

# THE KITEFLIER

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NEWSLETTER  
OF  
THE KITE SOCIETY OF GREAT  
BRITAIN



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# EDITORIAL

Dear Reader,

## Weymouth Badges

For those of you who have expressed an interest in the Badges for the 1995 Weymouth Kite Festival - bad news. Due to the supplier making a complete mess of the order, and the order getting lost, no badges are available for this event. Weymouth & Portland Council apologise for any disappointment caused.

## Convention

We hope that many of our members will attend this years convention at Coventry which promises to be a good one. Please note that we have decided not to charge a fee for this event - it's free! So we look forward to seeing many of you there. Further details can be found on page 22.

Normally we like to have people trading during the Kite Society Convention and have quite recently introduced the idea of allowing individuals to trade. Unfortunately the agreement with the hotel does not allow ANY trading to go on. (We are lucky that they allow the auction to happen).

## Rokkaku Challenge

We would like to thank Ray Oakhill for producing a trophy for the Individual Rokkaku Challenge overall winner. It is something that has been missing and has nothing to do with Ray winning last year!! Remember the final heats are at Portsmouth this year.

## Gill and Jon Bloom

P.S. You might notice something different about this

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### Front Cover Photo

**The photos on the front cover are two of Kevin Shannon's Rokkakus as seen at Weymouth this year.**

# Letters

## From Ray Oakhill

I would like to thank most sincerely, the kite flier at the Swindon festival, who rescued my rainbow multisled kite after it must have taken off spontaneously from the ground and broke away. Or was it cut by another kite line? Whatever happened, I thought that it was safe on the ground, but then I have learned another lesson. The kite was securely rolled up with the bridle plaited and tied to the stake when I returned, so was obviously retrieved by an expert.

Do come and tell me what happened at the next festival. Thanks again.

## From Colin Le Cornu

To date this year I have attended two festivals namely Swindon (Sunday) and Bath (Saturday) and have encountered the same problem at both as I have experienced at events attended during previous years. I am referring to the encroachment into the single line flying areas by multi-line flyers who seem to show little or no consideration for the requirements of single line flyers. This doesn't seem to be a problem in the multi-line areas. Don't get me wrong, I fly both single and twin line kites but only in the areas specified and am getting a little cheesed off having 2 and 4 line kites skimming my head when in the single line area.

The culprits appear to be both the youngster, not unnaturally keen to try out his/her new stunter, and the more experienced flyer who should know better.

Will all event organisers please take heed of my comments and at risk of stating the obvious, I have taken the liberty of making a few suggestions with the intention of enabling things to run more smoothly and to prevent frayed tempers and arguments.

1) Clearly identify both single and multi-line flying areas so that even a casual visitor is fully aware of them. There always seems to be far too few signs in evidence.

2) Regularly patrol the site to ensure that the rules are being obeyed and to explain to offenders the need for segregation.

3) Don't just rely on tannoy announcements, people either ignore them or simply just don't hear them. Also comments such as the "bottom end of the site" or "the area on my left is reserved for such-and-such" are meaningless, as which end of a site is the

"bottom end"? Likewise the term "on my left" is pointless when the person on the tannoy is usually out of sight of most people at an event and could easily have turned around by the time somebody has spotted them.

Please don't take this as a general criticism of all festivals as I have usually enjoyed the 3 or 4 which I manage to attend each year and appreciate the great deal of effort required to put on an event but I tend to feel that the purely recreational flyer is often disregarded at the expense of the various competitions taking place.

## From Michael Smith

I am afraid I find The Kiteflier to be unfair towards kite flying. Kite flying needs to shed its old single line image and take on an image of youth pushing forward delta competition flying and power kiting - putting kiting in line with sports such as snowboarding and surfing.

I am sixteen year of age and started flying two years ago. I hold a job in a kite shop, fly at experienced level. I power kite with a buggy and have great fun. When I go to college and tell people I fly kites they laugh not knowing what can be done with kites. I think it is your duty as the UK's number one kite information source to push kiting to be fun and a youth thing.

I think your world cup review was good and your trick list was great, but leave out all the sad stuff please. A story using kite names is rubbish. Please help to show what kite flying

is about. Show them it is serious and push the SPORT on. May be one day I will walk into college, say I fly kites and get a wow.

## From Thelma Davidson

How about this for a coincidence? Last year my husband and I went on a world trip to celebrate our 35th wedding anniversary. In Greymouth, South Island, New Zealand we spent ages whilst Roger attended a stamp fair. Later that day in Hanmer Springs he spies the stamp chap again.

"What are you doing here?" he asks. "Wasn't me! Wasn't there! T'was someone else!" was the answer from the doppelganger.

Well, Tom and Noela Johnson introduced

themselves and within 20 minutes had invited us to stay with them in Napier, North Island, later in our tour. Of course we wouldn't dream of taking them up on their kind offer. But in North Island, we were old, miserable, wet, fed up and far from home, so we made a tentative phone call very carefully worded to see if they meant their very generous offer.

They did. They welcomed us they took us everywhere, shared their home, their pets, their town, their country with us. It was something, And no, they would never be coming to England, let alone the Isle of Man. But this year (after we had had a holiday in "Kite Paradise", Canary Isles) life changed for them and here they are and we are delighted to share our home, our town and our country with them and the sun is shining. So we took a picnic out yesterday and I asked with slight embarrassment if they would mind if I tried out my new kite.

Of course they didn't. Their daughter and son-in-law, Anne and Peter Whitehead, are Drachen Magazin International as advertised in the Kiteflier!!

## From Jenny Purnell

I attended this year's kite festival at Weymouth and had a really good time sitting on the prom watching the kites in the air and the antics of my friends on the beach. "Why was she just watching?", I hear you ask. Well, I am a full time wheelchair user and cannot drive my chair onto the sand at Weymouth as it is too soft and deep. Many kite fliers saw my plight and were quite upset about it. It was suggested that I write to the local council asking if they could find a solution to my problem by next year.

I thought you may like to know that I contacted Weymouth Council and they replied with the news that special attachments allowing wheelchairs to be moved across sand on any beach are being tested this summer and should be available from next Easter. So, all being well I will be able to get onto the beach next year and tangle my kite lines with the rest of you!

Thankyou to everyone who showed such kindness and concern and helped me not to feel too left out.

# Teddy Dropper

I would like to offer my home made teddy-launcher which weighs in at under 1.5oz. Parts to make it are as follows:

Spine of carbon tube, 16cms x 5mm.

Piston tubes, both 4mm, and 4cms and 3cms long respectively.

Piston of 2mm solid fibreglass or carbon fibre, 14ms long.

Cut up match sticks to serve as spacer pieces to permit free travel of Trigger beneath spine.

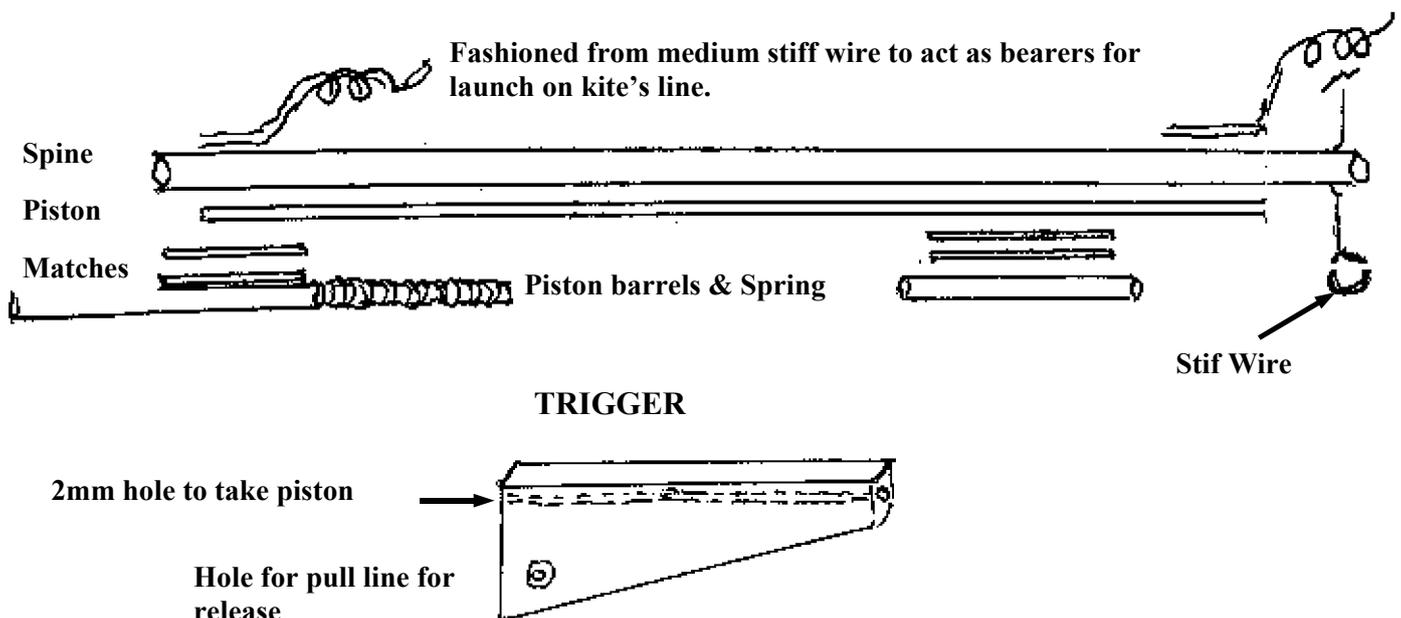
Releasing trigger to activate the withdrawal of the piston when pulled upon by the pull line by the ground control.

Stiffish Wire. Standing off below the front end of the spine. For attaching the hoist-line, which leads into the pivot set in the derrick attached above on the kite line, before returning to the ground control for pulling on to raise the whole launcher.

Less stiff wire perhaps but still somewhat springy is preferred. Secured to each end of the spine - by wound-on thin wire and Araldite then, using a 6mm spar merely as a form to shape it on, make three coils around the spar before leading the end away at an angle to clear line. Discarding spar used as form, then pull slightly apart the coils. These two, when attached will be the suspension for the launcher. Attachment is achieved by getting kite up perhaps 50' then temporarily anchoring it. Then with the slack line behind the anchor, attach the two end-eyes of the Derrick to the kite line. Before paying out much more line, lay the slack line into the wire coils, just like twisting line into the grooves around a wood-screw. When both are attached, the line will allow, when straight, a free travel along it by the launcher. Now, attach the hoist-line to front of launcher and do this after you have threaded the end through the pivot of the derrick with the remainder of the hoist-line remaining free to unravel but with ground-end secured. Next, attach the return pull line to the lower and back-end of the trigger, for operating teddie's release, keeping free end secure at ground control.

Coil spring, see \* below.

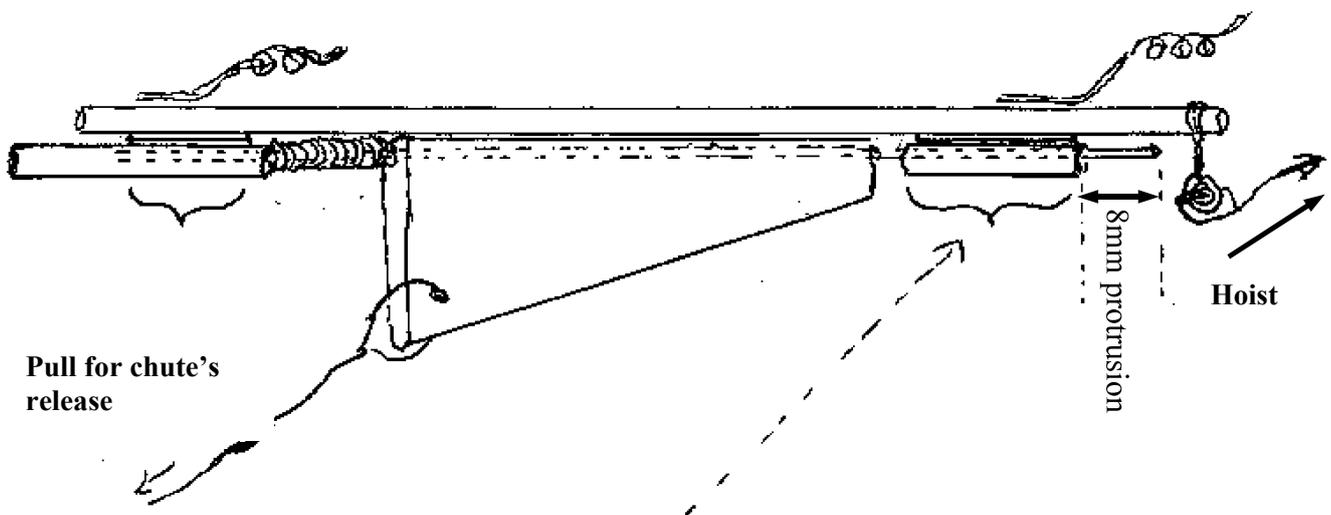
For Derrick. I made mine of two pieces of 2mm solid fibreglass spar, each 14.5" long, and to each end I attached an aluminium ring 1/2 inch diameter by means of wire and Araldite - place them at right-angles to the line of the kite's line; and these will be attached to kite's line by Larks head knots. At the inner



# Teddy Dropper

angle you will have to fashion a roller for your hoist line to run around, not less than 3/4" diameter to reduce friction. What you make this of will depend upon the materials to hand and your ingenuity. Finish off the Araldite with a second coat to ensure smooth aerodynamic outline. My trigger was made from an offcut left behind by workmen installing UPVC windows, but DO NOTE; 1) Piston must be glued when inserting into trigger, and 2) Do not use any glue until all is assembled correctly, i.e. both piston's barrels and piston and trigger in place at same time.

(\*) My coil spring is a salvaged & recycled spring from the interior of a disposable biro pen, a use Mr Biro could never have dreamed of, but is adequate for the job. You will have to look around for one to fit loosely over the 2mm piston. NB After drilling trigger but before assembly round off all edges of

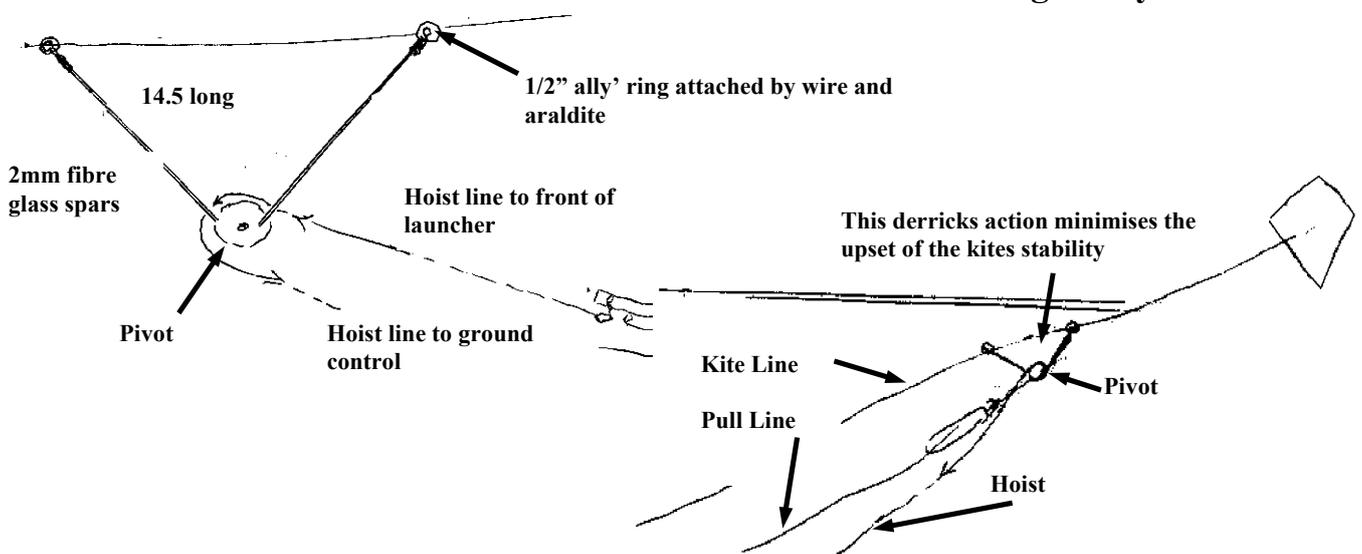


trigger both for clearance and aerodynamics.

Where the inverted bracket is shown in sketch, use araldite and wind around tightly with thin wire (fuse wire will do), then wire wind to hold the launch bearers above the spine. When all dry add liberal coat of araldite to both strengthen the unit and make for least wind resistance. Do make sure to round off the

Kite line attached by larks heads

**Doug Henly**



# Sandpiper 95

**A CHAIN WITH NO NAME**  
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The **SANDPIPER '95** holds the World Record for Indoor Kite Flying at 2 hours and 2 minutes. The record was set by designer Chris Matheson flying an Ultra-Light Sandpiper '95.

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**WAY ON HIGH KITES**  
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Hereford. HR1 2LR  
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# More Cheap Kites!

With reference to the article on Cheap Kites in the April Edition of the Kiteflier, from Paul & Helene Morgan, may I add my observations.

I was pleased to see the article which finally put into print the feeling of many kite fliers, that the selling of cheaply made (and poorly designed) kites does nothing to improve the perception of our sport. We all know that for many years, the traditional seaside stall kite has had a somewhat shaky reputation, and although this has not changed in recent times, the selling of these inferior kites by otherwise reputable dealers poses a more insidious threat. I should say at this point that I have no desire to remove these playthings from the marketplace, for I like many others I am sure, look on them with a certain amount of fondness, having run around for hours with one at every summer holiday during my early years.

I have to say however, that I agree totally with the feelings of Paul & Helene Morgan when they assess that, in an attempt to capture the lower end of the kite market, traders are increasingly tending towards the sale of this type of unproven kite, with all the associated problems.

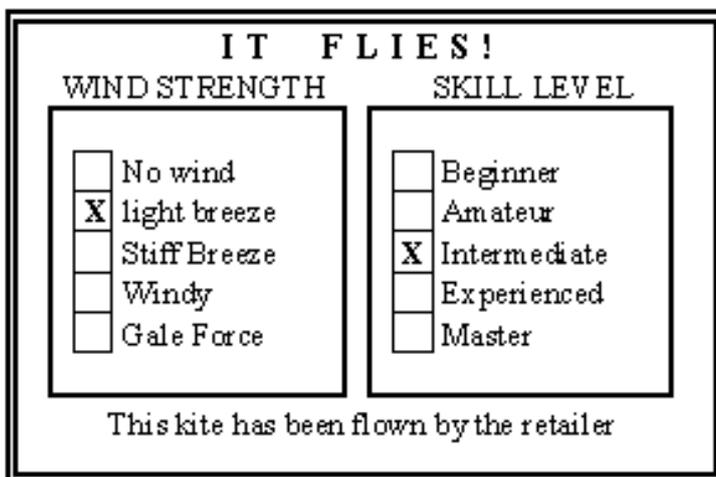
Which brings me to my main point: if Paul & Helene can identify as traders themselves, this type of "Dodo" kite (Dodo's didn't fly), then surely the rest of the trade can do likewise, and raise themselves above this fast-buck mentality. Most traders I meet do an excellent job of selling bigger kites, so why not apply this practice uniformly?

Why not as professional trades people, consider a means of certifying and insuring to the public that the kites you sell will fly? You all fly kites anyway, don't you? So for a few minutes, put the Strangers and Shurikens away, and fly one of all the kites you sell. At least you will be able to sympathise with the prospective buyer when they fail to launch the kite first time. Perhaps you might even be able to help when they bring it back or look around the festival longingly hoping that someone will take pity on them and lend a hand. Personally, I love to talk to people about kites, but explaining for the *n*th time that a tiny glass-fibre diamond kite with a lead-weighted tail won't fly in today's light breeze, gets a little wearing.

All I'm asking I suppose is for the trade to act a little responsibly, and to sell a pastime not just a product. It only takes one person to start this trend, and Paul & Helene have shown a good lead to follow already. Surely if parts of the trade are made up of a chains, it won't be long before a whole lot more retailers follow. Remember, the British Standards Institute use a Kite Mark as a sign of quality.

## ALAN POXON

Would you consider placing one of these on every kite you sell? It doesn't even have to be as complicated, just certify the thing in the bag flies. We dare you! Just don't put BEGINNER on a Wild Thang!



# Low Wind Indoor and 3D Flying

In my last introduction I said about watching the wind, and watching how this affects your kite. In this issue I want you to be able to fly in as low wind as possible or indoors.

**Equipment** In the last four years we, as flyers, have been lucky to be able to readily obtain carbon fibre and lightweight ripstop cloth. We have in that time progressed from Tim Bensons' Phantom up to the state of the art indoor kites such as Tims' New Phantom Elite, Chris Mathesons Sandpiper 95 etc. These new kites will fly very easily indoors, however, for outdoor flying in low wind most carbon framed 8 foot kites will fly fine.

**Conditions** When flying outdoors you will never get a true no wind situation, so when flying you will have a wind window. In low wind this window will be greatly reduced. The wind window is split into two main areas, CENTRE OF WINDOW - the area directly down wind of the flyer. This means that when you fly in the down wind area this will make life easier. With the higher wind pressure in the centre of the wind you can walk forward while the kite is flying down in the centre, enabling you to gain ground. EDGE OF WINDOW - because you have some wind you will be able to fly to the edge of the window. However, the wind pressure will be greatly reduced and this will be reflected in a greatly reduced window width. To compensate for this as you approach the edge you will need to walk backwards, this is called forcing the edge of the window. By this method you can extend your window back almost to its normal size. By extending the edge of the window to its full extent you can create a full 360 window. You can do this by walking backwards in a circle.

