danny Steer
 Solo Rokkaku - Leo Steer
 Team Rokkaku - Sky Bums
 Beer Lifting - Peter Jones (25 cans)
 Indian Fighter (Entanglement) Challenge - Stafford Wallace
 Best Kite - Pete Swan's multicell tetrahedral
 Best at the Fest - Leo Steer
 Kiskadee Car Challenge - Sat - Simon Hill. Sun - Bill Andrews
 Brighton Kite Flyers Shield - Stafford Wallace
 This shield is awarded each year to the person or persons that we have made the biggest contribution to kiting throughout the year.



Thanks to Christine Simpson (Deputy Mayor of Brighton) for presenting the prizes, to Danny Steer for the free engraving of the trophies, to Pat and Ron for their donation of the Kiteability Tankard plus £5 voucher, and to Mik Jennison for the prize of a silk butterfly kite.

Yet more thanks go to all the BKF organisers and marshalls, who made the event possible and safe. To all those who donated their time and skills for the BKF Festival windsock. To Ron and Stafford for their generous demos and kite donations. To John Barker for his expert judging and BMISS demos, to George Webster and Chris Croft for their commentaries. To Peter Jones for returning my altitude challenge kite and lastly to Ray for entertaining us all on Saturday night by falling off his chair!

SCUNTHORPE CONVENTION

Well worth the long trek by Andy, Paul, Estelle and myself which was rewarded by a second placing in the UK Team Rokkaku event (definitely improving)! Saturday evenings short stroll (1 hour - still don't know who fed us that dud info!) to the local drinking establishment proved well worth while, much kite gassing and suspicious looks from the locals. Many thanks to Jim Rowlands, Gill and Jon Bloom, for their organisation and to Mad Eddy for entertaining us all.

Ciao! Toody Oakhill (Ed).



THE EDITOR · BKF · THE FLAT · 95 PRESTON DRIVE · BRIGHTON · EAST SUSSEX · BN1 6LD.

Kiting soars to greater heights

Flying kites
has undergone
a dramatic
revolution, reports
Caroline Mead

There is something exhilarating about being the master of a kite dancing and tugging in the wind, ducking and diving at your commands from the end of the lines on a blustery day. And it is one of those pastimes when parents and children to have fun together.

Kites have been flown in China for centuries in dramatic celebrations, and in India fighting kites, their lines sharpened with ground glass, battle to cut each other from the sky. In Europe during the first world war huge kites lifted men into the sky for reconnaissance.

A few years ago kite festivals in Britain attracted about 1,000 people. Today's bigger events can expect 10,000 as young and old are gripped by the hobby which some are turning into a sport.

Five-year-old Tamara Codman from Felixstowe, Suffolk, was flying her tiny plastic kite among a flock of weird and wonderful models at a festival on the South Downs near Brighton last month. Towering and flapping hundreds of feet above her against the blue sky was a huge face of Groucho Marx and a pentagon of billowing nylon which, in a strong wind, would take two adults wearing protective gloves to drag down again.

Yet Tamara's kite was just as much fun as far as she was concerned. "I just hold the line until it goes up then I pull at the line to get it higher, then I run backwards," she said. When she's older she would like a stunt kite.

Zoe Grise, aged ten, from Hove, Sussex, was busy keeping her little kite in the air in light winds. "Sometimes it's difficult to make it fly but then my dad helps me. It's really good fun," she said.

It is a mistake to buy your children a huge, expensive and powerful kite in the belief that you can control it while they "help". They will be bored stiff and, if the kite dives down to hit someone, injuries could result.

Kite-flying is not something small children should do without supervision, says Paul Thody, the owner of Air Born Kites in Brighton, one of about 30 similar shops to spring up around the country over recent years. "Kites have undergone a revolution," he says. "Instead of being made from a plastic bag and some bamboo sticks they are now much stronger and aerodynamic." The revolution has been possible by the use of Ripstop nylon, a fabric used for parachutes and sails, strong but light graphite for the frame, and lines lubricated to avoid knots.

The Stunt Delta kite has an 8ft span across its wings and looks like a technicolour swallow in flight, yet it weighs only 9½oz. The UFO kite is made from two silvery ovals set at right angles, which spin at high speed when airborne. The Gemini is a huge crisscross of multicoloured fabric, like a giant snowflake. There are many novelty

kites shaped like seagulls, bats, cats, snakes and octopuses.

So, with this bewildering array priced from £4 to £200, how does a child know which to choose?

