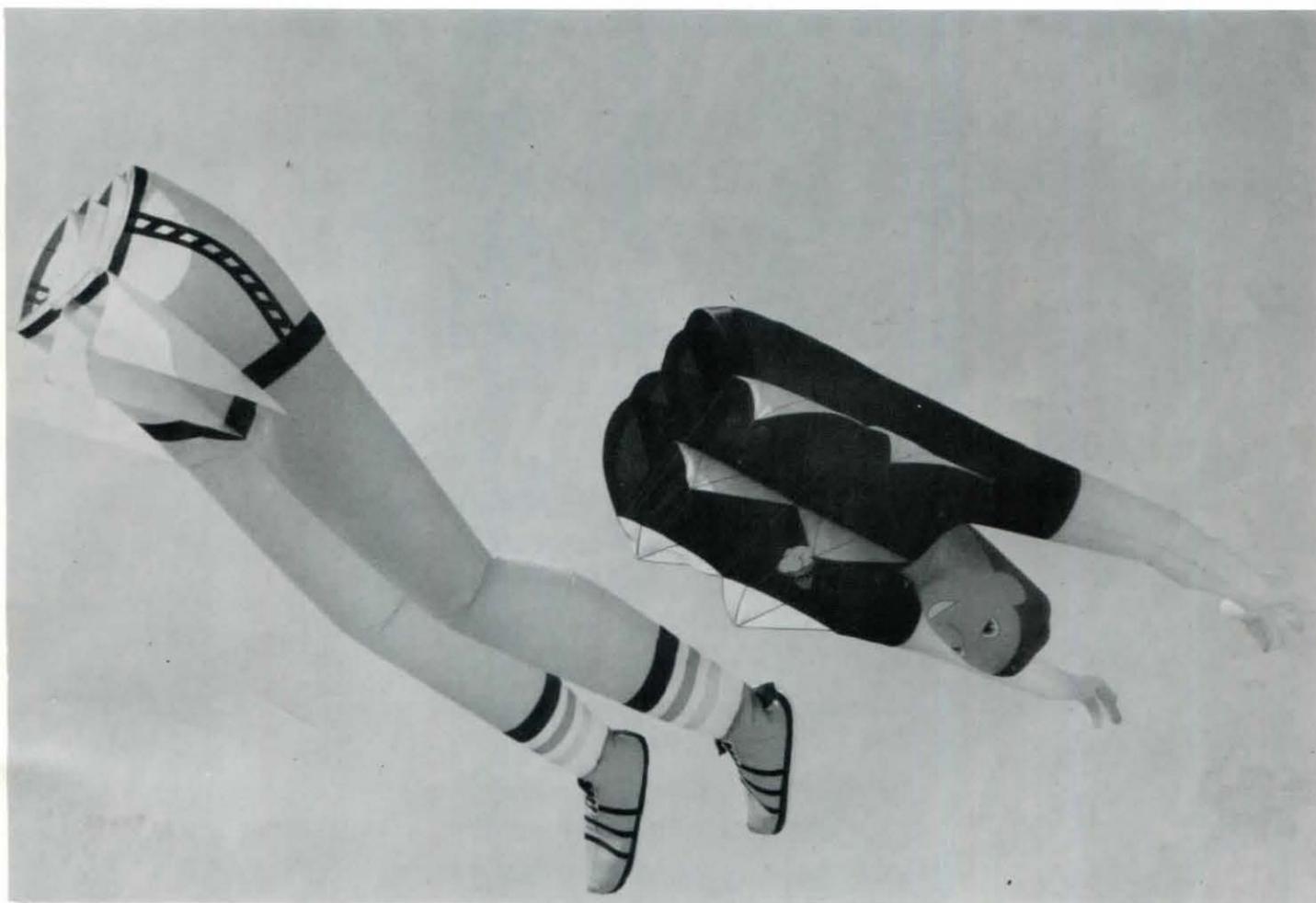


THE KITEFLIER

ISSUE 68

JULY 1996

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EDITORIAL

Dear Reader

First of all an apology. Due to a computer off day (or the user anyway) a number of members whose surname began with the letter B were not posted. The interesting thing about this little episode is the amount of time it takes people to tell us! Once again sorry and hopefully it won't happen again.

In the last editorial we mentioned that we had a Web page (see left for address). In the June "Internet" magazine the Kite Society is listed under Essential Viewing! The site is described as well wicked. It goes on to say "Who said you need chemicals to get high?". On this subject if anyone has access to a colour scanner and is willing to scan some photos for us then please get in touch.

You may notice that the colour spread is back. This is thanks to many of our readers who responded to the plea in the last issue. Thanks go to them, but remember if you wish to see the colour spread as a regular thing we still need your photographs - As well as articles and plans.

For those who have asked the registration form for Dieppe is on page 34, please use it or email your details to 100255.116@compuserve.com.

Gill and Jon

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Front Cover Photo

Martin Lester's Top and Bottom Half at Weymouth 1996.

Photo Gill Bloom

Every care is taken to get the details correct in The Kiteflier however, the Kite Society cannot take any responsibility for errors and omissions. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the editors or the Kite Society.