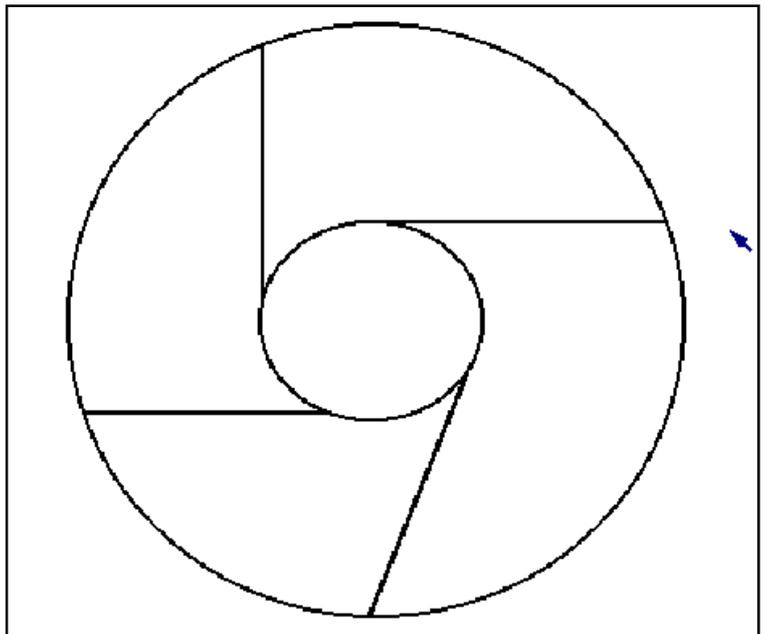
As you can see by walking in a circle as shown you are able to fly a 360. When outdoors the up wind side will involve you walking backwards faster than the down wind side. N.B. The inner circle is the flyer, the outer is the path covered by the kite.

This is your first low wind manoeuvre, to make this easier you will find using shorter lines is an advantage, however, don't go too short because while you are flying in low wind you are flying in some wind so you need to take advantage of any wind you can. About 50 Feet is a good length to start with.

**Up and Over** Another low wind manoeuvre is the up and over. While flying a 360 as you reach the up wind side you turn up and fly over your head.

So to start, with your kite directly down wind at 0 you start to fly a 360, when you get to the 180 point you do a upward 90 degree turn then by walking backwards and using a rowing motion you should be able to fly up

over your head. When the kite is directly over head you can start to walk forward toward 0, as the kite flies down to 0 you have a couple of choices; One, to do a turn and continue flying. Or Two, to fly down into a belly down landing and then relaunch. The second option is very effective when the relaunch is followed by another up and over.



These are ways of flying in low wind conditions once you have practised the 360 and can fly this in low wind start to fly all your normal tricks in these lighter conditions. Some of the best or most effective tricks in low wind are Tip Drags, Helicopters, Axles [really slow, try not to force the kite in this low wind it can float round in a flat spin], Double Axles [This is where the momentum of the kite takes it

# Low Wind Indoor and 3D Flying

round in an axle spin twice, Flat spins similar to the axle but a flat version [the current hot trick in low wind is; an up and over into a 540 flat spin about 4-5 feet off the ground into a relaunch].

**Low Wind Revolution Flying.** The low wind, and 360 flying for a dual line kite can, with slight modification can be utilized for Rev's. When flying in light wind you will need to pull back with your upper lines, therefore when flying from left to right you will need to pull back with your left hand. To increase the lift you need to get the wind flowing over the greatest possible sail area. To do this you will need to have the leading edge at an angle of 45 degrees to the ground. This will enable you to fly a 360 in no wind, don't forget to move backwards faster when the kite is up wind. You can fly a standard weight Rev 1 indoors (its not easy but it can be done). Whether you are flying in or outdoors again as for dual line low wind flying shorter lines will make life easier. It will also make it possible to perform 3D tricks such as up and overs, switchbacks and various catch and throws.

That's about it, this type of flying involves more touch and subtlety, try and remember this as you fly.

Back to the tricks, as mentioned previously the flat spin is the "IN" trick. To impress, the spin now needs to be a triple..... No hope for us mortals!!!

**Simon Dann.** A man unable to do a flat spin. (One day.... Maybe ?)

## AIR BRAKES

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ALSO....family kites from £4.50, boomerangs,  
petanque, juggling, croquet, rockets,  
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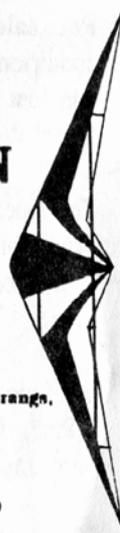
## KITES & THINGS

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(Proprietor Andy Thomas)  
Open: Tues/Thurs/Fri 10am-6.30pm;  
Wed 10am-1.30pm; Sat 9.30am-6.30pm.

Find us opposite Whitstable library.  
We are near the beach for kite flying!

Join our summer fly-ins on West Beach most Friday evenings.  
All Welcome



## Did you know

That These People

- 1) Take Trade-in Kites
- 2) Now give 10% Discount For Cash
- 3) Clear Old Stock By Knocking 25% Off
- 4) Are 4 Line Specialists
- 5) Have An Ex-Demo/Display Bargain Board
- 6) Have The Biggest Selection Of New Kites In Kent
- 7) Are Near A Beach Flying Site
- 8) Will Always Try And Make It Worth Your Petrol Money To Come To Them For Your New Kite
- 9) Make Air Brakes
- 10) Do Mail Order
- 11) Are Helpful And Friendly
- 12) Want Your Custom

# Ad-Mart

Having read avidly through the last three back copies of The Kiteflier as well as devouring the classifieds of my local and national papers, I have reached a conclusion as to one reason for the limited kite following in certain areas. A lack of financial realism whilst being exposed to positive mines of information has, I feel, kept many a budding kiter at bay.

A very great strength of the kiting fraternity has always been our desire to help and advise. It was this strength that was a help to myself when first purchasing kites that would be beneficial to my future enjoyment of the sport. However the cost of kites has already escalated, partly a function of materials usage.

This is not where the problem lies. As a child, the first bicycle that I owned was a second hand one. The first car I owned was second hand. The reasoning behind this was sound, as 90% of the population of Great Britain will no doubt know. The availability of second hand kites/production overruns or mismatches is so limited as to exclude a goodly proportion of those who might wish to take up the sport of kiting. Therein lies the problem.

I feel that a positive approach by the retail trade to the possibilities of the second hand market would revitalise the sport. In addition to this I feel that a bi-monthly newsheet (a kiting ad-mart) distributed as widely as funds would allow would further help. This second suggestion is one that I feel very strongly about, inasmuch as I would be prepared to start up such a pamphlet in the hope that it would work, using both personal funding and resources where possible.

Provided that at least three people contact me and also feel that it is a good idea, I intend to start the 'ad-mart' paper to coincide with the October issue of The Kiteflier.

Contact Gideon York at RNEC Manadon, Crownhill, Plymouth, Devon PL5 3AQ tel 01752 553740 ext 81435.

## Private Ads

**For sale:** Industrial Singer Sewing Machine (same as photo in Ron Moulton's book Kites). Model number 451k105 reconditioned (serviced recently). Set up for ripstop nylon. £250 ono. Contact Chris Matherson on tel 0181 802 1357.

**For sale,** surplus to requirements:

1 Del Saw Mk4 Reel with chest pod, brake and extension handle. Loaded with 2,000' good quality braided 100lb breaking strain line, excellent condition £55.00.

Early Aviation at Farnborough, Vol 1 £18.00, The Flying Cathedral £16.00, Drachen Mit Geschichite (Kites with History) £15.00. All books in very clean condition and include postage, telephone Martin on 01773 856395.

LEGEND 190 6ft 3/4 size two line stunt kite which can fly between 6 to 25 mph winds. It moves quickly and

performs tricks, price £50. Telephone 0181 958 9187.

**For sale:** 3 square metre Quadrifoil £195, good condition, complete with Dyneema lines, Quad winder and just waiting to fly (well pull really!). Ring Steve 'Walt' Webb on 01902 734131.

**For sale:** Rev 1 £100, Jester £60, PH Storm £20, PH Team formula £100, Stealth Pro Cheetah £90, 3-11 £70, also lines for sale. Jayne or Chris on 01344 427562 eves.

**For sale:** MODULUS traction kite, scalable from 1.8 to 5.8m2. Good Condition. Phone for more details. £500 ono. Jayne or Chris 01344 427562 eves.

*If you want to advertise in this column it is **free** and we just need to have your copy with us by the 15th September for the October issue. Send your private ads to the editorial address on page 3.*

# Trade News

## Press Release From Inflight

Indicating a shift in direction of the Inflight product range two new inflatable kites and sculptured windsocks have been introduced.

The FROG is an absolute delight of a kite which is already capturing the imagination of kitefliers in Britain and USA. Just over two metres long, with a two colour graphic, it mimics the action of a jumping frog, with spring like legs.

The ELEPHANT is very new, 120cms span with a long, swinging, multicoloured trunk. A sad eyed creature - saddened that its animal relatives are close to extinction. This one is quite safe though.

Two very special windsocks are also available. The JESTER, three metres long with a medieval jester body with a tri-corn hat and concertina legs. This windsock cause a storm at the auction at last years AKA convention - bidding stopped at \$450 (about £300).

The BASSET HOUND, three metres long, with a white body shape, wearing a multicoloured coat. This one however won't leave little messages around the kite field.

For availability and prices contact your local Inflight stockist or Jim Rowlands, Inflight, Normanby Park Workshops, Normanby Road, Scunthorpe. Tel: 01724 280307. Fax: 01724 865329.

## "May the G-Force be With You."

Avia Sport's G-force family of tapered and non-tapered spars are now widely used in the USA where major success stories with trend setting kite designs have resulted in substantial performance enhancement. The product range extends from the G-Force Breeze at 5 g/m, ideal for indoor flying, up to the beefy G-Force Stiff for "Strong Weather"!

Supplied in 82.6cm (32.5") or 101.6cm (40") lengths plus specially designed internal ferrule system.

Further details from: Woolmer Forest Composites.  
Tel: 01428 712126. Fax: 01428 714914.

## New Kite Shop

Cannock Kites are pleased to announce the opening of their new Air Adventure shop in the Birmingham Pallasades. The shopping centre is one of the busiest in the country forming the public access to both New Street Station and the Bull Ring Bus Station. The centre is known as the 'Gateway to Birmingham' and has an average footfall of 1 million per week. The shop is already introducing a lot of new people to the joys of kite flying.

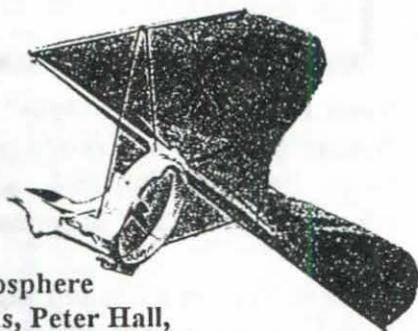
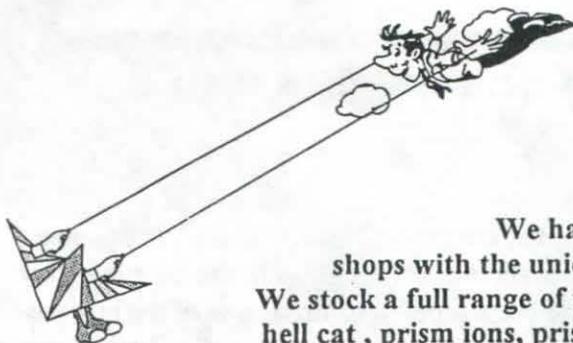
As well as an extensive range of kites the shop stocks juggling equipment, snakeboards and Bauer roller blades. Events already organised by Air Adventures include a free weekly circus workshop to take place in the Pallasades every Sunday between 1pm and 3pm and a demonstration by Snakeboard U.K. to take place in the centre on Saturday 7th October.

The shop is managed by Craig Fordham who as well as being a keen kite flier is an accomplished skater who writes articles for one of the leading magazines. Craig can be contacted on 0121 633 3230.

## Move to New Premises

Cannock Kites have moved to new premises situated on the edge of scenic Cannock Chase. The new premises are more suited to their type of business which consists mainly of trade and mail order. However, it is still easily accessible from junction eleven or twelve of the M6 and visitors will be delighted with the adjacent flying site with its views over Cannock Chase and the facilities offered by the Pine Cafe.

From the M6 follow the signs to Cannock and then Rugeley. The shop is situated in the Enterprise Centre, Walkers Rise as you leave Hednesford on the Rugeley Road. Distance from the M6 is about 5 miles.



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The Oddballs Kite & Juggling Shop Camden  
 2, Camden Lock Place,  
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The Oddballs Kite & Juggling Shop Oxford,  
 34, Cowley Rd.  
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DRACHENmagazin has just celebrated its fifth year of publication. For the last two years DRACHENmagazin has won the Cris Batdorf award for Outstanding Publication at KTA. Now we offer you this award winning magazine in English.

# Magpie Memories

I have recently become a member of your society and have decided to contribute a few words as well as £9.00 membership fee. It is only in the past year or so that I have started flying kites again so I have little knowledge and experience of modern kites and times, but do have fond memories of "Kite Flying" in the early years!

The first kite that I can remember having lots of fun with as a child is known in our household as the 'Magpie Kite'. It was in no shape of a bird but its design came from an article in Magpie, the T.V. series. I can't exactly remember who the presenter was but I assume it was most probably Jenny Hanley as there must have been a good reason for watching in the first place. Mum sent away for the kite plans and two weeks and dad's polythene lettuce propagator later, we had ourselves a big floppy kite shaped like a coffin lid. I know it now as a sled but in those days that would have meant something rather different.

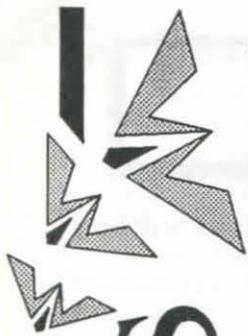
Measuring approx 3' x 2' it appeared to me quite a large kite, and with sticky tape reinforcement it was also very hi-tec. The top quality longitudinal struts were made of 1/4" ramin available from Bobby Dunkleys, our local hardware shop. The Magpie kite flew wonderfully well and as far as I can remember, without tails; a tribute, I feel to my mothers final trimming skills and my willingness not to receive a clipped ear.

We used to put it up on household string, using a broken-off fishing rod handle as a winder. Two hundred feet had no meaning to us back then. I can remember the string used to sag and touch the ground about half way across the local field. That means there was about 25 yards out before the line actually started going up. The trade off for this was that it would take ages and ages to wind it all back in again and if we were called for lunch, may, if lucky, make it back for tea.

There was an occasion, I remember, when the line was all wound in somewhat smartly. The sudden increased whining noise from the engine of an aeroplane from our local airport as it came across and veered from our Magpie kite, provided some excitement until my brother said that the pilot would call the Police! There were a few nervous hours spent not kiteflying that day.

Pieces of extra sticky tape kept the magpie flying for many months. Penny for Penny that must have been one of the cheapest toys we ever had, and a bonus for mum and dad was that whenever the kite was up, they could always find us at the end of the string.

I wish I still had the Magpie kite today but like most treasured toys I can't remember what happened to it. At times, however, I wonder if its de-commissioning may have coincided with the sudden up-turn in the lettuce crop.



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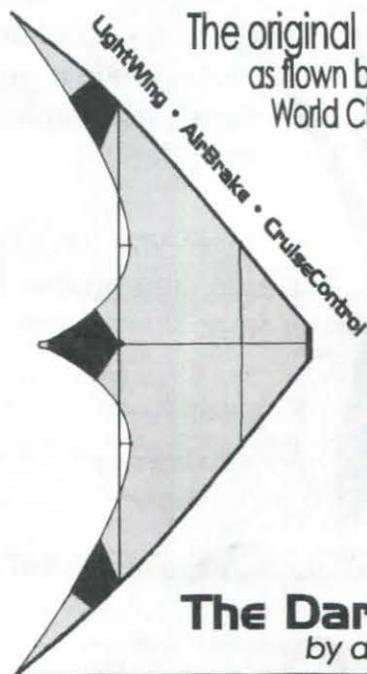
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# Events Past & Present

## **Middle Wallop - 5th & 6th August**

Although the B.K.F.A. was dissolved as of January 1995 and the Old Warden events taken over by the Kite Society, Ron Moulton is still running the annual weekend at the Army School of Flying, Middle Wallop, near Andover.

As regular attenders will know, this superb site, frequently referred to as the "largest lawn in Europe", always produces a good breeze with acres of space for everyone. It has become very popular with the buggy flyers, and this year some semblance of order will be established by the British Buggy Club with races and a Saturday evening BBQ, all in conjunction with the resident Middle Wallop Paragliding Club.

Entry is by a specially reduced charge which gives full access to the Museum and its facilities which includes a fine restaurant. Adult rate is £3 daily or £5 for the weekend, with usual OAP and child concessions, payable at the gate. Camping is free but application for a permit should be made in advance for security reasons to Events Organiser, Museum of Army Flying, Middle Wallop, Stockbridge, Hampshire SO20 8DY. Traders are most welcome of course.

## **Scotland Kite Festival, Thirlestane Castle, Lauder - 12th & 13th August**

Thirlestane, one of the oldest and finest castles in Scotland, is set in magnificent border hills at Lauder, 28 miles south of Edinburgh and 68 miles north of Newcastle upon Tyne on the A68.

The grounds of Thirlestane Castle are an ideal place to hold a kite festival. Kiteflyers will be travelling from all parts of the UK to make this a really special and spectacular kite festival.

There will be a full programme of events and competitions - a mass fly-in of Rokkaku and box kites, displays by the world famous Decorators, buggying demonstrations by Flight FX, a fantastic display by Mark Coventry who will fly three kites simultaneously, large kites by Martin Lester, Jack Crouch, Phil Womack etc, teddy bear and sweetdrop by the Kite Club of Scotland and Frank Mcshane plus lots more!

The admission charge will be waived for Kite Society members/Kite Club members on production of their membership cards or a pass which can be obtained from me - just send me a stamped addressed envelope.

Camping on site is available and costs £6.00 per night for caravans or campers and £3.00 per night for tents. Please contact Mike Firth to book your camping site on 01750 23139. For local accommodation please telephone the Scottish Tourist Board on 01835 863435

For further details/maps/entry pass etc - please send SAE to Malcolm Goodman, 134 Thames Road, Billingham, Cleveland TS22 5EX. Tel/fax 01642 550827.

## **Bristol International Kite Festival - September 2nd & 3rd**

This year the Bristol International Kite Festival celebrates its 10th anniversary. The festival will take place on its usual site in the beautiful Ashton Court Estate over the weekend of 2nd & 3rd September. To mark the 10th anniversary the festival is hoping that a record number of fliers, clubs and societies will join in the celebrations.

The final line up of overseas guests is still to be confirmed but the following have already agreed to attend: Scott Skinner, George Peters and Jurgen Muller Hansen.

## **Coombe Abbey Kite Day, Coombe Abbey Country Park Coventry - 30th July**

Come along and join the Midlands Kite Fliers at this popular venue with plenty to do for all the family. Kites may be flown on the 12 acre events field, with an adjoining field of 20 acres. Other attractions include a kite workshop, kite retailer, restaurant, licensed bar, gift shop, walks, lakes and ducks.

Coombe Abbey is extremely well signposted from the M6/M62 and all other roads. Follow the large brown tourist signs. For special kite fliers car parking send a SAE to MKF, 4 Hermitage Court, Oakwood, Derby DE21 2LG, or pay and display charges will apply.

## **Coventry Kite Festival, The War Memorial Park, Kenilworth Road, Coventry. Sunday 20 August**

A bigger and better event this year, and we have ordered the wind as well! Organised by Coventry City Council Leisure Services and The Midlands Kite Fliers there will be separate flying areas for single-line and sports kites. Other attractions include kite workshop, kite traders, juggling displays, pony rides, music, craft stalls, face painting, bouncy castle, caricature artist, and a children's 'find the answers' competition.

Charlie Charlton of the Artistic Kite Group will be holding an artistic kite competition with prizes for first and second place donated by AKG and Coventry City Council.

The park is on the A429 Kenilworth Road, South of Coventry City Centre. Follow the kite signs, and also signs for 'Park and Ride'.

We cannot offer on-site camping, but an accommodation list is available by contacting the Tourist Information Centre, Bayley Lane, Coventry. Tel: 01203 832303.

## **First Canterbury Kite Festival - September 10th**

Organised by the South Eastern Kite Society - has a definite international flavour. A three woman team from Dunkerque - Patrouille de Flandres - is expected to give a display. Being so close to the Continent the festival has been heavily advertised in both France and Belgium and society members have been over a couple of time to distribute leaflets.

A number of competitions have been lined

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| <b>Cannock Kites</b>       | Unit 5 The Enterprise Centre, Walkers Rise, Hednesford, Staffordshire.<br>(Next to Hednesford flying site).<br>Telephone: 01543 571400. Fax: 01543 573177                    |
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# Events Past & Present

Other possibilities include Birget Malinsky, Roberto Guidari and Peter Lynn.

**Car Parking:** As usual complimentary car passes will be available to Kite Society members, on a first come first served basis (we have a limit of 250) to those who send through a S.A.E. to the festival office (see new address at end). Please don't leave it to the last minute as we won't be able to accommodate everyone!

**Saturday Night Party:** Following the success of last year's on site party and night fly / kite & firework display (despite the rain) we will be running a similar event again this year. Tickets £12 adult, £6 child (under 12) which includes good hot buffet meal and a couple of drinks (menu likely to be a choice of a variety of pasta dishes with several salads and home made breads, cakes & fruit). Entertainment during the evening will include a limited item auction (with possibly a silent auction for any extra lots), informal slide show by overseas guest fliers and ending up with the kite / firework display to music. Please make cheques payable to Bristol International Kite Festival and attach clear details of name, address etc and send with S.A.E. for tickets.