No reputable dealer will sell a powerful kite to someone too young and inexperienced to control it. Children should be accompanied when making their purchase. The lighter and stronger a kite, the better it will perform, the smaller the turning circle, the tighter the turns. It will fly better in light winds than others. This is what makes the difference between a £4 and £200 model.

A four or five-year-old could start with a £4 Garfield or Mickey Mouse logo kite made from plastic, with just one line, which will flutter in the air but do little else. "Children like to run around with them but after the age of six they lose interest in a one-line kite very quickly, so it is better to start the older ones off with a little stunt kite," Mr Thody says.

Stunt kites have two lines so that they can loop, turn and dive. Plastic versions start at £6. A more sophisticated version in Ripstop nylon costs about £31 and would suit children of eight or more who have fallen in love with kite-flying. Once they really know how to handle a kite, the superb Stunt Deltas start at £33.

● *Air Born Kites, 97 Trafalgar Street, Brighton, West Sussex BN1 4ER (0273 676740). please send SAE for mail order details.*

● *The Kite Society, 31 Grange Road, Ilford, Essex, IG1 1EU (081-478 6668). Send SAE for a list of clubs.*

SUCCESSFUL FLYING

THE art of flying a kite is easy if you follow these guidelines:

- Small, inexpensive plastic kites, or home-made paper affairs, will tear easily, so do not try to fly them if it is blowing a gale.
- Kites for young children should have lines with a breaking strain of no more than about 40lb. This is a safety measure: if the wind is very strong, the line will break and the kite fall nearby. If the line did not break, the kite could be dragged out of its owner's hands and lost.
- Box kites can look very attractive but they do not perform as well as other designs.
- To get a kite into the air, first let all the line out. Then, while one person (the operator) holds the end of the line, the other should hold the kite at shoulder height, standing the same side as the line, with the wind at their back. As the operator gives the line a short, sharp tug, the kite should lift. Throwing kites into the air is the most common reason for them tumbling straight down.

- Fly kites in a wide, flat area away from trees and roads — and never near powerlines. In towns, winds will be more gusty and unpredictable than, for example, a beach, because they are channelled by buildings.
- By the age of 12, keen flyers can probably handle a single 6ft-wide Flexifoil under supervision. This model (about £60) is not powerful enough to drag the owner along.
- The law allows kites to be flown at up to 200ft. But some clubs have permission to fly kites at up to 1,500ft.
- To make a stunt kite perform, pull on the left line and it will turn to the left; keep on pulling and it will loop. Count how many loops you do, then do the same number in the opposite direction to avoid tangling the line.
- If your kite will not perform correctly, the bridling may need adjusting: this is where your lines meet the kite. Most have marks to show where the lines should be positioned.

If you've ever
longed to go fly a kite,
read the experts'
advice on how to
become an instant,
soaring success



ROMAN BUNDLE 25



The Journal of the Bearly Made It Skydive Squad. The International Brother and Sisterhood of Parachuting Flora and Fauna, and the U.K. Ted Devils. Govt Warning... Overdosing Mindless Drivel can lead to Addiction, Yoo Wot....

Soddin' 'ell, if our Masthead preamble gets any longer... As you can see, we thought it was about time our Female Fauna got top billing, along with the Males, after all, anything we can do they can just as well, if not better, with the added bonus that they can give the average Dropnik G.B.H. of the ear 'oles on the way down. The other thing you may have noticed is that we now aknowledge Parachuting Flora, Not that we've ever really excluded them, after all if anyone wants to stick a Chute on a Metricated bag of Spuds, thats fine by us.

No, the reason that we have included mention of Para Flora of a Soft Cuddley Toy persuasion is an enquiry we have had from Martin (Odd Socks)Lester, the man whose Sky Legs have Sky Danced their way into a million Hearts, as to wether or not a soft cuddley Kiwi Fruit, complete with Arms and Legs, that he owns is elligible for BMISS membership or not.

No probs Martin , come one come all(we wont Grass you up about your secret desire to be a Dropnik, you've finally seen the Light) All you have to remember is the immortal words of Theodore Edward O'Bear. " Stick a Chute on the Mother and watch the Sucker Fly"

Tunnel Vision ? Yep, its a fact, along with a proliferation of Ponytails, theres also a marked increase in Po Faced Kiters Tunnel Vision. As with most of these afflictions Tunnel Vision was predicted by that erstwhile Kite Sage, Old Tom in his Monumental Tome "Rustic Kite Kraft", wotcha mean you aint got a copy. In the chapter entitled "Kiting ailments and Remedies, its there for all to see. "Arrr Oyyy, Whaan Micklemaaas draw Noyy, then Po Faced doth Floy, be waarned.. For they see no woyder than a Wingspaan, 'an that aint a lart, boy, if yew arr troying to retreewe hay Farna downwind". Old Toms remedy for Tunnel Vision involves a Red Hot Poker and lots of Eye Watering, a full description of method you can read for yourselves in Old Toms book,