Letters

Harvey Bailey

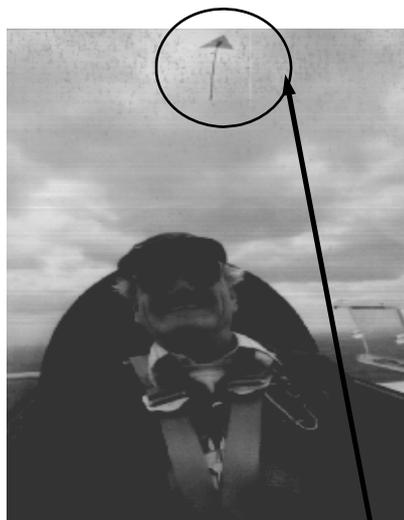
Once again, amazingly, for the 6th year the Weymouth Kite festival was ablaze with glorious sunshine and good winds.

Thanks to the wonderful support from Gill and Jon and all their members of the Kite Society of Great Britain. Fliers from Britain, America, Malaysia and Europe made it a wonderful success.

Thanks to your support our Kite Festival attracted over 60,000 spectators and considerable media coverage for the resort and as one kiteflier said "It is always sunny in Weymouth, it's just like a reunion".

Tight lines to you all for 1996, look forward to welcoming you back.

P.S. Special offer on Weymouth 1996 Kite Festival Enamel Badges, only £2.00 each including post and packing. Please make cheques payable to Weymouth and Portland Borough Council and send them to The Pavilion Complex, The Esplanade, Weymouth, Dorset DT4 8ED.



take a picture of me.

But what is that even higher than us?

Could it be a delta with a long tail?

John Wood

Thought you might be interested in this unusual photo. That's me at 3000ft in the rear seat of the Cambridge Gliding Club's Ka13 two seater. My pupil in the front seat has turned round to

No! It's a piece of red wool stuck to the perspex canopy with a triangular piece of sticky tape. We call it a "Yaw String" to measure yaw while we keep a good look out with heads up.

Tom Oates

Rip-stop or RIP OFF?

We've just got back from Weymouth, and yet again, the first big festival of the season turned out to be as enjoyable as ever, congratulations to all concerned.

I feel that I must comment however on the quality of some of the 'kites' on sale to the general public from so called kite traders.

How I became involved was simply by being approached as 'someone who looked as though they knew something about it' by a lady with a little girl of nine or so who was having great problems with her new kite. I explained that we probably needed a bit more wind. I offered to help in any case, and quite honestly when I looked at the kite in question it is doubtful if she could have flown in ideal conditions.

To start with, the bridles were of different lengths (it was a stunter, needless to say, just the thing for a novice!) and I doubt if it is possible to buy cheaper string than that which was supplied as flying line. It twisted around itself without any encouragement, and around the bridles as well just to be helpful.

The sail was ripstop about 50p worth, though probably from a scrap bag, and as for the sewing on the pockets, well I reckon about three flights if she ever gets it sorted out.

All in all this kite was a disaster and at a price of ten pounds which was what she reckoned to have paid was frankly a rip off.

Now maybe a tenner is not a lot to pay for a kite

Letters

these days, but I am sure to a young Mum on a day out at the seaside it is a sizeable amount. The sad thing is, that she could have easily found a decent kite for that amount of money. I had a look to see, and instead of a disappointed child who may have been put off kiting for good, she could have at least been reassured that the only thing wrong was a paucity of wind. I suppose that it is too much to hope that every dealer conforms to the high standards of the majority who are primarily kites rather than profiteers.

Or am I just being naive?

Stephen Hickmont

I would like to share an unusual kite moment with you. On a Newquay beach last year I was flying my Revolution, happily minding my own business. The local seagulls began taking an interest in the kite after a short while.

One brave bird decided to take a much closer look. Unfortunately he did not realise that, unlike birds, kites need lines to fly. He found out when he collided with one of the top lines, this put the revolution in a nose down attitude heading for the beach. I was too surprised to do anything so I did not recover the kite from its' dive. Now I am a bit more wary of seagulls!

Has anyone else had any strange experiences while enjoying their favourite hobby?

Richard Nourse

Firstly, I must confess something - I am one big softy, and it really gets my goat to see anyone being given a hard time. When that someone is a good egg who does his best for others, and is then dumped on, I get steamed up.

I salute those outspoken souls who risk the wrath of the "You don't wanna do that" brigade, by being so honest in the Letters column of the April edition.

Charlie Charlton's letter - I have never met Charlie, I hope to be able to shake his hand one day, and say "Thanks for everything, Charlie - I hope you never lose the joy of kiting, artistic or otherwise." A bloke needs something good to believe in when the going gets tough, and I cannot imagine anything tougher than losing your beloved Anna. Please Charlie, know that you are respected for what you have done, by all kites with a brain larger than a grape, and you are still very much needed. Please don't shut the door on all of us.

Paul & Helene Morgan are to be admired for "Redressing the Balance". I hope Charlie takes heart from it. I suspect that, like his Anna, he too is "a very caring and considerate person who always puts others before himself" - to paraphrase Paul and Helene's moving tribute.

Rosemary Thorn - nice one - I'm not overtly Christian, but I appreciate what you do, and place those who sneer at it in the same category as the microcephalics mentioned previously. Stafford Wallace and David McMillan - ditto

Richard Kean and Andrew Beattie have also taken the time and trouble to pour oil on troubled waters and put some matters to rights. Good on yer.

Having got that lot off me chest, it's now silly question time. When I visited Cannock Kites a while back, Richard Potter "a very nice man" showed me a stonking looking 4-line kite called a Synergy. There is a very comic looking version about a metre across, reputed to be the hardest kite in the world to fly - tell me more!!!!

Has anybody got one? Is there a review anywhere?

Now I'm an old git (40-something), I find I have a back problem (duff disk) which gives me much aggro. Does anyone have any advice or special kit, specific to kiting with this problem?

