

THE KITEFLIER

ISSUE 66

JANUARY 1996

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EDITORIAL

Dear Reader

Welcome to the first issue of 1996. With this issue members will find a copy of the 1996 Kite Society Handbook, with a comprehensive list of Kite Retailers and Kite Groups.

It is at this time of year that we review the cost of producing The Kiteflier as well as the general costs of running the Kite Society. Having looked at the elements that make up running the Kite Society (which have all seem to have gone up) and the reduced advertising income due to the new kite magazine, we have reluctantly decided to increase the membership fees by £1.00 across the board. The last increase in membership fees was in 1993 - so we haven't done too badly. The new fees can be seen on page 22.

As we mentioned in the last editorial we have decided not to have a convention in 1996. However, we have been approached by the White Horse Kite Fliers with the view of having a "Winter Retreat" sometime in October. The first stage in this is for you, the members, to say if this is something you want. The retreat will be a weekend, somewhere near Swindon, with workshops, talks etc. There will be a charge for the weekend, yet to be decided, which will cover accommodation and meals as well as the talks. Let us know if you would attend.

We look forward to seeing you on the flying field - come and visit the stall.

Gill and Jon Bloom

As we were finishing this issue we heard the very sad news that Anna Charlton, Charlie Charlton's (of the Artistic Kite Group) wife, has died. We would like to pass on our sympathy to Charlie and his family.

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Front Cover Photo

The front cover show team Aircraft. First British winners of

Letters

From Nicolas Wadsworth

I am sorry to see from The Kiteflier that the convention was so poorly attended.

We were two of the people who did not attend. As a 'straw in the wind' it may be worth trying to say why we did not. The main reason was that we had got home only a few days before from a holiday in Denmark (taking in Fano). So the date happened to be inconvenient for us. However if everything else had been in favour we might have gone. The minor problems which added up were:-

It was a longish way from us on the South coast. (Roads in Dorset are not that good). At that distance we would have preferred to combine it with a few days holiday (as we did at Shrewsbury last year) but we had just come back from one.

The attached festival was only one day and was not on the same site.

There was no convenient on-site camping.

None of these are conclusive in themselves but all added up. I appreciate that you cannot please everybody. I am just saying what affects us.

From John Barker

I read with some amusement Charlie Charltons reply to the letter from Phil Scarfe. Charlie says that copying other peoples ideas is stealing and unfair. Kites, he says, will never be seen by the Art World, whatever that is, as long as people steal other work and get credit for it.

Hmm. Imitation, even when used on a kite, is the sincerest form of flattery and from time immemorial artists have painted, or whatever, in the style of others. All the foregoing falls a bit flat when you consider that one recent artist was almost certainly what Charlie would regard as an artistic thief.

I refer of course to Andy Warhol, an acknowledged master when it came to pinching other peoples ideas and making them his own. The Campbells Soup Can?, someone elses creativity, The Cartoon Strips?, someone elses creativity, The Marilyn Photos?, someone elses creativity, and we know one thing for

sure. The so called Art World were not backward in coming forward to lap up this theft.

Besides if one P Scarfe, from the loneliness of his garret, produces a kite featuring what Charlie regards as a stolen Nagel design, I beg to differ. It certainly isn't a stolen Nagel, it is a design after or in the style of Nagel. Doesn't the so called Art World refer to this as the "School of".

Whilst we are on the subject of purloining other peoples work Charlie, that Contortionist Kite. Surely different elements of that design have appeared in various publications, and if we acknowledge that those ancient Celts probably worked out every conceivable permutation of Knotwork long ago, then that particular kite must be some sort of copy even if it is only by influence.

Still on the subject of stealing or copying. I notice that some of Malcolm Goodmans Tsurugas were on show at Washington, presumably Tsurugas with portraits on them. Oh dear!, well dodgy, as those Japanese kites are one of the most blatant examples of people stealing others work back through the generations until we arrive at the first kite maker who thought of pinching the designs from the wood block engravings of the 17th and 18th centuries. These, I believe, were originally for printing on fabrics. Sorry Malcolm, Charlie won't want those kites anymore as they are copies of copies.

As for Jannene Evard. Chippendale or Heppelwhite of the A.K.A.A.K.C. She is either a sail short of a billow or not a true kiter. What true kiter cares whether or not kites get to the Metropolitan. It is not the main thrust of kite flying, never was, never will be. The main thrust of kite flying is to FLY the things, whether or not they have what someone regards as a dubious design on them. Besides I would rather watch 100 rotten kites flying than one Alleged Artistic Kite stuck in a Gallery - that is sad. I AM A KITE - FLY ME BECAUSE AT 500 FT WHO KNOWS WHAT ARTISTIC DESIGN I HAVE ON ME.

From Paul Chapman

Just a few thoughts about the summer flying season - fantastic weather wasn't it. So many really hot, windless days that made it worthwhile spreading the ripstop out and flying tissue fighters. But leaving

Letters

plenty of time to talk and sup the amber nectar. I think the topic of conversation towards the end of the season was what to do about Peter Lynn and his monstrosities.

Peter is an excellent kite technician and he made some important statements about kite safety in a recent issue of Drachen Magazin International. He seemed to have taken on board the potential disasters of earlier years so I was not particularly concerned when he set up his stuff at the Portsmouth Festival. I was wrong and from the grass roots mutterings it appears that the low turn out of single liners on the Monday at Portsmouth (Ed Note: The Monday was an additional day added after the July issue of The Kiteflier meaning that not many people knew of the extra day) was directly proportional to the degree of havoc previously inflicted on kite and person by the wild gyrations of Peter's unattended lines and attached fabric (I refrain from calling the kites because kites fly rather than thrash about uncontrollably).

Despite heated discussions and promises, the situation was the same at Bristol. We all had problems - Malcolm Goodman's big dragon was trashed and I saw an onlooker thrown to the round when Peter's kite Jacqueline nee Rosy tipped one of the Sky Art Gallery Edos into the crowd. Once more it was unsafe to fly. Even the stuff displayed on the ground was in danger of being wrecked.

It begs the question as to whether we, the lowly indigenous kite fliers, are still encouraged to attend kite festivals. From this years experience it is clearly advisable to keep the kites bagged up when the monsters are on the loose. Is this is what we want? Is this the image of kiteflying that should be encouraged? Uncontrolled monsters thrashing about and wreaking havoc on the unwary? Perhaps I am a lone voice, but one of the joys o kite festivals is the opportunity for single line fliers to fly their creations in close proximity. Moreover it is nice to know that the fliers are all skilled in control and that the kites will not cause damage to the spectators if there is the odd disaster.

Perhaps my concerns about safety, participation by fellow enthusiasts and appreciation of the skill and design variations of fellow fliers are passe in relation to the thrill of uncontrolled mayhem. Perhaps not. Next year can you provide a service by listing the "Lynn Free" festivals.

From Clifford Wood

Surprised me to see a letter from John Dimmock regarding Petworth. I did become a temporary Granddad for the day and I can assure you I had a most enjoyable day, sharing my kites with this lad. He did tell me at the end of the day he was separated from his dad - by the way I don't know John Dimmock.

He also said he had tried to rescue my roller that broke free and tried to eat a tree (the 1994 meeting) and in spite of efforts by B.K.F. it is still chomping that tree - I think it is finding it indigestible.

I must thank Pat and Ron for their verses - my first read when The Kiteflier arrives. I must also thank Roger and Phil of C.K.G. re introducing me to the pleasure of kiteflying.

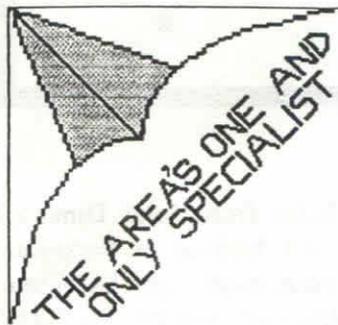
My first efforts years ago were split builders laths (purloined) and sheets of the Northern Echo plus flour paste and a ball of sugar string (a white string the grocer used for tying sugar bags after weighing).

I must say again my wife and I have enjoyed the rallies we have attended - Petworth is a jewel and Wroughton a future no go for me because of the entrance fee and poor facilities on site.

I must also say that AKG Charlie Charltons letter is an eye opener and gives us all a second chance for those kites that we make that won't fly, all you have to do is dig in the scrap bag and applique it with something that is not a copy and you may have a winner to give Charlie for his display. Seriously a kite must fly or it is not a kite it's an art form. And who cares if it is copy as long as it looks good and flies. I fully agree with Phil Scarfe.

From Betty Sawver

Neville and Hilda Pitfield made many friends at Kite Festivals and were founders members of the Chiltern Kite Group before selling up their home in High Wycombe and going to live in New Zealand:- many of us that knew Hilda were only too well aware of her battle against cancer. Unfortunately she lost her fight and died in Christchurch Hospital on the 21st October 1995. Our thoughts are very much with Neville and his family at this time.



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Some Comments on Safe Kite Flying

Introduction

Kite flying **can** be dangerous and the dangers are often worse than they need to be precisely because most people think of kite flying as a pleasant, gentle, stress free "safe" pastime. Kite flying, especially largish kite flying is not gentle, it is not stress free, it is not always pleasant and it has the potential to cause injury and death.

My experience over the last few years and especially of the last 30 or so major kite festivals (Jan 1994 - March 1995) have included far too many minor accidents and near accidents. On one hand I think how lucky I am not to have had, or caused, a serious injury. On the other hand I could consider myself very unlucky even to have come so close to having serious accidents. However whichever way I look at it the odds are stacking up for a serious accident unless something is changed.

The questions I am asking myself very seriously:-

"Is there any solution except for me to stop flying largish kites?"

"To what extent is the problem personally mine, procedural or inherent and unavoidable?"

I'm not yet sure of the answers but at least collating and analyzing these experiences provides a signpost for me and hopefully other kite fliers.

During 22 years of professional kite flying I have had this same feeling of being a major accident about to happen, during one previous period. In the late 1980's the number of major kite festivals world wide increased rapidly and the intensity and pressures to perform also accelerated. My response then, after similar soul searching was to move completely away from using framed kites (which in larger sizes pose an obvious and special set of dangers) and to stop flying kites attached together in train, and to cease using line devices. The main safety concerns about trains and line devices are discussed later but are basically to do with the frightening consequences, seen often enough from our own experiences and many other reported accidents, when kite trains or kites towing line devices break free and lay waste to the countryside

carrying away power lines etc. The change to using only soft kites flown individually was an adequate response at that time but in the 1990's there is even more crowding and the pressures to perform applied to kite fliers by festival organisers have lifted the game again. A further response is now required.

Most manufacturing businesses include "safe use" instructions with their products. Unfortunately most times this material is not really about safety but is about establishing defense against potential legal actions. Many so called "safety" instructions set out usage procedures that are inefficient and impracticable to an extent that destroys the credibility of even the parts of them that are important for safe use. My motivation in publishing this article is the promotion of safe kiteflying - not avoidance of blame.

Following is a set of principles aimed at allowing largish kite flying to be undertaken with reasonable expectation of survival, let's say at a risk level better than for hang gliding or car racing but maybe not as safe as windsurfing or mountain biking. This positioning should send an early and clear message as to how dangerous I consider large kite flying can be. If you don't feel able to accept responsibility for this degree of risk the answer is simple: Don't fly at all in wind conditions or at sites when your experience or ability cannot ensure safety.

"Large Kite" is defined as something powerful enough to lift an average person.

Analyzing the 40 or 50 accidents and near accidents I have been involved in or witnessed I find that some overriding principles emerge and that there are connecting features fitting dangerous situations into some major groupings. Considering safety from the perspective of these groups reveals signposts to answers.

Entanglement:

An overriding principle is that when the wind is light (say less than 15 kph) it is very difficult to

Some Comments on Safe Kite Flying

contrive an unsafe situation because forces are much less and (more important) events unfold much more slowly - giving plenty of time for people to avoid danger. Wind forces are proportional to the wind velocity squared - double wind speed means four times the pull. In light winds large kites effectively become small kites and this almost by definition, eliminates the need for safety precautions. At major kite festivals during light wind periods the essential problem is always to keep enough entertaining things happening. Strong heavy lines, massive anchor points, perfect crowd control, highly experienced fit/strong kite handlers, disciplined procedures, adequate side and downwind recovery areas - all these essentials for safe large kite flying become irrelevant and in fact can effectively act against getting and keeping a good show going. The important and almost always unrecognised principle is to correctly

identify the change points - light to stronger winds and vice versa and to change practices immediately.

A major fear for all serious long-time large kite fliers is of getting caught up in the line, bridle line, tail etc when a kite is launching. This is what killed Steve Eidiken. I can remember many times when myself or others have had to quickly twist clear of some flailing part and have sometimes been tripped over by a sweeping bridle line as the kite launches but I can't recall ever thinking "Whew! That was lucky!". There is a very real danger but an analogy is the requirement for yacht crews to stay clear of flailing ropes during gybes etc and the appropriate safety procedures are similar: Physical fitness, agility, experience and no lapses in concentration.

For Safe Flying

1 Nominate one person as the Captain, (the captain's word is law, mutiny is a hanging offence, but the captain and everyone is subject to the laws of the land after the event).

2 Use only (an absolute minimum number of) fit experienced kite handlers in the danger zones and keep everyone else clear.

3 Have a system that communicates clearly to everyone when things are to happen - radio, voice or hand signals.

Clothing

When working around flailing lines, some dress modes are not appropriate. The general principle is that tight fitting "seamless" clothing offers much less opportunity for snagging on lines than loose or baggy gear.

Jewellery: Finger rings catch on lines and dislocate fingers. Ear rings/studs get pulled out but are unlikely to result in serious accidents. To have lockets, pendants, in fact anything hanging around the neck is unsafe. Wrist watches, bracelets and bangles can be a nuisance but probably not life threatening.



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Some Comments on Safe Kite Flying

Footwear: Shoe laces and even heavily notched soles have an alarming propensity to catch on lines. The problem is to find non-snagging boots that don't reduce agility but have good traction. We need purpose designed kite fliers footwear!

Gloves: Dexterity is an essential component of the quick reactions which are required to clear loops, tangles and knots in those emergencies which often develop with frightening rapidity when flying big kites. Gloves reduce dexterity and significantly increase the chance of a serious, even fatal accident. With the generally larger line diameters associated with large kites, line burns are not a significant risk anyway. (In our 20 plus years of big kite flying I can't recall any of our team ever suffering a line burn that would have been avoided by using gloves). Conclusions: Train yourself to grip firmly or let go completely (and warn everyone else well before you let go). Don't slip the line when pull is above about half your weight. There are exceptions (as there are auto accidents in which it is better not to be wearing a seat belt) but leave your gloves at home!

Sweepers and Loopers

Kites develop much more pull when they are moving than while in steady state flight - because pull is proportional to their apparent wind speed squared. More often than not, wind speed increases during the course of a day sometimes to a strength that exceeds a kite's upper stability limit. Usually there are warning signs of impending instability - "hunting" or even just line pull referenced against previous experience with that kite. When a kite becomes unstable, either for this reason, because of asymmetric damage or losing its stabilising tail or drogue (often caused by coming against another kite line) dangerous situations can occur. The major increase in the line pull that occurs during unstable sweeping or looping can break lines and move anchors but these are discussed in the next section. When looping or sweeping kites brush the ground, anyone in the kites or kite line path is in danger. It is always heart in mouth stuff not least because things happen very quickly and there is a sense of helplessness. The very many times I have seen this situation with my own kites or others loom large in my memory as dangerous times and yet I can not ever recall kite handlers incurring even minor injuries in these incidents. The potential for major injury or fatality is undoubtable present but statistically the odds against must be better than subjective assessment would indicate. Minor injuries to innocent bystanders or passers by in this type of incident are much more common - eg ear rings ripped out of ears, heavy falls from being unexpectedly tripped from behind etc. Answers are clear.

- 1 Have a loud and immediately available warning signal AND
- 2 Either get kites down before instability becomes unmanageable OR
- 3 Keep EVERYONE clear of the sweep zone OR
- 4 Release or cut the line allowing the kite to depower and float down, provided there is an adequate and clear downwind recovery zone OR
- 5 Build (at the kite) a short "fuse" line gauged to break before the main line and only if pull rises to an unsafe level - again only provided a clear downwind recovery zone.

Breaking Lines

Lines can break for a variety of reasons - just not strong enough, previous unnoticed damage, chaffing, damage by other lines etc and kites floating free can be dangerous if there is not an adequate clear downwind recovery zone. When a free floating kite snags on something or someone, huge and uncontrollable forces can quickly develop. Our Fugus are very dangerous in this respect because they bowl along the ground wildly flinging out loops of bridle lines to ensnare anything in their path and their

Some Comments on Safe Kite Flying

pull is huge - more than 1 tonne in 60 kph wind. However, close observation has shown that in the first few seconds at least after a Fugu breaks free all it's bridles and most of the line (if any is still attached) will be INSIDE the fugu, whipped in there by the backlash from the break. Centripetal reaction during subsequent rolling eventually throws bridles and line out again.

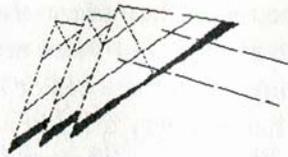
From experience though, by far the most dangerous common kite accident is when kites escape while towing line devices. When dragged line devices or lower kites in a freed train snag the top kite(s) hook straight back into generating major pull - serious danger for the snaggee. Worse still this process can (and often does) repeat, with the result being a swathe of destruction across the countryside. No above ground transmission lines can stand against this onslaught - eg The Tyne and Wear, Merimbula and Adelaide incidents (there but for the Grace etc!).

Analyzing our own dangerous line breaks over the last 6 years I notice an interesting common factor. Prior to 1991 such incidents were very uncommon for us, far too common subsequently. From 1991 I progressively changed to high specific strength cored high modulus (Kevlar or Spectra) lines (for the purpose of getting carrying weight of lines down to enable travelling with more kites within airline weight allowances). All our recent failures have occurred in these high tech lines and my investigation (I built a test rig) has shown that their claimed strengths are often wildly optimistic. Not only does the more stretchy braided (usually polyester) sheath contribute nothing to strength, at least until the core fails anyway, but it hides core damage. 5mm O.D. sheathed Spectra has a core spectra diameter equivalent of only 3.5mm so is not even good enough or 500Kg. Reasonable quality standard 5mm nylon or polyester braided line is good for 450Kg anytime and when damaged shows obvious signs. The extra stretchiness of nylon and polyester over Kevlar and Spectra is also a help in mitigating sudden snatch loads. Consequently, from January 1995 I have been progressively changing to using solid braided Spectra line of 3.2mm (500Kg), 4.5mm (1000Kg) and 5.5mm (1500Kg) diameters, they weigh less, can be easily spliced if cut and any damage is visible. I deeply regret that I didn't make a total changeover as soon as I knew because this accursed core line caused one last and avoidable accident at Cervia in 1995 when a broken line flicked back and hit Siti Hasnah in the eye (with no long term damage).

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Some Comments on Safe Kite Flying

logistically possible.

2 Contrive (by inserting "fuse" lines) for breaks to occur at the kite not the anchor and definitely not between the anchor and any line devices (go really silly in over rigging between line device and anchors).

3 Avoid cored high modulus lines.

4 For Fugus in stronger winds rig the main line to the Fugu's rear bridle and use a short "fuse" line to the normal front bridle - front breaks first causing the Fugu to reverse and deflate.

5 For Arches, place a short "fuse" line at one tip, to cause the arch to break free and "stream" harmlessly from the other end before a major accident could occur.

6 Watch for possible intersections with other kite lines and get them apart straight away.

7 Ignore all the above and just keep upwind of the anchor points if the downwind recovery zone is clear and endless.

Immovable Objects That Aren't

Insecure kite tethering points are a major source of accidents at kite festivals. Even good strong anchors can cause problems if they are not placed so as to allow suitable separation between kites - and even the cleverest placement is made nonsense of by a minor wind shift, which is why moveable vehicles are becoming more and more popular as anchor points. Twice I have nearly been killed by anchors - once at our home field when a ground screw pulled out unexpectedly, broke my thumb, disconnected my left arm's motor and sensor nerves at the shoulder (I recovered most feeling within hours) and just missed my ear as it whistled skyward. At the Dieppe festival one year, a 1m x 25mm steel tent stake just parted my hair (I had some then) as it rocketed past and that time I was only an innocent (?) bystander! oxymoronically merely passing by. At Napier in 1995 our van was dragged off by two dolphin kites, running over but not seriously injuring young Lena Zander from Hamburg. Tearing failure of a buried bag anchor at the Old Coast in 1988 briefly elevated our eldest daughter Kirri and resulted in certainly the most spectacular set of kite crashes I have ever been involved in. I do still like vehicle anchors subject to some lessons learnt. Most anchoring procedures are clear enough now but making sure that we always do things safely is not so easy as often it's a choice between unsafe practices or not flying at all and the latter is not what kite festivals are all about. Just remember that one serious accident one time could wipe out all the excellent promotional flying at 100's of festivals.

1. Use stakes and screws if you trust them (but I'm prejudiced against them).

2. Keep all people clear of the downwind side of



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PARA BEAR KITS

Some Comments on Safe Kite Flying

vehicles and other anchors when largish kites are tied to them if the wind is at all substantial (but dragged vehicles always move in a stop go stop etc fashion in my experience).

3 Tie to the Front of vehicles and keep them in gear. As I had so stupidly failed to think of until someone pointed it out at Napier '95, vehicles usually have their weight at the front but hand brakes work on rear wheels.

4 Be EXCEPTIONALLY careful to avoid chaffing at tie off points - I think chaffing failure of the substantial ropes tying our van to another vehicle was the superficial cause of the Lena Zander accident at Napier.

5. Move tie off points whenever necessary to prevent lines crossing - Don't be lazy.

Wilful Actions

The majority of serious or potentially serious incidents I have seen or been part of have had the common cause of someone wilfully doing something dangerous and these actions are almost impossible to prevent. Some examples: About 1987 one of our children (Pete, a dangerous 11 years old at the time) was a smart ass and hung on to the line as a kite went up, fortunately the kite didn't crash, the line didn't break, he didn't let go and we eventually pulled him down. This wasn't a case of height disorientation which is common enough when your feet are off the ground and is usually the reason why people take inadvertent rides up on kite lines.