O.K., Yeah, we know what you're thinking, "Be kind to Stunters Year" did'nt last long. no being unkind to you know who, could'nt be further fom our minds, its just that along with other Kiting ailments, such as Flush Alopecia, which is caused by a blow to the head from a Totalling Fauna, Tunnel Vision, Stunters for the suffering of, must be publicised.

The Piece about the Titanic Bears was supplied by Dropnik Slater who pinched it from the Shropshire Star. Cant see no mention of Parachutes, but we include it for what its worth. Dropnik Slater says that for the Original Bear, it must have been a Bummer having a Pic-nic on an Iceberg (Numb Bum?) its also obvious that when the Shipwent down, they did'nt shout "Women and Bears First.

Owd Lad, the BMISS chief Correspondant from " OOP NORTH" suggests a modification for BMISS/IBSPFF/Stunters, Joint code of Conduct. Dont do Totals on their heads whilst they are Practising, it could ruin their concentration. Wait for the Competition to take place.

Hello, Capstone Park Ron (an R.C, freind) who says we cant give you, Doodle Bugs, a 90ft Dene Hole, a Heat Wave with little Wind and a nice little Kite Fest a mention, nuff said ???????

Titanic teddies all shipshape



The sinking of the Titanic was no picnic but one teddy bear managed to get himself into the history books by being the only bear to survive it.

A special replica bear has been made by the Ironbridge toy firm, Merrythought, to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the shipwreck on April 12.

Mr Oliver Holmes, proprietor of the company, said: "The original teddy is now in the Ribchester Museum of Childhood, Lancashire.

"But we have decided to make a limited edition of 5,000 special Titanic teddy bears.

"The original bear was found sticking out of the pocket of restaurant manager Gaspare Luigi Gatti, who drowned when the liner sank on her maiden voyage but the bear was rescued and returned to his widow.

"He was the only bear recovered from the water and we have closely modelled our bears on him," he said.

Mr Holmes said the new bears will carry a White Star Line ticket pinned to their chests and would be similar to the original in many ways.

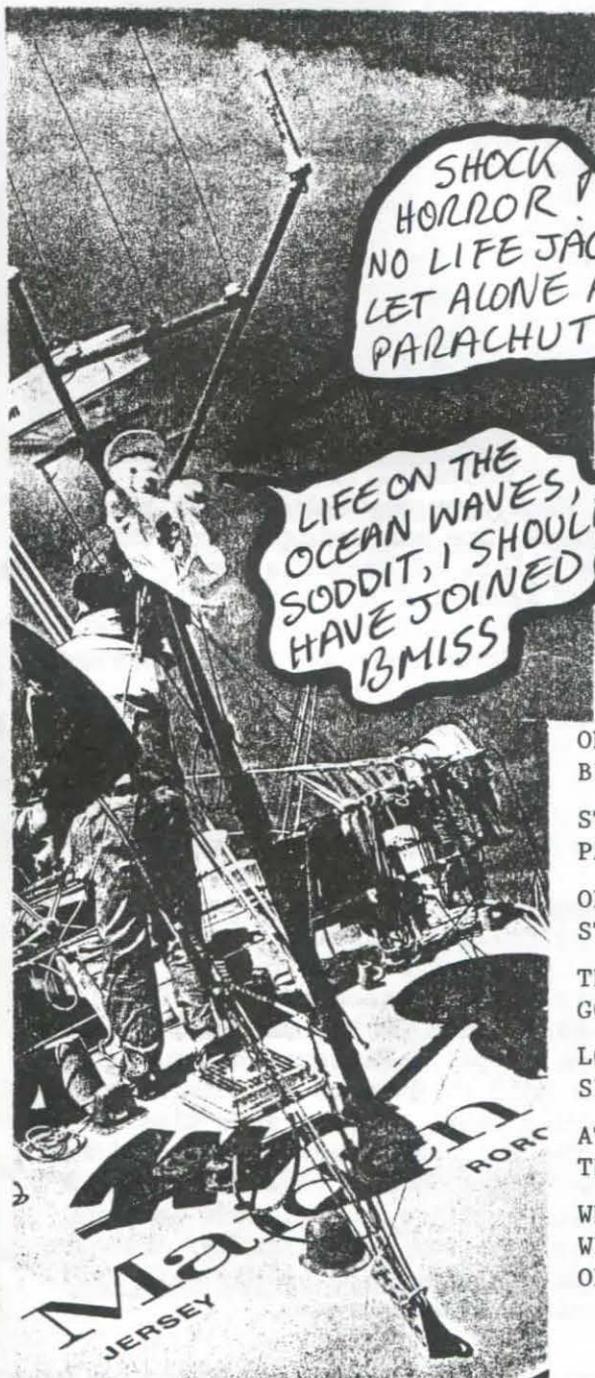
We were going to tell you about a Relatively new BMISS Branch who are based in the Hayes area, that is we still are, but with a quick name change, we'll now have to get used to "The Mini Skydivers" They were originally known as the "Mini Suicide Squad", but after an altercation at Weymouth, when a Six Year old told Dropnik Don Newing in no uncertain terms that he would not let Don drop his Teddybear as the bear was 'nt into Suicide, Don decided that discretion was the better part of valour, hence we now have "The Mini Skydivers"