**Accommodation:** Redwood Lodge Hotel is again offering a special weekend deal for kite fliers. Prices this year are £30.00 per person for double/twin room incl full English breakfast and £40.00 per person for single occupancy. Please make booking direct via Lynda Edwards on reservations tel: 01275 393901 stating you are a kite person. Again this is a first come first served basis.

The Hilton Hotel in central Bristol is also offering a similar deal of £27.50 per person sharing and £39.50 single occupancy. All rates are inclusive of VAT and full English breakfast.

**Camping:** As you may remember the council let us down last year by withdrawing permission for camping on the usual sports field site at the last minute. The only real alternative is to persuade one of the local landowners to make some space available. However, this will be unlikely to include loos/washing facilities etc. We are still working on this but if you are interested in this type of basic camping please send a S.A.E. and we'll keep you informed.

For further details please contact: Avril Baker / Jackie Wills, Festival Office, 5 Lilymead Avenue, Bristol BS4 2BY. Tel: 0117 977 2002, Fax: 0117 977 4255.

## **The National Trust Centenary Year International Balloon and Kite Festival - 22nd - 24th September**

Location: Attingham Park, 4 miles East of Shrewsbury on the old A5.

This is the second year we have been invited to this event and, as the people who attended last year will know, we were warmly welcomed and a pleasant flying weekend was had by all.

The location is Attingham Park, which is the National Trust Headquarters and, as this is their centenary year, they are hoping to have 100 balloons and 100 kites flying. The intention is to fly kites after the balloons have taken off in the morning, at approximately 10:00am, and until they commence flying again in the evening. The area is quite large so all types of kite can be flown; even buggies are welcome so long as participants are covered by their own insurance.

Camping and caravanning are available on site from Friday until Sunday evening at a reduced cost to kites of £3 per unit per night. Please apply to the Property Manager, Attingham Park, Shrewsbury SY4 4TP, enclosing a cheque for the appropriate amount made payable to Belinda Cussens.

Entrance is free to all kitefliers and passes for this are available either from me

up for the event on the 26 acre site just outside the city.

Several local companies have shown their support by coming up with sponsorship for prizes. You could win yourself 100 cans of beer in the power lift, or a trip across the channel for a car and passengers in the altitude sprint.

There will be an artistic kite contest (the only one organised so far in the south east under AKG rules); balloon bursting; team and individual rok challenges; an Indian fighter contest and a target challenge or two-liners.

You could even win yourself a bottle of champagne - just by travelling the furthest to get there.

The festival starts at 11am. Full details and a flyers' pass are now available in return for a S.A.E. sent to: Flyers' Information, Canterbury Kite Festival, 40 Western Avenue, Herne Bay, Kent CT6 8TX.

## **1st Ashfield Kite Festival, The Lawn Park, Station Road, Sutton in Ashfield, October 29th**

A big event on a big site to end the festival season. The first festival in Nottinghamshire for ages. Separate large areas for both single line and sport kites. Kite workshop, kite traders, art and craft traders, coffee shop, fun fair, lake and ducks. Major involvement with local schools prior to the day.

How to get there - Leave the M1 motorway at Junction 28. Travel along the A38 towards Mansfield for approx. five miles, when kite festival direction signs will appear. Turn left at traffic lights into Station Road. The park is on the right, and special kitefliers parking has been arranged through the main Lawn Lane entrance, only on production of a kite club card.

The public enter through other routes.

For map, directions and more information send a SAE to Julie White, 4 Hermitage Court, Oakwood, Derby DE21 2LG.

# Events Past & Present

before the event or on site during the event.

All trade stands have already been allocated.

Maps, B&B lists etc are also available from me and a stamped addressed envelope would be very much appreciated.

Please come along to a relaxing weekend of kiting activities in a beautiful rural setting not too far from civilisation.

Contact Tony Slater, 128 Meadow Farm Drive, Harlescott, Shrewsbury SY1 4JY: Tel 01743 235068 for more information.

**Correction:** *In the April issue the contact telephone number for the Royston Kite Festival was incorrect. The number should be 01462 459395.*

## Event Reports

### Conquer The Wind - Banham Zoo Kite Festival. Report by Kevin Appleton.

Kite Flyers gathered from as far a field as Scotland, Wales, Kent and Cornwall for this three day festival. On an extensive open site strong winds prevailed throughout the weekend with gusts up to 35 mph at times. Sadly this restricted the variety of single line kites flown but parafoils came into their own. As winds dropped in the evening the fighter kite flyers were at least able to show off their skills. As dusk settled fighter kite lines got in ever increasing muddles and the wife of a "Famous" fighter flyer was heard to say "Which is my kite". The Highwaymen did a brisk trade in line and kites as more people hoisted kites into the darkening evening sky.

The British Parakart Association had a site for Saturday and raced over a bumpy course for the first round of their U.K. Championship. A variety of buggies and kites fought a fiercely contested series of five races, and later entertained crowds with an arena display of wheelies, reverse buggying and 360 turns.

Entries in the Rokkaku fights were reduced because of the near gale conditions blowing across the site and teams did well to hang on to their kites. A fierce tussle soon developed between the two Brighton teams (Ray and Toody Oakhill and Jerry and Caroline Swift) who shared honours after a long tussle.

Local team Sky Divers from Thorpe Kite Flyers tried hard to break this domination and were very unlucky in one battle not to bring both Brighton kites down. Karl Longbottom dominated in the individual battles with a close challenge from Ray Oakhill. Jack Crouch and his family entertained the children by parachuting sweets from a large aeroplane stunt kite. Meanwhile the "Brighton" crowd were doing their best to drop teddy bears on the commentary position.

Team flying displays were provided by Team Cascade, Team Sky Divers, Tristar, Dreams of Flight and Art of Air. The latter team forgetting to bring food with them decided to confiscate and cook the commentators mascot (a vulture). The said commentator woke to find a string of bones hanging where once proudly hung his much treasured mascot.

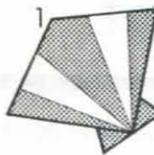
Mark Coventry, who along with Dick Turpin had birthday celebrations over the weekend, stunned the crowds with his skills with three kites. His control of Peter Hall's Hellcat kites in often very rough and windy conditions was an inspiration to us all.

John Welbourne of York Kitefliers was a clear winner in the altitude sprint races beaten only once by Clive Godswen from Thorpe Kite Flyers. Anne Harris's inflatables were very popular with the children. In all a friendly festival which will be repeated next year. Book your diary now.

### Warrington Kite Festival - June 18th.

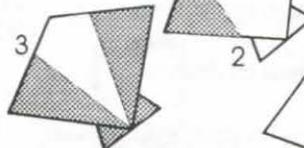
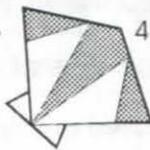
Ron Oden of the Northern Kite Group has written to apologise to anyone who went to this event. Due to the council requiring that the NKG have insurance for the event and wanting to charge for the use of the site it had to be cancelled.

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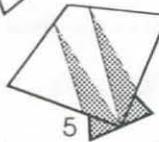


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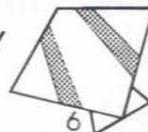


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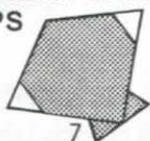


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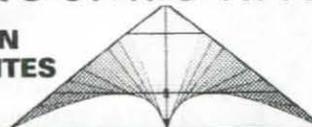


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# Portsmouth International Kite Festival

The Portsmouth International Kite Festival takes place on Southsea Common, Southsea, Hampshire on Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th August and is jointly run by The Kite Society and Portsmouth City Council. The site is a large grassed area and there are many local facilities including a leisure centre - so plenty to keep the non-flyer happy. Other events that are happening during the weekend include - Chinese State Circus with shows each afternoon and evening; Portsmouth Music Big Top on Castle Field Thursday to Sunday. This is a free music festival featuring a mix of music styles; Giant Fireworks display Friday night.

There will be free car parking for kitefliers for which a pass is required. This is available from us using the form below. The festival will run along the same lines as previous years with displays and contests, including the final rounds of the U.K. Rokkaku Challenge. We are hoping to have a good mix of guest kite fliers from around the world.

Dodd Gross, who last year did a series of flight workshops around the country showing people the tricks and techniques of flying sports kites, is attending the festival. He will be doing a similar series of workshops at Portsmouth and if you are interested in participating in these then please indicate this on the form below.

Accommodation for the event has been arranged at the Portsmouth University Halls of Residence which are sited at the edge of the common. Because of some modernisation going on it is not possible for them to supply a hot breakfast therefore costs for this accommodation is £10.00 per person for room only or £13.00 per person including a packed continental style breakfast. If you want to book this then please phone Liz Jackson or Anne Marie on 01705 843186. For details of other accommodation options - ie B&B and camping contact the Portsmouth Tourist Office 01705 826722.

Kite traders are welcome on the site and the cost for the two days £90.00. On the Monday other activities are planned on the Common and Portsmouth City Council have extended an invitation to kite traders to trade on the Monday at no extra cost. Please let us know if you wish to do this.

**Please complete this form and return with WITH a Stamped Addressed Envelope to:**

Name

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Address

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Post Code

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Car Passes Required

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I am interested in the flight workshops with

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# Kite Society Convention 1995

For those who do not know the Kite Society Convention is an annual event the aim of which is to give kitefliers the opportunity to attend talks and workshops given by some of the worlds leading kite makers and kite fliers. In the past there have been talks on Aerial Photography, Sports Kite Flying, Buggyng, Applique Techniques etc. etc. The convention is open to all kitefliers and you do not have to be a member of the Kite Society to attend.

This year the convention will be held in Coventry - at the Forte Posthouse Hotel, Hinkley Road, Coventry. The hotel has easy access to the M6 being less than 1 mile from junction 2 of the M6 on the A4600 - next to Toys 'R Us - on Saturday 19th August. On Sunday 20th August the 2nd Coventry Kite Festival is being held at The Memorial Park, Kenilworth Road, Coventry.

## Timetable:

A full timetable is not yet available as we do not yet have a complete list of people who are doing talks.

Convention	9:30am - 6:00pm	Free
Lunch	12:30pm - 1:30pm	£5.00
Annual Kite Society Dinner	7:30pm - 9:30pm	£16.95 (Children under 12 £8.00)
Kite Society Auction	9:30pm - 12:30am	Free

The outline times are:

Bookings are now being taken for both lunch and dinner and this must be done in advance - no bookings can be made after 12th August. Payment in full is required (returnable on written cancellation until the 1st August after which no refund is possible). Please use the form below to make your bookings.

## Convention Details - Talks start from 9:30am

Confirmed talks for the day are:

**Ian Meredith:** Founder of the British Buggy Club. **Buggyng - How to, Hints and Tips.**

**Helen Howes:** Maker of Raindrop Kites. One of the country's leading experts of applique kites. Talking on **Colour and Design for Kite Decoration.**

**Chris Matheson:** Designer and maker of the Sandpiper Sports kite and world record holder for indoor sports kites. Talking on **Construction Techniques for Modern Sport Kites.**

**David Hughes:** Author and reseacher on Cody Kites and others. Talking on **Design and Development of Cody's Kites 1899 - 1942.**

**Stafford Wallace:** Internationally known exponent of the Indian Fighter (Fun) kite. **Indian Fighter Kites and Fighting Techniques.**

Provisional talks are:

**English Braid:** Manufacturers of polyester and spectra lines. **Manufacture and Use of English Braids.**

**Flexifoil:** Talking on **Power Kiting - The Safe Way. Kites, Techniques, Safety Features.**

**Janneke Groen** (from Holland): Displaying and talking about her kites. **Kite Design and Colour.**

**Jan Fischer** (from Holland): Collector of kite memorabilia he will also show some of his extensive collection of items featuring kites.. **Collecting Kite Related items.**

**Simon Dann:** Expert Sport Kite flier he will discuss **Techniques involved in Sport Kite Flying eg Trick and 3d Flying.**

Hopefully **Steve Brockett, Martyn Lawrence and Martin Lester** will also be doing talks or workshops.

## Accommodation

We have negotiated a special rate of £25.00 per person per night for the Friday, Saturday and Sunday

# Kite Society Convention 1995

nights only. This includes full English breakfast and should be booked by contacting the hotel directly on tel 01203 613261, fax 01203 621736 and quote the Kite Society Convention. Other accommodation - hotels, guest houses, camping etc can be booked by contacting the Coventry Tourist desk on 01203 831345.

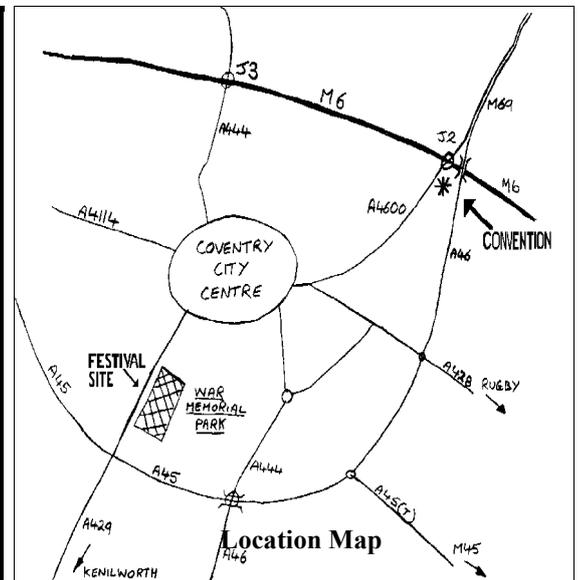
## Kite Auction

To raise funds for this and future conventions the Annual Kite Auction is held after the dinner. This is the ideal place to acquire rare and unusual kites and kite accessories and maybe pick up a bargain. We welcome any contributions for the auction, from individuals as well as organisations, to help us raise funds. If you want to make a donation to the auction then please let us know. Either send us the item or send us details.

## Meal Details

Both the lunch and the Kite Society dinner are ideal ways of getting to meet fellow kitefliers away from the flying field. Lunch is timed to fall between the talks so that you will not miss anything. The dinner is

Lunch Menu	Dinner Menu
Open Sandwiches	Pork & Wild Mushroom terrine or Melon Cocktail
Classic Pizza	Jacket Potatoe with sour cream and chives
Sausage Rolls	Vegetable quiche
hicken Drumsticks	Beef Burgandy
Pork Satay	Pasticio
	Chicken Dippers with garlic bread
	Selection of salads
	Toffee cruch cheesecake or Fruit Salad
	Coffee and mint creams
<b>Cost £5.00 per person</b>	<b>Cost £16.95 per person (under 12's £8.00)</b>



**Please complete this form and return to The Kite Society, P.O. Box 2274, Gt Horkesley, Colchester CO6 4AY before 5th August. All cheques should be made payable to "The Kite Society**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Post Code \_\_\_\_\_

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**Convention". Please also enclose a Stamped Self-addressed Envelope.**

**Lunch Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ @£5.00      Dinner Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ @£16.95**  
**\_\_\_\_\_ @£8.00**

# KITE EVENT CALENDAR

<b>U.K. Major Kite Events</b>		
July 29th & 30th	Brighton Kite Festival, Stanmer Park, Brighton.	Airborn Kites
August 5th & 6th	Middle Wallop, Andover, Hampshire.	Ron Moulton
August 12th & 13th	The Scotland Kite Festival	Malcolm Goodman
August 19th	Kite Society Convention, Coventry	The Kite Society
August 26th & 27th	Portsmouth International Kite Festival, Southsea Common, Portsmouth, Hampshire.	The Kite Society
September 2nd & 3rd	Bristol International Kite Festival, Ashton Court, Bristol.	Avril Baker
<b>1996 Events</b>		
April 7th & 8th	Easter Kite Festival, Blackheath, London.	Kent Kite Klub
May 5th & 6th	Weymouth International Kite Festival, Weymouth, Dorset	The Kite Society
May 25th - 27th	Banham Kite Festival, Banham Zoo Showground, Norfolk.	Kevin Appleton
June 8th & 9th	Isle of Wight International Kite Festival.	The Kite Store
June 8th & 9th	Margam Park, South Wales.	Steve Gibson
<b>Major Overseas Kite Events</b>		
September 23rd & 24th	11th Kite Festival, Berlin, Germany	Michael Stelzer 030 7847769
November 10th - 20th	World Cup '95, Lake Entance, Australia.	Dan Prentice (U.S.A.) 916 273 3855
<b>U.K. Regional &amp; Other Kite Events</b>		
July 15th & 16th	U.K. Team Sports Kite Championships, Weston-Super-Mare	Avril Baker
July 23rd	Blackheath Summer Festival	Kent Kite Klub
July 29th & 30th	Barmouth, North Wales	Skybums 01743 244677
July 30th	Coombe Abbey Kite Day, Coventry	Midlands Kite liers
July 30th	Camelot Kite Fliers Giant Fly-in.	Frank Wright.
July 30th	Second Valleys Kite Festival, Wales	Colin Cheesman 01495 711816.
August 5th & 6th	Middle Wallop Kite Event, Hampshire.	Ron Moulton
August 5th & 6th	Lytham St Annes, STACK Individual Championships	Avril Baker
August 6th	Royston Kite Festival, Therfield Heath, Royston.	C.M.S.
August 13th	Blackwater Valley Kite and Juggling Carnival, Aldershot Park, Hampshire	Alan Williams
August 13th	Milton Keynes Kite Festival., Campbell Park	Chris Murray

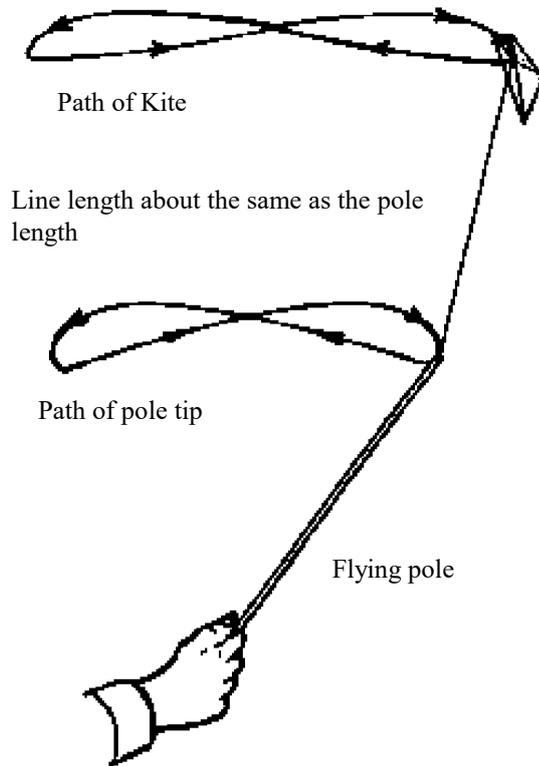
# KITE EVENT CALENDAR

<b>U.K. Regional &amp; Other Kite Events</b>		
August 13th	Hengistbury Head, Dorset.	Greg Lock
August 20th	Oldham Kite Festival, Oldham Edge, Oldham.	Ron Ogden
August 20th	Coventry Kite Festival.	Midlar.Js Kite Fliers
August 20th	London Docklands Sport Kite Festival, Beckton District Park South.	Stuart Neil
September 9th & 10th	Swansea Beach Kite Festival.	Al Upton
September 10th	Shorne Country Park, Gravesend.	Kiteability
September 10th	Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Parham Airfield, Framlington, Suffolk.	Liz Hammond
September 10th	1st Canterbury Kite Festival, Merton Farm, Merton Lane, Canterbury.	S.E.K.S.
September 17th	Salisbury Kite and Sky Hoolie.	Cunning Stunts
September 24th	Old Warden Autumn Rally, Old Warden Aerodrome, Biggleswade, Beds	The Kite Society
September 22nd - 24th	National Trust Centenary Balloon and Kite Festival, Attingham Park, Shrewsbury.	Tony Slater
October 29th	Ashfield Kite Festival, Sutton in Ashfield.	Midlands Kite Fliers

## Contact List

<b>The Kite Society</b>	P.O. Box 2274, Gt Horkesley, Colchester CO6 4AY.
<b>Ron Moulton</b>	2 Avenue Rise, Bushey, Watford, Herts WD2 3AS.
<b>Tony Slater</b>	128 Meadow Farm Drive, Harlescott, Shrewsbury SY1 4JY. 01743 235068.
<b>Airborn Kites</b>	97 Trafalgar Street, Brighton, Sussex BN1 4ER. 01273 676740.
<b>Avril Baker</b>	Saville Court, Saville Place, Clifton, Bristol BS8 4EJ. 0117 9466852.
<b>Midlands Kite Fliers</b>	Julie White, 4 Hermitage Court, Oakwood, Derby, DE2 2LG.
<b>Kevin Appleton</b>	37 Eastern Avenue, Thorpe-St-Andrew, Norwich, Norfolk NR7 0UQ
<b>Kent Kite Klub</b>	P.O. Box 557, Sidcup, Kent DA14 6UB.
<b>The Kite Store</b>	48 Neal Street, London WC2H 9PA. 0171 836 1666
<b>Stuart Neil</b>	LDDC, Thames Quay, 191 Marsh Wall, London E14 9TL. 0171 512 3000
<b>Cunning Stunts</b>	11 Cross Keys Chequer, Salisbury SP1 1EL. 01722 410588
<b>Steve Gibson</b>	Way on High Kites, Capuchin Yard, Church Street, Hereford HR1 2LR.
<b>Kiteability</b>	2 Garfield Road, Enfield, Middlesex EN3 4RP.
<b>Liz Hammond</b>	Shingle Bungalow, Benhall Low Street, Sweffling, Saxmundham, Suffolk.
<b>C.M.S.</b>	Northern Area, The Old Dairy, Bedord Road, Hitchin, Herts SG5 3RR. 01462 459395
<b>S.E.K.S.</b>	22 Cherry Drive, Canterbury, Kent CT2 8HF. 01227 462786
<b>Alan Williams</b>	Blackwater Valley Visitor Centre, Frimley Business Park, Frimley, Camberley, Surrey GU16 5SG.
<b>Malcolm Goodman</b>	134 Thames Road, Billingham, Cleveland TS22 5EX. 01642 550827
<b>Al Upton</b>	Kites of Fancy, 01792 648180
<b>Greg Lock</b>	01202 552066 ext 2195
<b>Frank Wright</b>	1 Henley View, Crewkerne, Somerset TA18 8JD.