In Malaysia in early 1995 I suspect that a father caused or encouraged his 4 year old son to hang onto the line as an Octopus kite went up - he also didn't let go and came down safely within a few seconds.

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At Wigram's "Winds and Wheels" kite fly a 12 year old (about) boy, after being chased away from the kites by us repeatedly during the day, snuck in from the blind side while a large Eel kite was being launched and hung onto its tail. He was seen and persuaded to let go mainly by luck as his feet passed through the 2m altitude level on the rapid way upwards.

At Showa Machi in 1990 after an Octopus shucked its anchor and took off I had to physically prevent a helpful local from attaching himself to the fast departing rope end.

Depressingly, kitefliers themselves are not immune from wilfully dangerous behaviour usually deriving from macho impulsiveness. There seem to be very few things we can do to prevent wilfully dangerous behaviour, only two come to mind.

- 1 On going safety education for kitefliers.
- 2 Police State type crowd control for

Some Comments on Safe Kite Flying

everyone else.

There are plenty of opportunities for kite accidents that fall outside these groupings but many of these are covered by common sense or standard practice such as not wrapping lines around parts of your body. not using heavy metal connectors, karabiners etc where they could snap back and cause injury if a line breaks and ensuring that kites left on the ground cannot suddenly self launch. Some kite accidents, as for all activities, arise from events so unexpected or unlikely that they can never reasonably be prevented unless we stop all kite flying.

Inherent in the structure of most 1990's kite festivals is that what we now regard as largish kites (say 20m square lifting surfaces and up) no longer command sufficient status to ensure that they will have the space, anchors, recovery zone and crowd control necessary to ensure that they can be flown safely, such biggish kites are now so common that they are usually expected to mix in with every other kite in a designated (general flying) area. We are becoming the victims of our own success. The alarming rise in kite accidents is simply this factor in conjunction with more and more bigger kites being flown at more and more festivals. A way to make kite flying safer (for me at least) will be to fly much BIGGER kites than I do now but less of them and only for short times at scheduled intervals during which crowd control and other safety requirements are strictly enforced. The Dutch Big Kite Team have once again been showing us the way and have an impeccable safety record stretching back 14 years.

An underlying factor in many kite accidents is that often no one person is responsible for a particular kite. Kite fliers can be a helpful lot and quite often a flier(s) will launch, relaunch, shift or change someone else's kite then wander off assuming the owner will then look after it. Conversely the owner may notice all this happening and assume that the other flier(s) is keeping a watch on the kite now. Then when something untoward happens everyone wanders around saying "No, I wasn't looking after it I thought so & so was" etc. Well who tied that knot anyway? This type of situation is not so easy to fix because cures are likely to cut into the very desirable cooperative performances now common at many major kite festivals. Uncomfortable as it may be we will have to make rules about this and be strict about them whenever the wind gets serious. The rule has to be:

1 One person responsible for each kite with clear and formal procedures for passing or accepting changes of control (rather like airplane pilots use).

Perhaps the very best advice I can offer for safe flying is that experience is king. Until you have had extensive experience with a particular kite in a wide range of wind conditions at a variety of sites you should not attempt to fly it at all when the pull is likely to be more than say 50Kg unless:

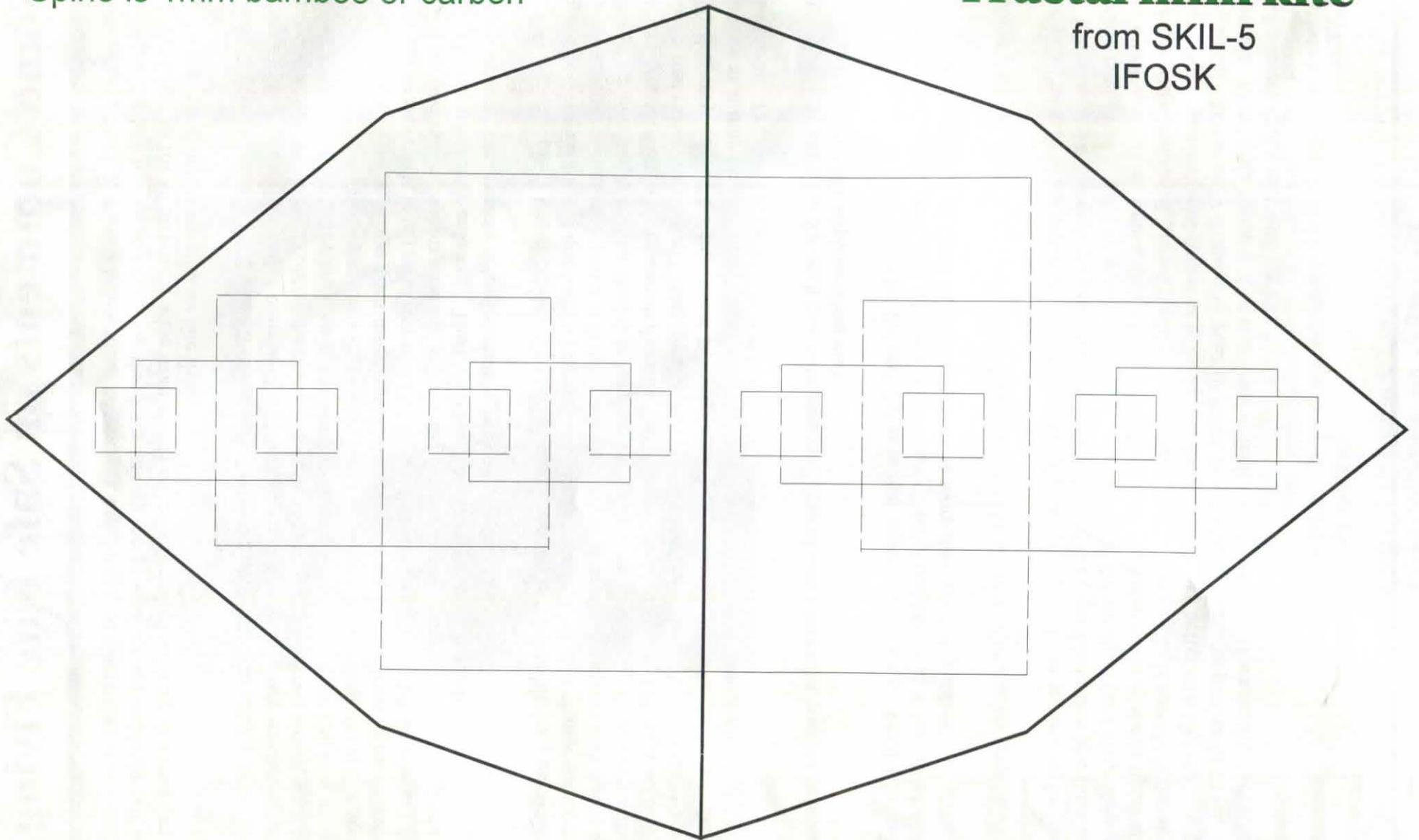
The launching area, recovery area, crowd control, anchors and line all offer 100% safety confidence.

Remember also that safe flying and field etiquette are not the same thing and can sometimes be mutually exclusive. There are many times when safe flying of largish kites will require what other kite fliers and the general public might well regard as unacceptably rude behaviour. If the situation (and festival sponsors) allows not flying at all as an option then this can be the correct response when space is tight, anchors unsafe or incorrectly positioned, crowd control is uncertain etc. If a largish kite is already in the air when a dangerous situation develops be prepared to be as rude as necessary! It's better to really annoy someone than to kill them! Additionally damage to your or other people's kites is always preferable to the risk of injury to people. Don't even hesitate! Cut your lines or theirs if you have to.

Spine is 1mm bamboo or carbon

Fractal mini kite

from SKIL-5
IFOSK



Cut full lines, score dotted lines, fold like a concertina

The logo for ICAREX, featuring the word "ICAREX" in a stylized, outlined font with a registered trademark symbol.

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THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

Kite Reviews & Thoughts

Revolution 1.5
Weight:260 grams

Manufacturer: Revolution Inc,
Width:240 cms

San Diego, California, USA.
Height:80 cms

Being a flyer of Revolutions 1 & 2, I found it very hard to write a review of them. I like the size & presence and the relative slow speed of the Rev 1, the speed and 3D capability of the Rev 2. My style of flying has adapted over the years that I've been flying them. I thought having flown all (?) of the other 4-Line kites that these two were able to provide me with everything I needed in a 4-line kite - I was very wrong!!!!

Early in 1995 [Jan/Feb] I was lucky enough to fly the first Rev 1.5 to arrive in the UK [thank you Felix]. However the experience was all too short, but I realised this was not just a mid range kite between the 1 & 2.

After many brief encounters during the summer, I then encountered David Brittain at the KSGB Convention in Coventry [more on this elsewhere]. He was so enthusiastic about the kite and recommends it as a MUST HAVE. So I set about getting one. It arrived on a windless day in September [isn't it always the way], the next day was the opposite and I went to Epsom Downs, the wind was so strong it would be too strong to really control a Rev 1, and normally I would have flown a Rev 2. So I thought I would try the New Rev 1.5 [I imagined it would be too windy for it] I set up lines and handles. Rev 1 Ultra light handles with 80 Lb Shanti spectra @ 100 Feet. The kite itself is different in shape to the Rev 1 the centre section is deeper, therefore it has more sail in the centre area and the wing sections are thinner, therefore proportionally less sail. This produces a wing which has a higher aspect ratio than the Rev 1.

The sail material seems to be of a standard weight, well sewn with the sail being symmetrical. The bungee's are all sealed off at the ends to prevent fraying, these hold the end caps which are the standard Rev end caps. The latest design being moulded plastic, light yet strong, I've only had them worn when flying indoors on concrete. The spars are Rev [Advantage] spiral wound Ultra Light [3 Wrap].

So what does this package supply to make it worth buying ? Answer, a Surprise. The first thing to hit me was the precise control and light pull in high winds. I was able to do slow Helicopter spins [Spin around the centre of the kite] without having my arms yanked off. Also snap 90 degree turns without too much trouble. However, the best was yet to come and depending on what you like could be one of at least two outstanding points.

1. Reverse speed. Up to now certainly the Rev 1 is a bit slow in reverse. The Rev 1.5 is no slouch it moves effortlessly in reverse at a respectable speed.

2. Axles. The Rev 1 & 2 can both be Axled. I might as well brag you can Double axle the Rev 1, which I had witnessed back in August. The Rev 1.5 performs the Axle, but it performs it very flat almost as Flat Spin. You can also Coin Toss it.

I think these two points may be due to the difference in sail design and spars. It could be the centre section aids reverse flight and I would think the higher aspect ratio and overall weight aids the spin rate.

I have yet to test it thoroughly in 3D situations however, in the time that I have flown it, it seems to be capable of all 3D tricks with no problem. I will fly it shortly indoors if it displays any problems I will let you know. Word from David Brittain is that is the best indoors [mind you he probably has a Ultra Light version]. So overall I would recommend it to anyone. It may be a bit fast for a complete beginner, but once you at least have the basics it will provide hours of fun and frustration. Anyone can fly it but are YOU in control. [I'm a control freak] I would recommend using the longest handles you can, they provide better control.

Comments: Highly recommended. Well made, limited graphics, very good flyer.

REFLEX

MANUFACTURED BY FIZZ SPORTS KITES: ENGLAND

TIM BENSON

Kite Review & Thoughts

WEIGHT: 230 grams **WIDTH:** 213 mm
HEIGHT: 94 mm
WIND RANGE: None given **SKILL LEVEL:** None recommended

Having flown the Box of tricks for a couple of months now I noticed that the trick flyers up on Epsom downs were starting to fly the slightly smaller kite from the Leading Edge/Fizz Kites collection: The Reflex, so I thought I should get hold of one to see what the fuss was about.

So what do we get. The kite is quite similar at first glance to the Box. It's a high aspect ratio kite with no unusual features. Fitted out with the same high quality fittings as the Box, and Excel shafts to provide an almost bullet proof frame. The design is complete with the standard "trick kite" stand offs' long and stiff. The frame produces a cambered leading edge. This is combined with the factory fitted leach line sewn into the trailing edge, which can be adjusted for tension to allow for any sail stretch. This works to maintain sail tension, reducing noise and therefore maintains the efficiency of the sail. It also maintains the correct sail shape during aggressive manoeuvres.

A good feature of this kite [and the box of tricks, which I forgot to mention] is the sail adjustment at the base of the spine, this is facilitated by a length of Velcro. A nice idea providing again the means to maintain sail tension [unlike bungy] at all time plus it's adjustable for any sail stretch.

Small sail area, narrow wing tips and standard bridle settings' mean this kite will spin well within its wing tip, this is combined with slight oversteer. Which should be expected on a kite of this size and type. [To overcome this power out of any spins, or stall and trick out]. Forward speed is in the moderate range again due to the factory setting. I was expecting a kite this size to travel forward at a much greater speed. It utilizes the full wind window, however again with a kite of this size take care at the edges, also when flying in light wind. You can fly this kite in at a surprising low wind speed as I found out during my test flights on Fuerteventura - I could just about feel the wind on my face and the Reflex was just about flying. So general flight is very good with no surprises, probably not a good choice for a complete beginner however, as I'm about to explain.

Tricks. The kite seems very much a trick kite and as such is very responsive, so not for complete beginners. This kite will perform Axles, Coin tosses', Cascades and its forte Flat spins. At the time I was first learning them on the Box most of the flyers on the Downs were telling me to learn them on the Reflex, it does make them a bit easier.

Comments: I think its worth the money, well made, nice colours, very sturdy and a very capable kite for tricks.

PS. With this kite and any of the others I've mentioned if you see me and you want to have a go - just ask I'm happy for anyone to fly them.

I have some good news, following my report on the Box Of Tricks, Fizz Sport Kites have asked me to do a review on the New Phantom Elite. [I think they like having a free advert for their kite] I expect this to be ready for the next issue. So any other manufacturers wanting a kite reviewed please send the kite to the address below.

Tricks update.

1. **Black Hole.** My description was all wrong, I've been advised by Bungle, Richard and Andy [Pair with no name {which reminds me I saw in a newsletter recently someone asked about a kite with no name, this could be the "No Na Me" from the people that brought you the Firedart}]. Back to the Black Hole, fly straight down centre window 20 feet above the ground do a spin and then a tip stab from 20 feet up - apparently its very easy with a Californian Wasp. Watch this space.
2. **Flash** - indoor trick. Forgotten the name of the guy who does it, he's 19, doesn't do competitions - I think he's Elvis? Its a continuous flat spin across 180 degrees of the window !!
3. **Miguel Rodriguez Coin Toss.** Have the kite nose up with the right tip nearer to the flyer so the kite is at a 45

Kite Review & Thoughts

degree facing away from you. Now pull right, just so the left tip is off the ground and pull left like an axle. The right tip should bend on the ground and the kite flip over and land in the same position as you started.

If you have any tricks to pass on please either write them down and send them to me or send on VHS or 8mm video tape.

Read this if you fly with more than one string, but hold your head down!!.

No tricks to tell you about, other than I can do a flat spin now (indoors and out). Thing is Bungle is now doing in-flight refuelled flat spins with Richard Marsh and Triple to Triple flat spins (3 left into 3 right). Enough about me.

Where were YOU!! Where was I when? I hope I hear you ask. I want to know why you were not at the KSGB Convention in Coventry? I really want to know why YOU didn't go. Answers to be sent to me at the address at the end.

You missed a great talk by Chris Mathison. You missed a great talk by Ian Meredith. You missed a talk by yours truly. You were mad to miss the talk given by David Brittain, I've heard his talk before and still learnt more!! Thank you Gill & Jon, you did a great job or those of us who hold more than one string. I sometimes hear fliers say that they think the Society is pro one liners, this is rubbish. Just look at the list of people who gave talks at the convention. NO other convention of any type that I'm aware of has provided such a line-up of expertise providing such a cross section.

Why am I saying all this you may ask? Well, we are the members of the Society, but we have to provide support it can not all be left to one or two people. Where else can you go to a convention in the UK?

On a better note thank you if you have written to me, you know who you are. Please keep them coming I like getting letters.

The point has been raised as to how kiteflying can be made interesting to younger fliers.

1) Does it need to be? Why should we bother? The answers to these depend on your outlook and what you want to get from kiteflying. For myself I think we need more young fliers to be interested and for them to question the established order. This could be new teams pushing the old teams like Aircraft (the old, the establishment, are we talking about the same team?), new individuals, not forgetting new Rokkaku fliers team and individual (NB if you don't fly with a Rok make one, buy one it is the most fun!!). I think the idea of indoor flying and urban flying appeals to younger fliers because it is new and totally different. However I still think the UK is in desperate need of some new kite builders, someone with the ability and imagination of George Peters (no disrespect to the established builders). We have new and young fliers about, why do you fly? what do you want to see at festivals? Write in, tell us and see it happen.

2) I think we should bother. Kite flying has grown enormously since I took it up competitively, both in Europe and the USA. It is at a similar stage that skateboarding reached in the late seventies / early Eighties. We have an added advantage that our sport is enjoyed as a spectacle by thousands, 250,000 in Holland, over 100,000 in Bristol. We have a sport that sponsors should love. Clean, green, family based, non-violent etc. Slowly the money from sponsors is coming in but we need to market the sport. Does anyone have the knowledge and skill to do it. If we get Sports Council recognition will we use it to our best advantage?

Simon Dann

27 Haycroft Road, Surbiton, Surrey. KT6 5AU. Fax 0181 391 2320

Weymouth 1996

The Sixth Weymouth International Beach Kite Festival will this year be held from Saturday May 4th to Monday May 6th inclusive. As usual a number of overseas visitors will be there flying their particular style of kites as well as many UK based kitefliers.

The first day of the festival (Saturday 4th) will be informal - there will be no organised events in the arena and no commentary. It is just an opportunity for you to fly your kites and to relax. The Sunday and Monday will run along the normal lines with a few competitions and many demonstrations. Talking of demonstrations if anyone out there wants to do something in the arena please contact us so that we can try and plan it in. A childrens kite workshop will also be held on the beach.

One request for this year - could you NOT set up your cabanas along the tide line when you arrive - use the edges of the arena. This is to prevent the situation where the tide goes out and the additional room created cannot be used as the tents are in the way!!.

There will be an informal get together in the Ocean Room, Weymouth Pavilion during Saturday evening. A bar will be available as will basket meals for those who want to eat. Sunday evening will see the fireworks display and night flying for those who want to.

Accommodation

This year accommodation will again be available via the Tourist Information line on 0800 765223. Reservations can be made on this number and includes all classes of accommodation, caavan, camping, hotels and B&Bs etc.

Car Parking

Again there is a kite fliers carpark but as you will know space is limited. So book early, once the tickets have gone we cannot get any more. Tickets will be valid for all three days (Saturday to Monday) and only one ticket is needed per car so don't ask for two if you only have one car going. These will be sent on a first come basis nearer the date of the festival. You MUST enclose a stamped addressed envelope as we will not send you a pass if you do not send this to us.

Traders

Kite traders are very welcome to attend and ply their wares. The charge will be £125.00 for three days, £95.00 for two days and £65.00 for one day. Payment for this must be with your booking which should be sent to the address below. Please make cheques payable to The Kite Society.

Please return this form to: The Kite Society, P.O. Box 2274, Gt Horkeley, Colchester CO6

Name

Address

Post Code

Car Passes Req'd.

(One pass per car)

Please enclose a Stamped Self Addressed Envelope

Trade News

"A Strong Breeze From the Forest"

Woolmer Forest Composites now stock all sizes of the G-Range tapered and non-tapered wrapped carbon spars including the new upgraded BREEZE and the latest SUPER SKINNY and SUPER G-FORCE UL. The SKINNY and BREEZE spars weighing only 8.3 and 4.2 grams are proving ideal for indoor kites.

From zero to 35 plus mph winds - over 15 USA and several European kite manufacturers are proving the benefit of G-Force.

WFC also supply fittings for the G-FORCE as well as for their very popular Pultruded Carbon Tubes and Rods from 2mm up to 12mm.

Further details from: Woolmer Forest Composites. Tel: 01428 712128. Fax: 0128 714914.

High Jinx

Just to keep you in the picture. "High Jinx" are on the move again. We have moved to new premises in Gloucester. The new address is 45 Bristol Road, Gloucester GL1 5SA. Our telephone number is the same (01452 503412). The shop is three times bigger than the unit in Gloucester Docks. We have room to move and, of course we have more stock.

We are open Monday to Saturday 10:00 to 5:00. Half day Tuesday.

We still do mail order and trade at kite festivals. Hope to see you in the new year.

Product News from Inflight

Adrenalin junkies seeking even more power and speed will be interested in and no doubt keen to test fly the new range of two line traction kites from Inflight. The "Vector Parawing" is available in five sizes from 2.4 to 6.00 metres span.

Based on the popular Vector 3, two further years of development have produced a reshaped aerofoil increasing both power and speed; a new computer designed bridle system improving control and manoeuvrability and the range of fabrics offered means there is a kite for almost all applications - prices from £110 - £600.

The Vector Parawing has already scored some success when Jonathan Harris achieved a 50mph buggy speed in October. He hopes to achieve similar speeds and establish a new world record at El Mirage Lake, USA in January.

Main stockists for the Vector Parawing are currently The Kite Store, London and Kite Loft, Belfast although no doubt that many more will be added to the list.

More details available from Inflight, Normanby Park Workshops, Normanby Road, Scunthorpe DN16 2AN. Tel: 01724 280307, Fax: 01724 865329.

Trade News

Fighter News from The Highwaymen

The fighter kite introduced to European kite flyers from the East has been the subject of amazement and intrigue during recent years. In the hands of a skilled pilot, the fighter kite is highly manoeuvrable and can be controlled to fly in any direction at will ... with only one line! Fighter kites are traditionally flown in combat where the pilot attempts to cut the opponents kite down using manjha (line coated with powdered glass). Flying fighter kites presents a fresh challenge every time. It is incredibly sociable, pleasurable and particularly rewarding if you have created the kite with your own hands.