So its a big Hello to Bubba, Dwaine (sic) Clive, Rolly, C.J., Clara and Edd and lots more after recent Boot sales. Hey Don, how many did you drop at Capstone? 300 odd, no wonder you had a sweat on.

Further to our Children in Need report in last R.C. Dropnik Adams tells us that the Flaudits for raising all that Dosh, should go to Dropniks Les Taylor and Pete Hill. Glad to put the record straight Guys, and well done for all your effort.

It would appear that new H.Q. mob member Baron (Ha) Mauser is no more an Aristo than Rastachat. He's a Fleb, like the rest of us. His real name is Rheinmetall Borsig, but he thought that Baron Mauser was Posher. wot a Poser. Whilst we're on about names, we can tell you some more about how H.Q. mob member "Walla, Walla, Cats Meat" got his name. This woebegone Bear was made from a Minicraft Sew Yourself Kit. This poor bear looks as if he was sewn together with a 7lb Lump Hammer and a Brick Bolster, so you instantly know who was responsible, yep the BOF strikes again.

Some unkind Soul, on seeing this bear for the first time said "Gordon Bennett, that looks like something the Cat dragged in, Cats Meat? Hence the name "Walla, Walla Cats Meat, Eat Brown Bread, Ever seen a Donkey Drop Down Dead...." 'kin Ada.



2,000ft plunge miracle

A TRAINEE skydiver whose chutes failed to open escaped death yesterday when he landed in the sea. Navy seaman Joe Dutton, 26, suffered only minor back injuries after plunging 2,000ft into Jervis Bay, on the coast south of Sydney, Australia.

Below, is a letter from one of our members who, up until the Swindon Fest, did't have a name (he don't 'arf Type good) What the letter does nt tell you is the funny part of it. When Dropnik Billings dropped the Bear, he thought that he had dropped him into some long Grass, so Steve spent the best part of an hour Thrashing around in said Grass whilst.... anyway read the letter.

"The Tale of a Twig"

ON SUNDAY 10 MAY I WENT WITH MY OWNER STEPHEN (DROPNIK) BILLINGS TO THE SWINDON KITE FESTIVAL.

STEPHEN SAID IT WAS OKAY FOR ME TO MAKE MY SECOND PARACHUTE JUMP!!

OFF I WENT.....UP.....UP.....AND FINALLY AWAY..... STRAIGHT INTO A TREE!!!!!!

THERE I STAYED, AND SAW MOST OF THE FESTIVAL FROM A VERY GOOD VANTAGE POINT.

LOTS OF OTHER BEARS WERE PARACHUTING ABOUT, BUT NONE WERE SEEING THE FESTIVAL AS GOOD AS ME.

AT LAST SOMEONE GOT ME DOWN AND STEPHEN COLLECTED ME FROM THE 'PA' VAN.

WHEN SOMEONE ASKED MY NAME (THE B.O.F) SAID.."TWIG"..... WELL WHAT ELSE WOULD YOU CALL A BEAR WHO WAS ALMOST PART OF A TREE.

The Brain Dead B.O.F. cant remember who supplied the Sailor Bear Pic, wot a Wally.....

We have had another missive from Lord Colin of Checkley, aka Howling Mad, From his letter it would appear that the Medieval Combat Society wer'nt offering out the BMISS, its just that the BOF as usual had got the wrong end of the stick. Lord Clin goes on to tell us of a Paddington Bear charity collecting box which he and his mob had placed outside a local Hostelry, being stolen by some Low Life Tow Rags. However the Medieval Combat Society soon replaced it with a Custom Armoured Knight made by Lord Colin. Lets hope that this box is'nt lifted.