I have this half-baked idea about a national

Letters

database of kite-flying sites, with Grid Ref, comments, local clubs, contacts etc. Anyone else thought about this? I thought it would be handy for kites on holiday in U.K. I have drawn up a simple one-page Site Report Form, which I'll happily send out (comments & suggestions welcome). I also have several reports I have done on local sites in Dorset, on paper and on PC, so if you are a PC nut too, then please send a 3.5" disk. I am still screwing up my courage to try Internet.

I have risked the wrath of She Who Must Be Obeyed, and bought one of these new-fangled three-line joystick kites (also from Cannock) - I am passing it around the Poole Kite Fliers, so it can be tried out by those who have been at it longer than me. Also, I could not resist a PC program called KITEFLIGHT. Has anyone else tried it ?

And finally, **A FREE OFFER.** I work in electronics, and have been given a damn great reel of fibre-optic (about 0.7mm diam, looks like monofil), which may be of interest if you make sub-miniature kites. Also, night-fliers could bunch strands together for a mares-tail effect from a single light source. Anyone wanting some, I'll send a metre, or whatever you ask for. Also, if you have any electronic or RF calibration problems, drop me a line.

P.S. I very much enjoyed the reprint from B.O.P. - where on earth did you find that ?

SAE please to:

Richard Nourse
85 Bells Orchard Lane
Wareham
Dorset BH20 4HP.
Tel: 01929 554690.

Philip Le Riche

A Little Lower than the Angels.
God made man "a little lower than the angels", according to Psalm 8.

Every kiteflier, if he stops to think about it, knows it in his bones. After all, when did you ever see a cow forget the lush green grass at her feet, to gaze in wonder at a skylark toiling into the sky on a cascade of song? Or did you ever see a cat watching the sparrows in careless flight, with the slightest desire to join them in the air, except for the sole purpose of lessening the trouble of catching a tasty morsel for his supper?

Cats and cows, bees and buzzards, dolphins and dogfish are all content with their lot. But not so man, miserable creature that he is. He has a heart that aspires to heaven, and feet that are rooted to the ground; a pan-dimensional spirit that can tease out the secrets of the universe and even know God, but a mortal body, trapped on this narrow no-man's-land between earth and sky. The mind of an angel but a body of ordinary flesh and blood. So he invented the kite.

"What a load of old cobblers!" (or worse), I hear someone say. Maybe so. But doesn't it do your heart good to see your kite, and a bit of yourself, rise on the wind and dance in the sky? And that tug on the line we all love to feel, isn't it also a tug on something deep within you?

So I was greatly encouraged by Rosemary Thorn's article in the April Kiteflier about Christian Kitefliers. Not all kitefliers would call themselves Christians, but all need hope and something to live for. We all need to love and be loved, and to know that our lives are not completely in vain. In short, we aspire to heaven.

Some have found those things in a faith and want to share their discovery with others in a tired and hurting world, but maybe fear causing offence, or appearing self-righteous, even though they know they have hardly begun on the journey themselves.

So their kite goes aloft bearing some symbol of hope, of joy, or of peace. And if those are things that you need in your life then we'll gladly tell you all we can, but if not, then good winds to you anyway, and bear with us in our little kiting folly.

Bits & Pieces

A TRUE STORY

The following comes from Bobby Hersom. A true story. The escarpment at Sutton Bank rises sharply for about 150m. It then almost levels off and a footpath runs along the edge. Hang-gliders take off from a place where the bank is particularly steep and this, no doubt, was why the kiteflier decided it was a good place to launch his two line kite. His mate stood on the path and held the kite while the kiteflier let the line out by only a short length and stood a little way up the gentle slope, but (not surprisingly) couldn't get it to fly.

A helpful hang-gliding person told him the wind came up the bank so they were the wrong way round. "Yes, I know" said the kiteflier, "but I'm scared of heights".

CLUB NEWS

The Brighton Kite Flyers now have a WWW home page. It is <http://www.netlink.co.uk/users/webman/bkf/bkf.html>.

The York Kite Flyers can be contacted via email at Paul@freewind.demon.co.uk.

I've just taken over as secretary of the Kite Club of Scotland and the contact address for the Club is: Steven Kerr, 16 Spottiswoode Gardens, Mid Calder, West Lothian, EH53 0JU. Tel: 01506 880479.

Kevin Davis is trying to organize, on a casual basis, a kite flying group based in Northern Ireland. At the moment a group of enthusiasts meet Sunday afternoon at Millisle Beach which is just outside Bangor. For more information contact Kevin Davis, 01238 542534.

SHOP NEWS

Airtime, 147 Fore Street, Exeter, Devon EX4 3AN. Tel: 01392 427776. No more details available yet.

The Kite Shack, r/o Bradgate Nurseries, 538 Bradgate Road, Newtown Winford, Leicestershire LE6 0HB. Tel: 0116 236 5149. Opposite Bradgate Park main gates. Open Sat & Sun 11am - 6:00pm, Wed & Thur 11-6 Summer only. Kite Society discount of 10% is available when spending over £50.00.

Bear-Devil Kites. Mail order service - 51 South View Road, Walton, Peterborough PE4 6AG. Tel: 01733 700718. Manufacturer of hand made kites - mainly stunt kites. They also have a stall on Peterborough Market Tues, Weds, Fri and Sat. Try and Buy available at Ferry Meadows, Nene Park by appointment.

Model Figures and Hobbies is a long established mail order company manufacturing model soldiers, ships and aircraft and has only recently diversified (gently!) into kite retailing.