New - Fighter Kite Kits. Following the success of their "No Sew" Fighter Kite Kits designed by Geoff Crumplin, The Highwaymen are adding an exciting new collection to their range. The new lightweight designs will be produced from the latest high tech materials, including 1/2 oz Icarex polyester, and will include a template for drawing the panels straight onto the fabric - no measuring required! This fabric offers a significant improvement in performance, resulting in a kite which is lighter, faster and crisper in turns. Among the new designs they hope to produce is a kite based on the superb "Hornet" by Martyn Lawrence and the "Mock Rock", an adaption of the Japanese Rokkaku, by Geoff Crumplin. The new lightweight kites should be available around Easter at a price of £9.99.

Flying Line. Also new is a really super quality waxed Irish linen flying line. Linen is stronger than cotton of the same thickness, won't stretch and lasts for many, many flights. Available in two thicknesses, a 50g reel of 3 cord 40 (approx 380m) costs £5.00 and is ideal for most fighter kites. The thicker 3 cord 18 has approx 200m on a 50g reel, costs £4.00 and is strong enough for the larger and harder pulling kites like those very collectable Don Mock originals.

Books. Since the recent reviews of "Not an Indian Fighter Kite" by Geoff Crumplin, there has been a tremendous interest from the international kiting community. The book contains detailed plans for 25 fighter kites designed for use with modern Western materials like ripstop nylon, carbon and fibre-glass, and retails for £7.95.

"A Beginners Guide to Flying Indian Fighter Kites" by Shirley Turpin has been translated into French by Phillippe Gallot. The French version includes two fighter kite plans and is available from the Manjha Club International or The Highwaymen for £3.50. The original English version is still very much in demand and retails for £2.50.

Videos. "The Knights of Manjha" is a professionally produced video all about, you guessed - fighter kites! Ludovic Petit, president of the Manjha Club International takes you on a guided tour around Europe, interviewing leading fighter kite personalities along the way. The film introduces you to superb flying skills from around the world: India Indonesia, Japan, Korea and Malaysia, and explains the different techniques used in combat. The video is narrated in French with full English subtitles and retails for £12.99.

You should be able to obtain these fighter kite goodies from your local kite retailer, or by mail order from The Highwaymen, The Kite Kitchen, 3 Beechwood Avenue, Burbage, Hinckley, Leics LE10 2HD. Tel/Fax: 01455 230736. The address for the Manjha Club is: Manjha Club International, 3 Cite Besson Martin, 17360 St Aigulin, France - Tel: +33 4604 8963 and Fax: +33 4604 8336. Trade enquiries

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 kite meetings where guest speakers are invited to talk about their specialist area of kite making and flying.

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	£9.00
Family - all members in the same household.	£10.00
O.A.P.	£7.00
O.A.P. - Family (Husband & Wife)	£8.00
Overseas - Europe and Surface Mail	£11.00
Overseas - Airmail	£16.00
Overseas upgrade to standard airmail.	£6.00

Name _____ Family Members _____

Address _____

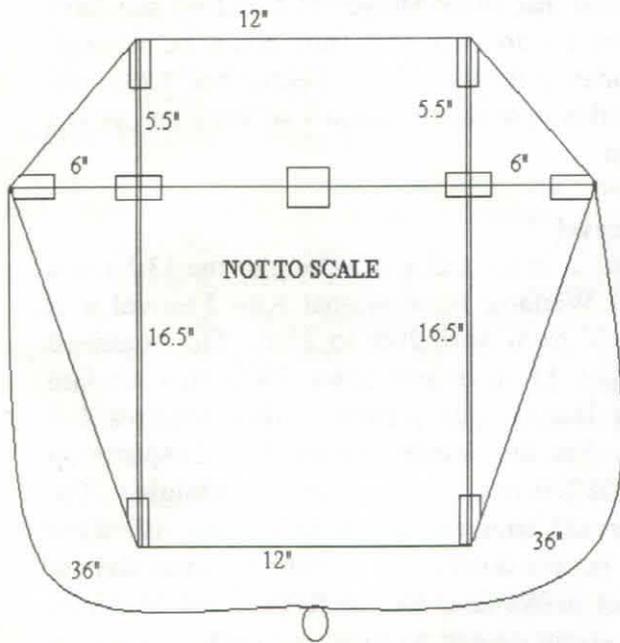
Post Code _____ Telephone _____

- * 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

Sled Tips



After thousands of plastic sleds have been made and thousands of bridles have pulled out of the bridle points, my answer shows, in the sketch, how to avoid this fault, and enjoy flying in stronger winds with no worry.

This sketch is not to scale but measurements will fit most shop plastic bags and use 6mm dowel for spars.

It is important also to make the bridle six feet long with a loop in the middle - this stops the kite folding in a gust.

Tails can be stuck on lower corners if desired for effect.

John Clarke

Stafford's Indian Kites
Sole Importer of quality kites from India

All kites are custom made for the stronger winds of Western Europe. They have been "Staffordised" by the addition of bridles and reinforcement of vulnerable points. Sales and after sales service by Stafford at most major Kite Festivals in the UK.

Also available:
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Mail order service at the address below.

Stafford Wallace: (between festivals) tel. 0780 - 460 389
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ADD ON PACKS AVAILABLE

Manufactured and distributed by RSM Leisure Company
35 Burley Grove, Downend, Bristol BS16 5QB, Great Britain.
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Bits & Pieces

Mini Kite Festival

The foundation "The Flying Dutch e Amigos" is planning the Third International Indoor MINI Kite Festival! Scheduled for February 17 & 18 this will take place in a hall within an old warehouse located behind the Central Station in Amsterdam - Vrieshuis Amerika, Oostelijke Handelskade 25, 1019 BL Amsterdam.

They are calling all (miniature) kite enthusiasts to meet for a small weekend of classes, competitions, demonstrations and conversations indoors.

Interested? Contact them at Mercatorstraat 169 hs, 1056 Re Amsterdam, Holland. Tel: +31 20 6890118. Fax: +31 20 6890118.

SNACK Magazine

SNACK (STACK News and Competition Kalendar) is the new non-profit making quarterly newsletter devoted to the promotion of Sport Team and Competitive Kiting (STACK) and a platform where all involved in the sport can voice their opinions.

SNACK features articles by fliers, judges, STACK National Directors, STARRC (STACK Rule and Regulation Committee) members and the SIEC (STACK International Executive Committee) and provides its readers with an up-to-date calendar of competitions and other sport kiting events. The pilot issue has been received and contains many of the features that the original STACK news contained in the early days.

SNACK is distributed free of charge to over 600 STACK members via the STACK National Directors. Non members can subscribe to SNACK by writing to the editorial office in Holland. Subscriptions cost Dfl 25.00 for one year (4 issues) including mailing costs. Write to SNACK, Badhuisstraat 181, 2584 HH The Hague, The Netherlands. Fax: +31 70 352 1570. Email: nop@euronet.nl.

Yellow Pages

Following a recent review of the 'Kiting' area in Yellow Pages they have now introduced a new main

heading of 'Kites' into Yellow Pages. We understand that Helen Howes of Raindrop may have had a bit to do with this (but could be wrong). Directories published from September 1996 will contain this new classification - so keep an eye out for them.

Kite Travel

If anyone is interested in travelling to the 13th (or is it 14th) Weifang International Kite Festival it is being held from April 20th to 23rd. The organised tour takes 11 days and costs £500 plus air fare to/from Beijing per person. This requires 6-9 people. For full details contact Paul Chapman on 01460 62970 any evening before midnight. The disorganised tour (which is what Paul will do if enough people don't come forward) is three days at zero cost in Weifang for the festival and festivities and an adventure getting there and back.

Antarctic Crossing Attempt

British Antarctic Attempt Abandoned. After being evacuated to Punta Arenas, Chile, Mear said "Although I did not complete the crossing I took enormous encouragement from it. We introduced many innovations for this expedition, and with the exception of the sledge, they all worked better than I had hoped."

Mear also said that his Modulus kite was magnificent, and without it he would have had greater difficulties. On his best day he reports having

covered 58 miles. If the sledge had been functioning as intended he feels that 100 mile days could be accomplished.

World Cup

After three attempts and two second places Aircraft finally triumphed and took first place in the World Cup held in Australia recently - taking the cup away from America for the first time. The Aircraft team, Nik Boothby, Jeremy Boyce, Carl Robertshaw and James Robertshaw are to be congratulated for a great result. Places for the event were:

1st	Aircraft	78.91
2nd	Tsunami, USA	76.76

Bits & Pieces

3rd Aftershock, Japan 74.32
Other places of note were Sky Dance (UK), in their first World Cup - 4th, In4Mation (UK) - 9th. The next placed American team - who have tended to lead the field was 10th!

1996 Phoenix Master Class Series

The following press release was received from Richard Marsh, Tradewind Kites.

We are pleased to announce the launch of the Phoenix Master Class Series.

Featured 'Masters' for the series will be Richard Marsh, Andrew Lomas and Richard (Bungle) Liddicott. By working with small groups of flyers we hope to ensure maximum flexibility, catering for all individual requirements.

Subjects covered will include:

Launching and landing, speed control, basic and advanced precision figures, stalls, side slides, leading edge and belly down launches, axles and flat spins.

Each hour long session will cost £12.50 per flyer, with a limit of three flyers with each 'Master' per session.

For further details please contact Richard Marsh, c/o Tradewind Kites, 6 Harris Arcade, Reading RG1 1DN. Tel/Fax: 01734 568848.

Dieppe September 7th - 15th

The 9th Dieppe International Kite festival takes place on the above dates. No real details are yet available, although it is likely that the normal arrangements for hostel, camping and meals will be the same. The theme for the competition this year is "Transparency and Colour". So get making those kites.

Buggy World Speed Record

Prior to the week long British Buggy Club event at Berrow Sands the official Guinness Book of Records speed was only 39mph. This was broken recently

by Mike Shaw of the BBC who was filmed at 46mph - this is now the official record. The speed was clocked by a static gate with radar transmitters and receivers over a fixed length, using equipment supplied and officiated by the Guinness Book of Records.

New Kite Book

Called "Kites - Funstation" written by Sue Wardle, of workshop fame, and published by Design Eye Ltd. ISBN 1872700403. Price £7.99 in John Menzies.

This is basically something for the children - 8 upwards and has a brief history, basic kite making instructions, how to fly them and 5 kite plans. Some templates are provided and various sticky bits, such as hole reinforcers. The book also comes with a kite kit with everything needed to make a diamond kite

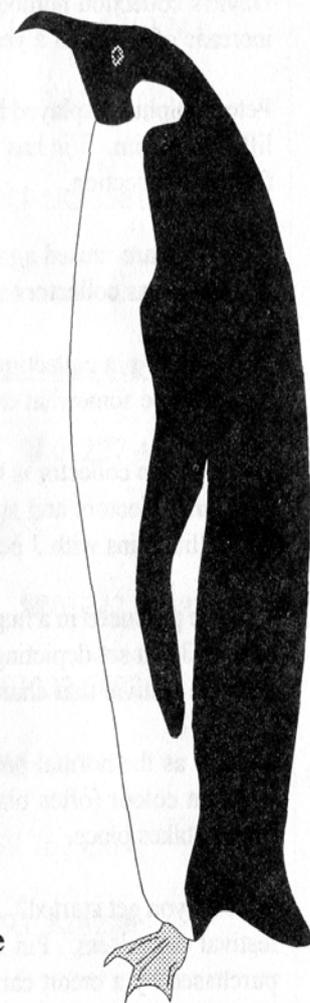
Sky Blooms Line Junk

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Kite Pins

The January 1992 edition of *The Kiteflier* carried an extensive article by Gill Bloom on kite badge collecting. I thought it would be interesting to comment on the hobby some four years on.

Cloisonne or enamel kite badges (pins) have become increasingly popular over the last few years with many kite fliers gathering huge collections and others collecting pins on specialist subjects i.e. festivals attended, fighter kites etc. Whatever your interest in kites there is a huge range of colourful pins to suit all tastes.

The aforementioned article listed 19 different U.K. pins available in 1992, the earliest dating back to a production run in 1981. In my collection I have over 120 U.K. pins produced since 1992 and I know that I don't have them all.

Most pins are produced by clubs, teams, companies or individuals all with kite connections. Now and again kites appear on pins with no direct connection. Gill listed 2 pins that fell into this category - a chocolate bar pin (Katie Penguin flying a kite) and a bike rally.

In 1994 the Co-op supermarket company bought out a pin in the shape of an Eddy with a tail to raise funds for the "Kidscape" charity. Very rare and quite collectable is a pin carrying a kite logo representing a Japanese company producing W.C. pans!!

Pin collecting is very popular in both America and Germany. In the States well known names who have got the collecting "bug" include Peter Dolphin, Vic Eshpeter and David Gomberg. The latter was listed in Gill's article as having the largest collection of pins with a total of 450. At a German festival and competition that I attended in 1994 David's collection numbered 1942. In 1995 this had risen to 407. With the average price of a pin at £4.00 and an increase of 450 pins a year it is an expensive hobby if you want to remain at the top.

Peter Dolphin displayed his collection on a large poncho style blanket that needed, because of its weight, 2 people to lift it onto him. Vic has often been known to ring the U.K. in his efforts to track down new pins or others missing from his collection.

Jiffy bags are reused again and again to post pins to collectors and I have been approached by, and made contact, with overseas collectors who have taken my name and address from used envelopes!!

In Germany pin collecting is currently at fever pitch with lots of new pins coming onto the market. They do however appear to be somewhat expensive.

Top German collector is Christian Treppner-Schultheis whose collection numbers 2210. Christian works with many German collectors and supplies pins as well as selling them. At the recent German championship Christian had a tent selling pins with 3 people working flat out for the 2 days of the event.

Pins are produced in a huge range of designs, shapes and sizes. Several that remain prominent in my memory include a large 3 pin set depicting a train of Cody kites complete with a man lifting basket, and a heat sensitive pin from a German festival that changes colour according to the surface temperature.

As well as the normal production colour run of pins occasionally a limited edition of a much smaller quantity, in a different colour (often black) is produced. These become much sought after and command a high trade value when trading takes place.

How do you get started? Adverts appear within this magazine, pins are offered for sale via some traders and by some festival organisers. Pin supremo David Gomberg produces a regular newsletter of international pins that can be purchased by a credit card transaction. Contact him at Cascade Kites, Box 113, Neotsu, Oregon 97364 USA. In addition I have a few pins of my own to trade or sell. Please telephone to check availability on 01603

Kite Pins

431964.

Alternatively why not design and produce your own club, team or personal pin. You can do a lot worse than contact Jamy Ltd., 17 Roman Road, Godmanchester, Cambs PE18 8LN who you will find very helpful and reasonably priced.

Pin collecting can be very addictive with a lot of pins telling their own story. Why not give it a try?

New pins on the rumour mill for 1996 include further new colours in my parrot pin "train", a new set from the Boop Troop. Weymouth and Bristol festivals normally produce pins. Happy hunting and let me know if you have surplus or new pins available.

Kevin Appleton

Keith Batchelor writes: The readers of The Kiteflier may be interested in the pin badge Hertfordshire Guides are selling to raise funds for a new county HQ.

Approximately 25mm high it consists of a young girl wearing a blue hat and trousers, yellow T-shirt and holding a red kite. This is available from me at £2.50 inclusive of postage - though if readers wish to make a large donation it will be gratefully received. Cheques should be made out to Ware District friends of Guiding. Write to 10 Beacon Road, Ware, Herts SG12 7HY.

Private Ads

A Rev I purple with pink tips £105.00 immaculate. An Axle 7ft trick kite rainbow colour £55.00 immaculate. A MkII Darkstar full size precision kite with green tips £65.00 good condition. Telephone 0181 958 9187.

⌘

Original Tim Benson Phantom for sale £75.00. 3-11 Sport hardly used, for sale £75.00 ono. Phone 01222 628725.

⌘

Wanted to buy: Indonesian fishing kite, original or replica. Also Indonesian bat catching kite original or replica. Am also very much in the market for antique Australian Aboriginal return boomerangs or missile sticks. Ben Ruhe, 10 Hall Road, Thorndon, Suffolk IP23 7LR. Tel: 01379 678 387. Email 100420.700@Compuserve.com.

⌘

I have some "official" Cody drawings for sale. These are the 1934 Cody anti-aircraft barrage kite rigging diagrams. It is big print suitable for hanging up in a study/workshop. A bargain at £10.00. Contact Paul Chapman, The Old Post Office, Wadeford, Chard, Somerset TA20 3AP. Tel: 01460 62970.

⌘

For Sale: Shuriken, Light Use. Black, Purple and

Turquoise. With spare kit. Price £65.00. Telephone Keith Johnson 01256 702848 after 5:00pm.

⌘

For Sale, Swap, Part Ex. 2 x 6 foot Flexifoils. 1 year old. £90.00 the pair (will split). Complete with 300lb Spectra lines. OR Swap/Part Ex or 8' or 10' Flexi or W. H.Y. Phone for details day 01743 365059 ask for Dave. Eve 01784 242079 ask for Nuddsy.

⌘

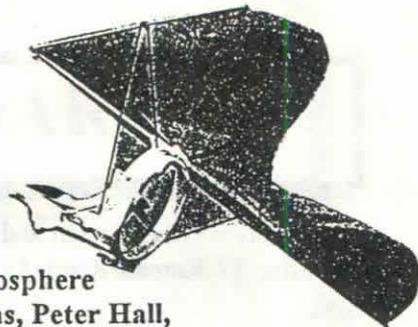
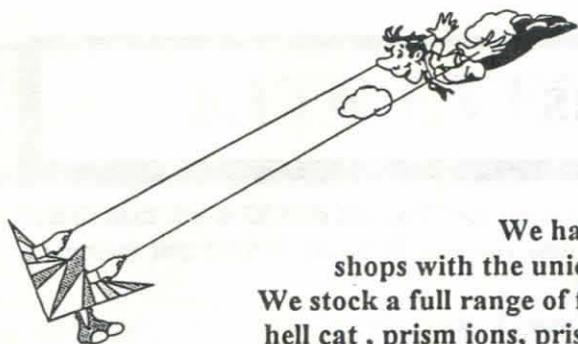
For Sale: Wind Warriar Stunt Kite. Flown twice only for short time. In as new condition. Retirement present. £90.00. Phone 01293 516374.

⌘

Ripstop Nylon, various colours £1.00/m + p&p. Ring Chris Sands on 01392 833258 or write 1 Chards Orchard, Exeter Road Kennord, Devon EX6 7TJ for details.

⌘

Novelty Earrings. Hand made kite shaped earrings, delta or diamond in a variety of two colour combinations using good quality findings. £3.00 a pair. Also available as brooches at £1.25 each. Please at least 50p p&p. Details/payment to: Catherine Overton, 68 Kingshill Road, Swindon, Wilts SN1 4LH. Tel: 01793 614187.



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2, Camden Lock Place,
Camden
London
Tel: 071 284 2460
(3 mins from Camden tube.)

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Indian Fun Kite World Tour

So many people tell me how much pleasure they get from flying Indian Kites that I decided to travel further afield to let even more people see how these kites fly.

Oostdunkerke in Belgium is a lovely friendly event organised by Nest Lernout. It wasn't until Sunday afternoon when Nest asked me to do a demonstration that I sold some kites or I would still have been doing the washing up to cover the hotel bill. Immediately after the demo, people crowded around to buy some kites and even a Belgian kite shop bought lots for his shop. He saw people enjoying flying the kites, furthermore his son absolutely loved flying them after a short lesson.

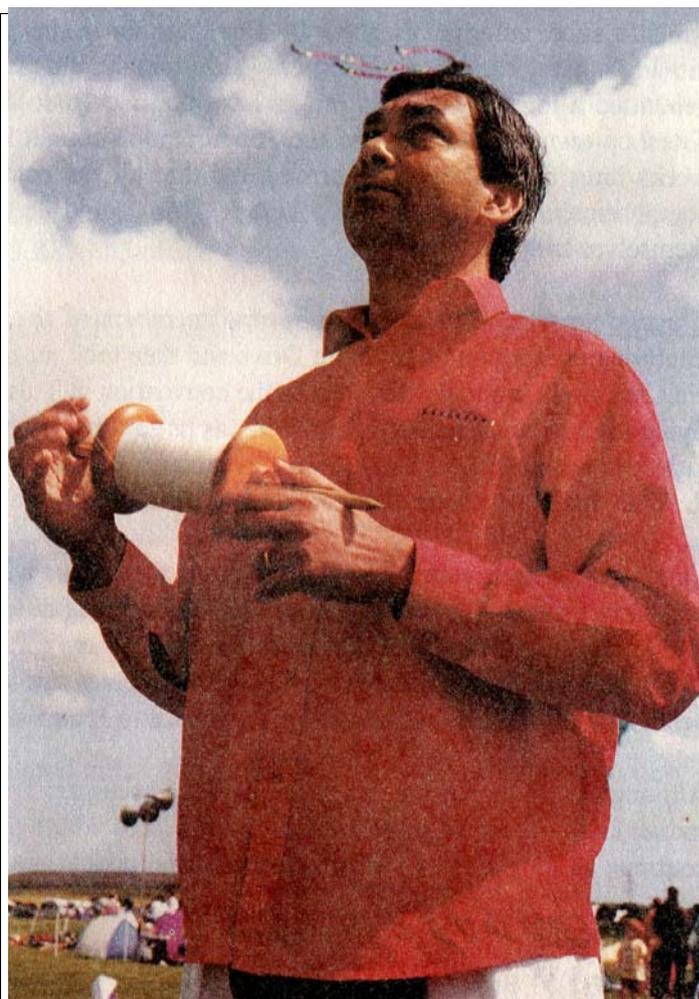
Fano in Denmark is a kitefliers meeting and has the largest number of kitefliers I've seen at an event but not many public. I was in a group of seven from England, all the others being Buggy enthusiasts. A strong wind prevailed over the four days except for a brief 2 hours on Friday evening when I managed to fly a kite. The only other time I flew was when invited to do some indoor flying. Both flying opportunities generated interest and sales amongst the Danes, Germans and Norwegians to help defray the cost of the trip. The buggiers absolutely loved the conditions and did some night buggying as well as some 'naked' buggying. I saw the bruise on Ian Merediths thigh and wondered why I thought of myself as being daft!