Lord colin also asks if we would give a mention to Coggers, a Pink Dragon of a soft cuddley per - Erstwhile Alcoholic, Coggers also Colin, but we're not too sure if he chuting as well. By the time you Lord Colin, his Kites, Para Fauna , Girlfreind and as much Dosh as they hands on will have departed for the Spain, being fed up to the back Teeth his Chainmail going Rusty, and also Brownd off with Kiting in the Winter, and so he says, of Kiting in our Summer, when the Rain is just a touch warmer.

suasion. Apart from being an goes Paragliding with Lord also does read Combat can lay South with Parathis Gear, their of



Pic of Lord Colin in his Medieval Getup, complete with Sword, with which he would like to Smite those Tow Rags

For this Chute /Pack Combination a Fauna/Flora of approx 8oz/ 250gms will give a nice descent speed, lighter F/F will give lots of drift so be prepared for a chase.

Piece of washup liquid bottle goes here. Three Eyelet are Fixed at X with 2inch/ 12mm loop of line at A

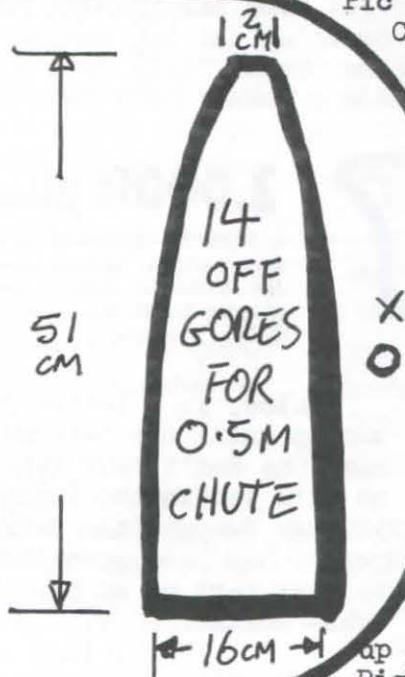
Gore sizes given include 1cm hem all round Chute needs 14 shroud lines 90 cm or 36 inches long approx.

As with every-thing BMISS use lots of MkI Eyeball Engineering



← 0.5m → APPROX

i.e. if it looks right then it probably is right The bottom line is, Fly Kites, Drop Fauna Have FUN.



Right, wot you have here is a full size Half Pattern for a Pack suitable for a 14 Gore 20 Inch/ 0.5 metre Parachute. The size of this Pack combined with a chute made from Unproofed Ripstop leads to a very tightly stuffed Pack which literally Explodes when the Pin is pulled..

The Pattern should be transferred to thick Cardboard or Hardboard for Hotcutting . The pack is made as follows .First a piece of Ripstop large enough to contain the Pattern is placed on your cutting Surface (Plate Glass is best) on top of this place a piece of Heavy Gauge Polythene (or Two average Carrier Bags) then on top of the Polythene place another piece of Ripstop. Finally place Pattern on top of the Sandwich, with a heavyish weight to hold it down as the Sandwich dont arf Skid about. Hotcut with a Soldering Iron , taking your time as you have quite a lot to cut and weld . The resultant Pack can be stitched around the edge and stiffened in the centre with a piece of the trusty old wash up liquid bottle. Unproofed Ripstop not available in your Locality ? not to worry, use Proofed or whatever is available. Make the Chute first, then increase size of pattern via paper and sticky tape until you get a good fit, you will need only a minimal size increase.



MKF EXTRA



Congratulations

Well! What can I say!!!!!!!

Don Eccleston, Allan and Lesley Gilbert, trekked off to Malaysia at the end of May. There was some sort of international festival going on (not quite sure what though(IM)) and they put on such an impressive display that they won top prize for the Best International Display!!!!!!

If that isn't like taking coals to Newcastle then what is?

And.....

Flight-FX have become the British National Stunt Team 1992, this means that they will be going to Japan to represent the UK in the World Cup.

And.....

Stafford Wallace is off to some festivals in Chicago.

I think that the Midlands Kite Fliers should change their name to :-

Midlands Kite Fliers International.

If you wish to write to the MKF then address your letters to:-

Allan & Lesley Gilbert
26 Evesham Road
Leicester LE3 2BD

Big Ron Replies!!!