# Flying Small Kites Indoors



A simple and perhaps less strenuous method of flying kites indoors is to attach the flying line to a pole. A 1/4 inch diameter, three foot dowel is good to start with, especially if the kite is small, such as, ten inches or less. A longer pole works better for bigger kites. The flying line should be about the same length as the pole. The simplest method of moving the pole is so it's tip moves in a horizontal circle. If you have space to walk, you might be able to get added flying speed to keep your kite up by slowly waving the pole from side to side as you walk.

If you have a kite that is small and light enough, you should be able to sit down in a comfortable chair and by properly moving the pole, keep the kite flying. The proper path is just an elongated, horizontal figure of eight. The trick here seems to be in moving the pole tip down as you approach the end of the stroke. This speeds up the kite and helps it overfly the pole tip. When the pole starts back, the kite is already behind it.

*Reproduced from "Kiting" - The Journal of the American Kitefliers Association.*

Practice makes perfect!

**Charlie Sotich**

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NEW DESIGNS - NEW PRICES - NEW BROCHURE ON IT'S WAY!!

# 9th Berck International Kite Festival



Just a short drive from the Channel Ports and close to Le Touquet, Berck sur les Plage offers endless space for a kite festival - unfortunately being held so early in the year there is no guarantee of warmth and sun, as this proved to be the case this year.

However the organiser, Gerard Clement, had put together a good selection of international guests who managed to put on an excellent show despite the strong winds and rain, sun and no winds.

The theme of this years festival was historical kites and there was a special arena on the beach for kites made to their original specifications and using the original materials. The kitefliers involved seemed to be perfectionists in their attention to detail but the results were worth it.

Amongst the highlights for me was the complete orchestra - made up of a number of single kites and including - Tympani, Harp, Piano, Cello and Conductor all of which flew to music to produce a symphony in the sky.



Also present was the largest Cody kite which thundered into the sky and the Berlin Cody man lifting Codys who, because of the weather conditions, never quite managed to put up the complete system. Never the less a wonderful sight in the sky.

Despite the weather a good festival with good atmosphere and a reported 100,000 spectators during the weekend.

## Gill Bloom



More on pages 30 & 31

# Indian Kite Tips

Further to my last article in *The Kiteflier*, here are a few more tips which I hope will help readers having difficulty in making or flying traditional fighters with bamboo spine and bow.

If you have bought one or made one you will find that invariably it falls into one of three categories, either it flies steady and won't spin, or it spins all the time and you can't stop it, or it behaves as it should, in which case consider yourself the lucky one.

Most fighters whether bought or made require adjustments to the bridle at least before they will answer the helm correctly. Bought kites generally do not have sufficient bridle ends for this adjustment, and should therefore be rebridled.

The bridle should be made of stronger line than the flying line but not too heavy. I use sailmakers whipping thread drawn over a ball of beeswax, but if you have nothing else, a double length of flying line will suffice. To bridle, or re-bridle, a fighter proceed as follows:-

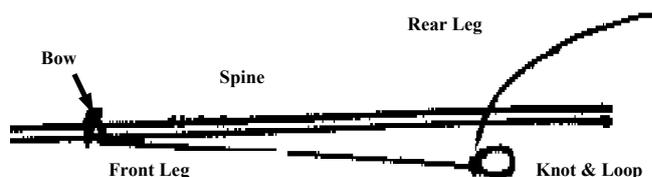
Lay the kite on it's back and thread on end of the bridle round the cross formed by the spine and bow using a large needle.

Leave about 4" of end free.

Next thread the other end round the spine about 4.5" from the extreme tail end for 21" span kites, and 5.5" for 24" span.

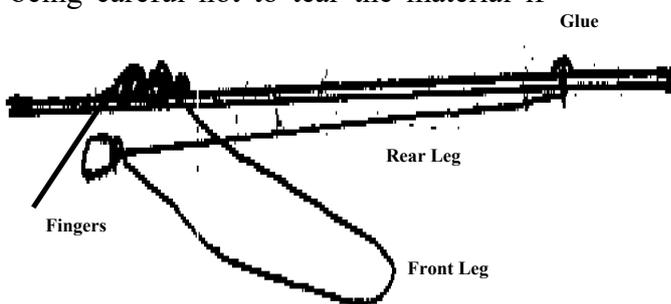
Hold the front leg attachment with one hand, and run the other hand along the bridle line keeping it taught until your fingers are over the rear attachment point.

Tie a 1" loop in the line. Pull the line one way or the other until the knot you have tied is directly over the rear attachment point, now secure the front bridle leg with three half hitches being careful not to pull the knots too tight, the bow should be free to slide. Don't forget to leave 4" end hanging free as this is used for fine



adjustment. See diagram 1.

Next, place two fingers in front of the front leg attachment and pull the rear leg out until the knot in the loop is over the edge of your forward finger being careful not to tear the material if



you are using paper as the line pulls through. Secure with three half hitches as before. Again leave the 4" free end. See diagram below.

Hold the kite by the bridle loop and balance it laterally by making sure the knots at the attachment points are central under the spine and not to one side. Put a dab of glue or a piece of tape on the back of the spine where the rear leg is tied to stop it pulling along the spine.

## Flying Adjustments

The object of the exercise is to get the kite to fly steady while unattended and at the same time to respond to line signals for tracking and spinning in true fly by wire fashion. No two fighters respond the same, all have their different characteristics. Note that we are not referring to replica kites with

Fault	Remedy
Kite flies steady but will not	Tie more knots in front bridle
Kite will not fly steady but careers about the sky.	Tie more knots in rear bridle leg this will lengthen front

# Indian Kite Tips

glass fibre bows but to traditional bamboo types with paper or ripstop covering.

For unattended steady flight a slight hunting or oscillation of the kite is permissible. If having adjusted the bridle the kite tracks alright but spins sluggishly or hesitantly, try sticking a piece of Blu-Tak on the extreme tail end of the spine. This will give a flywheel effect to the kite which should spin about its own axis, not chase its tail. In extreme cases equal weight pieces can be stuck on wingtips to give even more flywheel effect. If you still cannot get the kite to spin there are only two possibilities, either you are not doing it right, or the bow stick is too weak and will not spring back into a stall. In this case replace with a stronger bow.

Most fighters turn better one way than the other. Providing the difference is not too great this can be an advantage when going into a hover as the slower spin can be chosen at ground level. However, if the difference is pronounced, you must do something about it. The causes are as follows:

- 1) You have not got the spine central or it is not straight giving more lift to one wing than the other. This applies to any sort of kite.
- 2) The bow is stiffer one side than the other making the kite flex unevenly,
- 3) The kite is not balanced, one wing is heavier than the other (not very usual).

If 1) then short of remaking the kite you could trim a piece off one wing or cut a reinforced vent in it. If 2) then scrape wood off the stiff side of the bow until it flexes evenly with the other side. The bow by the way should always have the hard skin left on it on the inside of the bend. Try and get natural notches evenly spaced on the bow, this helps a lot.

Bends and twists in spines and bows can be taken out during building by holding over a candle flame and applying hand tension until you feel it give. This will not harm the wood providing you keep it

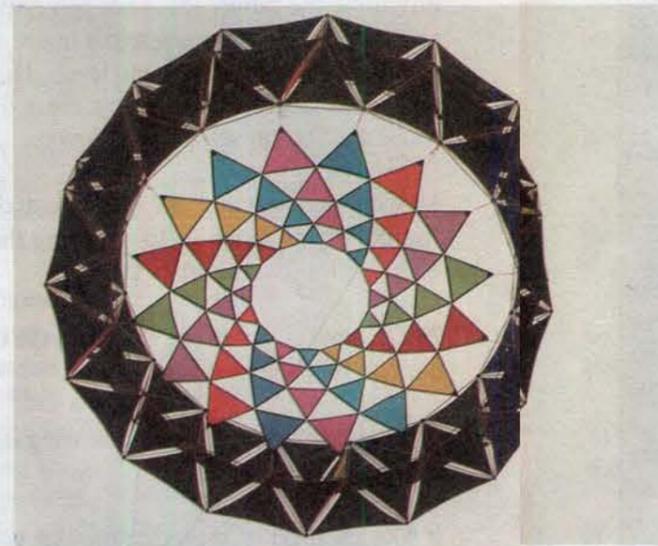
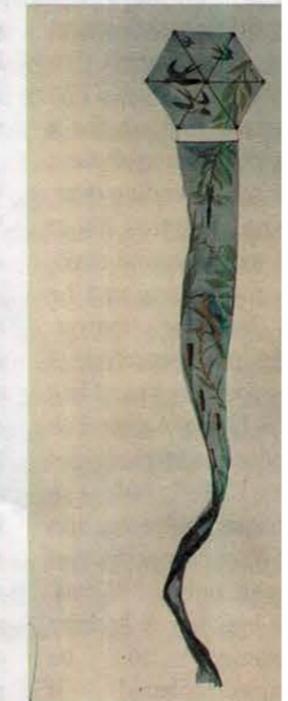
moving to and fro across the flame.

A well rigged fighter should dive in a straight line, but if yours does not let it turn once then continue the dive so that it looks as though it was intentional. It is not necessary to go into a full spin when directing the kite. Once you have got the hang of it you will be able to just turn the nose the way you want it to go then pull in that direction. The ultimate manoeuvre starting from height is to turn the kite downwards dive straight down to 10ft off the ground, go into a spin followed by a reverse spin and as the wingtip almost brushes the ground stop it dead in a controlled hover a few inches from the grass. The natural tendency to PULL the kite out of its spin must be overcome if you want to make a dead stop. Instead of a pull, you must give it line followed immediately by a hold. (This should be practised a bit higher than ground level). In good wind conditions, a hover may be held for several minutes alternatively pulling or letting out the line (which should lay along the ground) to balance the kite against the wind. It gives a sense of achievement when you can do this while people walk unheedingly over your almost invisible line and even wheel pushchairs over it with the kite gently rocking at the end of it 100yds away with its tail, if there is one, laid out on the grass behind it.

The practised flier should then be able to pull his kite up to about 15ft, track left or right and go into another low spin and hover allowing the wind to drift the kite back to centre.

The art in visual effect flying is not how high you can fly, but how long you can operate doing spins and hovers at a distance without exceeding 20ft in height. The finale of course is when you have run out of slack line and you calmly let the kite tighten up onto the reel (which is stuck in the ground) and turn your back on it, knowing full well that it will fly itself up to its pre-ordained height and stay there steady as a rock.

The trouble is of course that the wind is seldom suitable for this kind of exhibition. I only it was!



# Belt Pack - A Review

Bits & Pieces

I like bum bags (sorry, belt packs) because I hate cluttering my trouser pockets up with things. I have had a bum bag for ages, it is great. It takes my wallet, car keys sun glasses etc., and leaves my pockets empty.

I started to look for a bag to go kiting about a year ago. Bending over, having forgotten about that extra ground stake you took along can be no laughing matter. After much searching, I have found my ideal bag - the Lowe Alpine Fell Runner. It is made out of TXP 600, a texturised polyester, has a 4 litre capacity, yet weighs only 180 gms. The bag has a lifetime guarantee to be repaired/replaced if there are defects in the materials or workmanship. Lowe Alpine make numerous other bags, both larger and smaller, but I found this one ideal

and excellent value for money at about £14.00. It measures 10.5" wide by 6" high and 5" deep and takes everything I need when I go out:- sun glasses, wallet, keys, contoured straps, ground pegs, a few lines, on winders and any bits and bobs necessary.

Don't be tempted by "cheapo" alternatives. Apart from generally looking cheap or 'naf' (unless you like imitation leopard skin) they are just not big enough to take the lines on winders and the ground stakes. I know I wandered around enough shops armed with a tape measure. The good quality zip has a protective cover and it has a batwing compressors on the sides to hold small loads snugly. They are available in three colours: black/purple, black/petrol blue and black/bottle green.

## World Cup - Australia - November 1995

Mike Burton - Sports Travel has sent us some details of the packages they can arrange if you are thinking of going to the World Cup Kite Championships in Australia this November. Difficult to give examples so contact Hilary Dowson, Mike Burton Sorts Travel, Bastion House, Brunswick Road, Gloucester GL1 1JJ. Tel: 01452 419666, Fax: 01452 527500.

**Extract from The Engineering Council Newsletter - May 1995.** Contributor Clive Davies, Woolmer Forest Composites.

"Middlesex University gathered lots of youngsters together to fly high-tec kites on Hampstead Heath in London - and to teach them about aerodynamics and modern materials in the process.

"The high flying family event was organised in association with The Engineering Council as part of SET95 - the national week of science, engineering and technology.

"Working at a local school, the youngsters each built and flew their own kites from a kit specially designed by Professor Chris Wright of Middlesex University.

"He has studied kite design for many years and

The other kite flyers that have seen it have been similarly impressed by its practicality. They are available from most mountain/walking shops though, perhaps in the future, kite shops might consider stocking them. If you still can't find one I'm sure Europa Sport (the UK distributor), Ann Street, Kendal, Cumbria LA9 6AA, Tel: 01539 724740 will sort something out. Incidentally Lowe Alpine seem to make everything under the sun for outdoor life.

**Tim Smith**

## New Art Kite Mag.

Janene Evard has been working with the American Kitefliers Association for some time to produce a newsletter devoted to the kite-maker and kite artist. The First issue is out. It has articles, is called Airborne Art News and there is an application to receive your quarterly subscription. It's \$10.00 for folks in the US and outside it's \$15.00.

"It's a pretty good newsletter for those who are interested in the artistic end of kiting. For those who have a one track mind and are more interested in

# Clubs & Sites

Bits & Pieces

correcting spelling or some other mindless area of insignificance then I guess this is way over your pointed heads".

If you are interested you can get a subscription of this newsletter by sending in your hard earned American \$15.00 to American Kitefliers Association, 1559 Rockville Pike,

## The British Buggy Club

For those of you who are just starting on bugging the BBC may be of interest. The club has been set up to provide information and help

for buggiers and potential buggiers, to provide help and guidance to clubs, to make people aware of the safety issues associated with bugging and to have FUN.

The club can offer insurance to all members for £13.00 giving £2,000,000 cover. They publish a magazine, on an ad-hoc basis, and this keeps members aware of what is going on. They can also help if you want to put on an event and have bugging as one of the attractions. Contact The British Buggy Club, P.O. Box 4015,

Smethwick, Warley, West Midlands B67 6HJ for more information.

## Team RIKOK

RIKOK stands for Really Interesting Kites Over Kidderminster.

This a loose association of kite fliers. They meet every Wednesday pm and those Sundays that do not clash with festivals. Address is 9 James Road, Kidderminster DY10 2TR. Tel: 01562 66102, Fax: 01562 863472. Contact them to find out times and venues.

## Kite Sites

Just a reminder that Steve Gibson is still collecting contributions to his book of kite sites. The sort of detail he requires is the location, preferably a grid reference, facilities (toilets, cafes etc) and good directions on how to get there. If enough new sites are sent in then he will get a second edition published.

Send to Steve Gibson, Way on High Kites, Capuchin Yard, Church Street, Hereford HR1 2LR.

# D.I.Y. Buggy Corrections

Some errors crept into the DIY Buggy article that was published in the January 1995 issue of The Kiteflier. Corrections for the D.I.Y. buggy as published are:

1 The stations 1 to 10 on the kite profile on page 23 refer to the total length of the profile split into 10.

2 The end keels replace the need for 4 lines on the end profile and also help to keep the kite extended whilst it is being manouvered.

3 No i) page 24 the (16) refers to 16 internal white ribs and the "Remember to make end rib profiles in" should end in "matching colours as end cells of kite".

4 The bridling details page 26 have ommitted to show the centre line on the next cell (to show that the central 3 cells are not bridled). The diagram shown one half of the kite.

If anyone has any queries please ring Chris Sands on 01392 833258.

# Dyeing - The Bloom Method

I am often asked, whilst flying my kites, "Is it painted?" and when I go on to explain that it's not and that all the colours are obtained by dyeing, I nearly always get the reply - "but I thought you couldn't dye ripstop". Well you can, it's quite easy and as some of my dyed kites are now over ten years old and still going strong it obviously does little or no damage to the fabric.

The dye I use is Dylon hot water (yes HOT) dye, the sort that you can find in most dress shops and departmental stores. It comes in a range of colours and one pot would be enough to dye about 5 metres of ripstop. When choosing your colour you must remember that the ripstop probably only takes up about 25% of the colour, so if the tin show a scarlet you will only get a rosy red. Of course you can always go in for multiple dyeing which will deepen the colour.

For the process of dyeing I use a large curry saucepan (now dyed an interesting colour due to repeated use) and a pair of wooden tongs. There is no need to prewash the ripstop as unlike natural fibres there will be no colour loss or shrinkage. Make the dye solution up as per the instruction on the tin (basically a couple of pints of hot water and a couple of teaspoons of salt), add the ripstop and top up with more hot water. Then gently simmer the ripstop. It is important NOT to boil the dye solution as the ripstop will definitely not like it. You can keep the ripstop in for as long as you like but after about 15 minutes there will be no more colour uptake. Rinse the material under copious cold water. It is important to make sure that there is no more dye solution on the surface because if you use dyed ripstop for a kite AND your kite gets wet AND there is some dye left on the surface it will run, I know I've done it!



Hang out to dry and iron on a cool iron and that's all there is to it. You can experiment with tie dye, batik (yes even this works, and no the wax doesn't melt the ripstop), multi dyeing with different colours, using coloured ripstop as the base for dyeing etc, etc. It really is just a case of experimenting. The photos on this page give some examples of the types of colours that can be achieved. So I wish you happy dyeing. One last thing if you like me have a white acrylic sink keep the dye well away - it is very difficult to remove! My last kite ended up being rinsed down our well to avoid a blue sink!

## Gill Bloom



# 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 2500 members worldwide.

The main vehicle of communication between members is the quarterly publication 'THE KITEFLIER'. 'THE KITEFLIER' is published in January, April, July and October of 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 where guest speakers are invited to talk about their specialist area of kite 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.

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	£8.00
Family - all members in the same household.	£9.00
O.A.P.	£6.00
O.A.P. - Family (Husband & Wife)	£7.00
Overseas - Europe and Surface Mail	£10.00
Overseas - Airmail	£15.00
Overseas upgrade to standard airmail.	£5.00

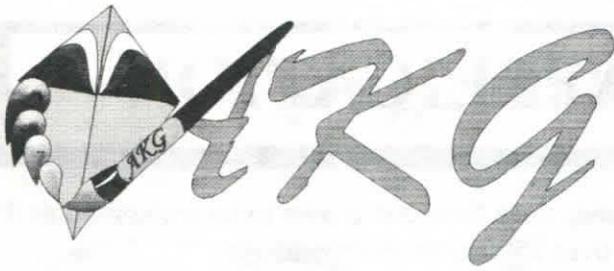
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Family Members \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Post Code \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

\* 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, P.O. Box 2274, Gt Horkesley, Colchester CO6 4AY**



# News

The Newsletter of the Artistic Kite Group

Volume 1 Issue 6

## Past Events Feedback

### Birmingham Sculpting the Sky

The first ever Artistic Kite Group Kite competition was held at Sutton Park in Birmingham on the 23rd of April, entries were invited from all who had made an artistic kite and in total we received 21 entries.

#### The Results

Following a very close competition the winner was Jenny Longbottom with her Ghost above a city skyline kite, and second place went to Anna Charlton for her Geisha girl kite

#### The Method

An informal approach of simply allowing people to bring their kites along and place them on the ground for all to see was very successful and everyone seemed keen to participate. Each kite was given a numbered sticker, so that it could be identified and this eliminated the need for pre-registration

With this being our first competition we are still trying to find a good formula for judging and comparing artistic kites, the rules which were devised for this competition were quite simple and graded the kites equally on two areas firstly the Artistic impression/ originality of design and secondly the technical merit / attention to detail in construction of the kite although there was no flying ability section to the competition the kites should at least be able to fly in ideal conditions, we felt it would severely inhibit peoples artistic creativity if they were constrained that the kite must fly on a certain day, which might have a howling gale or no wind at all.

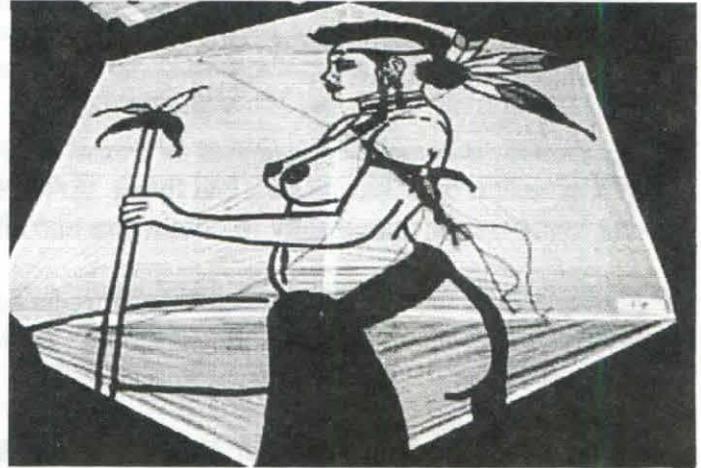
#### Subsequent rule changes

Following discussion between the judges after the competition, it was felt that the rules needed to be modified, to put a greater emphasis on the creative side of the scoring and so now the scoring of artistic impression will carry twice the weight of the technical marking.