Lauder in Scotland was very enjoyable, thanks to Malcolm and Jeanette's hard work. I drove North for 176 miles, was involved in an accident, returned home, got another car and drove back North making a total of 600 miles for the day. There was a lot of interest in the Indian kites from kitefliers who hadn't seen them flying before. I still get mail orders from Scotland and realise how kitefliers can be isolated away from the predominately 'Southern' scene.

Berlin was an invitation, thanks to the organiser Michael Stelzer, so I didn't have to worry about the costs. I even attended a press conference at the sponsor's building in Berlin city centre. There was much amusement as I described how kites were flown in India. I was invited to try and fly a kite from the roof and despite the taller surrounding buildings, flew a kite quite far over Berlin city centre. Was this a first I wondered? The festival was in East Berlin at the Hoppengarten Racecourse. It was well attended and to my delight dozens of Germans learned very quickly how to fly and enjoy Indian kites. Hilary and I caught a 6:30am flight on Monday to Heathrow and got home about noon, hastily repacked my cases to prepare for a 10:30am flight, the next day to Tulsa.

Tulsa, Oklahoma was the venue for the American Kitefliers Association Convention. My thanks to Richard Dermer, AKA regional director, who organised my stay with Clifford and Colette Lemos, two members of the Tulsa Wind Riders. They collected me from the airport and took me straight to the flying site, where I met and flew kites with lots of other 'fighter' enthusiasts.

The photo, taken by Andrew Beattie, reveals the little known antennae that Stafford uses to control his kites. He is very shy about these sensitive parts of his anatomy. Don't believe what he tells you about letting the line out - it is all done by telepathy.



Indian Fun Kite World Tour

They all had a go with my kite and expressed amazement at how controllable it was.

There were 17 different stunter competitions over the four days and the fighter Kite contest was the friendliest I've ever been involved with. Because they compete one-on-one with 'line touching', there isn't the problem with fliers avoiding contact as in the Rokkaku and fighter competitions in England. I thought I'd eliminate some of the opposition by saying "only Indians are allowed in the fighter kite contest", whereupon several of them rolled up their sleeves, showed me their arms and informed me they had Kiowa, Apache and other native American blood in them.

The standard of flying was very high when you consider the contest took place in winds of about 20mph. Kitefliers had travelled between 6 - 12 hours to compete which is very different from England where journeys of over 2 hours, or North of Luton are considered 'too far'. Some kitefliers said "I wish there was someone like you travelling around American kite festivals selling kites like these", but when I explained the profit margins they understood why no one else does it. You have to love these kites to do what I do. Their kites were made of nylon with fibreglass bow and a spine made of spruce. They had gone down the path of strength which had weight and reduces manoeuvrability. My kites were often the first Indian kites they'd seen and got close scrutiny from many fliers. Other foreign kitefliers were Martin Lester, Peter Lynn and Ray Bethell. During the AKA Convention I heard that Bob Ingraham had died. He was the founder of the AKA and held in great affection by all kitefliers.

Silver City, New Mexico was an invitation by Rik Miller and Anthony Howell, two very genuine lovers of fighter kites and the organisers of the 'fiesta'. They looked after me in typically generous American fashion. The fiesta is called 'Cielo Encantado' which means 'Enchanted Skies' and is held on a football pitch owned by the University. Silver City was also home of Bob Ingraham and on one of the days all competitions were stopped for about an hour whilst a short eulogy was given by Dave Turner in the presence of Hazel Ingraham and her family. It was very moving hearing the words whilst only Bob Ingraham deltas flew overhead. I thoroughly enjoyed the kiteflying and generated a lot of interest in Indian kites and I even sold some Indian kites to Apaches. Was this another first? Kiteshop owners from Tuscon and Albuquerque bought lots of my kites, line and reels and I received email a few weeks later from Tuscon, informing me that all the competitors bar one, were flying Indian kites in the fighter competition. I had decided the America trip would be a crusade of infection and several kitefliers pronounced themselves truly infected.

Chicago was the next stop and several members of the Chicago Sky Liners Kite Club arranged an impromptu kiteflying evening on Lake Shore Drive and then took me out for a delicious Vietnamese meal. One of the members, Nelson Borelli, actually travelled to the convention in Tulsa just to see me flying. He says the only reason he is now flying kites is because one day in 1992, as he sat on a bench watching the Chicago Air Circus he was buzzed by this little kite which he later learned was an Indian kite and was being flown by me. He made enquiries got a kite, joined the club and is an addict and an active member of the club.

Lunen in Germany was my last trip. I drove a mini-bus with 10 kitefliers to participate in this finale to the kiteflying season in Europe. The British kites attracted a lot of attention so did the Indian kites. When I was in Berlin, I had told kitefliers I would be in Lunen and several of them came to replenish their stocks of their new found interest. All the British kitefliers thoroughly enjoyed themselves and did Britain proud with their kites, kiteflying and general behaviour. Hopefully we may all get a chance to return and do it again.

Although quite expensive, travelling is very necessary to expose as many people as possible to the fun of flying Indian kites. It seems there are still many places where people haven't seen Indian kites flown properly and I shall continue as long as I can afford the costs and people are happy to see the flying potential of these simple and fun kites.

Stafford Wallace.

Brits in Lunen

On Friday 20th October 10 of us met up at Dover to get on a ferry to Calais and then onto Lunen in Germany, Paul Barrett and Don Eccleston flew their kites from the back of the ferry all the way over to France - to the amusement of the other passengers.

We all arrived in Calais about 12:15pm and then Stafford drove us through France, Belgium, Holland and into Germany, arriving at Lunen at about 8 o'clock at night, where we booked in and had the meal that was waiting for us. Kevin Appleton then started swapping and acquiring pins, and by the end of the night he had about 60 new ones.

We met old friends and new and had a great party until about 1am when we all went back to the rooms that we had been allocated (there was a shuttle bus put at our disposal for the whole time we were there). At about 6am we were woken by Bazzar moving, dropping things and falling about. He then informed us that he was a trained Ninja (hence the stealth and invisibility).

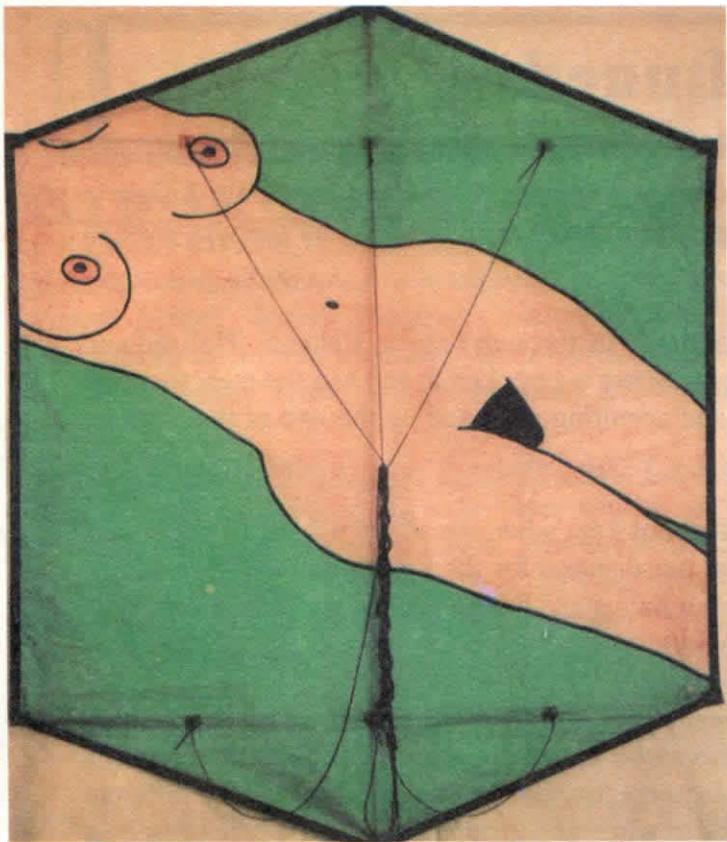
We all went for breakfast at about 8 o'clock and then went to get our kites. The wind was about 2-3mph so most of the big kites would not fly, instead these were stood up on the ground for all to see, it was a very nice display. I walked along rows of caravans and campers for about half a mile looking for different kites, but I could not see the end of them so I walked back to where the group had set up. Some of us flew all morning and then went for lunch. (Kevin is still collecting pins - nice Cody Bolo Kevin!).

Meals were all served in the aircraft hanger where there were about 800 invited fliers to be catered for, and the food was very nice and more than you could eat - all the meals and accommodation were paid for by the festival. After lunch we went and did some more flying and three of us went to the local Trinkahaller where we were talked into purchasing some bier (not wishing to offend any of the locals, we did this - purely for Anglo-German relations of course). We took this back to the flying field and shared it out with the others. We were talking to the Germans and other nationalities and despite the language problem our Crazy Ninja managed to tell them that he was a Giant Smurf With Big Onions - they all thought this was a great laugh and we got on with them extremely well. We all flew and talked (mostly talked) until supper at 8 o'clock when we all went to the hanger to eat and drink. After we had eaten the party really started. There was a bar in the hanger with us, the festival organisers put on a very good fireworks display for about 45 minutes and then it was one big party with about 800 real kite enthusiasts having a great time and mixing with each other (why can't English festivals be like this). Kevin is still at it!

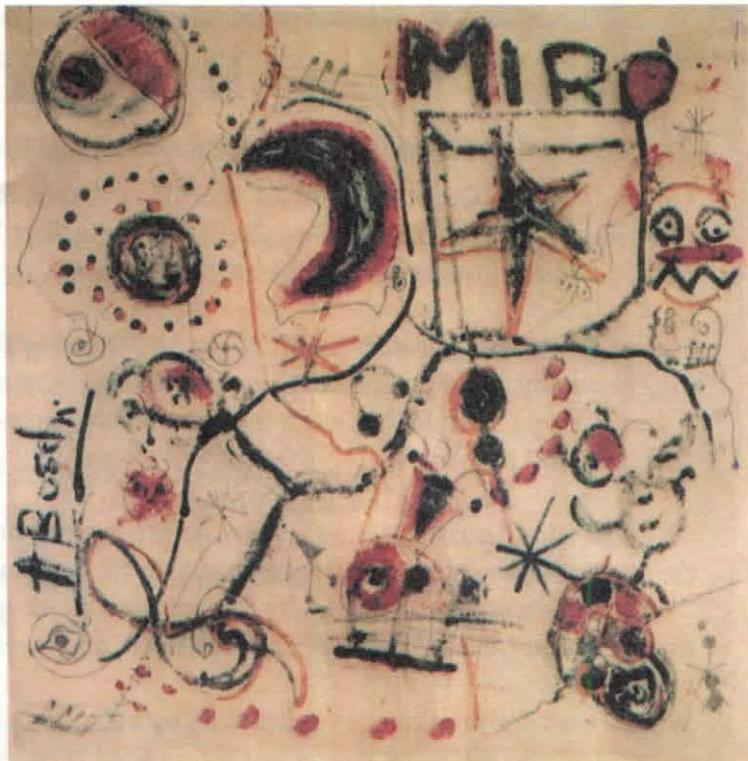
On Sunday morning we had breakfast and then began flying, the winds were very light as they were the day before and it was mainly deltas and fighting kites putting on a show for everyone. Some of us took a short trip into Munster to see some other part of Germany, and then back to the flying area to do some more flying. Stafford Wallace and Paul Barrett did a demonstration in the arena in the afternoon and then about 3 o'clock the wind picked up to about 10-12mph and all the grounded kites were put up. This was a spectacular sight to see all of this art work go up into the sky. We packed up at about 7pm and eight of us went into Dortmund to get something to eat. Kevin is finished at 127 (pins that is).

Monday morning we were up at about 5am and loaded the minibus and left Lunen at 6am. We stopped for breakfast and then it was onto Calais stopping only to buy some Belgium chocolates and then the ferry arriving home about 3:30pm.

Paul Barrett



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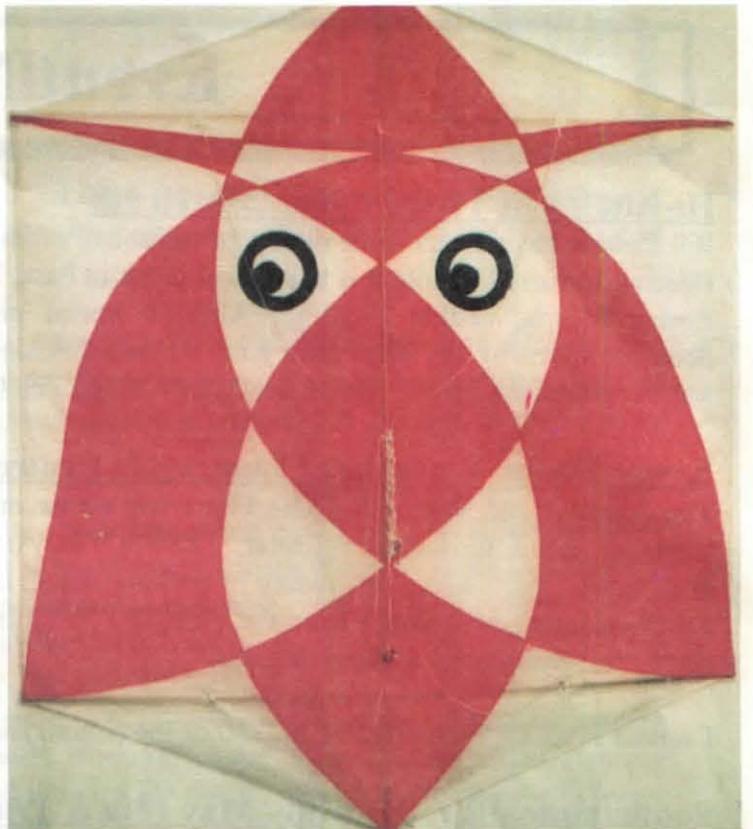


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Several of the photos on this page are from the Mail Art Kite collection which is an assemblage of kites produced by artists in the style of other artists. The Rokkaku kites are from the Artistic Kite Group Gallery project.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Paul Klee by Guido Vermeulen (Brussels). | 6. Arte a la Carte by SELF (Avon CT, USA). |
| 2. Venus Rokkaku - Charlie Charlton. | 7. The White Band by Charlie Charlton. |
| 3. Edward Munch by Al Upton (Swansea). | 8. The Owl by Charlie Charlton. |
| 4. Marcel Duchamp by Mike Dyar (San Francisco) | 9. Georgia O'Keeffe by Julia Tant (London). |
| 5. Miro by Anna Boschi (Terme, Italy) | |

Event News

Hi-Kite - Kite Flying Event, March 9th

Bill Coltam has sent us some details of the above event. Promoted by Hi Kent Association for Deaf and Hearing Impaired People it is being held at Mote Park, Maidstone from 11am to 3pm. Activities include; Power Lifting, Indian Fighting, Altitude Sprint plus sweet drops and Teddy parachuting with demonstrations by the Kent Kite Klub. Free admission and car park. For more details contact Bill at MCSC, Marsham Street, Maidstone ME14 1HH. Tel: 01622 691151. Fax: 01622 672436.

Easter Fly-in, Worcester Countryside Centre - April 7th & 8th

The Alcester and Worcester Kite Fliers will be having a fly-in at the Worcester Countryside Centre, Spetchley Road, Worcester at Easter. The site is easy to get to just off the M5 at junction 7. A good flying area, good camping, toilets, plenty of parking space, hot and cold home made food. Those wishing to camp - camping is available from the Thursday onwards. There is a car boot sale on Sunday morning, so there is no flying until 2:00pm that day.

Contact Fred Taplin on 01789 762350 or the Countryside Centre on 01905 766492.

Southampton Kite Festival - May 18th & 19th.

Taking place at Lordshill Playing Fields the organisers, Solent Kite Fliers and Totton and Elin Lions are seeking sponsorship to make the event bigger and better than 1995. One event already confirmed is a mass fly of kites made from recycled materials. The festival will coincide with Environment Week and the mass kite fly will be a culmination of a weeks activities. Simultaneous mass fly-ins will take place in other parts of Hampshire on 19th May with a possible attempt at a world record.

Festival of Flight - May 25th - 27th

Kelburn Country Centre in Ayrshire will hold its First Festival of Flight on the dates shown with displays, workshops and exhibitions on the various aspects of flight including model aircraft, model rocketry, kites, hot air ballooning and other forms of flight.

The Kite Club of Scotland have been asked to put on a display and a kite workshop is being run by Fair Play for Children in Scotland. Irene Paterson, the organiser, would also like to include an exhibition of kite flying, perhaps showing the history of kite flying, together with an adult workshop. If anyone can help her then please call on 01475 568685.

Basingstoke Kite Festival - June 1st & 2nd

Our 4th festival promises to be our biggest yet. We will be starting on the Friday night (31st May) with an informal get together and hopefully with a guest speaker.

The usual competitions will be staged and also some new ones. So come along and have some fun with some friendly people!.

Contact Alan Cosgrove, 18 Loggon Road, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 3PH. Tel: 01256 818922.

East London Kite Festival - June 15th & 16th

The 1996 event will take place once again at Hackney Marshes, Homerton Road, London E9. The two day festival will include:-

Event News

- 1) A round of the British National Team Sport Kite Championships.
- 2) Britains only major urban Buggy event, racing and freestyle!
- 3) Hackney rules Rokkaku Fighting
- 4) Saturday night kite and firework Pyrokitenics display.
- 5) Quad-line painting.
- 6) European Air Gallery
- 7) Free juggling and circus skills workshops
- 8) Single line kite display by Martin Lester and others.

For more details phone 0171 275 8799.

Banham Zoo Kite Fly - June 29th & 30th

Join kite fliers from around the country for this mid-summer event at this popular open venue on the Norfolk/Suffolk borders.

On site camping is available at a charge of £2.75 per unit per night. For those seeking mains electricity hook up, an adjacent caravan park is available at a charge of £8.00 per unit per night. Campers will qualify for a reduced entrance fee to the adjacent zoo. Free entry to the flying site for all visitors.

An arena will be provided for anybody with anything special to display as well as informal competitions including altitude sprints and rokkaku fights. Height clearance to 2,000 feet will be applied for.

Attractions include craft shops, Banham Cidery, public house and on Sunday one of East Anglias largest car boot sales. It is hoped that an evening cabaret and dance will be available in the nearby clubroom on Saturday night.

Camping bookings to: David Barber Caravan Park Manager, Farm Meadow Caravan Park, Banham Zoo, The Grove, Banham, Norfolk NR16 2HE. Tel: 01953 888370 office hours.

Kite flying enquiries to:- Kevin Appleton, 37 Eastern Avenue, Thorpe-St-Andrew, Norwich NR7 0UQ. Tel: 01603 431964. Please include an S.A.E. when writing.

Golden Valley Kite Flyers Kite Festival - July 20th & 21st

Being held at Tewkesbury School playing fields, Ashchurch Road, Tewkesbury, Glos (adj, J5 M5 motorway). Camping available from Friday 19th pm to Monday 22nd am at £2.00 per night.

For more details or a kite fliers pass send a S.A.E. to Neville Wing, 9 Howards Road, Tewkesbury, Glos GL20 8QX.

Cannock Chase - August 10th & 11th

Sponsored by Cannock Kites the festival site is a designated area of outstanding natural beauty, within easy reach of junctions 11 and 12 of the M6 motorway. Camping and caravanning facilities are available on site.

Send a stamped addressed envelope for full details, which will be mailed nearer the date to Cannock Kites, Kingston Court, Walsall Road, Cannock WS11 3HQ. Tel: 01543 571400. Fax: 01543 573177.

Kite Show



We would like this page to feature photographs sent in by the readers of their own and other peoples kites. In fact anything that lends itself to colour. Please send colour photographs to the editorial address.

Kites this issue are Don Mock - Crooked Beak, Kevin Shannon - Zebra Parafoil; Pete Rondeau - Edo, Japanese Rokkaku and Margret Greger with Patchwork kite.

KITE EVENT CALENDAR

U.K. Major Kite Events		
April 7th & 8th	Easter Kite Festival, Blackheath, London.	Kent Kite Klub
April 14th	Old Warden Kite Festival, Biggleswade, Beds.	The Kite Society
May 4th - 6th	Weymouth International Kite Festival, Weymouth	The Kite Society
May 11th & 12th	Wroughton Kite Festival, Swindon	White Horse Kitefliers
May 18th & 19th	Southampton Kite Festival, Lordshill Playing Fields.	Tony Bates
June 1st & 2nd	Basingstoke Kite Festival, Hampshire	Al Cosgrove
June 8th & 9th	Isle of Wight International Kite Festival.	The Kite Store
June 8th & 9th	Margam Park, South Wales.	Steve Gibson
June 15th & 16th	East London Kite Festival, Hackney, London.	Jeremy Boyce
July 6th & 7th	Shrewsbury Kite Festival.	Tony Slater
July 6th & 7th	Washington Festival of the Air, Tyne & Wear.	Malcolm Goodman
July 13th & 14th	Wales International Kite Festival, Monmouth Wales.	The Kite Store
July 13th & 14th	Brighton Kite Festival, Stanmer Park	Airborn Kites
August 24th - 26th	Portsmouth International Kite Festival	The Kite Society
August 31st & September 1st	Canterbury International Kite Festival.	SEKS
September 7th & 8th	Bristol International Kite Festival, Ashton Court, Bristol.	Avril Baker
September 22nd	Old Warden Kite Festival, Biggleswade, Beds.	The Kite Society

Other U.K. Kite Events		
March 9th	Hi-Kent Kite Festival, Maidstone, Kent.	Bill Coltam
April 7th & 8th	Alcester & Worcester Kitefliers Fly-in, Worcester Countryside Centre.	Fred Taplin
May 25th - 27th	Kelburn Castle Festival of Flight, Ayrshire.	Irene Paterson
June 15th & 16th	Testone Bridge Kite Fly, Kent.	Kiteability
June 29th & 30th	Banham Zoo Kite Fly, Norfolk.	Kevin Appleton
July 7th	Petworth Kite Day, Petworth Park, West Sussex.	Kiteability
July 20th & 21st	Golden Valley Kite Festival, Tewkesbury.	Neville Wing
August 10th & 11th	Testone Bridge Kite Fly, Kent	Kiteability
August 10th & 11th	Cannock Chase Kite Event, Staffs.	Cannock Kites
August 18th	Coventry Kite Festival, Memorial Park, Coventry.	MKF
September 20th - 22nd	Caernarfon Kite Festival, Clynogg-Fawr, Wales.	MKF
September 21st - 29th	Brean Sands Kite Week.	B.B.C.