I must say I was pleased to see Alan Gilbert's article, in the April issue of 'The Kiteflier', about my/his/our? 'Ooh-me-belly' Bird Kite and, as he quite rightly said, I was equally pleased to receive from him a coloured photograph showing it in flight (the proper way up that is). I had it enlarged and framed and it now stands on my mantleshelf for all my visitors to see. As he also said, I got the idea from the little tale told to me by my dear old Dad who, judging from the stories he used to tell me, saw quite a lot of peculiar things like that in his travels. I spent hours trying to draw the face but couldn't get the necessary 'pained' expression on it so, as Allan also said, I asked a workmate, who was something of a cartoonist, to draw the bird for me. He drew it freehand, of course, and I had to 'straighten' it up to ensure both sides of the centre line were equal. Luckily I worked nights, all alone, (except for the guests up on the landings) in a place where there was a large tabletennis table at my disposal and I was able to take all the bits and pieces to work with me, mark out the pattern on the ripstop, cut it to the various shapes and stick them together with 'Prittstick'. Wonderful stuff that. You can stick all the bits together and, after a few minutes, you can roll your ripstop up and it will hold indefinitely. You can stitch through it without any problems but, if you find you've done something wrong, it will pull apart without any difficulties. I couldn't finish it all in one night because, unlike the words of a song which was quite popular a few years ago, I had no-one to 'help me make it through the night'. I did have an offer of help from a few of the guests but that presented a few problems not the least of which was the fact that there wasn't any handles on the inside of their room doors. But I struggled manfully on and, after a week or so, got it finished. Then to the field for it's maiden flight.

It was in November, we had had lots of rain and it was rather cold. It was also rather muddy! Nevertheless, undaunted, I drove in and parked the car and proceeded to launch 'Ooh-me-belly'. Well, as anyone who knows me will tell you, I am never to blame! It is always somebody, or something else's fault. In this case it was the muddy conditions. Whilst I was fitting the spars etc, 'Ooh-me-belly' picked up a large blob of mud on the back of his head and, because the front of the kite is always facing the flyer, I didn't notice it. Consequently, every time I launched him, he would fly up so high and then, with the mud on his head making him top-heavy, he would turn-turtle and plummet straight down again head first. I kept trying to encourage him with words (and it is obvious from what he said in Allan's article that he misunderstood me here) such as 'Oh darn it', 'Oh blow it', 'Oh good heavens above', 'Oh to heaven with it' and, to my car when I noticed it had sunk down to the axles in the mud, 'Oh you naughty little car', but it didn't do any good at all. Of course the reason was, as I said, the mud stuck on the back of his head which I hadn't noticed and he didn't have the common decency to tell me about! I believe I've told you all how helpful my children can be in times like these and this was no exception. Of course they're all grown up with children of their own now who seem to have inherited their parents helpfulness and sense of humour.

Two of my daughters, complete with husbands and grandchildren, came to visit me last Saturday and one of them, looking at the photograph on the mantleshelf, said that the reason it wouldn't fly was because it had a big head and a big belly. When I asked her what that had to do with it, she said - "Well Dad, you've got a big head and a big bell and you can't fly either!" Of course that started them all off and, before long, they were back to the subject of model ships with Dawn, my eldest Grandchild (no, Allan not yet. My first GREAT-Grandchild isn't due until next week) asking her Mother to tell her about the time Grampy had to fit a periscope to the top of the mainmast of a sailing ship so that the Captain could see where to steer his ship. In actual fact I didn't have time to fit anything but to know how kids like to exaggerate things. I put her on the water with a rather strong wind blowing and she went like a 'bomb' for the first two hundred yards.

Unfortunately the Captain had, unbeknown to me, been taking the odd sip or two from the Rum barrel and, in his drunken stupor, pulled her hard over to port (to the left for the landlubbers among you) without trimming sail accordingly and we went straight over on her beam-ends. The last I saw of her she was going down by the head with her stern stuck up in the air in what I'm still certain, to this day, was a deliberate gesture. Of course, all of this was accompanied by titters and giggles from four dear little tings behind my back which, by the time we had got to last Saturday afternoon, had swollen to hoots of raucous laughter. I still can't figure out why though because it wasn't my fault. If the Captain had stayed sober it wouldn't have happened! Is there anyone out there who knows a 'hard-hat' diver who would be prepared to go down to 600 feet to recover a 2 foot long model of the Cutty Sark which sank with all hands, including her drunken Skipper, off the coast of OXFORD about 30 years ago? No? Ah well, nevermind. At least I was able to find a 'soft-hat' kiter who was prepared to recover an 'Ooh-me-belly' Bird Kite which kept going down by the head, every time I tried to fly it, about 3 years ago.