## Artistic Kite Group Competition Rules

### Principles and purpose of competition

The Artistic kite group acknowledges the problems of judging items of art one against another and because of



Squaw Kite by Helene Morgan seen here at the Birmingham Sculpting the Sky competition.

this problem of subjective judgement between judges, we accept that people may feel that it is impossible to fairly judge which work is "Better" than any other,

It must be remembered however that this is friendly competition which seeks to raise the profile of all kite makers /designers and is not meant as a negative or judgmental exercise but simply the unique opinion of the judges.

To this end the opinion of the judges will be final and there will be no recourse to appeal.

### THE RULES

Kites will be judged on two categories.

1. Artistic Impression / Originality of design
2. Technical merit / attention to detail in construction.

Artistic Impression will be marked on a scale of 1 to 20 and Technical merit will be marked on a scale of 1 to 10 the scores from all judges will added together and the kite with the most points will be deemed the winner, in the event of a tie the kite scoring highest on Artistic impression will be deemed the winner.

If there is still a tie then the judges will review the two kites and select a winner by agreement.

All kites must be home made, although designs may be traditional, or from plans found in books or magazines if kites which are not copyright / patent free are entered then it is the responsibility of the entrant to obtain the permission of the copyright / patent holder and the Artistic kite group will take no responsibility for violations of copyright or patent laws.

Kites may of course be of a completely original design and the judges should recognise and give credit for this in the marking Originality / Artistic impression category.

In addition kites which use the artwork of others e.g. cartoon characters or famous works of art etc. will be marked down on originality because of this, although they will not be disqualified. entrants should declare works which are not original and endeavour to give credit to the original artist.

Kites will not be judged on their flying ability / characteristics since it is felt unfair that some kites will fair better in different weather conditions, which it is impossible to anticipate in advance kite should however be able to fly conditions permitting.

Entry is open to all whether they be professional kite makers, or enthusiasts, co-operative or team efforts are also welcome, membership of the Artistic Kite group is not required for entry.

A maximum of three kites may be entered by any one individual or team in any one competition.

Previous entry into any other competition including those run by the AKG will not exclude entry in any future competition.

AKG Rules 1995 Copyright © AKG



This Suruga is made of silk and painted using silk paints it was one of the kites in the competition at Birmingham unfortunately I did not get the name of the maker.

### Weymouth 1995

Although this event was suggested to me at short notice there was quite a good response to the call to show kites, especially on the Sunday, and I would like to thank all of those who participated, This arena method of displaying kites is perhaps not the most suitable for the type of kites which we are showing and maybe the lesson to be learned is to steer clear of arena displays in future, I would welcome your views on this matter.

### Swindon 1995

The display at Swindon which was in a small marquee, was a great success many people showed great interest in the kites. and several people just turned up and added their kites to the display, this is the kind of display which I believe will be most successful in promoting these kites as 'Art' since creating a small 'Gallery' setting allows both the public and kitemakers alike to see the kites from a new perspective. In addition this approach allows people to discuss in more detail ideas and techniques which their never seems time for on the flying field. several visitors took the opportunity to become new members of the group including Don Mock himself ! who also very kindly allowed us to display some of his wonderful kites.

### Forthcoming Events

#### **Brighton Kite Festival 29th & 30th July '95**

Barry Pitman who is the Brighton Kite Flyers publicity officer has asked if we can show some Artistic kites, so if you are planning on going to Brighton this year and wish to show your kites there then please contact Barry Pitman on 01273 503398

#### **Coventry Kite Festival 20th August 1995**

This event which is on the day following the Kite Society Convention, is to be at The Memorial Park, Kenilworth Road Coventry, and the AKG will be present and is running another competition along the lines of the ones at Birmingham and Washington. so if you wish to compete you can simply turn up on the day with your kite and enter.

#### **South Eastern Kite Society Kite Festival**

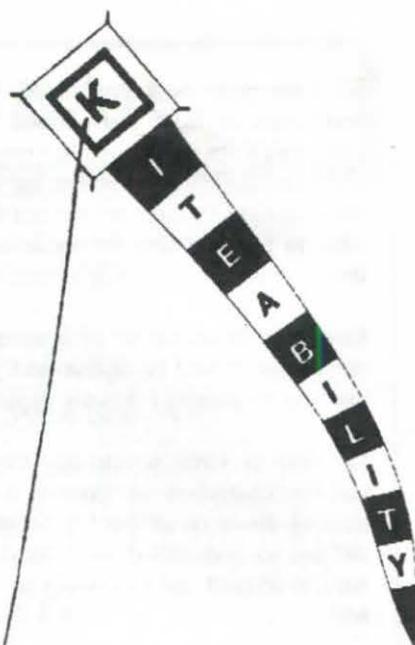
The South Eastern Kite Society is holding its first kite festival on September 10th this year and it is planned to have an Artistic Kite competition run on the lines of the AKG rules which have now been developed and are printed elsewhere in this newsletter. I believe it is the intention of the organisers to offer a substantial prize along with a certificate to the winner, for further information contact myself or Alan Sage, 22 Cherry Drive, Canterbury, Kent. CT2 8HF. Tel 01227 462786.

#### **Other Events**

Pat Collins of 128 Kingston Road, Teddington, Middlesex, has contacted me regarding a kite design competition, The challenge is to produce a kite 18"x18" decorated in the style of a known artist. contact Pat for further details.

# KITEABILITY

## HANDMADE KITES AND KITE MATERIALS



Our old Gent, who's name is Harry,  
is about to commit Harri Karri.  
He's bought some plans to make a quad  
and he's thinking of joining the buggy squad.

"It's all very easy", 'he said to me,  
"I'll get all my bits from **KITEABILITY**,  
I'm not insane (just ask your Mum)  
but I'll need a crash hat on me bum."

He set about and made this kite,  
he beavered on all through the night,  
said "How do you steer this thing, do you know?  
by using both my hands, my mouth and one big toe?."

He got pulled right through the mire,  
then through a fence of thick barbed wire,  
He got to his feet and said "Ho Hum,  
Thank heaven I had a crash hat on me bum."

It's a very dangerous thing you see,  
For a lively old Gent of 83,  
to sit astride a buggy at warp speed B,  
If he'd stuck to a Kiskeedee, he'd be just fine.

He struggled home to her indoors,  
dreading to tell her he'd torn his drawers,  
He started to say "It's all part of the game."  
But she told him "**STICK TO YOUR ZIMMER FRAME.**"

So whatever kite your making, come and see,  
Pan and Ron at **KITEABILITY**.



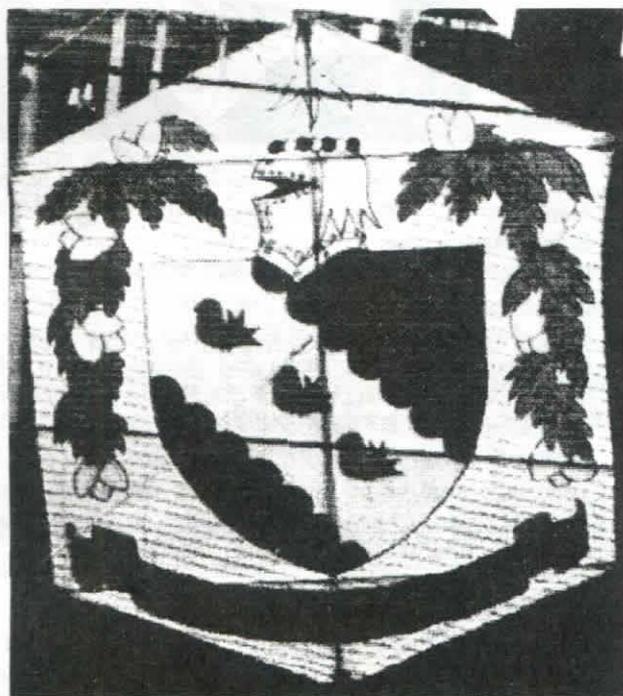
2, Garfield Road, Enfield, Middlesex EN3 4RP Tel: 081-804 9080

Proprietor: Mrs. P. Dell

### Kites on Loan

I would like to thank those persons, Gill Bloom, Peter Dawson, and Harry Douglas, who have loaned kites to the group in order that they can be taken around various kite festivals, if anyone else would like to loan kites to the group then this is greatly appreciated, and will allow displays to show the work of a greater range of styles and techniques from different artists.

In addition if you wish to enter a kite in one of the competitions but cannot make it to the event yourself then you may still enter your kite by sending it to me and I will enter it on your behalf.



This kite was made and decorated by Peter Dawson using Permanent marker pens on ripstop nylon, and is on loan to the group for display. The method of decoration was described in the April Kiteflier.

### Features

#### PAINTING ON RIPSTOP

Amongst the many questions I am asked probably the most frequent is 'How can you paint on ripstop, until recently I could only suggest methods which I had heard worked but which I had no first hand experience of, I therefore set out to discover for myself an effective and simple solution to the problem, the following account is my personal experience,

although if anyone knows of any additions or improvements please let me know and I will in turn pass on their tips.

### Preparation.

Ripstop spinnaker nylon the type which I use is Carringtons so I cannot speak for any other brand, the type I use is not the balloon quality and I suspect this would not accept the paint I used so readily.

Since the ripstop is coated with silicone this causes some problems with penetration of the paint into the fibres of the fabric, I have discovered that first washing the plain white piece of ripstop in hand hot water with a little washing up liquid not only helps to soften the silicon coating but also removes any oily stains and grease marks which are surprisingly common on the surface of the fabric, if this is then rinsed to remove any residual soap bubbles, and then hung out to dry and finally ironed with a medium iron then you will have your ready to use slightly softened ripstop, I am not sure how much this process affects the porosity of the ripstop but for single line kites the loss of performance will be minimal if any at all. if you are a sports kite maker I must declare that I don't know whether this will affect performance since I haven't used it to make a sports kite.

### Painting

The paint I have used with great success are silk paints the brand I have used are called SETASILK but I guess any similar heat set silk paints would also work, unfortunately these are quite expensive at around £2.45 for each colour, and unfortunately they don't mix very well often producing muddy colours, the other thing you will need is GUTTAS, guttas are used to divide areas of colour so that the adjacent colour will not run into the next, when used in silk painting they sink right into the silk and produce an impervious layer which the paint cannot penetrate, the same principle applies to ripstop but they are not infallible and small amounts of colour can occasionally migrate along the reinforcing weaves in the ripstop fabric, Guttas are available in two basic types, clear and opaque, the clear variety washes out later, and the opaque type does not, the opaque guttas is usually metallic in colour, silver, gold and copper are common black is also available, in practise on a kite the colour is of little importance since once the kite is flying all colours might as well be black, the effect at ground level close up of course is different.

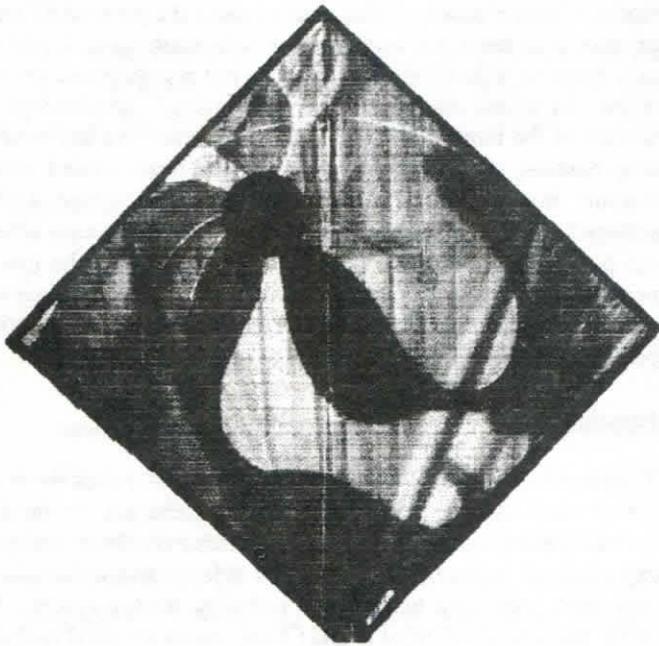
Guttas come in three different forms either as a paint for application with a brush, as a felt pen type marker, or in a toothpaste type tube with a long applicator nozzle, I have not used the pen type although I have heard they are good on silk, the best type I have used come in the tube with the nozzle, they take a little practise but produce clear relatively even lines.

Silk paints are quite watery in consistency and therefore they may not always produce a dense colour with only one application, a second coat can often produce a much more rich colour saturation.

Once all your painting is complete, you will need to iron the piece of fabric with a medium iron, practise this on a small scrap piece first and try to use quite a hot iron if you can, don't just give it a quick press keep going over the painted areas for a couple of minutes to ensure that the paints are well set into the fabric.

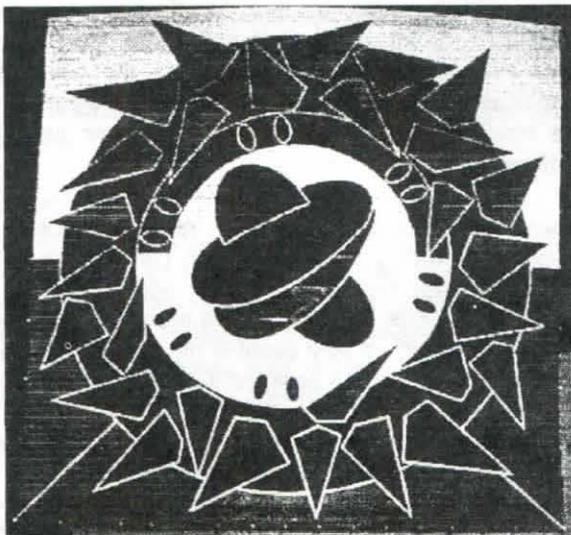
Above all practise with scrap pieces first and don't be afraid to experiment, the results can be quite impressive.

**Charlie Charlton**

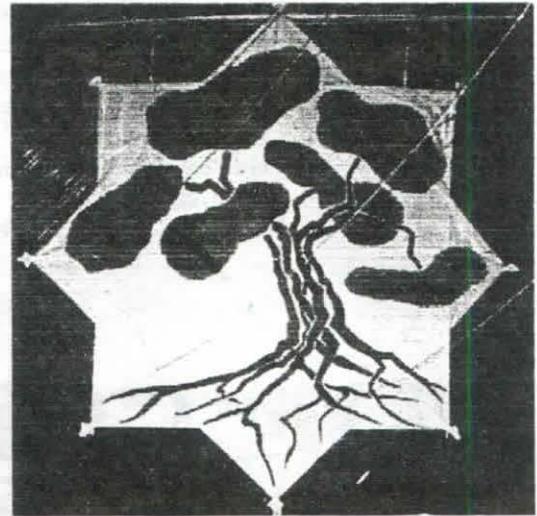


Artistic Kites Down Under

Bob Peirson of New South Wales, Australia has sent me this report, and also the pictures which go with it.



Art Kites Pictures for the Sky 26 Dec 1994 to 29th Jan 1995 at Darling Harbour Sydney Australia



The exhibition of 160 Art kits has been estimated in value to be more than \$25 million. The kite of greatest value was that of Robert Rauchenberg estimated to be more than \$1 million, this was "Sky House II" a reddish montage like painting having a chair prominently displayed. The book on sale "Pictures for the Sky" depicting the kites was of great value as it accurately portrayed the colours, shape and construction of the various kites as well as giving a good description. I believe it may be purchased from KITELINES.

There appeared to be many styles of modern art represented from the abstract to the more instantly recognisable such as the hard edge, optical art and pop art paintings.

More than 100 artists from 20 countries submitted paintings to the Goethe Institute of Osaka for Art Kites in 1987. They were then assembled into the appropriate form of Japanese Kite by Japanese Kitemasters who used the traditional methods and materials.

The project was made possible due to the initiative of Dr Paul Eubel and with his assistant curator Ikuko Matsumoto along with the financial support of the sponsors.

The flying of the Art Kites in centennial park was a magnificent spectacle with the Japanese drums and kitemakers / kitefliers from Japan in their uniforms.

The Art Kites have been exhibited at 9 venues in Japan, 13 in Europe, one in North America and in Sydney Australia

Please send all correspondence to :  
Charlie Charlton. 38 Beechway, Maghull, Merseyside L31 1HP

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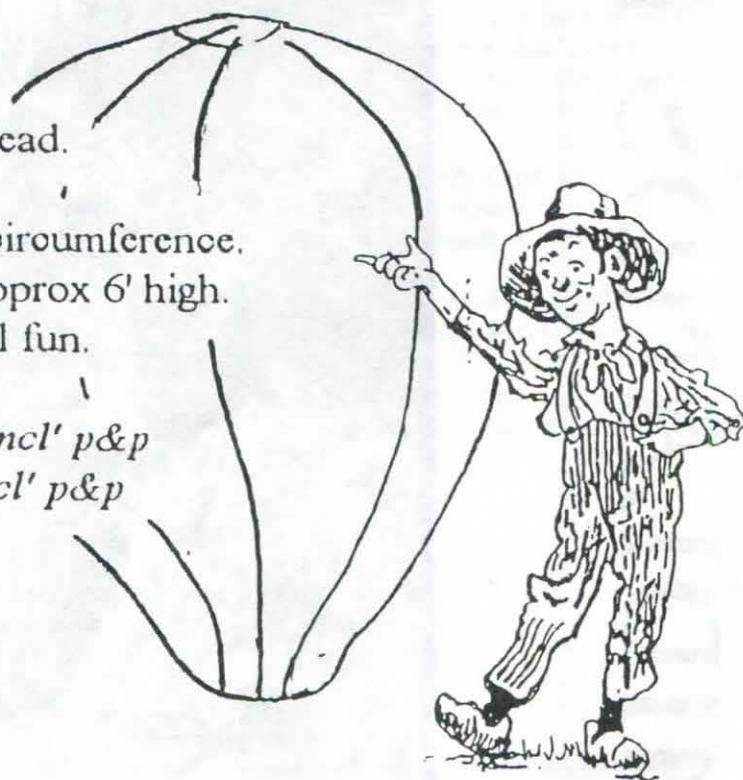
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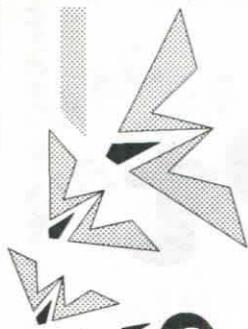
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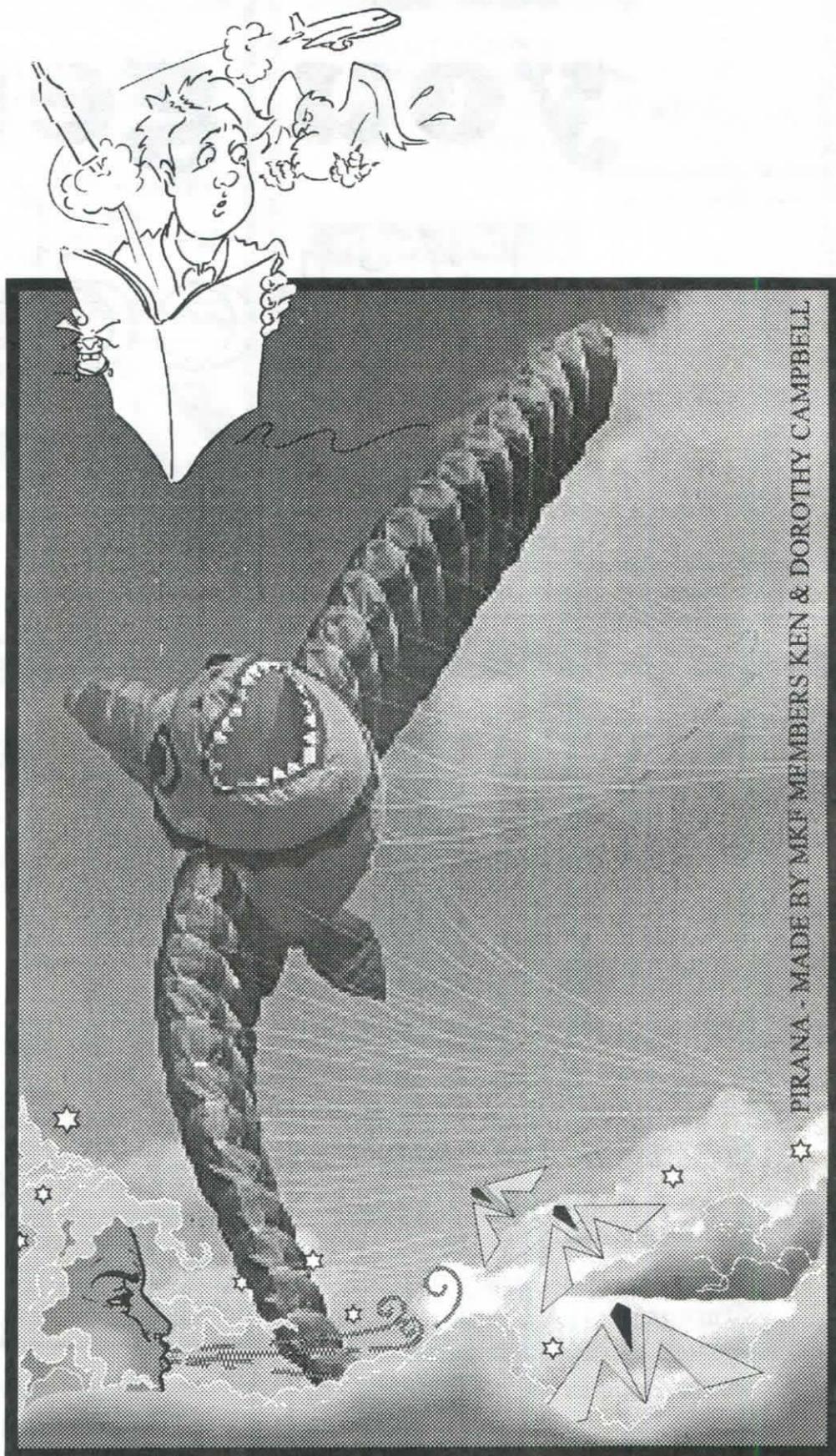
# MKF Extra