A "current stock list" is available, at the moment mostly single line kites and kite making materials, but expanding all the time. Our first appearance in public with kites was at Kelburn Festival of Flight in Ayr. Model Figures and Hobbies, Lower Balloo Road, Groomsport, Co Down BT19 2LU. Tel: 01247 883187. Fax & answer machine 01247 472860. Kite Society discount 10% - 15% on first order.

Kreative Kites has moved to new premises. New address 4-5 Saddlers Court, The Broadway, Newbury RG14 1AZ. Telephone number remains the same.

YELLOW PAGES

As a result of a review Yellow Pages are introducing a new main heading 'Kites'. This heading will be valid for listings in all Yellow Pages published from mid-September 1996.

APPEALS

Mencap will be launching a £13 million appeal over the August Bank Holiday weekend.

The funds raised will provide a support service for people with learning disabilities and their families across the country.

Watch out for the Appeal's blue kite symbol in your shops later this year. And please look out for Mencap's kite activities.

Mrs M Lucas has written to us. She and her husband were keen kitefliers a few years ago and her husband manufactured a rather 'classy' kite reel. She has now lost her husband and there are many boxes of components to assemble more reels, mainly 6" diameter size. She has contacted "Del Saw", who are apparently stopping production also John Clarke to no avail.

If anyone is interested in having these components, including 6 finished reels ready for sale then they should contact Mrs M Lucas, 74 Kings Road, Basildon, Essex SS15 4AQ.

CODY ARCHIVES

Received from The Drachen Foundation. Following the purchase of a large number of items at the Cody auction held at Sotherby's they are planning to hold a three or four day S. F. Cody Symposium in Seattle, Washington.

The outline includes an information exchange on Cody's life and work, formal presentations, hands on access to the Cody collection and so on. A limited amount of scholarships for travel, room and board will be granted to individuals by the foundation. If you are interested then contact them, 1907 Queen Anne Avenue North, Seattle, Washington 98109.

Construction Technique

CORDING. SUPER RIPSTOP AND NO RIBS CONSTRUCTION

During the late 1970's, I started to use line sewn onto fabric in relevant patterns as reinforcement and to spread the point loads from spar caps out onto the skins of framed kites without creating high stress areas. This was the subject of a paper written about 1981, but since then there have been so very many developments in these techniques that an update is now due.

The general system of using networks of cords to reinforce fabric is not new, having been a central feature of sails for square rigged sailing ships. It was used in this case to allow relatively weak canvas to accept the necessary loads. After the demise of square riggers and the very large cotton sails they required, and especially since the 1950's arrival of much stronger synthetic materials, sailmakers abandoned cording and turned to using layer upon layer of sewn on fabric gussets stepping in towards their corner stress point.

Our initial use of cording in kites during the 1980's was in response to the very high loads at the spar ends on our large flare kites and P.L.T. box kites and arose from the desirability for drum tight skins. Standard kite techniques of that era borrowed mainly from sailmaking and tentmaking often also using eyelets or sewn in pockets to receive spar ends.

By the 1990's cording as a means for attaching spar caps has made some inroads into this previous practice. However, it is not yet as widespread as its efficacy would seem to demand. There may be several reasons for this. Clearly, for small kites, which are by far in the majority, fabric, even the very lightest (at 25gm/m²) is too heavy, so stress levels and reinforcements are not a major concern. Another reason is that, as bought, standard domestic sewing machines are not that suitable for sewing on line. Also sewing very small diameter lines (<1mm diameter which is all that is necessary for smaller kites) is quite tricky. It is however very easy to modify sewing machines feet to enable precise and quick sewing of light (and heavy) line. Axiomatically, the lighter that kites are for their size (provided they are strong enough) the better they will fly, even in strong winds, because weight adversely effect stability. So any technique that is structurally more efficient is definitely worth doing. Cording is the best strength for weight technique currently available, so it is well worth spending a little time getting your equipment set up for it and becoming proficient.

Firstly, to modify a sewing machine pressure foot for cording, all that is necessary is to cut a 'V,' shaped groove in its under surface that will accurately locate the line so that the needle will penetrate it centrally. Feet are generally hard steel, sometimes too hard for a normal file, so if necessary use a silicon carbide or diamond coated file for this job (available at hardware stores). Cut the groove just deep enough to enclose a bit more than ½ of the diameter of the lightest line you will be using - you will be surprised at how well it will work even for cords many times this size. As a bonus, modifying the foot this way has little if any effect on normal sewing. Of course it goes without saying that cording is done with a straight stitch; zig zags have no value for sewing on cords, in fact have almost none for kitemaking except decoratively and for some applique. (For sails there is another reason for using zig zag, but parapents and parachutes when safety really matters use only straight stitching). Having a large slot in the sewing machine throat plate can cause problems for sewing small diameter line as this can allow it to be pulled down into the hook. If necessary, get a spare throat plate, have its slot welded up and drill just a needle x 3 diameter hole in it. This throat plate will make general sewing of very thin or soft fabrics easier also.

Where to sew the cords is the next things to think about. Caps are now very common for spar ends, much better than nooks which can split the spars because they fit internally.

Caps protect spar ends during impacts and also have convenient hole to accept sewn on cords. The very important principle to understand is that cap restraining cords should be sewn diagonally to warp and weft not parallel. The reason for this is simple but so often ignored (but there are some applications for which parallel sewing is O.K.). If a cord is sewn parallel to either warp or weft, it will transfer stress to just a few fibre bundles

Construction Technique

in the fabric and these will surely then stretch or even fail when load is applied. When cording is sewn diagonally, loads are transferred into every fibre bundle that the cord intersects which is many 1000's per metre. Well executed cording can transfer loads smoothly out into an entire skin panel which will then set tight and wrinkle free without stretching or necking.