KITE EVENT CALENDAR

	STACK Events
May 4th & 5th	Thurrock. Open Team Competition and Round 1 UK National Pairs.
May 25th - 27th	Picardie Cup, Quend Plage, France.
June 1st & 2nd	Bath Kite Festival. Round 1 UK National Team.
June 15th & 16th	Hackney. Round 2 UK National Team.
June 21st - 23rd	North Sea Cup, Scheveningen Holland.
June 29th & 30th	Weston Super Mare. Round 3 UK National Team. Round 2 UK National Pairs.
July 27th & 28th	Fylde Kite Festival. Open Team competition and Round 3 UK National Pairs.
August 3rd & 4th	World Cup VII, Japan
September 7th & 8th	Bristol Kite Festival. Round 4 UK National Pairs. Quad Line UK Nationals.
	For information of these and other STACK events please contact Avril Baker.

	Major Overseas Kite Events
March 30th - April 8th	10th International Kite Festival, Berck-Sur-Mer, France.
April 20th - 23rd	Weifang International Kite Festival, China.
May 11th & 12th	Oostdunkerque, Belgium.
June 13th - 16th	Fano Kite Week, Denmark
June 21st - 23rd	Scheveningen International Kite Festival, Holland.
September 6th - 15th	Dieppe International Kite Festival.

KITE EVENT CALENDAR

Contact List

The Kite Society	P.O. Box 2274, Gt Horkesley, Colchester CO6 4AY.
Airborn Kites	97 Trafalgar Street, Brighton BN1 4ER. ☎01273 674740
Kevin Appleton	37 Eastern Avenue, Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich NR7 0UQ. ☎01603 31964
Tony Bates	32 Ashleigh Close, Hythe, Southampton SO4 6QP.
B.B.C..	P.O. Box 4015, Smethwick, Warley West Midlands B67 6HJ
Jeremy Boyce	High As A Kite, 153 Stoke Newington Church Street, London N16 0UH. ☎0171 275 8799.
Al Cosgrove	18 Loggon Road, Basingstoke RG21 3PH. ☎01256 818922
Cannock Kites	Kingston Court, Walsall Road, Cannock WS11 3HQ. ☎01543 571400
Tony Slater	128 Meadow Farm Drive, Harlescott, Shrewsbury SY1 4JY. ☎01743 235068.
Kent Kite Klub	P.O. Box 557, Sidcup, Kent DA14 6UB.
Kiteability	2 Garfield Road, Ponders End, Enfield, Middlesex EN3 4RP. ☎0181 804 9080
The Kite Store	48 Neal Street, London WC2H 9PA. ☎0171 836 1666
Steve Gibson	Way on High Kites, Capuchin Yard, Church Street, Hereford HR1 2LR.
SEKS	A Sage, 22 Cherry Drive, Canterbury, Kent CT2 8HF. ☎01227 462786
Avril Baker	5 Lilymead Avenue, Bristol BS4 2BY. ☎0117 971 4625
Malcolm Goodman	134 Thames Road, Billingham, Cleveland TS22 5EX. ☎01642 550827
MKF	4 Hermitage Court, Oakwood, Derby DE21 2LG. ☎01332 669203
Irene Paterson	South Offices, Fairlie, Ayshire KA29 0BE. ☎01475 568685
Fred Taplin	20 Henley Street, Alcester, Worcs B49 5QY. ☎01789 762350
White Horse Kitefliers	P.O. Box 585, Swindon, Wiltshire SN3 4YR. ☎01793 824208.
Neville Wing	9 Howard Road, Tewkesbury, Glos GL20 8QX.

ROMAN CANDLES 39



PAWS FOR
THE RECORD,
INDOORS!
YOU WOT!

The Journal of the BEARLY MADE IT SKYDIVE SQUAD. The International Brother and Sisterhood of Parachuting Fauna and the U.K. Ted Devils. Warning Mindless Drivel content exceeds 100%. Politically Incorrect and we dont give a Toss. (<http://www.bof.trashed.p.l.kite.club.cheesed,orf.soddim.html>)

P.A.W.S. BURN IT UP IN HINDY HANGER!

Hey, BOF have you ever Bombed Fauna indoors is how the Question usually goes. Er, Hmm, Yawn, yeah, course we have, off balconys, down stairwells, across rooms etc, etc, but what we've never done, and to the best of our knowledge nobody has ever done before is Bomb Fauna from a Kite over One Hundred feet up, inside an Historic Airship Hanger.

Imagine if you can an enclosed space some 300ft long by 125ft wide by 125ft high, this is the No:1 or Hindenburg Hanger at the Lakehurst Naval Air Base in New Jersey P.A.W.S. or the Philadelphia Area Wannabe Skydivers were taking part in a Lakehurst Indoor Fly when they decided to see if it was possible to to be the first Dropniks to Bomb fauna from a Kite indoors at 100ft plus.

NewsGroups: rec.kites
Subject: New indoor Kite record
Date: 14 Oct 1995 21:44:20 GMT
Organization: The DataXchange Network, Inc
Lines: 26
Message-ID: <45pavk\$nf1@news.dx.net>
NNTP-Posting-Host: 205.148.205.33
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
X-Mailer: Mozilla 1.2N (Windows; I; 16bit)
To: mdallmer@arcerrs.gov

I would like to congratulate Mike Dallmer and his son Michael on being the first persons to Launch a Parachuting Bear from a kite INDOORS! The Dallmers were representing the Philadelphia Area Want-to-be Skydivers (P.A.W.S.)

Mike and his son were able to fly a 6 ft. standard Rok (.75 oz ripstop and fiberglaas rod) to an altitude of 100 Feet inside Hangar One at the Lakehurst Naval Air Base (New Jersey, USA). This hangar was designed to hold dirigibles the size of the Hindenberg.

The Dallmer team was able successfully launch the Rok with a 1 pound bear, named "bruce" from Austrailia, on the line. Bruce had 2 successful solo drops on 10/14/95. Dallmer in his need for more weight sent another bear named Sir Winston weighing 2.5 pounds on the line and had another successful drop. Dallmer still wanted more weight so the team launched the kite with both bear on the line. This was as successful as the first launches. These were great performance by the Dallmer Team.

There were several video cameras recording this event for for the record books.

Thanks must be given to Peter Lee who arranged for the use of the facility at the Naval Base.

BOMBING
INDOORS?

YEAH, FROM
A 6ft ROK
100ft UP



Prof. Mike Dallmer, Wife Cecelia and Son Mike jnr used two Kites in their attempt, a 6ft Rok and a 54 sq ft Multiflair. Mike jnr provided the motive power, Cecilia did the Packing whilst Prof Mike provided the know how and Launch control.

Altogether nine descents were made, six from the Rok and three from the Multiflair. The first descent was made by a Bear named Bruce (an antipodean Fauna we believe) also being Bombed were Sir Winston drop a lot T.P. and Grumpy Bear, there was at least one successful tandem jump by Sir Winston and Bruce.

Prof Mike reports that Mike jnr was well knackered and needed a rest once in a while. not surprising really considering all the running up and down the hanger that he did. Prof Mike says about 50 Humes witnessed the event and says that there were a few Video Cameras recording for Posterity.

Whilst we were aware, via Prof Mike of the proposed date of his indoor frolic, it was only when we recieved the p.mail as seen left, that we knew of the actual time of the New indoor Kite record.

So there you have it BMISS is pleased to ratify P.A.W.S. as holders of a Class III (novelty) World Indoor Fauna Bombing from Kites Record and a unique first as well.

This p.mail was originated by Mark Douches (mdouches@csionline.com) 14-10-1995.

I.B.T.B.P.L.K.C. HITHERTO UNKNOWN KITE CLUB TAKES OFF ON SUPERHIGHWAY!

Word has it that a kite Club that didn't even know it existed, is in danger of becoming arguably the most publicised and fastest growing Kite Club in the World, now that the Members have come out of the closet and onto the Internet. We are reliably informed by Dingley Dell via Paul Chapman that the Dutch Members finally decided to give it some of that old 133Mhz crap and the response has been quite amazing.

How is it, these thousands of Megabyte Heads want to know, that some Computer illiterate, Braindead Boring Old Fart actually tripped over the secret switch and turned the whole amazing thing on?

For instance, all the Members now want Pin Badges, doubtless in at least five colour enamel when for all we know a badge doesn't even exist, that is unless there is some Philanthropic Nutter out there who already has one on the drawing board, in which case I'll have half a dozen if they're buckshee.

For all that many thanks are due to those kind souls who sent in the many sovereign remedies for the prevention of being trashed by bleeding great octopii and sodding great Mega Worms, aka Trilobites (thought those were extinct). We particularly liked the one which involved the use of a Crocodile Flamethrowing Tank, four cases of Baked Beans and a Blow Up Rubber Doll. WOW, the mind boggles, but alas, too expensive I'm afraid.

Still, remember where you read about the I.B.T.B.P.L.Kite Club first Cheers.
fredbof@miss.pofaced.nah.mindless.drivel.yoowot.uk.

SPELEOLOGICAL CAPERS? THATS BOMB 'EM UNDERGROUND TO YOO PAL!

The things that Humes get upto in their neverending quest to Bomb Fauna in the most unlikely places never ceases to amaze us, for even the Speleologically persuaded Dropniks er, them Caversto you and me pal, were at it at Hunters Hole, Priddy, er, somewhere thataway on April 9th this year when Mike Lipscombe and Richard Barnes did the honours down a cave shaft with a Parachuting Penguin. Again a first to our knowledge, which rates as a BMISS World Record in Cat III (novelty) we have pics of this but not many other details including the name of the Starving Horse correspondent who passed them on.

BEARS BETTER THAN QUARKS ? GORDON BENNETT HARRY.

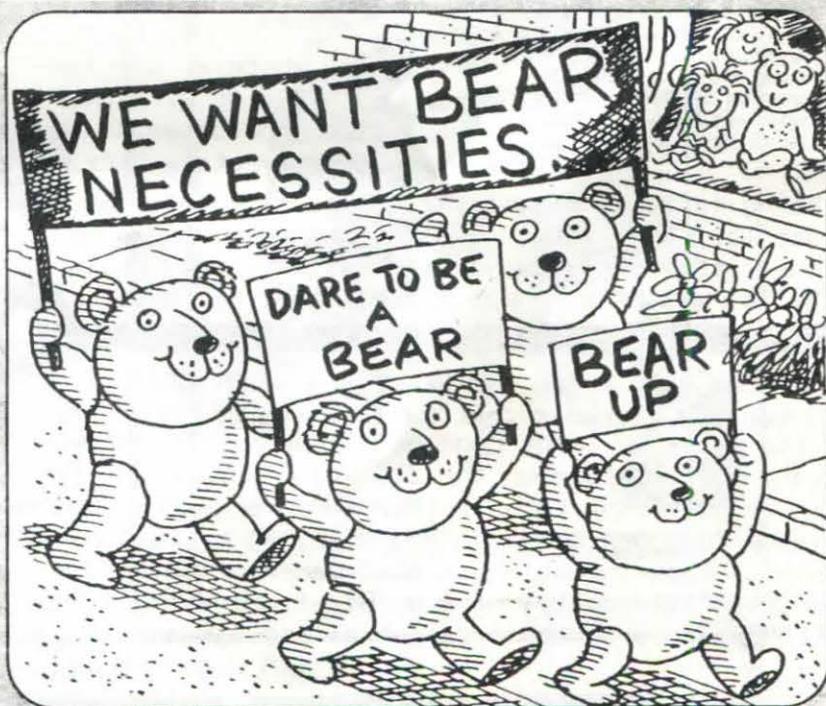
Vic Winton (vic@tosser.bear.drop.splat.soddit.uk.) our certifiably non Po Faced reader has a bit of a problem. Why, he asks, cant yoo spill preteshush lyke wot e can, also is the word 'TOSSER' more anthropomorphically politically incorrect than the word wanker, and did we know that Bears are better than Quarks, cos you cant snuggle a Quark, you didn't, well you do now.....

BATTLE OF THE BEARS

Thanks to Julie White of the Midlands Kite fliers for this piece, hmm, seems miserable old sods also live in Marlborough.....

Life's no picnic if you're a teddy bear in Marlborough. When 23-year-old Sallyanne Light filled her window with toys, a grizzly neighbour got furious with her furry friends. Sallyanne was told they were untidy and should be kept out of sight!

But news of the bear-ban spread around the street. And to support Sallyanne, her friends filled their windows with cuddly toys! Now the nasty neighbour will just have to grin and bear it instead!



2nd Canadian Parabear Regiment



2nd CDN PBR Jump crew profiles



Sheriff



Buster



Benjamin



Brandy



Four small
bears

they seem to have two Certified (by who we don't know) Dropniks, who are most likely to be Barking Barmy as are all Dropniks.

Certified parabear ground crew



Good help is *not* so hard to find!

WATCH OUT A PRICEY FLEA THIEF IS ABOUT, ITCHY BUM?

Hmm, so the celebrated Flea Circus was minus the Fleas when it was knocked down for 4½ K. oh yeah. HEE HAW, BLUE LIGHT, HEE, HAW, BLUE LIGHT.... OLRIGHT HANDS ON HEADS, WE KNOW HOW TO DEAL WIV YOO FEEVIN TEDS.... ALL CARS, ALL CARS, Last seen heading in a southerly direction, at a fair rate of knots and scratching his jacksie, attention is called to that well known Teddy Bear Tea leaf "9K" believed to be in possession of a complete Flea Circus.....

FLEA-MENDOUS

PROFESSOR Tomlin's celebrated flea circus — minus fleas — yesterday sold for £4,500 at auction. A six-inch Teddy bear rescued from the Titanic went for £9,000 at the Museum of Childhood sale in Ribchester, Lancs.

being infested with a variety of livestock not dissimilar to the dreaded Moth, now we must expect the little swine to be alive with Fleas.. Hells Bells, all of a sudden I feel itchy all over.

TEDDY PUGH ALIVE AND WELL, IS A STUNT BEAR.

You may remember that we told you of the shocking sight of Teddy Pugh being apparently thrown onto a lit Barbie on the ZIG and ZAG Show on MTV in issue 37. Not to worry for in subsequent shows Teddy Pugh appears live and well, so he must be one of those stunt Bears that Jan Poulter told us about. Pity really, 'cos we did fancy doing a real FLAMBE jobby on those carpet aliens ZIG and ZAG.

It would seem that there are at least Two Canadian Parabear Regt's and if we know very little about the Second Regt, then we know even less about the First.

The 2nd appears to have at least eight members, headed up by one Bustergut, whoops Buster Bear, and they seem to have two Certified (by who we don't know) Dropniks, who are most likely to be Barking Barmy as are all Dropniks. The 2nd Canadian Parabear Regt seem to well onto the Internet and are also doing as they put it 'Paracritter ??, Home Movies' whatever they are.

Michael Graves and Ilene Atkins are the usual suspects if you want to blame anyone and they can be contacted on mgraves@leadginedg.win.net Thanks to Andrew pobox109@basing.stoke for the info.

Teddy bear spies

The US Government is cracking down on espionage gadgets

Spy shops have spread rapidly throughout America in recent years, offering the sort of high-tech inventions that "Q" traditionally provides for James Bond: night-vision goggles, scramblers to prevent telephone conversations being overheard, eavesdropping appliances, stun guns, "rear-view" sunglasses to spot the assassin behind you and so on.

Last month, after a two-year investigation, the Government issued indictments against the Spy Factory, the largest chain of spy stores in the US, and charged the company's three top executives with smuggling illegal wire-tapping equipment into the country.

Most of the equipment, however, is purchased not by criminals, drug dealers or unethical businessmen, but by individuals wanting to keep a covert eye on members of their own households — a spouse, a child or a nanny.

Among the most popular items in New York's spy shops is a \$500 (£325) teddy bear with a miniature camera in one eye; it can be used to check on the baby-sitter and, for that matter, the baby. Hidden cameras are also available in smoke detectors, calculators, tissue boxes and even in a framed painting, for \$14,000.

YET ANOTHER SHOCK ON BABYLON 5.....

Oh lor, yet another horror seen on the T.V. programme Babylon 5 when after telling an officer that a teddy he is holding looks like him, the officer exits and the next thing we see is the teddy floating in space minus a spacesuit. this is not on, how cruel. thanks Steve



Marjorie aged three with her new teddy . .



. . 82 years later he was still with Marjorie

82 YEARS OF LOYALTY

One cannot be certain if Teddy Edward passed away at the same time as his lifelong companion Ms Feltham. We rather hope so for one thing is certain loyal fellows like Teddy Edward would find it impossible to live with another owner.

Most Teddy Bears can live for ever, but some choose to remain with just the one Hume for ever Farewell Teddy Edward.....

BBC CHILDREN IN NEED APPEAL.

Dinah ? and other members of the South Eastern Kite Society were planning to Bomb Bears at Herne Bay, Kent in aid of the above appeal.

So far, so good, however up until now we dont know how they got on. It sounded pretty good. The usual Bomb and Cert but, also including perhaps best of all a home made Teddy Bear Biscuit, Yummy.

ANXIETY? NOPE, MORE LIKE WHOOPSIES.....

All together now, Aaaaahhhh, so they reckon they're gonna ban Koala cuddling at Sydney Zoo 'cos it upsets the poor little Koalas. HOGWASH! ha, ha, we know the real reason. They're gonna ban Koala cuddling because every time those Dippy Tourists pick the Koalas up they promptly do a Whoopsie of both sorts all over the Tourists, which, when you think about it is is a pretty neat way of letting them know that they dont take too kindly to being manhandled.

Bear-hug ban

Sydney: New South Wales is to ban koala cuddling at zoos because, the state says, the teddy-bear-like marsupials suffer anxiety when they are constantly taken off tree branches and placed in the arms of tourists. (AP)

TEDDY BEAR LOVE THAT NEVER DIED

LITTLE Marjorie Feltham stands proudly next to the new teddy bear that was almost as big as her.

The year was 1913. No one could have guessed that for the rest of her life it would be her and Teddy Edward against the world.

At the age of 85 Marjorie died and nursing staff fulfilled her final wish by making sure she was cremated in Teddy Edward's arms. Yesterday

their ashes were scattered on a rose garden.

Marjorie, a former postal worker who never married, did not receive a single visitor in her eight years at the exclusive Frenchay House nursing home in Bristol.

Tragic

Nursing home owner Philip Coles, 44, said: "It is a tragic story. Marjorie was a lovely

old lady but she had no partner other than her bear which was given to her by a great aunt.

"By the end she had very little money left but I know she came from a wealthy family and was last in the line.

"Nobody knew much about her or the bear. She was kindly and would help anyone, but she would never discuss her past. Her bear was her partner in life and in death."

PEACEKEEPING FORCE DISPATCHED TO PROTECT LOCAL POPULATION FROM 'BRIGHTON AIR ZOO' FUNDEMENTALISTS.

'Civil War Imminent' says U.N. spokesperson as hordes of A.K. toting Parafauna rampage through South Coast Seaside Resort. Security Council meets to consider use of Air Strikes in support of Ground Forces in this escalating conflict.

The Poular Front for the Liberation of Parafauna (PFLP) claimed 'No Baby Buggy, Cot, Creche, Nursery or Mothercare will be safe whilst any of our Brothers and Sisters remain in the Chocolate stained hands of the oppressor.

Gordon Bennett did'nt we say it would probably go well Pearshaped when the intense Media intrest in the affair of the South Coast Slapper and her Drunken Paramour started to wane. Gee whiz, we dont know who the PFLP are or even what FUNDEMENTEDLISTS are (the demented bit sounds like Droptniks) but we do know one thing, these Nutters are on a hiding to nothing if they fancy taking on the local rugrats.

ANORAKS A GO GO, NOPE ITS HANG TEN

Or maybe even a Pipeline for all Cyberspace Beachbums out there, sling yer hooks and go Wax yer boards, for "Hawaii" beckons and you will have to pit your skill against those 30 foot Waves at Wyameha (sic) Bay.

Till then as always its the usual to the usual c/o The B.O.F.
@48.laurel.lane.w/drayton.middx.
(ub//7.//7.ty.u.k.kon.kin.ell.

It should'nt take you Surfers more more than 30secs to sort the wheat from the chaff, go for it.

A BUZZ DOWN UNDER

Despite the cries of "your totally mad going off to Australia" I chose to fly half way round the world to attend the Australian Nationals and World Cup VI. Under the guise of producing an article for the new KITES Magazine, (which of course is another story!) I set off for Australia and Lakes Entrance, (six hours outside of Melbourne) with a return ticket, no planned accommodation and a hope that the two boxes of magazines I had asked to be shipped would hopefully turn up. Full of good intentions, I took along some material to work on during the flight, for the next issue. It came back with me, I didn't even look at it. The journey was to become a roller-coaster from the day I arrived.

aerodyne

January 1996

the newsletter of the brighton kite flyers

Arriving in Melbourne is an experience. Australia is keen to be drug free so all incoming passengers have all their hand luggage checked... by sniffer dogs! Not that I have a drug problem, but be warned anybody out there contemplating illegal trafficking, the penalties are serious. Also they like to control the importation of food and plant materials. On my customs docket I had to declare the 3 Mars bars I hadn't eaten on the plane. They let them through eventually! Through immigration and out into the entrance of the airport. The first person I met was Zoe Harris, loaded up with bits and pieces her mother had asked her to bring over. Anne was one of the invited International Guests, along with Pierre Fabre and Scott Skinner. How to get to Lakes Entrance from Melbourne? Not easy given that there are only two trains a day and the first one had departed three hours before my arrival. If we got the next one we wouldn't

arrive at Lakes Entrance until around midnight.