I must say I liked Allan's line - 'Ron set to and made a MAGNIFICENT copy! I've always wanted to do something MAGNIFICENT. For years I've sat here hoping to hear Yul Brynner knocking on my door to ask me to join his 'Magnificent Seven' and help him fight the Bandits but it's not to be it seems. Mind you there was a bloke knocked on my door once who asked me (well actually it was more like TOLD me) to join his Magnificent Seven (Hundred Thousand) to help him fight some bandits. I can't remember his name but I think it was Monty something or other.

Unfortunately there were no cameramen there to record my Magnificent efforts including the first ever 'four-mile minute' which I achieved (with the greatest ease I might add) when I found out that some rotten so-and-so had supplied the bandits with REAL bullets.

As for the obscurity of the story of this kite and how it came to pass into Allan's keeping, I will explain. A year or so ago I had to give up active kite-flying for health reasons -

'... And you who walk this way today
Shed not a tear of sorrow
My life was sweeter yesterday
Than your's will be tomorrow ...'

- and with the kind help of Derek Kuhn, of the Midland Kitefliers, all my kites etc, passed to the Group to be broken up into small lots and sold to the Group members for a nominal sum. One of the lots obviously included the 'Ooh-me-belly' kite and Allan just happened to be the unfortunate who got lumbered with it. Either that or he was wearing rose-coloured glasses at the time. There is, however, one thing about it Allan and that is that, if you do fly it at this year's Festivals, it will be the only one of it's kind in the air. But please get it into the air as quickly as possible so that no-one gets the opportunity to notice that, unlike all my other deeds, my 'stitching' isn't quite as Magnificent as I would like to think it is!

And that leaves me with but on other thing to say and that is, the very best of luck to all Kiters and I hope you all enjoy your kiting in the future as much as I have in the past.

RON REEVE

Stafford Castle June 7th

The weather on Sunday morning was a lot better than the weather that we had been having all week. It was going to be our second display at Stafford Castle, the first one went very well, so much so that we were invited back for a second.

The castle is set on a hill (now there's a novelty) and it is not exactly the 'perfect' flying site. However, due to the layout of the surrounding hillock it is an ideal place for members of the public to get a good viewpoint.

When I arrived at the castle there was a lot of kites in the air. What was nice about this one fact is that the kite fliers were mostly children who had come along for a day out, and not the members of the club. Don pointed me in the direction of the microphone (don't know why) and I wandered over, switched it on and ...well I didn't quite feel up to it...yet (went to bed at 4 a.m.) and promptly switched it off and had half an hour to recompose (or is that decompose?). Don, Allan and Lesley were there along with a few members of the club. After about an hour or so the numbers had quadrupled and this seems to be the norm for the day. Bob Pirron and a few friends turned up from the Great Ouse kitefliers, Stafford Wallace and Hilary turned up and started flying their indian fighters. Allan and Lesley got up as much as they could and Steve Billings was boss man of the parachuting teddy bears.

Don Eccleston was dressed in a beard and white coat with a flat hat, at first I thought he was in disguise but apparently, he was 'Kite Doctor' for the day. Martin and Carol Thomas turned up as they were staying with BT for the weekend. The weather remained sunny all day and this meant that both kite fliers and public had a bostin time.

Flight-FX attempted a fly around but had a few problems with lack of both wind and space, however, the bit they did do certainly impressed the spectators. Stafford and his wife had a grudge fight with the indian fighters, and guess what!!!! Hilary won BOTH times (she'll kill me for this). Martin Thomas was volunteered for the ritual Mad John Knocks A Can Off Your Head display, his bum twitched a bit but I think he was relieved when the can was eventually knocked off (does this scan right?) .

All in all we had one helluva day and it proved very popular with the public and event organisers alike.

We have since heard that there was in excess of two thousand people there and that is the most amount they have ever had at the castle for an event, even a Shaksperian outdoor play.

It is events like this that make kite flying so enjoyable, but it can't be done without the members support.

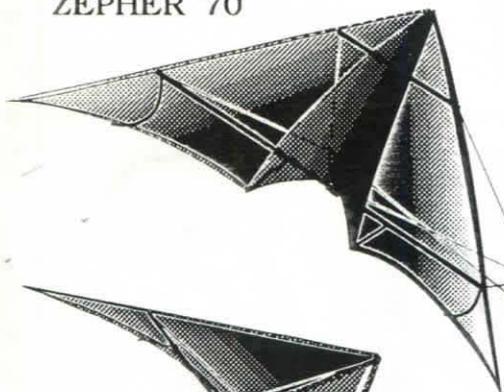
So Support Your Local Club.