The early cording application for our company was for cap restraint, but use quickly expanded to almost every place on kites where reinforcement is necessary. For example where the keel leading edge meets the main skin on delta's and as perimeter reinforcement around spar holes for Cody's etc. Cording techniques are so quick light and strong that I am amazed that usage is not more widespread by now.

In the 1980's we started making more and more soft kites so of course adapted cording techniques to these. But it wasn't until 1994 that the full potential of cording was realised. Of course we used cording to brace Peel ribs and provide strong light bridle attachment points, as had ram air sky diving chutes for years, but it took us a long time to realise that cording could replace ribs for many ram air kite.

As an aside here, it is sometimes O.K to use tape or braid rather than cord or line as parapents often do and this requires no sewing machine modifications, but it is not as effective. Firstly, it is not as quick to sew accurately along the centreline of a braid as it is to sew cord with a groove foot. Secondly, because at intersections and corners there is far more stress on the edges of braid than at their centreline, braids need to be heavier than cords to attain the same strength. This is wasteful. Braid is also more expensive. Another aside. When sewing cord it gets shorter. If you precut to length, you will end up with a gap at one end. Develop techniques for retaining symmetry such as not changing press foot pressure or thread tension between sewing opposite pairs cords, And, for example, always sew from the corner to be middle, not randomly.

The "super ripstop" system is just a development of cording by which the entire kite (or just highly stressed sections of it) are covered with a gridwork of sewn on lines, (externally in the case of inflatable kites) which carry the major loads within the fabric to withstand only the pressure loads within each compartment. The advantages of this are significant, especially for larger kites.

Firstly the largest imaginable kites can now be made of the lightest available fabric. On our (currently 550sqm) 'Megebite', the gridwork on lines (in this case spectra) weighed only 15 kgms but saved 150 kgms of fabric weight and still doubled the acceptable pressure load. The cost saving was also considerable as is the benefit to those of us who have to lug it around from airport to airport. And of course being lighter it flies better. Damage control is also enhanced since any rip or tear is unlikely to proceed past the first cord it comes to. This feature gave birth to our naming this technique "super ripstop" because it is just carrying to the next scale level a principle which is the essence of 'ripstop' fabric construction. It is very difficult to understand why other large fabric objects such as balloons, spinnakers and other yacht sails, tents etc have not yet adopted this system.

The final potential of the "super ripstop" technique was realised when in 1994 we started to progressively eliminate internal ribs entirely on our decorative soft kites by replacing them with adjustable thru cords connecting opposite intersections in the "super ripstop" grids covering the top and bottom skins. This alone cuts the total kite weight by 30% (ribs usually total a bit more than 1/3 of the fabric in soft kites). Of course using this 'no rib' system causes longitudinal bulging between thru cords which can cause an aerodynamic efficiency loss. But this doesn't hurt decorative kites (in fact it usually helps their stability) and can be used as a design feature, particularly when making replicas of segmented critters such as trilobites.

One small problem we have found when using this system is that spectra has such a low melting point that we have to be careful not to damage it by sewing too fast! At about 1000 stitches/minute and above, alamingly, smoke drifts up from the stitching. Does anyone know where to get a water cooled sewing machine?

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Kite Review

The Phantom Ultra Light

Manufactured by FIZZ SPORTS KITES:
ENGLAND. Designed by: TIM BENSON

WEIGHT: 226 grams
WIDTH: 2500mm
HEIGHT: 1130mm

This is the kite to follow the Original PHANTOM, which means it had better be good. I have been flying this kite off and on now since the prototypes were taken to Belgium for the Fly High International Trophy in 1995. These were ICAREX skinned, with 2 wrap SKY SHARK.

So what do we get. The kite is quite similar at first glance to the Original PHANTOM. It's a medium aspect ratio kite with no unusual features. Fitted out with the same high quality fittings as the other kites produced by FIZZ, with 3 wrap SKYSHARK to provide a light but durable frame. The design is complete with the a slightly deeper than average [for an 8' kite] sail area. The frame and sail cut produces a cambered leading edge. Take this into account if you are ever thinking of changing the frame material. If the frame is too stiff it will stretch and distort the sail, if too flexible it will not create the correct leading edge shape and camber. In an identical way to the Box a factory fitted leach line is 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. With the PHANTOM the already efficient sail together with a very taut trailing edge produces a kite with silent flight together with a slightly faster than average [8 foot / team kite] speed.

WIND RANGE: 0-15 [+ Indoors]

SKILL LEVEL: Experienced +

As mentioned in my previous reviews of FIZZ kites most are now coming with a Velcro fastening for the sail adjustment at the base of the spine, this is facilitated by a length of Velcro. The kite will spin well within its wing tip, however unlike the

Fizz trick kites because of the size the oversteer that you might expect is controllable, if you want it you can make it oversteer. I had heard rumours that the wind window was reduced, that is the flyable area left to right, during testing this did not seem to be the case. This kite is aimed I would think, at an experienced flyer looking for a kite that can perform as an 8 foot kite plus be able to trick like a 7 foot. It can almost do it. Axles, cascades and Coin tosses are no problem, 540 flat spins are a bit harder and either need a lot of work or fly in to them as you would for a flash. The kite will fly indoors, it does not have quite enough drive indoors for my liking, but, I fly Revolutions indoors so what can you expect

Overall, much better than a Kona in light wind, better tricks than most 8 Footers. And it does snap turns and straight lines.