At this point we made an enquiry as to the cost of car hire, only to be advised that AIRKRAFT hadn't yet collected their transport, a short wait ensued, perhaps we could get a lift?! Unfortunately, when Jeremy and Nic did turn up any hope of a lift was thwarted by the volume of baggage they had brought with them. And you thought kitefliers travelled light. A solution was soon to be found, Zoe had a friend in Melbourne. A quick phone call with an offer to stay overnight in Melbourne and get the first train out in the morning solved the crisis. But we still had to kill a few hours until Martine could meet us.

Martine duly arrived and suggested that I might like to check out the local



AirKraft take the World Cup out of US hands for the first time

Now I'm the kind of guy (sounds like the start of a song?) who likes to be fairly active, and the thought of 24 hours on a plane with nowhere to go, (apart from transit stops in Bangkok & Sydney) was rather daunting. After all - you can only eat and drink so much. Sleeping was rather hopeless, I was too excited about the prospect of going to Oz for the first time. But I survived the flight and suffered the on-board entertainment.

kite scene. Great idea I thought, so off we went to Elwood, a district of Melbourne. First stop was Wings for Kites, a shop run by kite designer and maker Chuck Hart. Lots of good stuff and a very enthusiastic guy. Next stop, next door, another shop, which is in fact the home of Highly Strung Kites. Some of you may know of their 3.11 Sport Kites. Paul's first endearing factor was to thrust a bottle of VB (Victoria Bitter) into my hand, "you must need a drink" he said, followed by the question: "do you want to meet Tony Wolfenden?" The roller-coaster was gathering momentum, twenty minutes later Martine, Zoe and myself were sitting down talking and recording an interview with one of Australia's leading kite artists, and it was only 4.30 in the afternoon.

Soon it was time to leave good night's sleep before

and get something to eat, and then a getting the train out to Lakes

Entrance. I was out like a light, but Martine and Zoe kept talking to the early hours.

The trains in Australia are superbly clean and when booking your ticket you're allocated a specific seat, very efficient, take note BR. The journey by train to Sale was about four hours, a bus takes you the rest of the way to Bairnsdale and Lakes Entrance. Another hour and a half's drive. Rounding the bend into Lakes Entrance, we see the kite site for the first time and a great display of kites. We arrive at the festival office, which is shut. A friendly face in the form of Nola from Janolas Bakehouse greeted us, and suggested we might like to leave our baggage in her shop whilst she went over to the festival site and got somebody to come and collect us. Also about time for something to eat. If you ever go to Lakes Entrance, I can recommend Janolas Bakerie's HOT Chicken Rolls with wholegrain mustard.

Soon our transport arrived - Gary Marshall was to prove to be a saviour to most of the foreign kite flyers and guests by chauffeuring them between hotels and the flying site. We meet Anne Harris and I go off and say hello to Scott Skinner, and then introduce myself to Pierre Fabre, Michael Alvares and John Daniells. Introductions to most of the Australian kiteflyers followed and it was good to feel part of the festival, bottles of beer were plentiful. And I can assure you, the natives really are friendly!

Anne Harris was being assisted by Michael Luscombe. "Hi, where you from?" "Brighton in England", I responded. "Oh, I'm from Brighton as well," Brighton in Adelaide." "Got anywhere to sleep?" he asked me, "No", I replied, "Well I'm in a five berth cabin, you're welcome to share until my friends come over from Adelaide."

And so began the start of a great

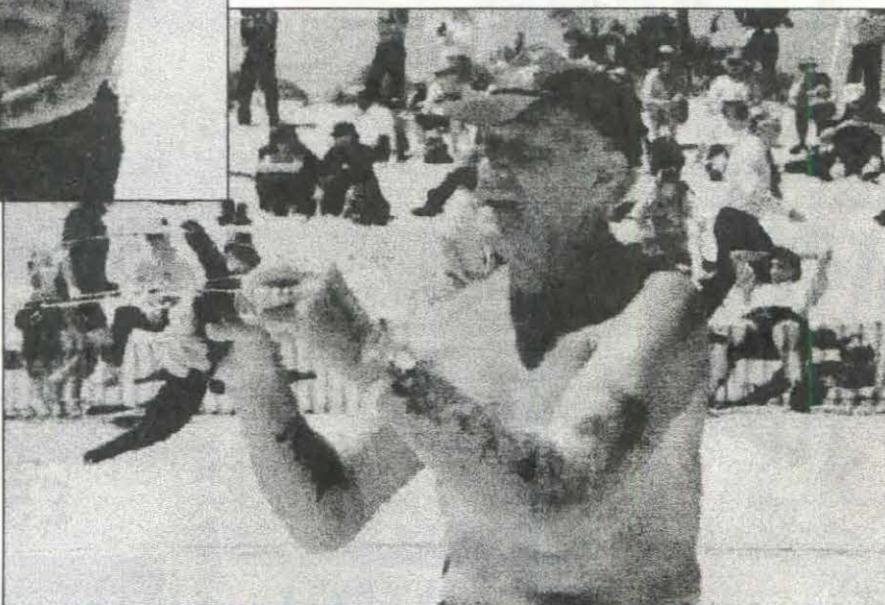
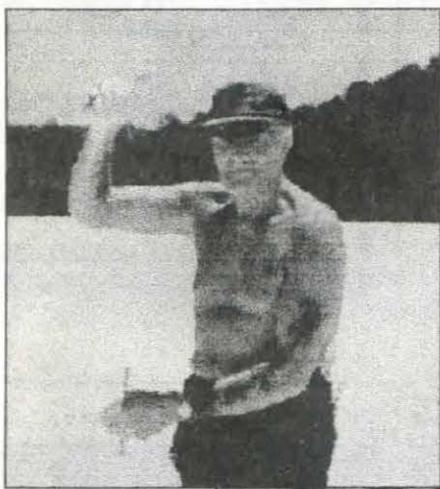
friendship. Michael proved to be a real star - cooking, playing host to all the guests we invited back to the cabin to eat, lending me his camera when mine gave out and being really helpful and supportive. But I do wish he had let me pay some of the time. He also managed to get a bronze medal in the Novices. His first competition. Well

done Michael! I think we should set up an exchange with the kite flyers of Brighton, Adelaide. Perhaps we could swap newsletters?

The Australian Nationals proved to be a real eye opener. The standard of flying is incredibly high and the open freestyle provided Dave Clements of KKK with a third place, flying with his feet.

The festival sponsors were encouraged to join in the fun by entering the novice rokkaku battle. I was duly co-opted by John Daniells as an 'experienced' rokkaku flier, to help and advise Bairnsdale Adult Community Education. But then what do I know about Rok fighting? "Let out all of your line and go for height" I advise them. I'm sure that's the secret tactic the Menaces rely on. And it proved to be worthwhile advice, my "team" won and I got to uphold the BKF tradition of winning something at a foreign festival, after all Ray does it, so why not me. Alas I have no trophy to bring home but there are witnesses (honest!).

In4Mation get through to the World Cup with a wild card entry and so starts the run up to the World Cup with all of the teams practising at various locations. I won't bore



Ray Bethell wins both the Nationals and the spectators' hearts at the World Cup VI (above)... and sends his regards from Lakes Entrance, Australia to the Brighton Kite Flyers (top)

you with all of the details, I'll let you read it in KITES Magazine (Plug!, Plug!). Needless to say that AIRKRAFT came good and brought the cup home to the UK, the first time it has been out of American hands.

I thoroughly enjoyed myself and could probably write chapter and verse on my excursion. The people I met are too numerous to mention, but I will try and write some more for the next issue. In the meanwhile look at the pictures, or talk to me at a social or fly-in. So much to tell, so little time to say it, after all I've got a magazine to produce.

BARRY PITMAN

**aero
dyne**
the newsletter of the brighton kite flyers

January 1996

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DEAR BKF...

Since we are not sure if Gill and Jon Bloom will print this letter (they did not print our previous ones) we are sending you copies of our first letter, Charlie's reply, our subsequent letter and our final try to get something printed in the 'letters' part of the actual 'Kiteflier'...

Dear Gill & Jon
As you will know we have already written letters to Charlie Charlton of the Artistic Kite Group (with copies to yourselves) but so far you have not printed any of them. Charlie has dismissed our observations with a cowardly brief note - saying that he'd received a letter of criticism about his wife winning second place in some of the AKG competitions this year; and that he wasn't biased and didn't judge her kites! So - we thought we'd precis our original letters and add a few further

pertinent points.
First, after hearing that Anna Charlton had won two second prizes we wrote "Well done Anna, you've cracked it", but after her hat trick at Portsmouth it must be "Well done Anna, you've really cracked it!" In our second letter we admonished Charlie for going against all other competition rules by letting a relative take part, and we quoted "Caesar's wife must be above suspicion". But so far we have had no reply from the AKG to our second letter.

After seeing Charlie's reply to Phil Scarfe's letter in the October issue of The Kiteflier - about "Copying is stealing etc etc" - there is obviously more to be said on the subject.

(Ed - For those of you that did not read Charlie's letter - it contained his reasons for the A K G competition rule which marks down 'non-original' artwork - which were as follows:

1. Copying other peoples ideas is stealing, it is unfair to steal other peoples creativity and get credit for it.
2. The use of non-original art work is only allowed into the competitions to encourage and promote the skills and development of kite artists.
3. Those people who have the courage and creativity to produce original works should be given credit where it

is rightly due.
4. Kites will never be seen as Art by the Art world so long as people steal other peoples work.)

Who was it on Weymouth beach in 1995 selling copies of Whizzie Feathers (was that really you, Charlie?), and who was it on Weymouth beach (again 1995) who showed that nice American chap - with the fan shaped kites - a certain Geisha Girl kite... along with the picture in the book it was

copied from (was that really you, Anna Charlton?). We don't know about your other competitions, Charlie - but the Celtic Contortionist at



THE CULTURAL BIT No 11

They say that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. Well, I've seen the imitations... and I'm not flattered!

ANONYMOUS CHIZZED KITIE

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

Coventry was definitely a copy (what was your quote about "the use of non-original art work is only allowed into the competition to encourage and promote the skills and development of kite artists"? - and to win or come second obviously!!).

All this spouting off is a load of twaddle - certainly Ron Gibian and Don Mock have done copies - check your facts, Charlie. Hands up any of you kitemakers who can honestly say you have never copied, or done copies with variations, or some changes of things you've seen? How many kites would we see flying if they all had to be original graphics (and or kite forms)? - probably less than one per cent of those we see now.

1996 BKF AGM

This year we have decided to combine the AGM with a Fly-In at Devil's Dyke on Sunday 18 February from 11.00am. Hopefully this will make it accessible to more members.

The AGM will take place in the Devil's Dyke Inn from 3.00pm. The bar is open from 12.00pm - 10.30pm and food is served from 12.00pm - 10.00pm. See you there.

Still, Charlie definitely has the right ideas, keep on asking for other peoples plans, designs and graphics (and now he wants your Rok kites to keep). Where are all your original ideas Charlie? The best you can come up with so far is the AKG, and as has already been said "it's your ticket to free invites and borrowing (no keeping) other

peoples' kites etc to enhance your own reputation. Nice work if you can get it!"

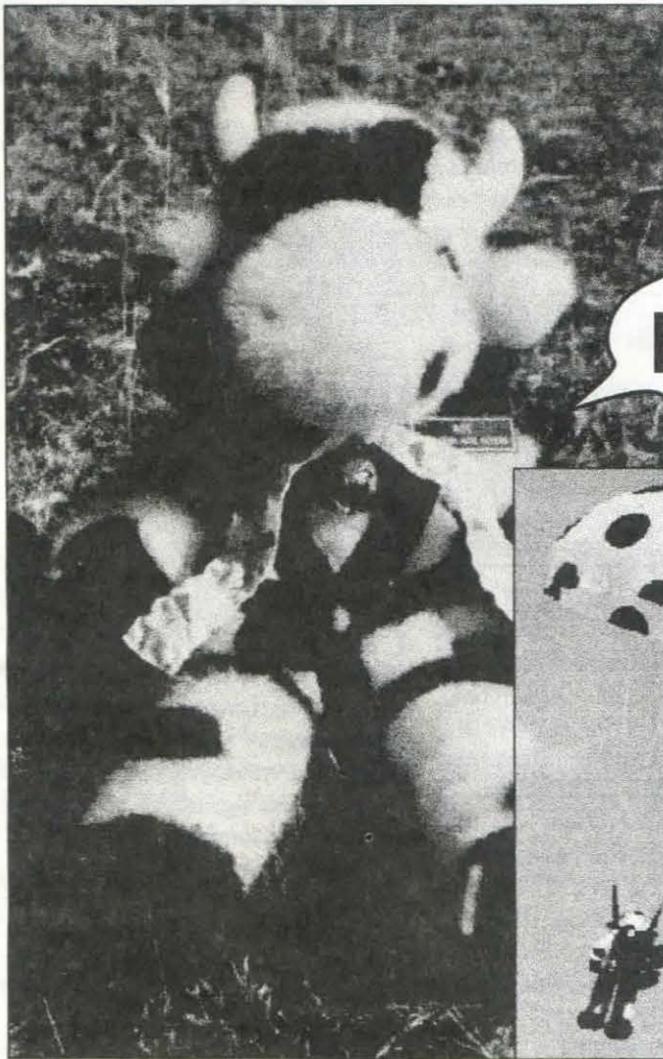
We just hope that other kitemakers out there wise up to you soon, Charlie, as have many of the kitemakers local to us!

Yours sincerely

ANN & MIKE HEANES



BSE SCARE!



DEAR aerodyne Ed...

January 1996

the newsletter of the Brighton kite flyers

I have been driven to take pen in hoof because I feel I can no longer allow certain unfounded and scurrilous statements to go unanswered.

1. I exist - contrary to doubtful tone expressed in issue 34 of RC as to my presence on this planet.

~~2. Therefore I am~~

BOO

2. I am not a potential threat to the health of the Human Race - unless, of course, you are the kind of dozy pillock who wanders across a drop zone without

looking skywards.

3. I am not 'mad' - as far as I am aware membership of BMISS is not yet a certifiable condition. If anyone should be locked up it is the idiot who was responsible for packing my parachute at Banham.

4. While it is undoubtably flattering that the Government has recently appointed a 'Special Adviser for BSE' - I feel it is a gross infringement of my civil liberties.

Yours sincerely

BSE PS... Anyone attempting to take a bite out of me will deserve everything he/she/it gets (a severe case of 'hoof in gob' disease) - you have been warned!



AIRKRAFT, HUSKIES ... AND BEARS

For the first time this year the Brighton Kite Flyers were invited to demonstrate in the main ring at the Ardingly Show Ground during the Autumn Show, which is similar to an agricultural show, though rather smaller.

So on Sunday 1 October twenty one Brighton kite flyers turned up along with AirKraft, Chris Matheson and Air Born Kites, who had a stand at the show. The weather in the morning was really grim with a heavy mist that threatened rain, but after mid-day the sun broke through and a fresh wind kept the kities happy. Height clearance was obtained for 1,000 ft, which was rather generous, as we were only 8 miles from Gatwick.

Kites were flown through most of the day and BMISS were in operation all day. Three kites were set up for action, but we were not quite as busy as expected - possibly due to publicity that did not quite hit the mark. However, we made £23.50, representing 47 bears parachuted, for the Rockinghorse Appeal at the local childrens' hospital.

AirKraft gave several staggering displays, despite the fact that Carl Robertshaw was replaced by Lee Linstrom for the day. Thanks guys and congratulations on winning the World Cup! Chris Matheson joined up with AirKraft to give a stunning Revolution display. Andy Preston was to be there with Chris, but he was in bed with the 'flu. Finally Paul Thody gave an astounding demo of buggy skills under very difficult conditions - with turbulent winds and soggy terrain.

Anchoring kites in the arena was not recommended at the beginning of the day- as the first event was husky racing. Apparently these dogs will charge through anything that gets in their way - at 30 mph! Needless to say all BKF members took heed of the advice!

I would like to thank all the Brighton kite flyers who supported the event and hope that you enjoyed the day. I am not sure whether it will happen again, but I am sure I can count on your support if it does.

RAY OAKHILL



KITEABILITY

HANDMADE KITES AND KITE MATERIALS

Our old gent's gone all festive,
Now he's finished all his chore's,
So he's gone off kiteflying,
Dressed as Santa Claus.

"I thought I'd look quite festive",
Old Harry said to me,
"But I don't feel very jovial ", he said
"Cos I've stuck one up a tree".

"Don't worry Mate", I said to him,
"It happens to us all".
"It looks quite pretty caught up there,
with luck - out it might fall".

"I can't go home without it".
Harry murmured with a sigh,
"Her indoors bought it for me,
She'll cut off my supply".

"I'm half your age", I said to him,
"I'll pop up in that tree,
and get that kite down for you,
soon it will be free".

The kite rescue completed.
Getting stuck in a tree is a lesser sin,
A far worse thing to happen
Is a trashing by Peter Lynn.
(As many will confirm).

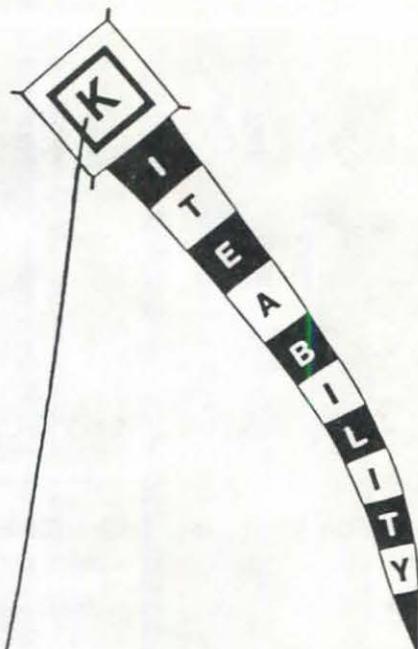
The moral of this story
is very plain to see,
Keep away from trees and Peter Lynn,
STICK WITH KITEABILITY!!!!!!!!!!!!

A very Happy New Year to one and all.

New List for 96 S.A.E. please

2, Garfield Road, Enfield, Middlesex EN3 4RP Tel: 0181-804 9080
+ FAX

Proprietor : Mrs. P. Dell



BRIGHTON STUNT KITE LEAGUES 2

STANMER PARK/FALMER/BRIGHTON/EAST SUSSEX
2ND, 3RD & 4TH SUNDAYS IN FEBRUARY: FROM 2PM ONWARDS

◆ **Round 1:** 11/02/96 (2nd Sunday) ◆ **Round 2:** 18/02/96 (3rd Sunday) ◆ **Round 3:** 25/02/96 (4th Sunday)

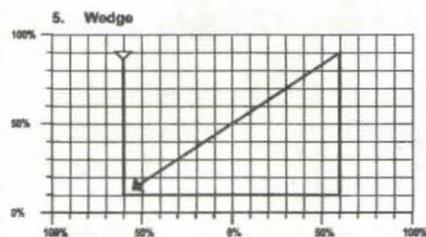
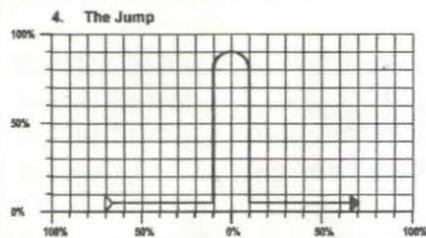
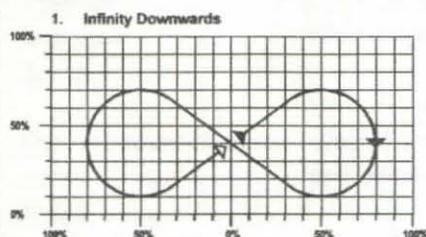
◆ **Pilots Meeting:** 1.45pm for a quick briefing on the basic rules. This is intended to be informal and not highly competitive, so learn how to compete here.

◆ **Three figures:** to be flown in each of the three rounds plus one surprise figure on the day.

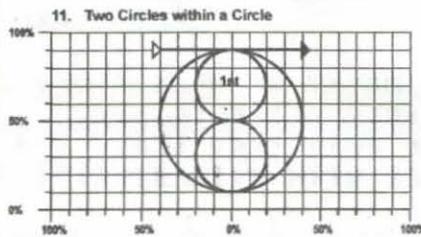
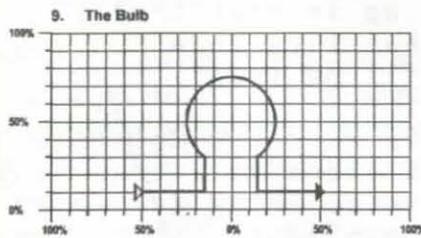
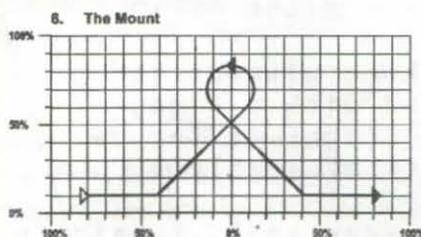
ROUND ONE:

◆ **To be eligible for a Certificate:** complete two rounds and come 1st, 2nd or 3rd in one of these three levels:

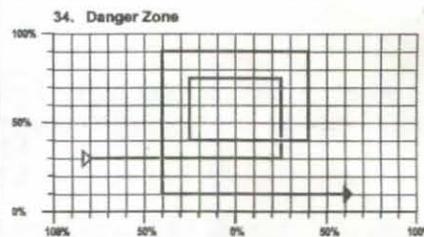
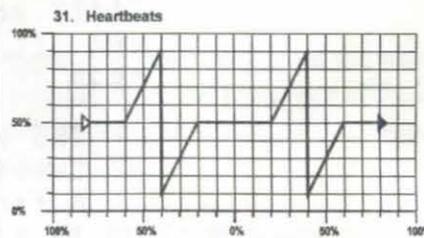
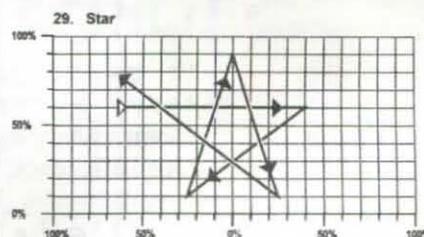
NOVICE



EXPERIENCED



MASTERS

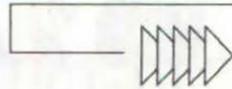


◆ **Name:** _____

◆ **Address:** _____

◆ **Entry Fee:** £1.00 (standard UK). Please bring the above form with you.