Ian Meredith (The Walking Talking Man.)

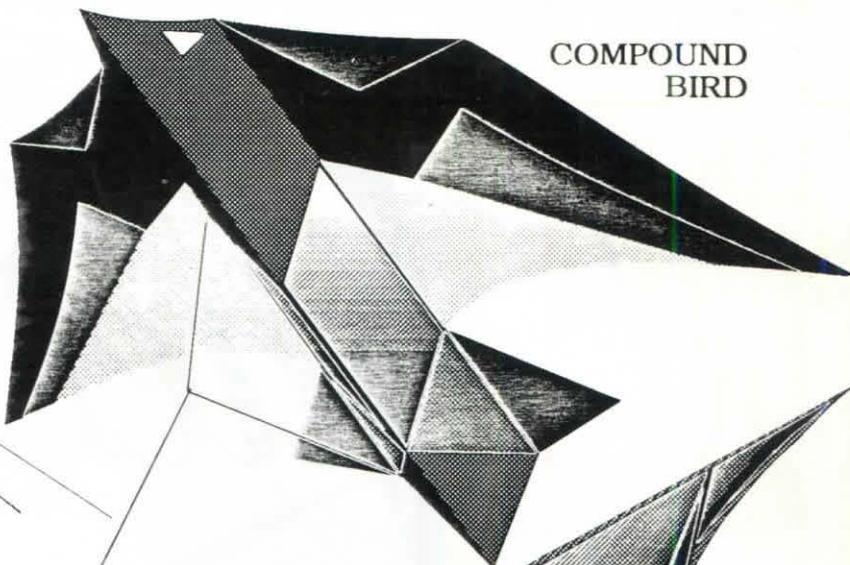
Air~Crafts

Kites For Sport

ZEPHER 70



COMPOUND BIRD



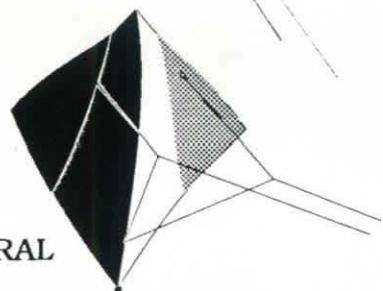
ZONDA 54



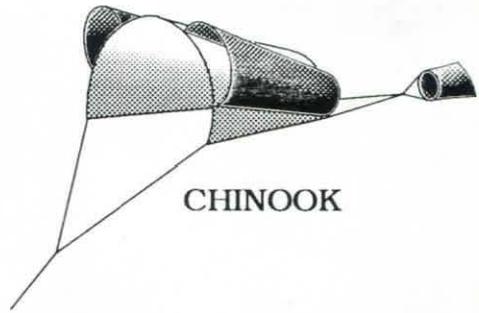
ZONDA 70



MISTRAL



CHINOOK



NEW KITES FOR '92

Each kite is made from top quality rip-stop nylon with eyelets and dacron reinforcing, where needed, to ensure a long life.

To bring you kites that fly superbly and look great in the sky, every design has passed our rigorous test programme.

ZEPHER 70 790 x 1780mm
A large wing area medium-sized stunt kite. Ideal for team flying as it 'tracks' beautifully, allowing smooth ground passes, tip work and precision manoeuvres. Good for light winds.

COMPOUND BIRD 1300 x 2300mm
A single line performance kite for the enthusiast. Capable of flight in the lightest breeze, easily soaring to great heights. A BIG colourful kite which looks spectacular.

ZONDA 54 600 x 1400mm
A great 'trainer' stunt kite (also ideal for stacking). Having less pull than its big brother makes it more manageable for the lighter person. Includes line & handles.

ZONDA 70 790 x 1780mm
A competition stunt kite, ideal for 'open class' events. Sharp turns and crisp manoeuvres put this kite in the lead. Will withstand winds up to 35mph! However, you and your lines may not.

MISTRAL 770 x 745mm
A great dual line stunter for fun flying. Docile in light winds, sparkling in medium and frantic in strong. Complete with lines, handles and tail.

CHINOOK 485 x 775mm
A single line soft kite without spars. Completely packs away, including handle and line, into its own tail bag. Ideal for all ages. A firm favourite with children.

Air~Crafts 0604-863571

The Kite Store

The Kite Store

48 Neal Street London WC2H 9PA

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