The Black Hole - Series

Manufactured by EOLO GAYLA:SPAIN
Designed by: Not Known, Distributed by
Cannock Kites.

This group of kites first came to my attention via a review, which I hope was something like what I'm about to write. I say this because it was in Drachen magazine, and my German isn't that good [yet]. So having seen pictures of the standard BLACK HOLE I was very pleased to be offered the task of reviewing the BLACK HOLE. Imagine my surprise therefore when not ONE but THREE!!! kites were delivered for review.

The three were delivered earlier this year and I've now had a chance to fly each of them in both ideal and not so ideal conditions.

1st out of the box was the standard version.

BLACK HOLE

WEIGHT: 271 grams
WIDTH: 1930 mm
HEIGHT: 890 mm

First thing to strike me was the packaging of the

Kite Review

kite, very well presented nylon bag with a clear insert which has a picture of the kite and general information about the kite. The presentation lends itself well to attracting new buyers/flyers. And rightly so. What you get is not just a kite but a kite plus lines [mine had been removed for ease of transport] and a good instruction leaflet [inc in all 3] to give you information about the kite. Very important but often missed by some manufacturers.

So what do we get. It's a high aspect ratio kite with no unusual features. Fitted out with the some high quality fittings with the EOLO GAYLA logo, no name carbon frame. The design is enhanced by an unusual feature on current designs, FOUR standoffs. The kite does however have the now customary cambered leading edge & leach line sewn into the trailing edge, which can be adjusted for tension to allow for any sail stretch. This make the sail efficient and quiet in flight.

A good feature of this kite is the sail adjustment at the base of the spine, this is facilitated by a length of Velcro, allowing it to be fully adjustable for any sail stretch.

I would have liked to have seen the stand offs connected to the sail, so that you don't lose them, also the back of the standoffs project a short way past the back of the sail and for more experienced flyers this causes problems when trick flying. Also for this type of kite I would have liked to have had a trick line fitted.

Small sail area, narrow wing tips and on the factory set bridle [I have liked the fact that I have not had to touch the bridle on this or any of the BLACKHOLE series] 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 as expected.

When I first saw the kite I thought the Dacron spine protector was over kill. However, I now think it is in place for two reasons: 1) to provide

strength, 2) to provide weight for balance. My review crew [6 flyers with different skills and experience] liked the balance of the kite, this shows up when trick flying more than at any other time.

This kite will perform Axles, Miguel Rodrigez Coin Toss's, Cascades and 540 Flat spins. [we're working on the G Wizz, Flymo & Barry White].

Comments: I think its worth the money, well made, nice colours, very sturdy and a very capable kite for tricks. I would recommend this kite to someone thinking of a first or second kite.

+ Good presentation, sturdy, well made.
- You can lose the stand offs.

BLACK HOLE Ultra Light

WEIGHT:	180	grams
WIDTH:	1930	mm
HEIGHT:	890	mm

Unlike it's heavier version this one is more recognizable as an intermediate kite. Standard ripstop bag to start with, no instructions in mine [but, this may just be mine so check when you buy].

So what do we get. As with the higher wind/higher weight version: It's a high aspect ratio kite with no unusual features. Fitted out with the some high quality fittings with the EOLO GAYLA logo, no name carbon frame. The frame is really nice [carbon bore time] it's not a carbon I've seen before but it's very nice. Very light and stiff, with a very smooth surface [which usually means its either finished after production or made to a higher standard]. The same four stand off design is employed. The kite sail shape and leach line are the same as the BLACK HOLE. However, the sail is an ICAREX sail to aid the Ultra light flying.

The standoffs on the version I received are connected to the sail which is what I expect from this type of kite. However again I would have liked to have had a trick line fitted.

Kite Review

The Dacron spine protector is not as long on this version, ending just above the "T" piece. I think on this version more than on the BLACK HOLE that it is in place for the two reasons I said earlier - but even more so on this version. Earlier releases of ICAREX did have a tendency to split at the "T" piece [it doesn't seem to be a problem now] and with the light weight of the kite it really helps the balance and float character.

The kite was flown indoors a couple of times, I preferred this version indoors to the next. And the balance of the kite really shows up indoors in zero wind.

This kite will perform Axles, Miguel Rodriguez Coin Toss's, Cascades and 540 Flat spins, again we are working on the others.

Comments: I think it's, well made, colours OK, very sturdy and a very capable kite for tricks. I would recommend this kite to a more experienced flyer looking for a kite for a wider wind range and still able to trick.

+ Well made, excellent wind range.

- It doesn't have a famous name behind it [a name doesn't guarantee a good kite].

BLACK HOLE Star Sister

WEIGHT:	50	grams
WIDTH:	118	mm
HEIGHT:	63	mm

This is the real light weight version, and I would think mainly for indoor or very light out door. So what do we get. As with the higher wind/higher weight version: It's a high aspect ratio kite with no unusual features. The same four stand off design is employed. The kite sail shape and leach line are the same as the BLACK HOLE. However, the sail is an ICAREX sail to aid the Ultra light flying. The standoffs on the version I received are connected to the sail which is what I expect from this type of kite.

Small sail area, narrow wing tips and the factory set bridle 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. Forward speed is in the moderate range. Again as expected.

The Dacron spine protector is not as long on this version, ending just above the "T" piece. I think on this version more than on the BLACK HOLE & Ultra Light that it is in place for one reason, with the light weight of the kite it really helps the balance and float character of the kite.