JULY 1995

The Extra Newsletter of The Midlands Kite Fliers



# MIDLANDS KITE FLIERS

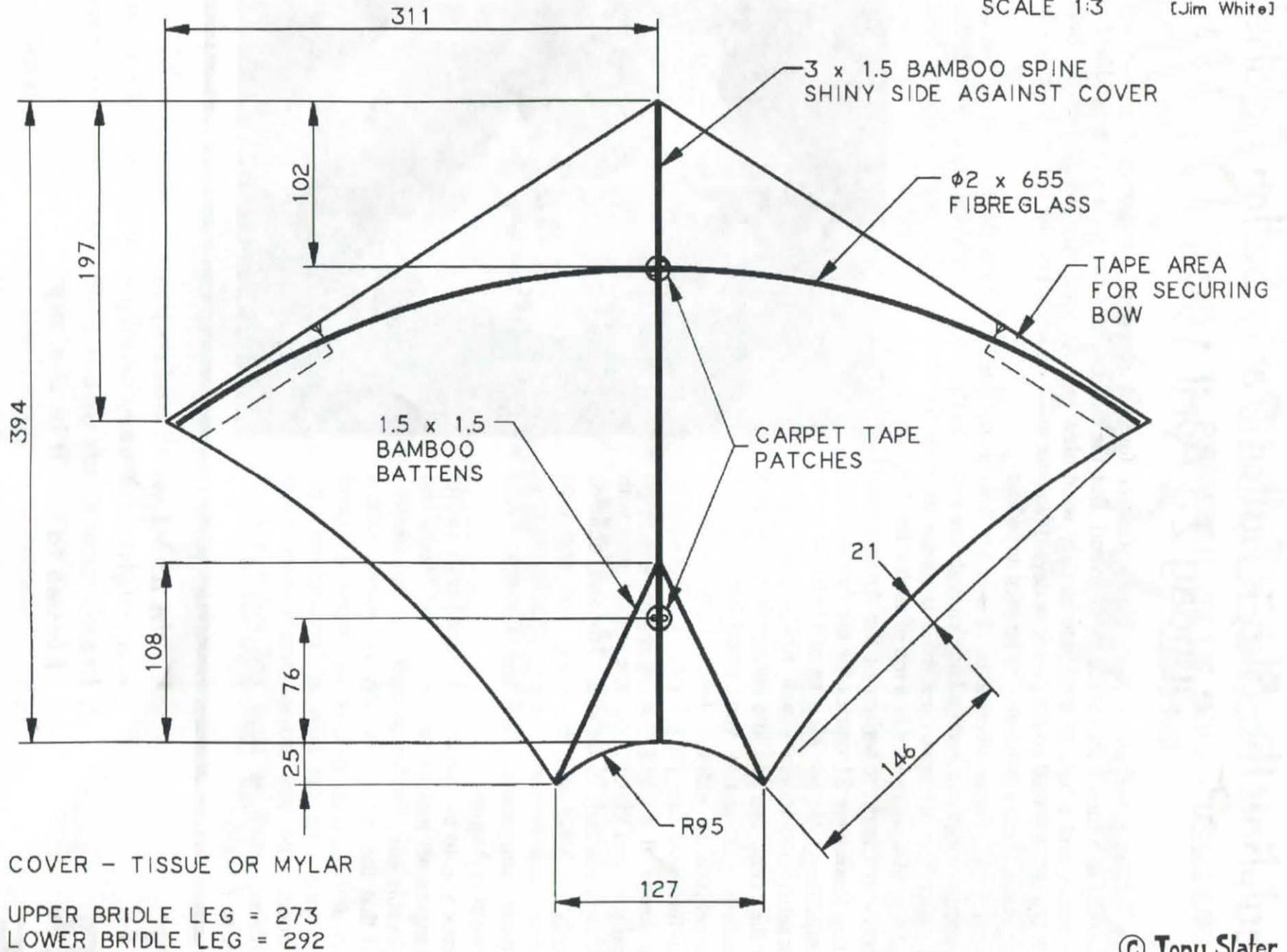


PIRANA - MADE BY MKF MEMBERS KEN & DOROTHY CAMPBELL

# BIZZY Fighter Kite

Designed by Tony Slater, Shropshire Kite Group

ALL DIMENSIONS IN mm  
SCALE 1:3 [Jim White]



© Tony Slater

# Sculpting the Sky - Sutton Park, Sutton Coldfield

## Sunday 23 April 1995

After watching the previous evening's weather forecast we were wondering if it was worth travelling to Sutton Park for the above event! But, the clouds kept away from Sutton Coldfield, the sun shone, and a light to moderate easterly wind blew making conditions nearly perfect. Sutton Park drains very well so the previous days downpour made no impact on the site whatsoever - firm and grassy, there was no mud to be seen anywhere.

Sutton Park is very deceptive. I wonder how many kitefliers have driven through the trees wondering where on earth a large enough site will be to fly one kite, let alone hold a festival there! But, once the site opens out there is plenty of room for all (although it seems kitefliers have a tendency to want to be all on top of each other, not wanting to 'be at the front').

Thanks to Charlie Charlton of the Artistic Kite Group there were 21 entries for the Artistic Kite Competition. Helene Morgan of Skybums made a scantily clad Indian Squaw Rokkaku specially for the event, and one kite entered was only part finished! It was a very close and difficult competition to judge. Jenny Longbottom of Hereford won first prize for her 1m Rokkaku in the design of a ghost over buildings, and Anna Charlton from Merseyside won second prize with her Japanese lady Sode kite. Trophies, donated jointly by MKF and the AKG, were presented and we look forward to seeing Charlie organise another competition for the Coventry Kite Festival in August.

Thank you to everyone who helped with on-site arrangements making the day a very relaxed and enjoyable one. The Sutton Park staff and wardens feel that the event was fully in keeping with a Park and we hope that we can repeat the event next year with the help of Birmingham City Council, who can provide much more event hardware, such as tapes and stakes and, of course, Portaloos!



**T  
R  
E  
E  
S**

*Kevin and I went out to play  
On a bright and very windy day  
A brand new Club Sport I did fly  
I loved to see it in the sky.*

*Then when I thought that I would land it  
It came as quite a shock to me  
I just don't understand it.  
For when I brought my kite around  
a tree leapt out and grabbed it!*

Signed: **A Knutt**

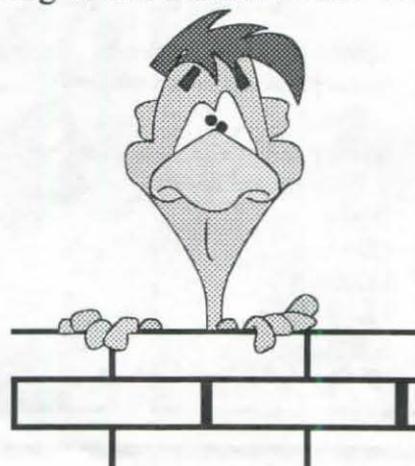
# WHAT, NO MUD!

For the benefit of any kiteflier who has not visited Shipley Country Park, Derbyshire in the winter months, one of the most unique features of this popular MKF fly-in site is the MUD. But, let us consider some of the advantages.....

1 Soft landings for kites and kilters. For example - at our last visit our eight year old son (or should I say 8¾!) found out the Scorpion could be landed javelin style, nose down, with no damage. Very clever Jerry, I haven't seen that one on the Festival circuit!

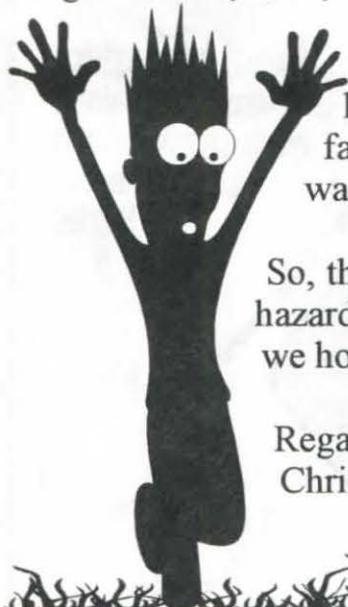
2 Very often in kiting publications the subject comes up of keeping under control those we aim to impress - our good friend the public. Most visitors to Shipley Country Park are aware of the hazards of straying from the footpaths. Those who do stray from the hard-standing are often quickly deterred as the tide-mark starts to creep up their clean Reeboks, brogues or whatever. Hence most prefer to stand, watch and take the opportunity to question whether kites really are 'just for kids'.

3 Sheer entertainment value - there's plenty of Jeremy Beadle material here. One day, the antics of some kiteflier will be on Beadles About, I'm sure. I can remember making my MKF debut at Shipley Park, and the mud got the better of me then!



**What No Mud!!**

More recently, my wife had her own encounter with the sticky stuff on launching our daughter's kite; 'One, two, three, there you g.....'. ZZZZip, splat! Mummy receives a uniform coating from head to toe, and bears a striking resemblance to a chocolate éclair. Mmmmm, I could just eat you up, you look lovely when you're angry! It was my fault, of course, I'd taken the family to Shipley Park when the fly-in was at Leicester. I thought it was quiet!



So, there you have it, every mud has a slimy lining, with virtues as well as hazards, and mud is better than cow-pats. Its all good clean dirty fun, and we hope you all enjoy your kiting this season, whatever your persuasion.

Regards from

Chris Gage and Family, Newark, Nottinghamshire. Alias 'The Muddies'

---

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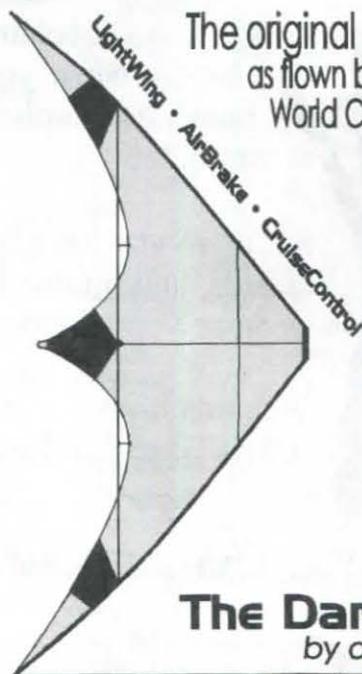
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# ROMAN CANDLE 37.



The Journal of the Bearly Made It Skydive Squad. The International Brother and Sisterhood of Parachuting Fauna and the U.K. Ted Devils. Proscribed in a certain part of Somerset. Arguably the most Photocopied piece of Mindless Drivel in Kiting Today. Guaranteed Politically Incorrect, and yes, you're right, we could'nt give a Toss:



ROMAN CANDLE DECLARED 'OFFENSIVE MATERIAL'  
Read inside how R.C. got up somebodys nose  
We're not sure if its acase of Out Po'ing  
the Po Faced, but only one serious compla-  
int in 14 years ? come on you Crazy Sods,  
you can do better than that surely.

# 487

# TRY ARGUING WITH THAT

You may recall that in R.C. No:35 we reported a Parafauna Drop that fairly Slaughtered the existing B.M.I.S.S. Cat II (Dump) Record.

We witheld news of what those Intrepid Antipodeans Peter Coleman and Duncan McEvoy had done to their Record as we felt sure that at the rate they were going it was only a matter of time before they actually hit the unbeleivable figure of a Thousand Parabears at once.

No doubt they are working toward that Figure, but inthe meantime you'llhave to make do with the fact that the've only reached **487**. Yes you did read correctly, **487 Bears** at once. Holy Cow, the Mind Boggles. This new record was set just a week after they dropped 289 at the Festival of the Winds 94.

The 487 drop in fact, was much more difficult due to the conditions at the Capital Kite Fest. The Wind was Gusting to 27 knots with 50 deg shifts. The Kite was a 50sq ft Sutton Flow Form and the Bearload was a little over 23lbs. B.M.I.S.S. is pleased to ratify the amazing **487** as the New Catagory II (Dump) Record, Well done OZ.

How long will the Record stay at 487?....1000, here they come, watch this space!

# THE DISGUSTED OF TUNBRIDGE WELLS PAGE...



For those of our Readers who were unaware, Roman Candle is also Published as part of The Kiteflieger. the Newsletter of the Kite Society of Great Britain. The following Letter was addressed to The Kiteflieger, but as it concerns Roman Candle it is published here so that every Reader of R.C. can read it and also read the BOF's reply.

Dear Sir, Please find enclosed these pages taken from the April 95 Kiteflieger. Personally I dont think we need this kind of material in this popular Magazine and I am sure there must be a lot more readers of the same opinion.

Therefore I would like to think perhaps you could remove such material from my future Kitefliers without too much trouble, so that on passing on my Kiteflieger on to my young Granddaughter it would not contain this offending writing.

Yours Truly, Mr. R. Beaven, Somerset.

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\* Mr Beaven, Whilst I'm sure the Editors of The Kiteflieger will only be too happy to Bowdlerize your personal copy of The Kiteflieger, I must confess that it really made my Day when I read your Letter of Complaint. Hooray, I've upset someone, now I know I'm doing the BIZ.

It must be a Dull old Life in Somerset. You surely cannot read a Newspaper, watch T.V., or even listen to what I regard as the Establishment Bastion of what is or what is not permissable, B.B.C. Radio Four.

Every word or phrase I use in Roman Candle, I've seen , read or heard in or on the Media, therefore I regard them as being in Common Usage. Other words and phrases are used frequently in the Media, some of which I've heard on Radio Four I would not dare use in Roman Candle.

In your letter MR. B. you state that there are a lot of Kiteflieger Readers of the same Opinion as yourself, Fair Comment, but by the same Token, there must be an equally large number of Kiteflieger Readers who actually enjoy a Quarterly Dose of Mindless Drivel. I really would like to know which part of R.C was not to your liking Mr. B. was it like the Curates Egg, Good in Parts? or was it the whole? I did Laugh when I read that bit about your Young Granddaughter. I take it that if she's old enough to read The Kiteflieger then she goes to School. Alas, on the "Protection" front, I fear that you Labour in Vain, besides, I never knew that The Kiteflieger was a Magazine whose content was governed by what a Child may or may not Read Therein.

Come on Mr. B. Lighten Up, Lifes too Short,

Yours, J Barker, Not the only Boring Old Fart.

\*\*\*\*\*

# Kennewick voters approve extension of public safety tax

## NEW 775111

### EASTER BUNNY WANTS TO NIBBLE YOUR CARROT OPEN LATE

Whilst we cannot be 100% certain that it was entirely Non Parafauna connected items like those above which upset a certain someone, we like to think that it was. By the way, every time we tried to Ring the Hedonists Phone Number, it was engaged. No doubt by all you naughty Dropniks and, I daresay lots of equally Naughty Po Faced, who were desperate to be Pleasure Seekers as well. So please dontJam the Easter Bunny's Phone, let some other other Carrot get a look in. Thanks to Vi Weeks and the Air Zoo for the above.

Visiting service available

## Soaraway disaster

BRITAIN's biggest kite took four months to create but seconds to wreck in freak winds. Maker Neil Harvey said of the 1,000sq ft kite's end at Wroughton, Wilts: "These things happen."

We saw the above Kite Blow Up at Swindon, not a pretty sight, good job none of our lot were aloft at the time. This incident was closely followed by the Starving Horses Mega Do Nut doing much the same thing a little later. Luckily none of the Humes were injured, though they did have the Wind put up them somewhat.

This item, right was enough to put the Wind up us Parafauna. Gordon Bennett, who at a way to go

Still, look on the bright side, maybe those Fa-

una who were Toasted are now in that Plush, Mohair, Heaven. Only hope their Ghosts don't come back to haunt anyone. Nice to see that Mrs Fagan snr had her priorities right "SAVE THE BEARS FIRST!....."

" Foiled a V.E. Day Attempt to Kidnap Brother Bluebottle. Kidnap? no STEAL...

Dropnik Billings was taken by the Midland Sky Fauna to a V.E. Day event in Coventry, where a good time was had even though it was a Small Site. For the Finale Drop, Bluebottle was lofted with the Flag of the M.S.F. and proceeded to drift off over a large Marquee. When Steve arrived on the scene, no Bluebottle. Steve spent half an hour enquiring as to the whereabouts of the Lad to no avail when suddenly he caught sight of what appeared to be Bluebottle's Chute tucked behind a Baby in a Pushchair, almost hidden, but not quite. The Bloke with the Pushchair said he was looking for Bluebottle's owner, oh yeah, why didn't he hand him in at the lost property stall. The Cheeky Sod even demanded a Reward. Some people have got more front than Harrods.

Steve has also been dropping Fauna with an Elastic Static line, we're not sure if this is a First, but Steve says that the surprise on the faces of those onlookers when the Fauna Bungees before it Deploys is well worth it.....

Thanksto Bill Elder for the Fire piece.

# Firefighters' passing out parade for air bear Sopwith

EVEN for a bear who survived dogfights in two world wars, a house fire on VE-Day proved no picnic.

It took a chain of rescuers to save Sopwith and more than 400 other teddies from the fierce blaze.

The bear, who saw service as a mascot with the Royal Flying Corps in 1917 and flew in a Spitfire in World War II, is part of a £250,000 collection used as models for ceramic miniatures made by Peter Fagan and his wife Frances.

The couple were out when their 16-year-old son Paul discovered the fire at their Georgian townhouse in Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland.

The teenager shut doors to isolate the flames in his seven-year-old sister Lucy's

bedroom before calling the fire brigade and alerting his grandparents who live nearby.

Mrs Fagan, 41, who runs the Colour Box giftware company, said yesterday: "As soon as they were sure everyone was safely accounted for, my mother shouted: "Get the bears out!"

"At first they thought she must be demented but they took her seriously when she threatened to go into the smoke and rescue them herself. The firefighters and the

neighbours formed a human chain and passed them out."

Among other notable survivors — all a little smoke damaged — are two bears dating from

1908 and made by the famous German manufacturer Steiff.

Sadly, Lucy's private collection of 250 teddies perished in the blaze.



Evacuee: The war mascot is part of a £250,000 collection

# POM-BAR





Mr Mud of Newark tells us that although he is generally of Po Faced persuasion, preferring to get his fun Two Handed, he does indulge in the odd bit of Fauna bombing with a Para Dinosaur. He sent this Phot, left, of the winner in a best undressed Bare Bear Comp and wonders if it was a comp or a cattle market.

He goes on to say, The Winner pictured has Paws Together Eyes Closed?, No bloody wonder, the poor little Sod is dying of embarrassment wondering if his Mum will see him in R.C. in the Nuddy. Mr Mud also wonders if this is actually Hume Exploitation of Fauna in order to achieve Euro Sleaze Bear Status. He warns all Dropniks to be on their guard against thir fauna starting to read Mucky Bear

Bear Books, cos no doubt some of these Rotten little Sods would seize the Sleaze at the first opportunity. You have been warned.

The piece below , left via Jan Poulter leads one to wonder if the Mr

### Stunt bears

YOUNG PAUL BRADSHAW needn't be concerned about the welfare of performing teddy bears (RT Letters 4 February). The teddy in the recent *Mr Bean* paint pot incident was clearly a stunt bear. These courageous performers prepare their stunts carefully and never put themselves at risk. All credit to Rowan Atkinson for providing a really challenging role for a teddy. We're not all wimps!

*Euston Bear, London SE23*

Bean Stunt Bear is not alone. Maybe Teddy Pugh on the Zig and Zag show is a Stunt bear. Hope he is, cos if he really was cooked when Zag threw him on the Barbythen we'll have to put a contract out on those Two Furry Aliens and we wont use Honey. I wonder if the Two are Flame Retardent.

### Cuddliness beats macho image as teddy arrives with PC Van Plod

**OBJECTIONS** by Amsterdam police to arriving at the scene of a crime with a teddy bear have been quashed by the increasing popularity of the toys, writes *Christine Aziz in Amsterdam.*

"At first they did nothing for our credibility," said one policeman. But in a year more than 800 teddy bears have been used in a scheme about to be taken up by police in all main Dutch cities to help comfort child victims of crime or accidents.

The project was started by a policewoman, Christina Zwart, who had heard of a similar scheme in the United States, where bears were handed out by firefighters to children they rescued.

"At first the police thought it would ruin their macho image," she said. Now there is a cache of teddies in each of Amsterdam's 34 police stations.

Children are encouraged to keep the bears, which are paid for by the police.

The piece on the Right was sent by Dave Huges. the bit about the Dutch Cops credibility makes you laugh. We'd be more suspicious of their so called credibility if they didnt have Teddy Bears.

\*\*\*\*      \*\*\*\*      \*\*\*\*      \*\*\*\*      \*\*\*\*      \*\*\*\*      \*\*\*\*      \*\*\*\*      \*\*\*\*      \*\*\*\*      \*\*\*\*

Something for you Computer Buffs. HCS GLOBAL are offering Euro Teddies with Every £100 you spend on 3M products. Phone 0800 252 252 or fax 0800 125 125 for more details. Thanks to whoever sent that info as well as the kind soul who tipped us off about the POM BAR Snack Teddys.