◆ **Figures for rounds 2 & 3:** please send a stamped sae to: Estelle Barton & Paul Thody
 Air Born Kites/97 Trafalgar Street/Brighton/East Sussex/BNI 4ER/Tel & Fax: 01273 676740



BKF MERCHANDISE

Printed = 2.5cm BKF logo: black lettering, yellow sun & hot pink kite - centred front & back print. Items usually held in stock.

Embroidered = 6cm BKF logo: black lettering, yellow sun & hot pink kite - on left breast with name option underneath. Items ordered from manufacturer.

- ◆ **T Shirts:** Printed: £6.00 (+£1.50 P&P) Jnr (30- 32")/S/M/L/XL/XXL Colour: White
Embroidered: £10.00 (Incl P&P) S/M/L/XL Colour: White
- ◆ **Sweatshirts:** Printed: £10.00 (+£2.50 P&P) Jnr (30-32")/S/M/L/XL/XXL Colour: White or Ash Grey
Embroidered: £14.00 (Incl P&P) S/M/L/XL Colour: White
- ◆ **Hooded Sweatshirts:** Printed: £15.00 (+£2.50 P&P) Jnr (30-32")/S/M/L/XL/XXL Colour: Ash Grey
- ◆ **Polo Shirts:** Embroidered: £12.00 (Incl P&P) S/M/L/XL Colour: White
- ◆ **Cloth Patches:** Embroidered £2.00 (Incl P&P) Colour: white background - no name option
- ◆ **Pins:** Enamel £3.00 (£3.50 to non BKF members) (+£0.50 P&P) 2.5cm BKF logo (brass lettering/ yellow sun/red triangle/on black background)

Please note: Availability is subject to stock held - it's advisable to phone first to check that we have the item/s you want. These prices overwrite any previously published and are subject to change without prior notification.

To order: Please send your name, address, choice of item, size and name to be embroidered (if required) printed clearly plus a cheque/PO made payable to 'The Brighton Kite Flyers' to me at the Editor's address below. If in stock, all items are dispatched within 24 hours by 2nd class post (please add £0.50 per item for 1st class delivery).

BRIGHTON FESTIVAL DATE

The date: Saturday 13th & Sunday 14th July 1996.

The Place: Stanmer Park/Falmer/Brighton/East Sussex.

The Contact: Estelle Barton & Paul Thody/Air Born Kites/97 Trafalgar Street/Brighton/East Sussex/BNI 4ER/Tel & Fax: 01273 676740.

Full details: see the April issue.

NETHEAD ALERT...

Calling all kite Netheads out there. I have just got a mailbox at rao@mistral.co.uk so if you feel like communicating please mail me with your address, even if it is just to say Hello!

RAY OAKHILL



THE USEFUL BIT No 15

In retrospect... don't fly on Christmas Eve - reindeer have poor eyesight!

JERRY SWIFT



USE THIS SPACE...

Thanks to all this issue's contributors. Anything sent to the Editor will be considered for print unless marked otherwise. Please send material for the April issue by 10 March 1996 to...

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

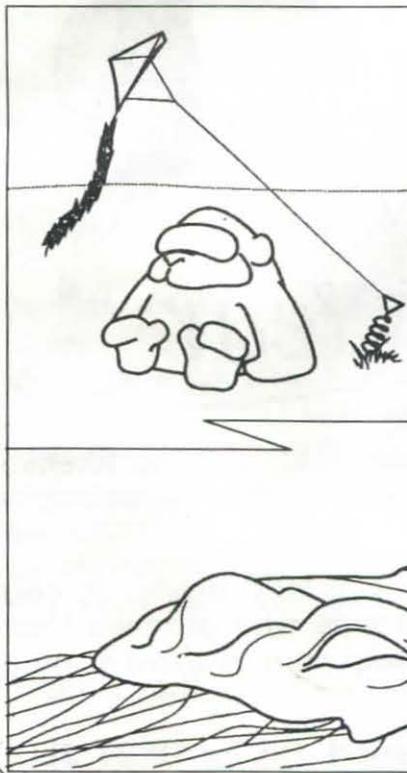
Whilst every care is taken to get the details correct in 'Aerodyne', the BKF cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions that may occur.



FURTHER BKF INFO...

Membership & Fly-Ins: Ray Oakhill - Tel: 01273 306842

Festival: Estelle Barton & Paul Thody (Air Born Kites) - Tel/Fax: 01273 676740



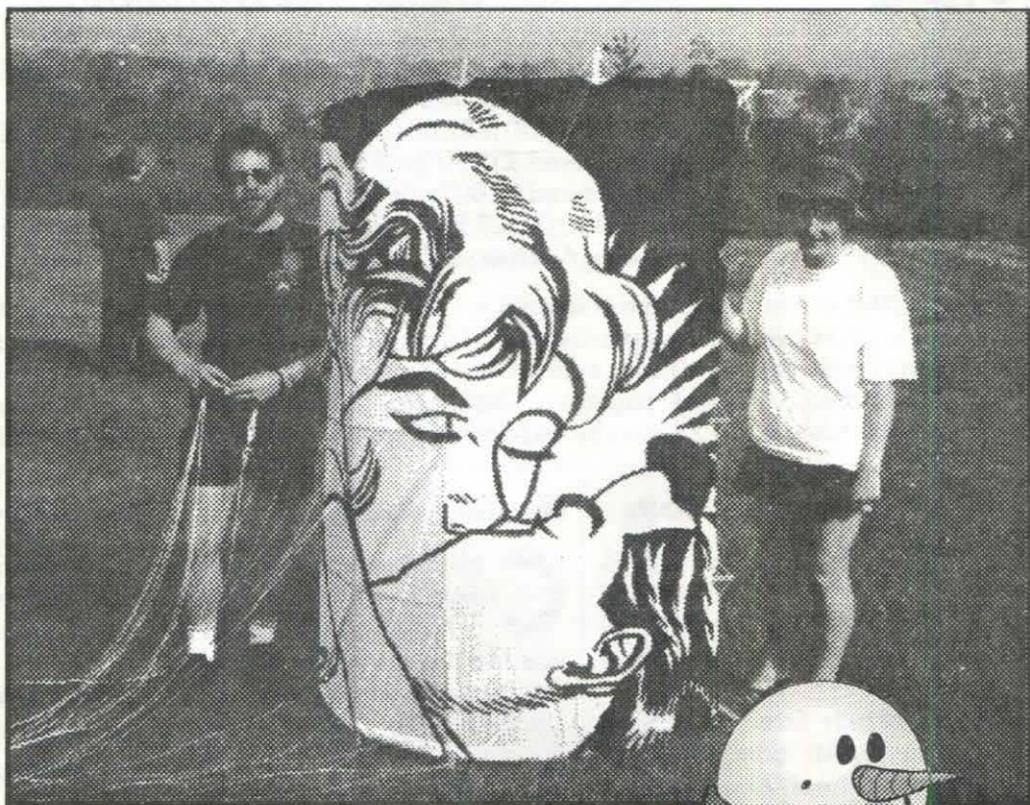
...another member for the 'I've Been Trashed by Peter Lynn Kite Club'



MKF Extra

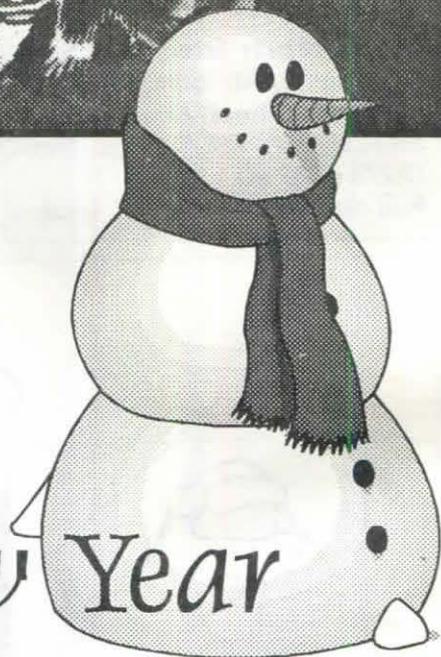
January 1996

The Extra Newsletter of the Midlands Kite Fliers



Edo Kite by Midlands Kite Fliers
Karl & Sara Longbottom

Wishing you a
Joyous New Year



This six page MKF Extra is produced especially for The Kiteflier magazine, helping to keep you in touch with what is happening in our area.

Our full 28 page quarterly newsletter - the MKF News - is only available to MKF members and kite groups who produce their own newsletter. If you would like to swap your newsletter on a regular basis contact:-

Julie White 4 Hermitage Court Oakwood Derby DE21 2LG
Tel: 01332 669203 or Email MKF@canleo.demon.co.uk

COVENTRY Convention & Festival

This year's Kite Society Convention (if you didn't notice) was held on the 19th August at the Post House in Coventry, the day before the second Coventry kite festival.

Although it now takes less than an hour to drive from my home to the Post House, Susan decided that we could stay over, giving me more time to pull in all the seminars and still stay for the auction in the evening.

Now before I go much further I must declare that I've not been to the actual convention before, although I have been to some of the festivals to which it was associated. So as you can imagine, with it being on the doorstep so to speak, I wanted to make the most of it.

It seemed to me to be what most other conventions had been described as, a general *mêlée* in the foyer made up of mostly familiar faces, exchanges of greetings, new introductions, and cups of coffee (which sticks out in the memory for being not only expensive but also quite disgusting). Then off to the relevant seminars for a few hours.

I chose the one on parafoil kite manufacture by Jim Rowlands, who looked, sounded, and drank remarkably like Paul Morgan. Very interesting, very informative, and entertaining to boot!

I also sat in on the sport kite seminars by Chris Matheson and Simon Dann, both of which contained lively banter about kite construction and design, and flying/tricking techniques respectively. It's a nice fact about our sport, that the so-called experts are so accessible, friendly, and open with their discussions and advice.

Because I had no plans or need to rush off anywhere I was also able to catch the hastily organised seminar by Dave Brittain at the end of the day. This discussed four line kites, mainly the Revolution. Dave gave some interesting insights into the setting up and flying of Rev's, particularly the flying of the ultra-light versions indoors.

He then proceeded to astound all present with a flying session in the actual conference room, which couldn't have been much bigger than twenty feet square! For me this was the highlight of the day, and again, I have to say that he too was a really nice guy.

I can't comment on the food or facilities at the Post House as we didn't stay there, but if anyone is interested, the Campanile Hotel just across the road was comfortable, served excellent food, and was cheaper.

The auction wasn't quite as 'lively' as the reports I'd heard from Portsmouth last year, and although I put a few bids in, I came away with nothing except a poster.

To Sunday, and the Festival. A fine start, no wind, but it couldn't be like last year when it stayed calm all day?! Oh yes it could! And it did!

This was serious case of *Déjà vu*; All the familiar faces, the stalls, the location, and the WEATHER. It was difficult to believe it could have been so much like last year. Still, we had a smashing day last year, just displaying the kites on the ground and talking and talking.

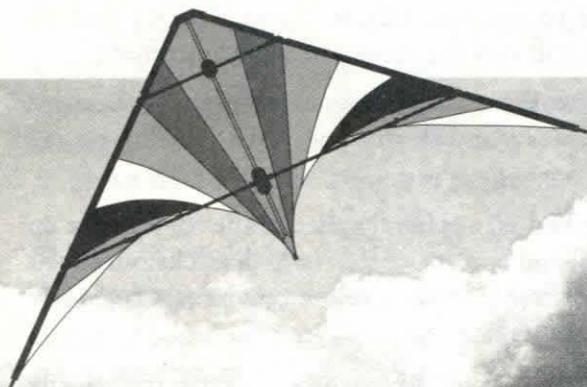
I am pleased to say that this year proved exactly the same. Lots of chatting, eating, drinking, and even a bit of making merry. Although the grown-ups who began throwing water around obviously caught too much sun, and created a very bad example to the children!

At least there was plenty for everyone in the park, and as well as the kites and the kite traders, and the brave souls in the kite workshop, there was also quite a nice craft fair going on, and lots of other things to entertain the children. A particularly nice display of kites was spread out by Ms. Raindrop, along with her beautiful cat cabana. All in all another good day out.

Now, this is not the end of the story. Eager as ever to read my Kiteflier when it plops through the letterbox, what do I see? Inside cover, the editorial no less, claiming the whole thing to be an unmitigated disaster! Well I never!

I appreciate that people have different points of view and different scales with which to measure success and failure, but to say the convention was "the most disappointing... moment from the kite flying season" is surely a little harsh. I can only assume Gill and Jon, that as you organised it, you are being equally harsh on yourselves. Never mind, put those birch twigs away and try harder next time.

HQ-Hits '96



Session

The "Session" is a good natured fun sport kite for beginners to the most advanced flyer. It is very easy to fly and shows excellent manoeuvrability at the edge of the wind window. An innovative wing tip air-wing-batten system ensures silent flight up to 5 Bft./27 mph.

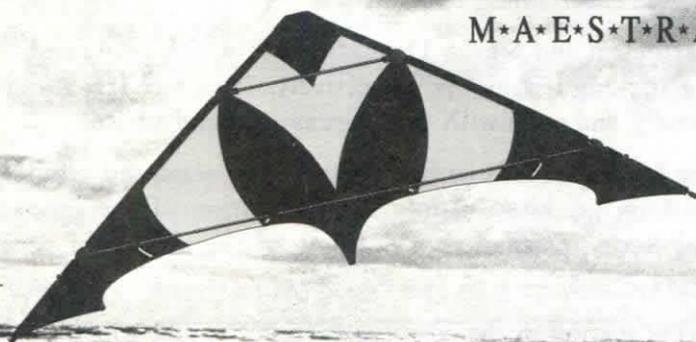
Wingspan: 195 cm / 76,8 "

Height: 84 cm / 33 "

Wind range: 1 - 5 Bft. / 3 - 27 mph

Frame: 5,5 mm ø CFK

Rec. line strenght: 40 - 70 KP / 90 - 150 lbs.



M*A*E*S*T*R*A*L*E

The stretched 3/4 version of the "Tramontana". The trick-kite choice of US-champion Dodd Gross. The "MaestrAle" is build the same way as the "Tramontana". More care is taken to make the kite stronger. It's a trick kite with unmatched performance. **ANYTHING** is possible - even in higher wind speeds. The ultimate for Freestylers .

Wingspan: 220 cm / 79 "

Height: 85 cm / 33 "

Toray 42 gr.

Frame: 6 mm ø carbon

Wind range: 1,5 - 5 Bft. / 4 - 27 mph

Rec. line strenght: 25 - 70 kp / 50 - 150 lbs.

TRAMONTANA

A multi-purpose sport kite. This model can handle all manoeuvres required at modern competitions. Special features are air wing battens, leading edge battens, frontal spine for increased stall abilities and unique grafics. Excellent turnrate, silent and slow flight are it's flying characteristics. A competition, fun and ballet kite for experienced and master pilots.

Wingspan: 240 cm / 95 "

Height: 120 cm / 47 "

Toray 42 gr.

Frame: 6 mm ø carbon

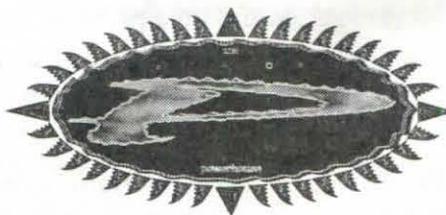
Wind range: 0,5 - 4,5 Bft. / 2 - 22 mph

Rec. Line: 25 - 70 kp / 50 - 140 lbs.



High Quality Kites

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Unless of course you are implying that it was a lack of support for the event from local clubs and members which let the thing down? (and I think perhaps you are). All I can say is that the Kite Society of Great Britain does extend beyond Watford, and as such, partisan feelings of this kind should not be voiced.

It must be remembered that if things had developed the other way around, and Coventry had been the heart of kite flying in this country and had been holding their tenth annual event, the turn-out would undoubtedly have been better, and no one would have bothered trekking down to Bristol to a new event that had no wind the year before.

So this begs the vital question? Do people really come together for the convention at all, or has its' success in previous years simply been as a result of the popularity of the large events on which it has ridden piggy-back. If all the convention attempts to do is generate funds, well then you blew it, Gill & Jon. But if it is intended for the betterment of the sport and the benefit of the members then why call it a disaster? Surely only the members can pass this kind of judgement. I for one thoroughly enjoyed it, and so what if it cost a bit, 'good-on-ye' for breaking with tradition and bringing it to the people.

So finally, playing devil's advocate for one more moment, I see that next year's event has been cancelled due to lack of interest, or some other suitable excuse. Yet the Membership Application further in the magazine states that for your membership fee you get, along with your Kiteflier magazine, the Society Convention, etc. etc. Perhaps I should demand my money back?

Alan Poxon



The Avon Kite Fliers magnificent Playsail at Bristol 1995

Where to meet up with The Midlands Kite Fliers during 1996

Braunstone Park, Leicester
4 February, 2 June and 6 October

Sutton Park, Sutton Coldfield (use the Streetley Gate Entrance).
3 March, 7 July and 3 November

Hednesford Hills, Walkers Rise, Hednesford, near
Cannock, Staffordshire
7 April, 4 August and 1 December

Shipleigh Country Park, near Heanor, Derbyshire
5 May, 14 July and 1 September

© The Midlands Kite Fliers

By MKF member John Larson of Sheffield

The CRESCENT

This is a twin line stunt kite. Its claim to fame being that it is a different shape and also that it will rotate about its own centre like the segment of a disk. It flies in any wind from 3 -20 but below 5. Lifts better without the secondary stretchers at 10 o'clock and 2 o'clock.

NOTE. All drawing dimensions in mms. No allowance for hems or overlaps. These must be to the individual preferences of the builder. The number and positioning of the individual panels is chosen to enable the sail to adopt an aerofoil cross section when influenced by the wind and to this end the indicated bias of each panel should be carefully followed. The experienced constructor should have no problems working only from the drawings but a few notes on the way that I made mine may help.

Draw out on a piece of lining-paper each of the shapes given as finished sizes add onto the profiles the seam (4mm) or hem (16mm) allowances where necessary. Hot-knife cut each sail watching both bias and face are correct. Whilst the sail sector is still on the cutting board (paper) draw in the finished profile with a Berol Verithin Silver pencil - this shows up on nearly all colours. Sew the sail together carefully matching the drawn profiles and tensions. As all the seams are on the bias it is easy to stretch one of the sections out of position, so to avoid this I glue first, using Evostik Fabric Adhesive. Hem the trailing edge of the sail. Next cut out the leading edge tunnel on the bias, 50mm x 240cm long, (nylon canvas or dacron) fold into half lengthways, mark this fold and sew onto the front of the sail using the fold as guide for the leading edge of the sail and stitching about 2mm in from the fold. Cut the spine tunnel 40mm x 850 long. (dacron) on the straight and sew into place over the centre seam starting at the heel and working towards the nose leaving the surplus to eventually form the rear pocket Next fold over the other half of the leading edge tunnel and sew down at 2 & 5 mm from the inner edge with a double line of stitching, and leaving a gap in the stitching where the spine will come, also DO NOT sew the last 35mm at the end of each wingtip to give access for the leading edge carbon; instead sew up the extreme tip of the tunnel in line with the trailing edge of the sail to close up the tunnel end. Now sew the nose rear pocket leaving a space where the nose joint tube will lie. Cut out a strip of dacron 40 x 200 and sew into place at the heel of the spine and on the rear of the sail, using a double line of stitches 1 & 3mm from the edge. Cut 4 stand-off

pockets 40 x 20 fold so as to leave a back 25 deep and a pocket 15 deep sew on at the places marked. On the rear ONLY of the sail leading edge, at the nose carefully burn out with the hot knife two oval holes one each side of the centre line and starting 30mm from the c/l and about 50mm long (see fig 3) This is to give access to the nose joint for assembly. Between these at the spine centreline hot-knife a hole for the nose connector as small as possible (12 wide). For each of the spreaders cut a hole about 35 lg. For the centre-boss cut a hole about 30 lg. Lastly to complete the sail punch drill or burn a small hole 45mm from each wing tip as a fastening point for the restraint-cord (see fig. 2) and again about 20mm from the spine heel for the spine shock-cord. This completes the sail. Prepare the centre-boss by threading a 5.5 ferrule through one of the crossholes in item 6, force a short piece of 5.5 dia rubber tube onto each end and up to the centre rubber as retainers. Cut the spine 5.5 dia. tube to a length of 650mm and thread up the spine tunnel picking up the centre boss on the way. At the nose push on the nose connector leaving room for the nose ferrule. (4mm) Thread this into place using the holes cut into the rear of the leading edge tunnel.