The kite was flown indoors a couple of times. Mainly during the World Indoor Record setting at the Way On High Indoor Kite Festival at Kington Leisure Centre. My fellow tester on the day really loved the way this kite flies indoors [he wanted to keep it!]. As I said I preferred the Ultra Light version, I think that is a clear demonstration of what I have said many times you must fly every kite that fits your requirements before you spend your money.

This kite will perform Axles, Cascades and 540 Flat spins, indoors.

Comments: I think it's well made, sturdy and a very capable kite for tricks and a good indoor kite. I would recommend this kite to a more experienced flyer looking for a kite for a Ultra low wind/indoor range and still able to trick.

+ Well made, good indoors.

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.

PPS. I couldn't get it to do a Black Hole, but then again I can't do a Black Hole with any kite.

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

A Guide to Knots

Good knots are the "nuts and bolts" of kite construction and operation. Exchange of information on kite construction often assumes knowledge of the required knots, and it is of little use if the wrong names are used. This latter error is surprisingly common. Vide:- Ron Moulton's book KITES illustrates a bowline calling it a half-blood knot, and a clove hitch described as a rolling hitch! January's Kiteflier calls a Turks head knot in the Crescent article, but should say Larkshead. Some understanding of nomenclature is useful in knot use and description. The main body of line being handled is usually referred to as the standing portion.

OVERHAND KNOT - Commonly used to create a "lump" in the line, the overhand knot forms a major part of most bridles. When used at the end of flying lines or bridle/spar connections it is usual to tie two overhand knots around 1" spacing.

SLIP KNOT - The slip knot is often used as a means of running a "noose" up close to a spar or ring. It will sometimes come undone unless a further overhand knot is tied in the loose end. It is difficult to use if the distance between the two anchor points has to be set at a known dimension, and cannot be used for holding two points together at a nominated separation.

ADJUSTABLE SLIP KNOT - The adjustable slip knot avoids some of the problems above. It is formed by tying an open overhand knot in the standing part of the line first. The loose end is first passed round the anchor ring or spar and then through the overhand knot. The end can now be used as a "pully block" to tension the system as required, and finally locked by putting a half hitch above the overhand (see dotted portion marked at A).

BOWLINE - One of the safest knots available, the bowline is used wherever a loop is required at the end of a line which must not close as a slip knot would. Form a loop in the standing line, and pass the loose end through the loop, round the back of the standing portion and back through the loop. Grasp all three line sections and pull to complete.

LARKSHEAD - Possibly the most used knot in kite flying, the larkshead enables attachment to a ring, spar or loop. Push a loop through the ring, open out and pass back on the OUTSIDE. This knot is useful in that on a bridle, the knot can be slackened and the ring moved to a new position. Unfortunately, the line does not always hold tightly and may move in flight.

LOCKING LARKSHEAD - This version, although a little more difficult to slacken, avoids the slipping problem. To tie, pass a loop through the ring as before, but only partially back over the ring. Now twist the remaining portion of loop through 180 degrees and slide onto the ring, ending up as in the picture.

ROUND TURN AND 2 HALF HITCHES - This knot was originally intended for tying a line to a ring or bollard UNDER STRAIN. It will slacken easily if the preload is removed and is not recommended as part of a finished kite.

CLOVE HITCH - A very useful knot because of the ease with which a connection can be made in the middle of a line, the clove hitch can also eventually come undone if the line tension drops off. When used on kite spars, it is a good idea to smear lightly with an adhesive to hold it in place. In any case, make sure that the turns are pulled up close together on completion.

TOGGLE HITCH - Tied simply as shown, or on a loop, the hitch is extremely useful for that Teddy dropper release somewhere up the line. It is easily formed or removed. Use strong material for the peg.