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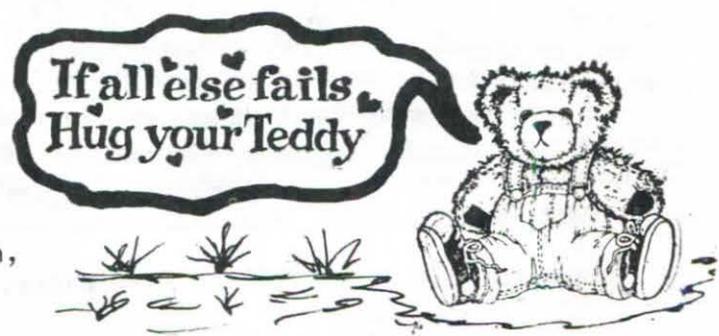
Prof Mike Dallmer informs us that Teddy Bear Hub Caps are available Stateside. They fit 14" or 15" wheels and only cost 90 Bucks for a set of Four, plus shipping etc, for your info phone CA 92051-2480. They'd last about 2 minutes over here before some Tow Rag nicked them.

\*\*\*      \*\*\*\*      \*\*\*\* \*      \*\*\*\*\*      \*\*\*\*      \*\*\*\*      \*\*\*\*      \*\*\*\*      \*\*\*\*      \*\*\*\*      \*\*\*\*

Well once again thanks to all our Supporters and other Crazy Sods out there, we've managed to huff and puff up anyoher dose of mindless drivel

If you fancy tearing pages from the Kiteflieger save on postage, just hang on the Nail in the Kharzi, you know it makes sense.

As per usual, yor noos and voos to the B.O.F. c/o The Teddutorial, 48 Laurel Lane, West Drayton, Middx, UB7.7TY.U.K.



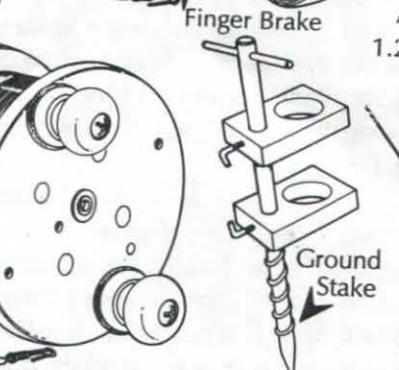
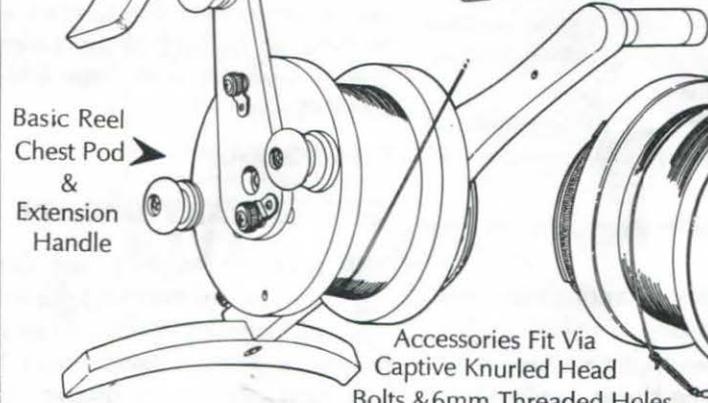
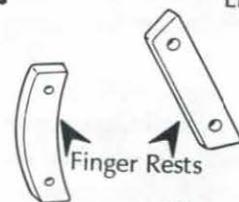
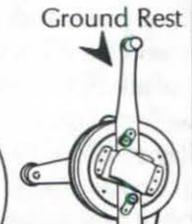
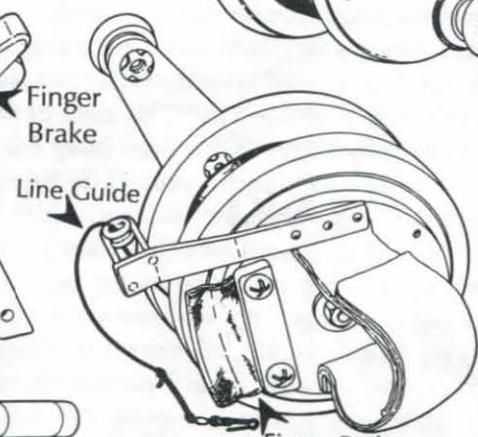
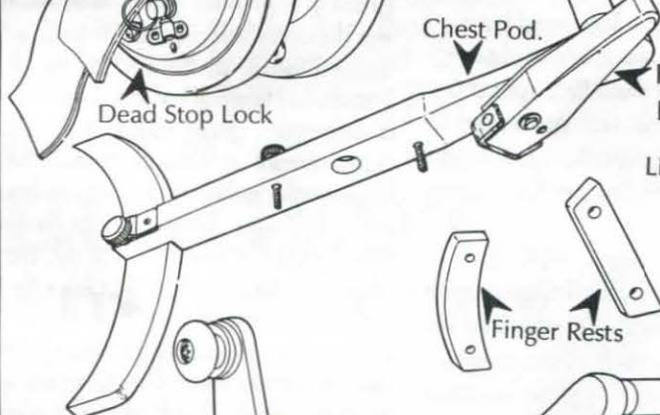
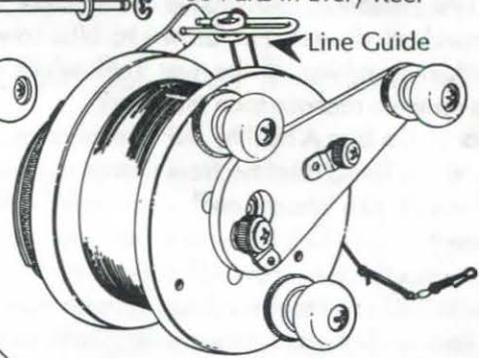
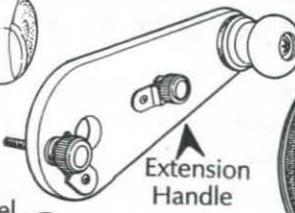
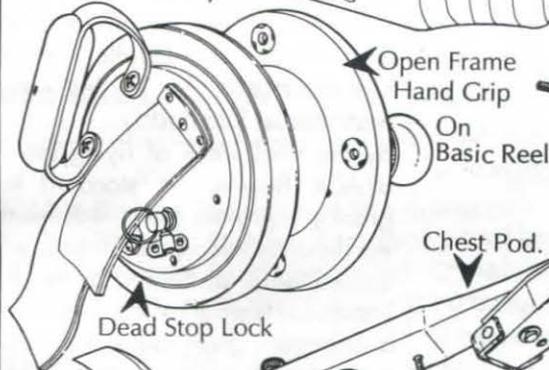
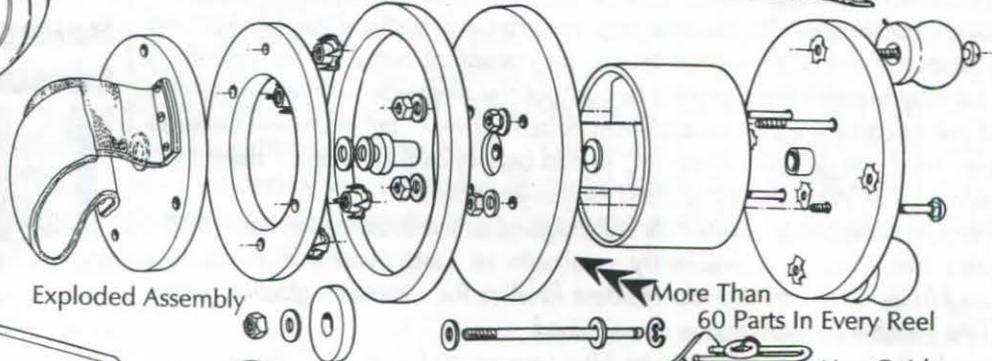
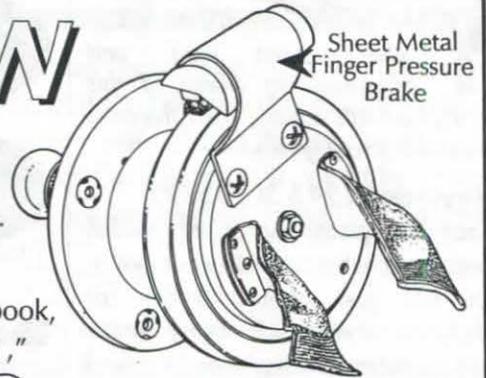
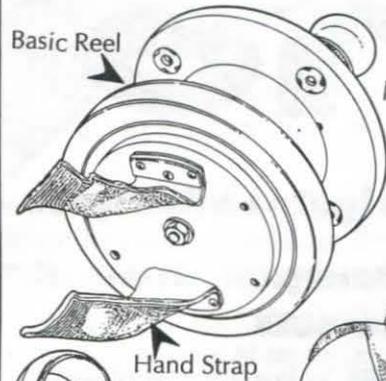
# The DEL-SAW

## BRIGHT SKY REEL

Inspired by Ron Dell,  
Manufactured by Maurice Sawyer.

Made by Kitefliers for Kitefliers !

Developed from John Wildings book,  
" How to Make a Deep Sky Reel , "



Approx 1.2m High

Accessories Fit Via Captive Knurled Head Bolts, & 6mm Threaded Holes

## MEMOIRS OF A MENACE

**Y**our chance to get filled in on what's been what and happened to whom at this year's festivals so far... well, the ones I've made it to anyway!

**Weymouth:** 29 & 30/05/95

**Place & space:** Acres of golden sand... well, when the tide's out that is, but still just enough room for everyone when it's in. Every year's visit includes a complimentary sand

castle - transported via your kite bag, camera case, socks, shoes, pockets... ad infinitum... for loving recreation on the carpet at home. If Weymouth is constantly brought back to mind throughout the remainder of the season - it's not just because it's such an excellent beach festival - but moreover because every time you get your kites out... lo and behold as if by magic - there's yet another bit of Weymouth you didn't realise you'd stolen!

**Nomad's temporary shelter:** A BKF bagsied prime location hot spot B&B - where breakfast is conveniently available at lunch time and the bar is thoughtfully open until the last resident finishes the remaining gladioli, slides off the stool and crawls up the stairs to bed.

**Scorched, drowned or blown to bits:** Low winds for most of the weekend with a sprinkling of the wet stuff which is a 1st for this fest... what no Weymouth 'raccoon face' this year?

**Doing the biz:** A healthy BKF turnout once again. Some awesome single and multi line flying displays from a large representation of kites from all corners of the UK plus International jetsetters from Europe and the States. Jerry Swift won the Open Solo Rok with the Menaces winning the UK Team Rok and the Weymouth Open Team Rok deservedly going to Arthur & Martin Dibble of the WHKF... it's tough work running around on that sand!

A new record was set for the most Rok's flown in the arena, followed by a group photo sesh. I can't quite recall what the final count was... somewhere around the 45 mark I think. In between flying his stack of Flexi Pro Speed 6's, Paul joined the mega legs fly. Bazzar's new 'Biker Betty' Edo was presented to the Boop Troop for official launch (lunch if you include the chocolate cake) and duly christened with champagne and sand - then returned to Bazzar for a clean up! Special Kite takes on Groucho and wins 1 of 3 rounds.

**What you missed:** The first festival outing for the new 7m x 2m BKF banner (see photo) built by Mik Jennison with help from yours truly and sponsorship from Air Born Kites. As you can see; Mik doesn't do things by halves so it's anything but small or inconspicuous! Boop Troop Ro(c)k much in abundance... providing a well needed minty midday munchie cure for all. Fake feathers appear - I suppose all successful designs are liable to poor quality imitations. Unfortunately Baz mislays Special Kite after prank misfires!

**Thankx:** To Gill & Jon Bloom for organisation. Bazzar & Jan for squeezing us and our ever growing piles of garbage into their weeniemobile.

**Teston Bridge:** 08/05/95

**Place & space:** An idyllic riverside location - a look at Doug Jones brilliant aerial photos is a must if you get the chance.

**Scorched, drowned or blown to bits:** The perfect day, with cobalt blue skies and heaps of sunshine - if a little light on wind occasionally.

**Doing the biz:** Four Gibson Girl box kites were flown together - very in tune with the VE Day vintage displays taking place a little higher overhead. The BOF received his long awaited newly finished 'Gnasher' team size Rok, the

# aerodyne

the newsletter of the brighton kite flyers

July 1995

## BRIGHTON STUNT KITE LEAGUES

**T**he first 3 Sunday afternoons of March were spent running the League rounds with some local and not so local kitefliers. We ran Novice, Experienced and Master classes using the basic STACK league style rules. The fliers completed three set figures and a surprise figure given on the day. The results were: (2nd & 3rd place results unavailable at copy date - Ed)

**Masters:** 1st Estelle Barton  
**Experienced:** 1st: Giles Smith  
**Novice:** 1st Ken Boddy

By the third week of flying the set STACK figures, the standard had greatly improved and it was mainly the fliers completing all 3 rounds who scored better at the end of the day. Thanks to Flexifiol for the donation of a 'Stranger' - given to Ken Boddy for achievement in winning the Novice level and for the most practice hours put in over the whole event. The Judges were Paul Thody, Dave Clements, Estelle Barton, Giles Smith and Tom Gunter.

Due to the busy festival season, the next Brighton Stunt Kite Leagues will be held at the end of the summer. Details from Air Born Kites: 01273 676740.

**ESTELLE BARTON**

## BKF LIBRARY UPDATE

**T**hanks to Maurice and Betty Sawyer for their kind donation of 'Kites and Windsocks' by Jim Rowlands, which includes plans for soft kites, windsocks, drogues and bags.

# THE NOTH9IB ETIK 2REYF FLYERS KITE BRIGHTON EHT CLUB BANNER!

**aerodyne**  
the newsletter of the brighton kite flyers  
July 1995



## BKF CLUB BANNER FINALLY FINISHED!

After a long and very protracted gestation period (about two years would you believe?) the club banner arrived in time for Weymouth Kite Festival.

At least now we should be seen as easily as we're heard (mind you - 14 square metres of ripstop flapping about can make a fair old racket!) so no more excuses of the 'we were there but couldn't find you' variety at future festivals. Shame the silly old bleeder sewed all the letters on back to front!

maiden flight of which was used as an excuse for much bear bunging, including the odd 'orang-utrain' or five - courtesy of our very own Thirsten Gruntfuttock!

Jerry's kite ate a tree, while Simon Hennessey became completely absorbed in the delights of single line flying at a festival... Corinne and Pat did the babysitting.

**What you missed:** Good to see Pat & Ron so obviously enjoying a day off. First outbreak of the highly contagious Redschnozntache disease! Who's got Special Kite?!

**Thanx:** To The Dingly Dells for another blinding day - roll on a whole weekend of it later in the season. Bazzar & Jan for wheels, barbie and jelly babies.

**Swindon:** 13 & 14/05/95

**Place & space:** A new location for this festival and it's humungous. There's room for at least 20 Peter Lynns at Wroughton Air Field and not a tree to play kamikazekite with. Buggy to your heart's content on a specially designated stretch of one of the runways.

**Nomad's temporary shelter:** The BKF gypsy encampment was conveniently sheltered by a hanger, with Oakie 1, Bazzar, Jan, Jerry, Carolyn & the BOF in residence.

**Scorched, drowned or blown to bits:** Strong and gusty (it's that Gruntfuttock again!) but the regulation WHKF wellies were not required this year.

**Doing the biz:** The one they call 'Peanut' drew with Mark Boop de Troop in the Open Solo Rok with a very novel ever decreasing arenal Blam!... the WHKF mega large Flowform explodes in a sudden and unexpected strong gust, raining down bits of ripstop on the gobsmacked gathering of multinational kities. Neil, probably in shock, stayed incredibly calm and didn't explode, cry or even beat his fists on the ground - not knowing quite what to say... I gave him a beer. The Donut later followed suit and still not a cuss at the elements to be heard - these WHKF are made of sterner stuff than I.

**What you missed:** Bazzar (sponsored by Stella Artois) and Dr Daybreak of the US contingent trash the opposition in an astounding display of darts skill at the Friday night bash. Redschnozntache disease rapidly infects 90% of Saturday night's revellers. Marla reveals kite tattoo for charity and Don Mock auctions Special Kite to Bazzar ... but who's got Helping Hand? And where are the BOF's feathers? If you found them (one-off custom black, red, pale pink & white) he'd like them back please.

We also got to ride on the whizzie green veteran bus running between the transport collection hangars (ain't a Lockheed Constellation big close up!) With a good view of the festival all round from the top deck.

**Thanx:** To the Starving Horse for yet another first rate bash. Mark for being a gent and



choosing the broly over the Swiss army knife (Solo Rok prize). Dick & Shirley for Friday night's stickless stick party and letting us barbie-squat. Oakie 1 for transport. The BOF for having the kettle on the boil when we staggered out from the pit and Carolyn for tomato pickle retrieval - so preventing World War III

**Banham:** 27, 28 & 29/05/95  
**Place & space:**

An excellent largely tree-less site with cider/beer tent. Hard work to pitch the tents in (the ground and not the cider tent that is!)

**Nomad's temporary shelter:** BKF village to be found at the bottom of

Oakie's Warrior Rok line - which flew all 3 days complete with an ever increasing amount of line laundry in the form of green beer bottles (for some reason he rejected the brown ones!) Could this be the new manjha? **Scorched, drowned or blown to bits:** Wet on and off... windy full on.

**Doing the biz:** Wicked team displays from Art of Air and Team Cascade. Mark Coventry flying three stunters simultaneously was a truly mesmerizing performance - I have more than enough problems concentrating on flying just one kite in team! Oakie-one-won the UK Solo Rok in yet another determined attempt to lose his kite once and for all... in vain - this kite is indestructible. The Menaces scraped a win in both the Open and UK Roks ending most fights locked in mortal combat with BKF Bricks and struggling to prevent being gusted right out of the arena. A good excuse to pop over to the cider tent - post battle - for a spot of 'first aid'.

Saturday merged into a

brilliant evening with a barbie and much flying. All number of strings mixed effortlessly as the wind dropped and smoothed out to create the perfect balmy summer atmosphere. Sean fell in love with a Twister and become completely and utterly absorbed with it for hours.

### BKF FLY-IN REMINDERS

**1st Sunday/Month:** Hollingbury  
Grid Ref: 198TQ 324 083 from  
11.00am Height Clearance: 1500ft

**2nd Sunday/Month:** Stanmer  
Park Grid Ref: 198TQ 342 088 from  
11.00am Height Clearance: 200ft

**3rd Sunday/Month:** Telscombe  
Tye Grid Ref: 198TQ 392 017 from  
11.00am Height Clearance: 1500ft

**4th Sunday/Month:** Stanmer  
Park Grid Ref: 198TQ 342 088 from  
11.00am Height Clearance: 200ft

**2nd Thursday/Month:** The  
Devil's Dyke Inn, Devil's Dyke from  
8.00pm Grid Ref: 198TQ 258 112  
Social bash & flying evening. Height  
Clearance: 200ft

Much assorted fauna was bombed using the trusty rusty knackered but faultless old pipe-cleaner method. Liam was delighted with Flopsy Bunny's 1st drop BMISS certificate.

Unfortunately drunken chute packing in fast fading light resulted in three consecutive Roman Candles

the following day. Bozo got the distance record in an 'I'm outta here' mega drift across the festival site, car park and heading for the road - style of drop. Jackie performed a 'Bobbit

### A POST SCRIPT FROM WEYMOUTH

**A**s usual Weymouth was a gas. If you haven't been go next year and join the beach party. You might not get space to fly everything in your kite bag - but do you really have to? Relax for a couple of days - soak up the atmosphere and the spectacle.

It seems lately that people are forgetting to enjoy themselves in favour of rushing around cursing most of the time. I know I did it when I first started going to festivals. Just take off that 'dog eat dog' tie for the weekend and enjoy the company of other like minded kitefliers. Remember why you started flying kites. Have Fun!

### BAZZER

Job' on George, having discovered him secretly involved with bunging innocent faunal

**What you missed:** Carolyn head butts tilly lamp incident... oooh! perhaps that Bricks hard hat should be worn day and night!



the newsletter of the Brighton kite flyers

**Thanx:** To Kevin Appleton and the gang. Oakie 1 for wheels (again). Dick & Shirley (we'll be claiming barbie-squatters rights soon). Force 9 for kindly leaving a made to measure chute packing table in their stall on Saturday night. The Horse & Harness for an Oakie 1 proof chair with anti nod-off arms! Carolyn for chauffeuring the wobbly kneed scotch drinker back to the camp site (sorry you had to walk Jerry)!

**Basingstoke:** 3 & 4/05/95

**Place & space:** Good as ever - the well kept playing fields make an ideal site.

**Nomad's temporary shelter:** Friday evening's travelling BKF circus descends on Ann & Mad Eddie - who's plan to bribe us with Banham cider and thereby persuade us to camp elsewhere fails miserably! **Scorched, drowned or blown to bits:** The weatherperson was spot on for a change - it began raining at 7.00am precisely. On Saturday we started building an ark in the Hockey Club bar... on

Sunday

Basingstoke was the only place in the UK that stayed dry!

**Doing the biz:** Don Newing braved all once again on Saturday to perform the now 'traditional' opening ceremony.

However, the crowd were severely disappointed with Peter the Blue Bunny's faultless performance and boo-ed loudly in favour of the correct ceremony - re last year when he RC'd straight into the deck

It seems you have to be waterproof



to be a judge or part of a pairs team - they braved the conditions and ran the competition while us wimps looked on from the balcony. Having judged in the rain, Estelle's determination to get back out there and fly in it was pretty admirable.

Oakie 1's waterproof workshop delta was test flown, fringed, then flew throughout the festival (well nearly)!