Now cut the leading edge carbon rod to a length of 1180mm. (2 off) and thread through the leading edge tunnel from the tip inwards and picking up the spreader connectors (Item 3) on the way, slide halfway into the nose ferrule and wrap a length of fibreglass re-inforced tape around the rod to stop it penetrating any further into the ferrule, repeat with the other rod. Fit an end stop onto each of the leading edge rods at the wing tip and insert into the pockets. This will spread the wing. Cut the main spreaders to length 80cm and fit 2 off item 4 and one item 5. Fit into place on sail and slide item 5 in towards the centre-boss until it touches the ferrule. Cut the secondary spreaders 530mm lg. and fit. Fit the bridles, starting with the centre ones; a single length 3.6 metres long. Start at the nose with a turks head at the 1.8mtrs point. Then tie an overhand knot about 20mm from the nose and again at a point 140 from the nose. Space out up each leg of the harness 1.47mtrs and attach below the centreboss using a turks head. Temporarily fit a ring at the appropriate point and check measurements against the drawing. Fit the outer pair of harnesses similarly. Cut a 1mtr. lgth of 20 lb line push one end through the small hole in the wingtip take it round the frame and tie securely tie a loop on the other end and hook it over the centre boss. Repeat for the other side. Check everything, OK.

Then go fly your kite

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KITES

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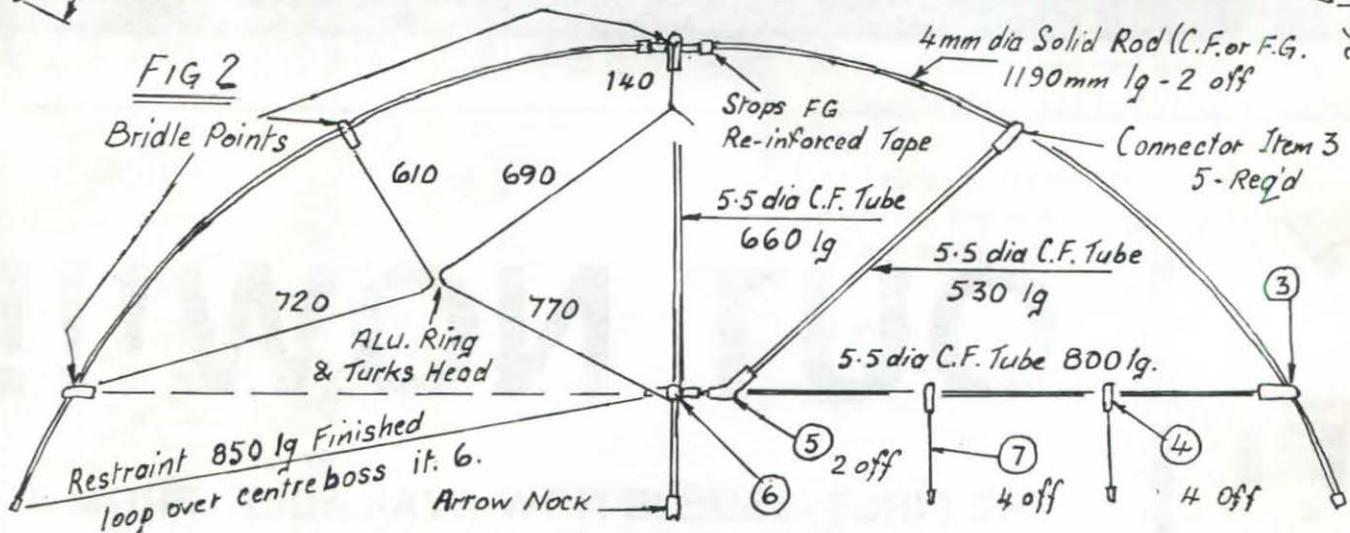
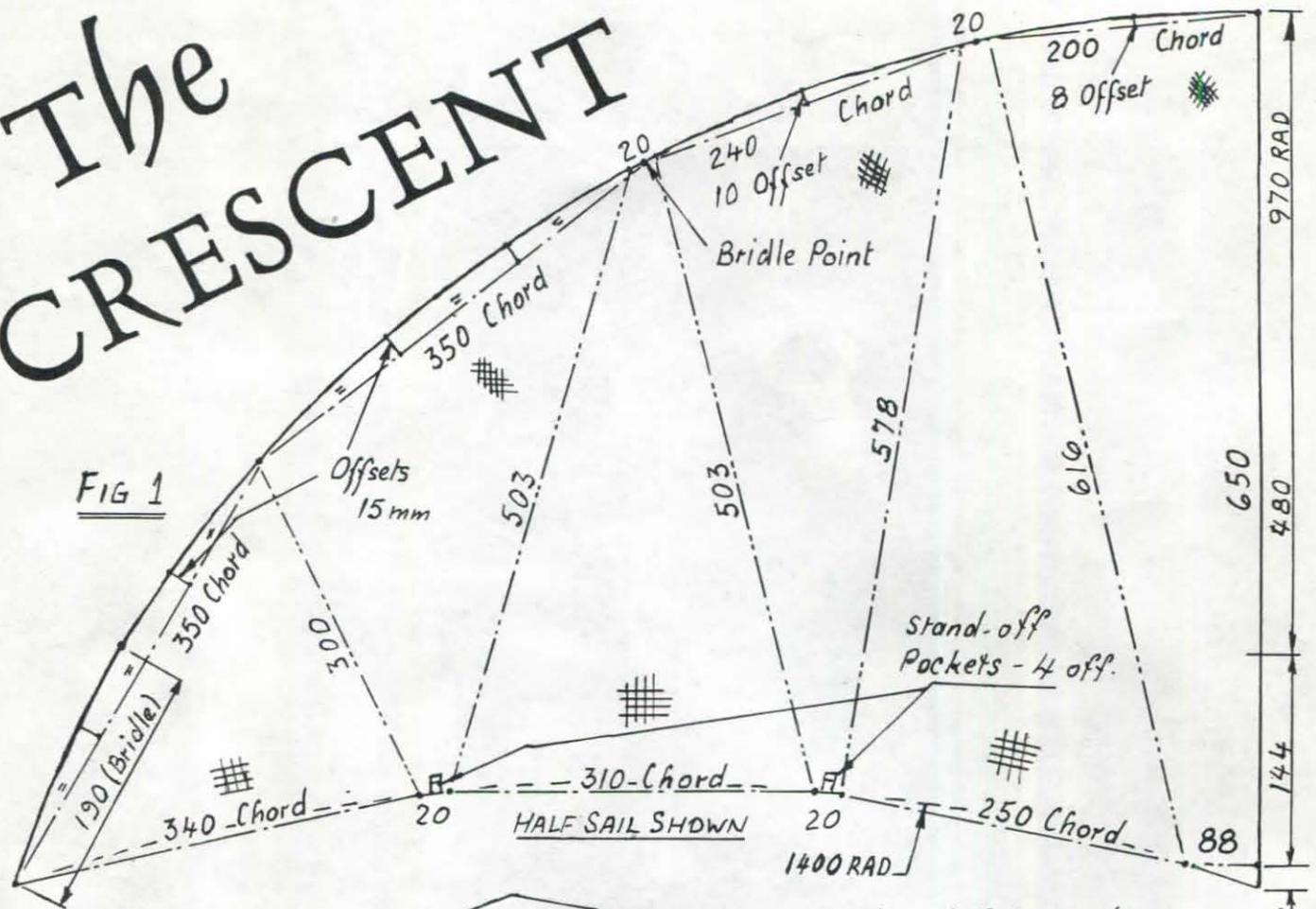
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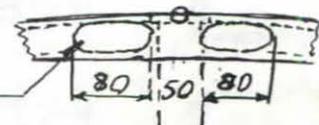
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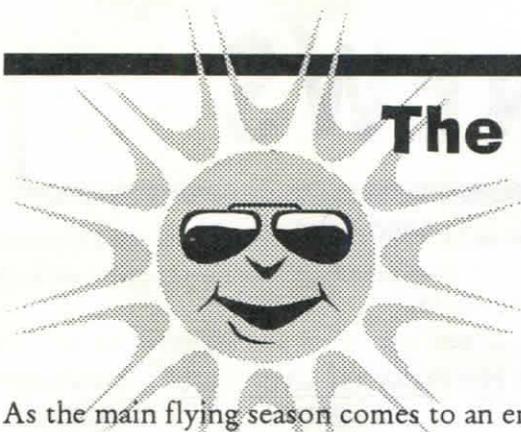
The CRESCENT



View on rear of spine showing access holes FIG 3.



- Item 3 - Rubber tube 5.5mm inside dia. x 30mm long Drilled 4mm dia. 6mm from end. 5 required.
- Item 4 - Rubber tube 5.5mm inside dia. x 25mm lg Drilled 5mm dia. 6mm from end. 4 required.
- Item 5 - Rubber tube 5.5mm inside dia. x 40mm long drilled one side only & 15mm from end. 2 required.
- Item 6 - Rubber tube 5.5 dia. x 20 long Cross drilled at 90degs. 7 from each end. 1 only required.
- Item 7 - Fiberglass rod 1.5mm dia. x 205mm long tipped each end wiyh end caps 4mm outer dia. 4 required.



The last thing you expect in OCTOBER is SUNBURN!

As the main flying season comes to an end, it is easy to begin to lose a little enthusiasm, particularly for the smaller events or those which have never been run before. We know that no-one special will be at events like this, and it's unlikely there will be any new kites, or startling revelations, as these will be held over for the start of the new season.

And then of course there's the weather. October is always such an unpredictable month; you never know whether it's going to rain and blow a gale, or just rain and rain.

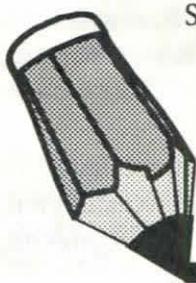
So it was a great surprise to find that the first Ashfield Kite Festival was such an enjoyable success. For the first kite festival (as far as we know) ever to be held in Sutton-in-Ashfield there were serious numbers of kitefliers in attendance, the public appeared in a constant stream throughout the day, and the sun shone! OK, so the wind that was forecast didn't actually blow, but who cares.

I have to say, that the success was due in no small part to the fact that it was such a nice day, but congratulations should go to the club committee for their enthusiasm and support of the Ashfield Leisure Services who actually organised the event. It was a very successful combination of kites, workshop, jugglers, disco, bouncy castle, Punch & Judy, Brass Band, and even a funfair. All skilfully organised onto The Lawns park. A special mention must go here to the expert siting of the funfair under the trees of the park, where they were quite at home, but did not detract from the available flying area. Excellent.

We even had three traders on site who, rather than competing directly, managed to compliment one-another by selling slightly different things; kites and materials, kites and tricks and novelties, and kites and all sorts of other lovely bits and bobs. Well done also then to Ground Control, Potty Porter, and Highwaymen.

Now, the more cynical amongst you may be saying, "well done MKF, for organising yet another kite festival with no wind!"

Well, yes, on paper it could look rather that way. But I thoroughly enjoyed it, just like I enjoyed Coventry for the last two years, and Coombe Abbey. There is something about these festivals which makes them more enjoyable than those stonking events that everyone else rants and raves about. Now what's the word I'm looking for? Friendly. Yes, friendly.

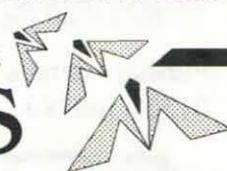


So I didn't get to meet famous foreign kitefliers, (although the club boasts some of its' own internationals), and I didn't fly very much either. But I talked to people who had never flown before, and I talked to other fliers, some of whom I'd never had the opportunity to meet before, and I had a really good day out anyway.

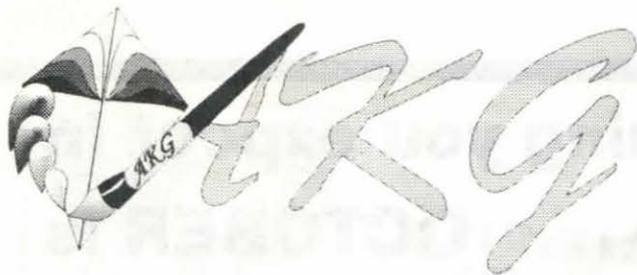
And the really big surprise at the end of the day, the last thing you expect in October is sunburn!

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MIDLANDS KITE FLIERS



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NEWS

Volume 2 Issue 2

The Newsletter of the Artistic Kite Group

Big Entry for Canterbury Art Kite Competition

Report from David Rose of Canterbury

Some Keen competition from overseas kitemakers set a high standard at the Artistic kite competition held under AKG rules at the first Canterbury International Kite Festival on September 10th 1995.

The 26 kites on show came from right across the UK as well as Belgium, France, and South Africa.

Judges, who included Europe's first lady of kites Jilly Pelham, followed the AKG competition guidelines and marking system.

Eventual winner was Mik Jennison, from Brighton, with his Moon Roller, with second place going to a rok painted in the style of Chagall by Ka Van Looken from Belgium. Third was another Rok, with a striking flame design, by Rodger Duffett, from Cape Town. Rodger also took a highly commended for a black Genki Variation with an abstract design with the second HC certificate going to festival director and AKG member David Rose for his horse's head Della Porta.

The kites in the competition were pegged out in a small arena throughout the day, drawing a great deal of interest from the estimated 5,000 visitors.

The festival proved such a resounding success that the South Eastern Kite Society, which organised it, are planning to make it a two day event next year. The date are already arranged for August 31st and September 1st and another artistic kite competition is already pencilled into the programme.

Further details from David Rose Phone/Fax 01227 368789

Review of the Year

The Artistic Kite Group was formed in 1994 in an attempt to give artists who work in the medium of kites a greater opportunity to exhibit their work.

The group is a none profit making organisation.

Membership remains free to anyone in the UK, Although donations are welcomed towards running costs.

The AKG produce (at present) eight issues of its newsletter 'The AKG News' a year of which four are published in a special dedicated section of the national kiting magazine "The Kiteflier" like this one. and the other four issues are, simple news-sheets which are sent direct to members.

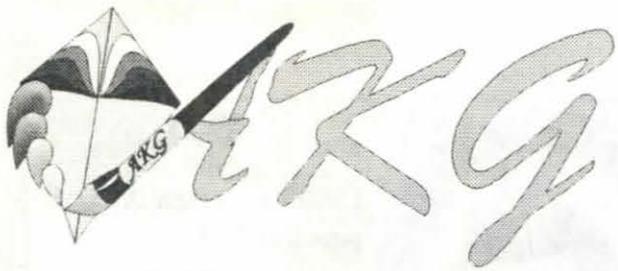
In addition to producing Newsletters in printed form the AKG also has an Electronic Newsletter, and Information area (or World Wide Web Page) on the Internet.

To date membership is at around 80 members most of whom are resident in the U.K. although there are several members in the U.S., some in Europe and a couple in Australia.

In its first year since it was formed the AKG has been very active within the Kiting community, we have organised and carried out five national Competitions at National Kite Festivals, in Birmingham, Washington (Tyne & Wear), Coventry, Portsmouth, and Canterbury.

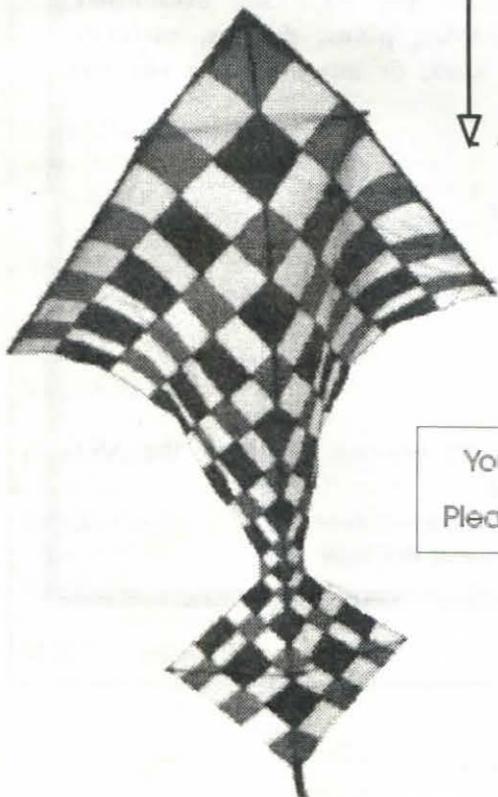
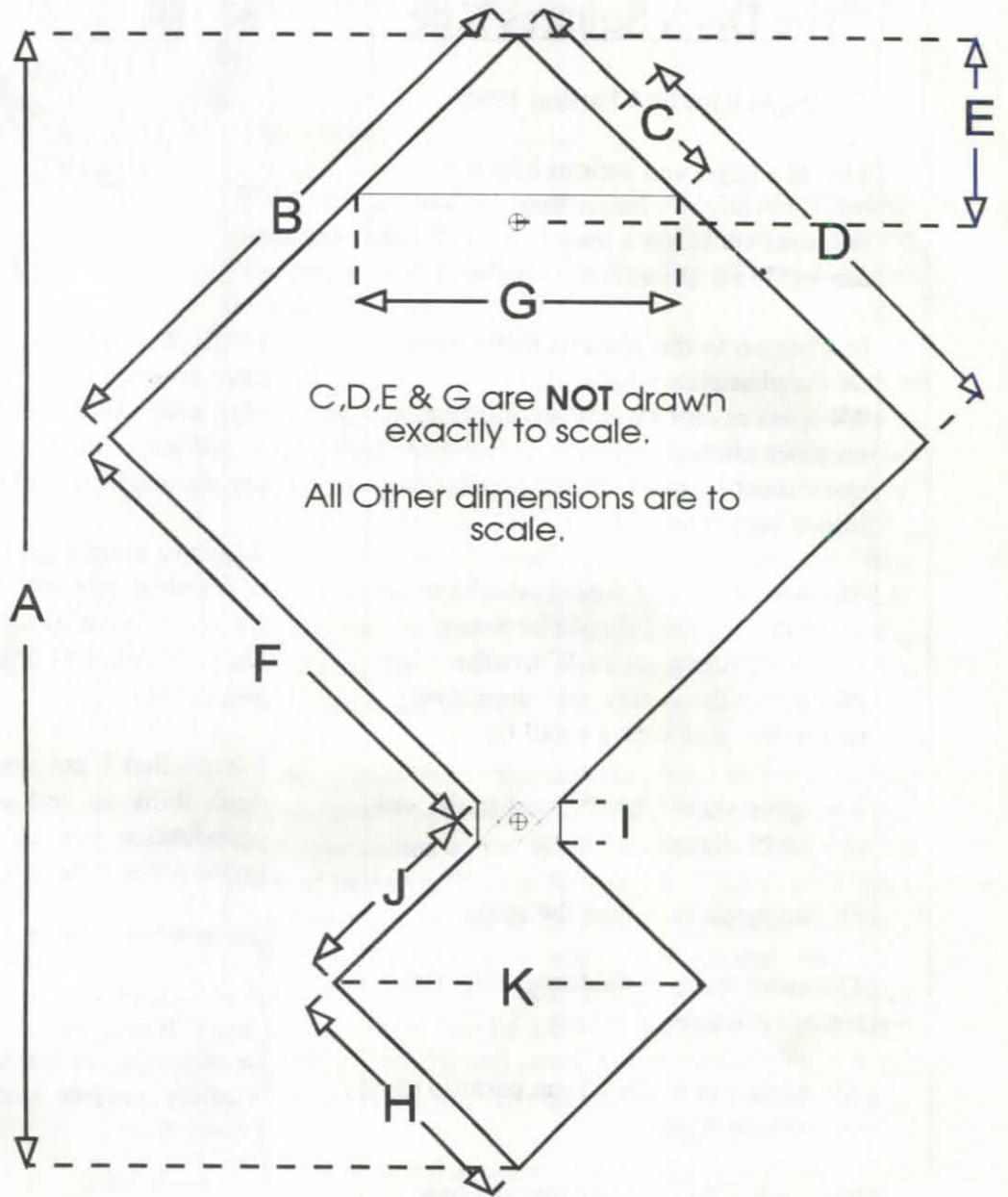
Additionally the AKG has put on Marquee based or other Kite Exhibitions at Festivals in Washington, Stockport, Portsmouth, Swindon, Weymouth, Coventry, Birmingham, and Shrewsbury.

In its second year the AKG aims to move its attention slightly away from kite festivals, and hopes to put more exhibitions on in Art Galleries to this



Delta Squares

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Charlie Charlton 1995



You are welcome to make the kite
but
Please don't copy my graphic design

- A=148"
- B=75"
- C=28.5"
- D=62.5"
- E=25.5"
- F=66"
- G=39.5"
- H=33"
- I=5"
- J=26"
- K=46.5"

⊕ Bridle

end the AKG Gallery Project has just been launched and has already met with great enthusiasm.

The Delta Squares Kite

Copyright Charlie Charlton 1995

This is a large and serious kite it measures slightly larger than 12 feet tall however it has a very light pull and can be flown quite nicely on 100lb line

In addition to the obvious instructions on the plan please note
All spars except the bottom dihedral set piece should be 12mm dowel The spine must be made of two pieces joined with a ferrule.

The bottom pair of pieces which are set in the dihedral should be 8mm dowel the line marked 'K' has the dihedral at the centre, and should be tied to the sail with a small tie.

The spine should be attached to the sail at both bridle points

Fit two pockets to take the spine.

The cross spars in the lower sail, also require pockets.

All fabric grain should run parallel to the outside edges.

Remember this is basically just two squares with a little overlap

The bridle should be about 6.5 meters in length. find the towing point by trial and error. (Notice this kite will fly well within a huge range of bridle adjustments)

If you need any further help feel free to contact me



PINS

I still have a few AKG pins left.

If you want one send me £1.50 plus 50p to cover postage.

Feedback

Firstly I would like to thank all those people who have contributed positively to the group, especially, My wife Anna without whose support the AKG would never have gotten off the ground, and despite her serious illness has always been at my side.

Also my thanks go to Gill and Jon Bloom for their continuing support and space in the pages of the Kiteflier. as well as all those who have helped at festivals either as organisers, kite lenders/ exhibitors, and judges.

I hope that I am doing an OK job here but if you don't think so and you can think of some positive contribution you can and want to make then let me know either with a letter an E-Mail or a phone call.

Contributions

Please send in your reports, photos, floppy disks, news items, information regarding exhibitions, techniques, anecdotes, plans, designs, cartoons, Gallery project kites, or anything else you can think of.

to:

Charlie Charlton,
38 Beechway,
Maghull,
Merseyside,
L31 1HP.
England

or If you have any queries regarding the AKG ring 0151 5269913

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