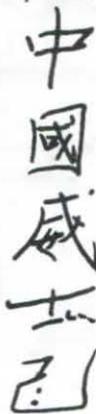
George Penney thrashed the opposition to become a Rok star in his maiden (Open Solo) fight on Saturday - so by trashing all hopes of a clean BKF competition sweep. Nevertheless, Mik Jennison won the UK Solo Rok, Oakie 1: the Beer Lifter (again), John Thornton: the Altitude Sprint (again) and The Menaces: the UK Team Rok (again).

Congratulations to Damon for his world record attempt and success in flying 41 stacked Wild Things.

**What you missed:** Roy's new best friend 'Sixpence' Learning to play 'Two Up' with the BOF - instruction courtesy of Mad Eddie. Yet another stomping Sat evening bash kicked off with a first class paper aeroplane battle - kitefliers come up with some interesting designs, but the general level of aerodynamic performance is a bit worrying! Jerry raised £50.42 for the auction by removing his skirt (well Carolyn's skirt - but Jerry was wearing it... don't ask)!

**Thanks:** To the LVKF for another corking weekend. Don Mock for the (see inset!) and Ann & Mad Eddie for the cider. Kiteability for one more addition to the tankard collection, Oakie 1 for the wheels and God (ha ha) for the weather.

**TOODY OAKHILL**



## RAY OAKHILL IS 'BITTEN BY THE BUG' No 2

*During my 11 years of kite flying I must have asked countless others how they first got into it as adults. I've heard*

*some pretty wackie stories from many (wackie?!) kitefliers - most of which have been filed away somewhere deep in the depths of the mental archives... and promptly forgotten! Time to put some into print - so if you have any unusual stories about first being 'bitten by the bug' please send them in... Ed*

I suppose that my first memories of kiting are from the age of 11 when my father made a kite for me (well that's what he said)! It was of brown cotton - very porous, and hexagonal in shape. It must have had a tail, but I don't remember it. His pride and joy was a lead soldier on a parachute that sailed up the line with the 'chute hanging open on a hook (did my old man meet the BOF I wonder, or was it the other way around)? When the 'chute reached the top of the line a wooden bullet shape glued around the line caused the hook to ride off and deploy the parachute, much to his amusement and my chagrin as I always had to retrieve the damned thing. So what's new?

My last memory of this kite was losing it to a kite eating tree at a scout camp at the age of 15.

My next recollection of a foray into kiting was buying a book by Clive Hart and making a sled kite from a plastic table cloth for Toody when she was about 10 years old. Although it flew about 20' off the ground, a lot of running was involved and there was no information in the book about different kites for different wind conditions. So, having little success, no more kites were made from that book! I wonder how many times that has occurred to others?

It was in 1979 that interest was re-kindled when I took Toody and Sally to the first Brighton Kite Festival on Telscombe Tye, which we can see from our house. There was no large car park or Portaloos in those days! Is there anyone out there who remembers that Festival? (Sadly I don't... but it obviously caused some early mental trauma - the results of which are all too obvious! - Ed)

Having gazed at all the wonderful kites that were actually flying, I asked advice on what book to buy and the Pelham Book of Kites came into my life eventually as a present from Toody. But she was to use it first to make me a Christmas present, which was a small parafoil, which would only fly in the strongest of winds. When I took it to Petworth that year I discovered that I needed a different type of kite for light winds, so my wife bought herself a Kiskidee from a man called Ron, who assured her that it would fly, and it did!

I first heard about Brighton Kite Flyers when I went to the Festival in 1989 and I remember standing at the far side of Waterhall listening to the final presentations over the PA system. Little did I realise that in two years time I would be organising the Festival and making the announcements myself! So I contacted a Greg Locke (D) and became member No. 03. He never admitted how many members there were at that or any other time.

In 1990 I became more involved with the BKF and the Festival organisation and I think the rest is history.

However I did buy another kite for light winds, a Wickham Delta, which I still fly from my allotment garden at every opportunity, much to the amusement of my gardening friends. They say that while everyone else unlocks their sheds and get their tools out, Oakie unlocks his shed and gets his kite out.

At the last count I possessed 26 kites and am custodian to about the same number of BKF kites, so there is any strength of wind. Long may it

never any shortage of kites for last! Or, how long will it last?

**RAY OAKHILL**

## THE CULTURAL BIT No 9

'Diplomacy is the art of saying 'Nice Doggy' whilst you find a rock.'  
**ATTRIBUTED TO TALLEYRAND.**

'It's a pile of shite.'  
**ATTRIBUTED TO BAZZER, 1995 Weymouth Kite Festival.**

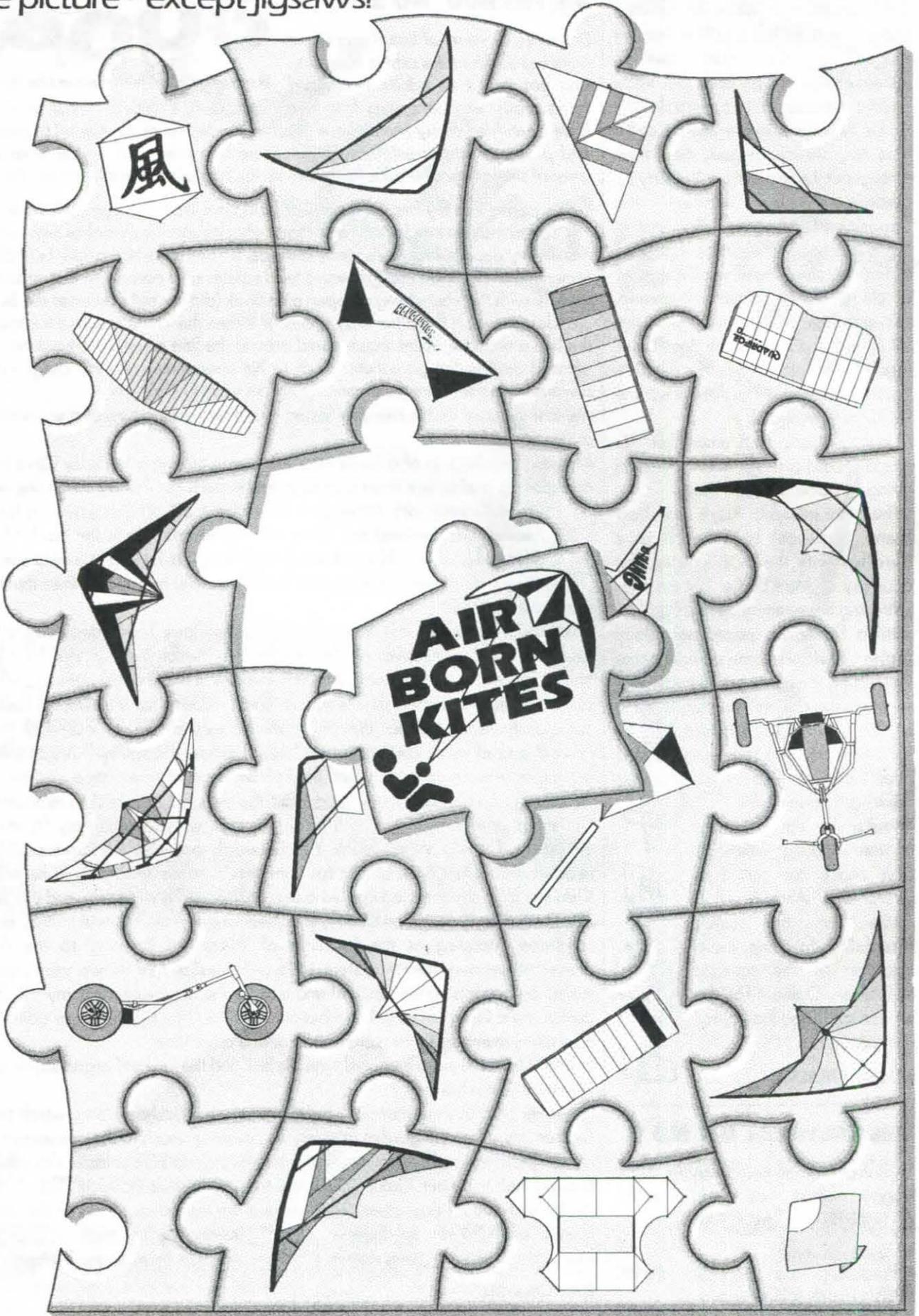


the newsletter of the brighton kite flyers



Kites, carbon, fibre glass, books, videos, ripstop, spares, line, buggies, boomerangs... we have whatever you need to complete the picture - except jigsaws!

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## SO WHAT DO YOU GIVE THE MAN WHO HAS EVERYTHING, EXCEPT A BIRTH CERTIFICATE? PLEA FOR SOMEONE KIND!



As some of you will already know, one of our number wasn't able to attend Dieppe, something about not being able to get a passport because he couldn't find his birth certificate. Those of us who were able to go and made it to the Saturday evening meal, were given certificates of participation in the 8th Dieppe International Festival, which gave us an idea. How about a 'certificate of non participation'? Duly armed with said amended certificate, Jerry Swift and myself co-opted the

assistance of a fair number of flyers both home-grown and international. We would like to thank all those who signed. By the way, we reckon Mik had the last laugh. We presented him with a large album of photos and the certificate at our New Year's Day fly-in. Having looked again at some of the names - it's a real collector's item and it's priceless!

We had considered running a limerick competition, in keeping with the poetic phase 'The Kiteflyer' is currently going through, but then thought that it would be rubbing salt into Mik's wounds. But of course if you want to send your entries to the Editor of 'Aerodyne', I'm sure they'd be considered for inclusion in future issues. By the way... has anyone seen Mik?!

**BARRY PITMAN**

Can anybody help us? We are two teenagers and we are both completely mad about kites. The problem is our parents aren't as keen as us and we would like to go to some festivals, or even just the odd fly-in at Stanmer Park. We are hoping that there would be someone very kind out there that may be willing to take us to any festivals that they are going to, or even fly-ins. We live in Heathfield which, if you do not know, is about 15 miles north of Eastbourne and about the same north-east of Lewes.

We have been involved with kites for a while now and we would both class ourselves as intermediate to expert both with stunt kites and power. I first became started in kites when I was about 11 years old via my dad. He had one of the first ever Hawaiian team kites and he also has close contacts with Martin Lester. Since then my older brother Gareth, who is 6ft 2" has been bitten by the bug, and now

has become completely mad and addicted to power kites. PLEASE CAN ANYONE OUT THERE HELP US?!!

If so, please ring us as quick as possible on 01435 862984.

**LUKE & GARETH**

### BMISS EVENT

Sunday 13 August 95 is a Family Day at Petworth House, Petworth, West Sussex. Barry Pitman is organising a Parachuting Bear/Fauna event during the day in aid of the Royal Alexander Hospital for Sick Children's 'Rockinghorse Appeal' (the Club's Charity). If you'd like to lend a hand please call Barry on 01273 503398.

### A LIFE SENTENCE?

*The Reverend Barker when informed that he didn't have to renew his membership because we had decided to extend it indefinitely penned us this little missive. His cup runneth over...*

Dear Controlling Members, When I read your letter informing me that you had bestowed Life Membership of the BKF upon me, you could say that my Gast was Flabbered. (Lying Git).

This is indeed an Honour of Great Significance (Hold it, what are these Crafty Sods Up To?).

I am not entirely sure why you chose to Honour me this way (Can you File Chapter 11 Bankruptcy in the UK?) after all. Strictly speaking I am not really a Founder Member of our Illustrious Club, though I did have Membership Card No 4 (What was it Oswald kept shouting? The Patsy, I'm the Patsy).

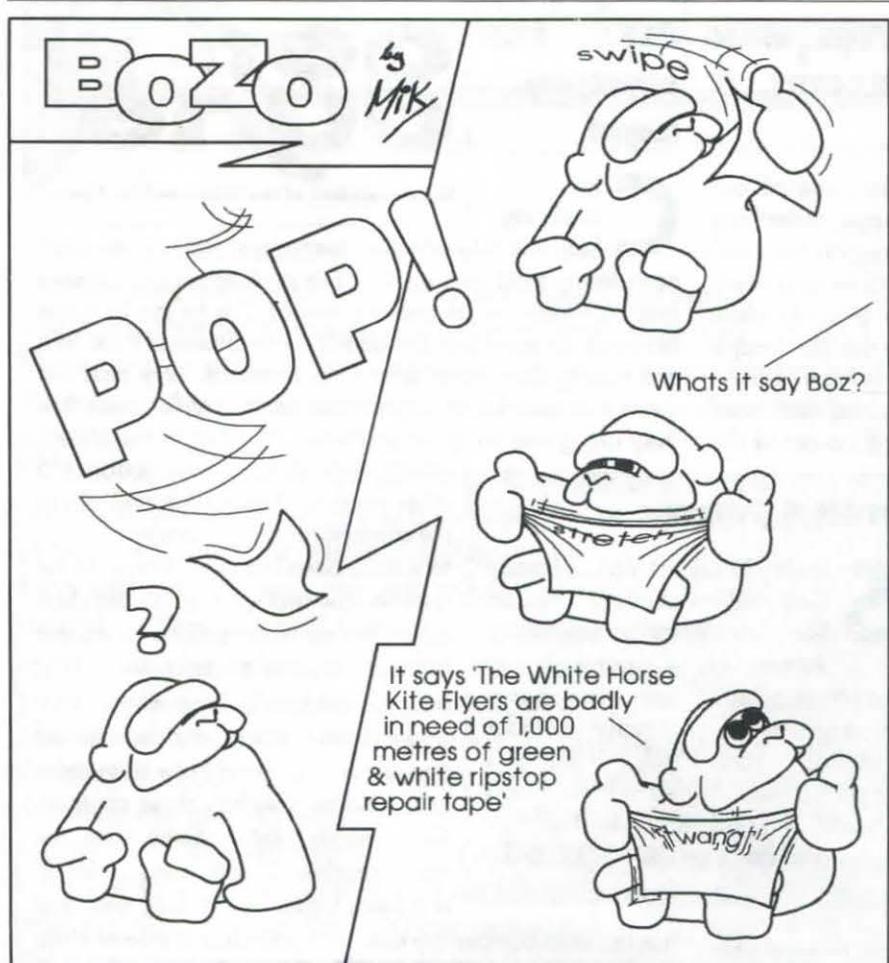
Nevertheless I shall at all times endeavor to uphold the Reputation and Standing of our Club (What a Joke, Reputation? that's gone for a Burton already).

I notice in your Letter that I will still be allowed my "Two Pennorth" as and when, also I will be allowed to speak my Mind as and when (Who, shy retiring Moi) I'm not at all sure I understand that bit (If they don't like it F\*\*\*\*K 'em) but not to worry, no doubt the Penny will drop one Day (I've got it, some Buggers gonna get the Bailiffs in, cos their Dans le Mire). I must confess that one thing worries me a bit. Is there any chance of earning Remission on this Life Sentence or what? (Sodding Hell, they've made me a Lifer in the BKF and they've changed their name to the Brighton Telephone Kiosk Card Collectors Club, and I'm on me Tod, a Club of one, and its not even a Club I'd join if they had me as a Member, Sheet wot a Bummer.

Once again many thanks for this great Honour (I'm blown if I can suss out what ulterior motive is behind this). Yours -

John What a Two Faced A\*\*\*\*hole Barker, AKA the BOF, AKA That Lying TOWRAG, cheers Toodle Pip, (Hey! Pass the Sickbag Alice).





**ARDINGLY SHOW DEMO**

**O**n the 1 October 95 the Club has been invited for the first time to the Ardingly One Day Autumn Show to give demos and provide 'hands on' flying experience for the public.

The main arena is approximately 250m x 150m and available for our exclusive use throughout the day. We hope to be joined by Aircraft, Chris Matheson and Andy Preston (all to be confirmed).

The event is to take place at the South of England Showground, Ardingly, West Sussex and car passes will be needed in order to gain free entrance to the showground.

For further details please contact the Club Co-Ordinator: Ray Oakhill on 01273 306842.

**REIGATE KITE DAY**

**T**hanks to Guy for organising Reigate Kite Day, held on the grounds of the (now more up market) Skimmington Castle Pub on 29 May; Bank Holiday Monday. Perhaps not as big a venue as expected by some of the kitefliers who turned up, those who flew did well.

The wind blew from nothing to virtual light gales carrying sheets of various clouds in different colours above us. which was equally as quickly blown

Between the fast falling rain away, the sun was nicely hot. Simon Dann talked kites on the

**THE USEFUL BIT No 13**

**I**f, like me, you carry a dog stake or two around in your kite bag - you're probably fed up with the sharp ends wrecking the contents. Try shoving a demijohn bung on the end - available in rubber or cork for a nominal sum from Boots home brew departments.

**TOODY OAKHILL**

PA - hotting up the tempo from that type of 'British Sporting Music' which happened in between. Gary and Lee flew pairs demonstrations every hour on the hour with Ultra-light Sandpipers, and should be commended for their efforts. Launching kites in front of a wall of trees in next to nothing, then suddenly finding strong wind up above them, was almost enough to lift some of us. It proved to be a tricky job. A few other people flew sports kites among

the malays and box kites, then the fields were full. The pub was packed, the jugs of beer seemed to go down well and just in case you're all dying to know who from the 'in crowd' turned up - there wasn't a bear in sight! (The Air Zoo were busy drinking the cider tent dry at Banham! - Ed)

**ESTELLE BARTON**

**USE THIS SPACE...**

**T**hanks to all this issue's contributors. Anything sent to the Editor will be considered for print unless marked otherwise. Please send material for the October issue by 10 September to...

**Toody Oakhill/BKF Editor**  
**Flat 29/Astra House**  
**Kings Road**  
**Brighton**  
**East Sussex**  
**BN1 2HJ**  
(Tel: 01273 321395)

Whilst every care is taken to get the details correct in 'Aerodyne', the BKF cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions that may occur.



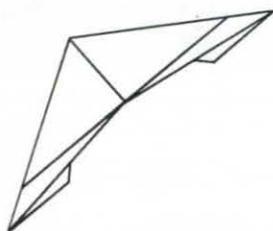
**FURTHER BKF INFO...**

**Membership/Fly-Ins:** Ray Oakhill (01273 306842)  
**Festival:** Estelle Barton & Paul Thody (01273 676740)



**+**  
5ft

# Pro Rapier

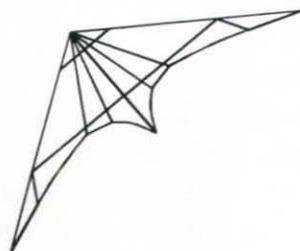


**wind 4-30mph**

Carrington sail  
6mm carbon frame  
moulded fittings  
(line & handles in a nylon bag  
with full instructions)

**+**  
6ft

# Javelin



**wind 4-25mph**

Carrington sail  
6mm carbon frame  
Exel moulded fittings  
(in a nylon bag with full instructions)

**+**  
7ft

# Axle



**Standard**  
**wind 5-20mph**

Carrington sail  
6mm carbon frame  
Exel moulded fittings

**Ultra Light**  
**wind 2-10mph**

Icarex P31 0.5oz sail  
5mm Exel carbon frame  
Exel moulded fittings

**+**  
8ft

# Shuriken



**Ultra Light**

**wind 0-8mph**

Icarex P31 0.5oz sail  
3P Skyshark frame  
Exel moulded fittings

**Standard**

**wind 4-22mph**

Carrington sail  
6mm Exel carbon frame

**Strong**

**wind 12-35mph**

Vented Carrington sail  
8mm carbon frame

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# The Kite Buyer

Newsletter of the Kite Store of London, England

Issue 4

July 1995

Hot, hot news- another English Kite magazine! Surprisingly entitled "Kites" this is a proper "glossy" (ie not as easy to recycle as the Kiteflier after reading) magazine for which articles are sought or commissioned rather than the fanzine approach of waiting for people to write in (or as the Editors of this paper frequently point out, don't). I'm told the cover price is 2.00 (good lord, we might actually make some money from selling it) and launch date is about the time you read this.

We have started stocking some of the thin wall carbon tubes used in exotic single line kites and quite a few of the more expensive stunt kites. We are stocking Pro Spars in standard and competition grade, and Skyshark spars (3P & 5P). As usual we are also stocking all the little bits that are available for these spars such as ferrules, T connectors and wing connectors. Advantages of these spars include low weight, & high stiffness, disadvantages- low resistance to crushing loads & cost! If you are chasing the ultimate in performance then these are the spars for you- if you don't require the ultimate then we can offer a range of other types of carbon & glass spars- details on our (new) materials and fittings list.

On the new kite front not a lot- Revolution 1.5 which is half way between the previous 1&2 in size. At this size the kite retains the stability of the 1, but has a pull more like that of the 2. The graphic on the kite is also

slightly more interesting (?) than before although to my eye the stock combinations could be better, but that's a matter of personal taste. Revolution Inc are also responsible for the other "new" kite- the Classic Delta which is essentially an updated respurred Spin Off. However, while it may look like a Spin Off, this is a somewhat different brand of fudge- fitted with Revolution's own Advantage spars and sporting stand offs this kite is a steady and well behaved introduction to "fancy" stunt kites- and only 75.00.

Last time around I mentioned self published kite books and I have to admit to joining in- with two. The first "Power Kiting" was written to try and keep the wallies in line. Basically it covers things you can do and things you shouldn't do with the present generation of powerful kites. It also describes the apparatus (line, handles and kites). Not large- 16 pages, A5 and cheapish- 95p or free with every large power kite we sell. The second "Two Line Tune-Up" came about because I, well, sort of lost my rag over the oft repeated bit of twaddle- "You move the bridle rings forward in strong winds and back in light winds". Well, doing this accounts for about 60% of our stunt kite repairs and so I was moved to try and write down what you should do to make your stunt kite bridle right. Again not large and 95p. There is a threat of a third booklet about kite aerial photography but.....

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