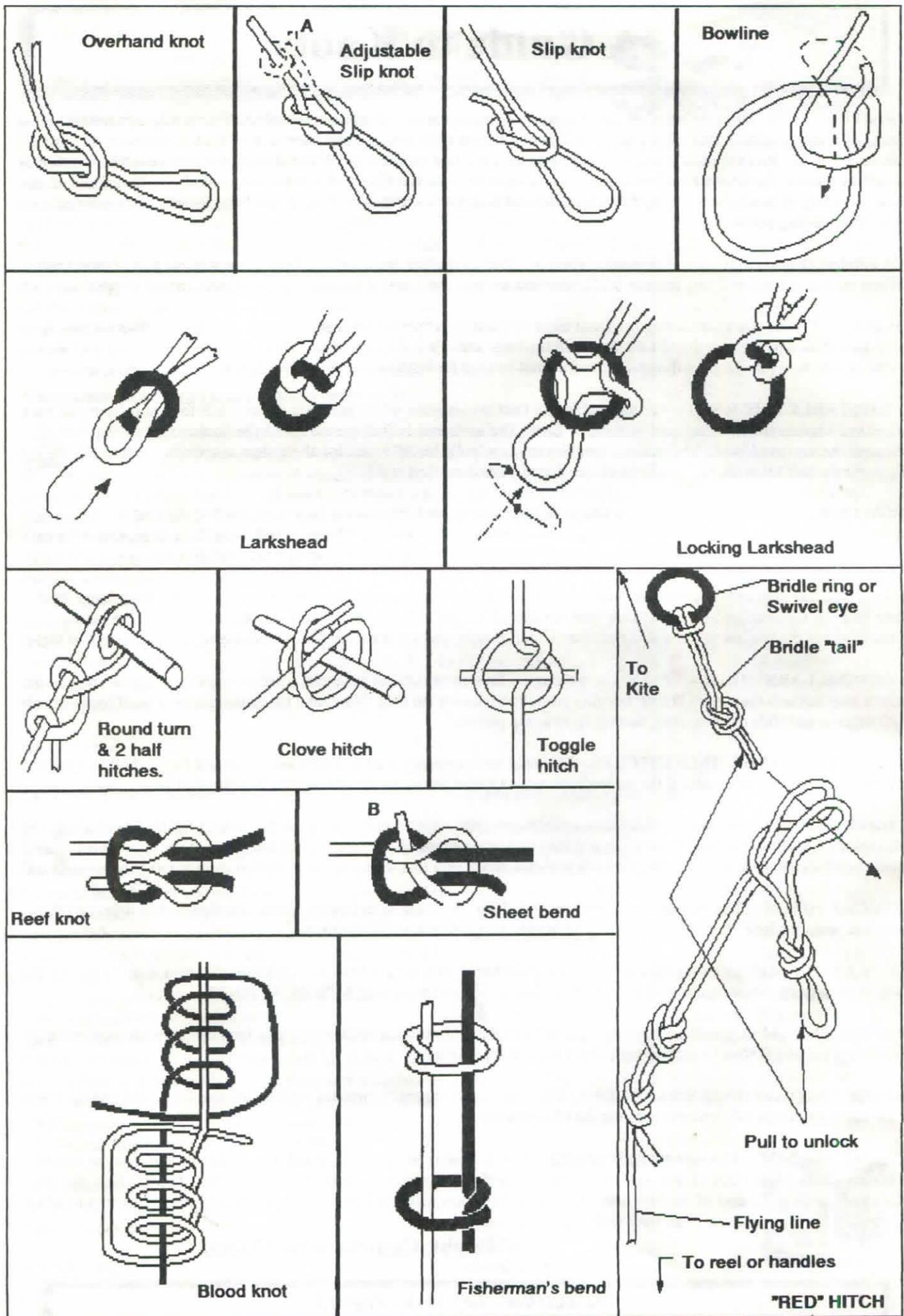
REEF KNOT - Although very strong and easily untied, this knot suffers from the difficulty of setting tension during the latter half of tying. Passing the ends twice before tightening forms the strong SURGEONS KNOT.

SHEET BEND - Most valuable where the lines to be tied are of different thicknesses, this knot can be made even stronger by passing the end B round a second time under the standing portion.

BLOOD KNOT and FISHERMANS BEND - These two knots are really intended for monofilament material, but the blood knot can be used as a safe temporary repair for a broken line.

The "RED" KNOT - Invented by Red Braswell, the Red knot is by far the best kite line junction, and is to be strongly recommended. Metal clips of any sort are unreliable, and a flying clip at linebreak can be almost lethal! Note the little secondary loop on the end of the kite line. This, in conjunction with the bridle tail ends gives two fine ears to pull when fingers are icy cold (and any other time too!).

F Wright, Camelot Kite Flyers.



Private Ads

For Sale.

Morgan Nova Star shaped box kite. Purple/pink/yellow. With extra spars and joint. Excellent condition - £25.00.

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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.

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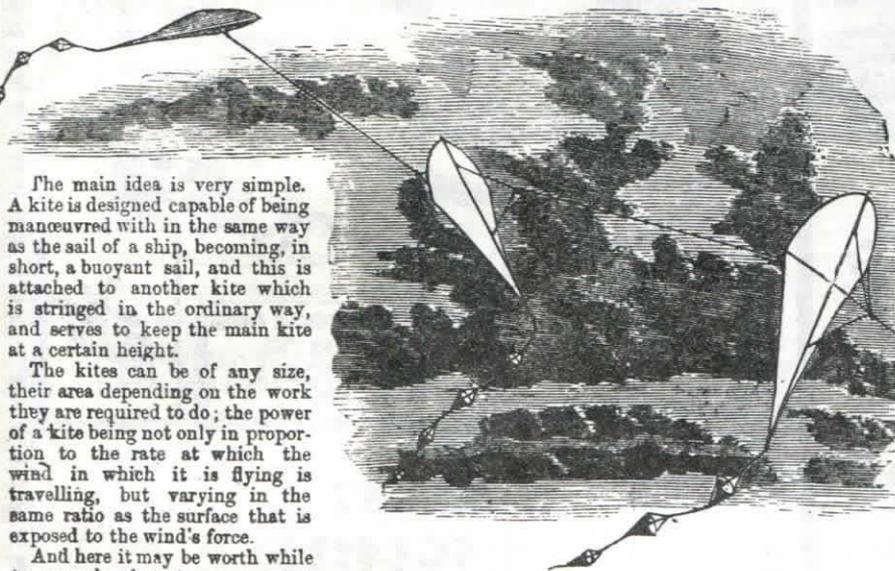
The Kite Society, P.O. Box 2274, Gt Horkesley, Colchester CO6 4AY

KITES AGAINST HORSES.

OR, KITE-CARRIAGES EXTRAORDINARY, AND HOW TO MAKE AND USE THEM.

II.—KITE-CARRIAGES.

IN our first article we hastily glanced at the history and capabilities of the apparatus; let us now inquire into its construction. And first, with regard to the kites.



The main idea is very simple. A kite is designed capable of being manœuvred with in the same way as the sail of a ship, becoming, in short, a buoyant sail, and this is attached to another kite which is stringed in the ordinary way, and serves to keep the main kite at a certain height.

The kites can be of any size, their area depending on the work they are required to do; the power of a kite being not only in proportion to the rate at which the wind in which it is flying is travelling, but varying in the same ratio as the surface that is exposed to the wind's force.

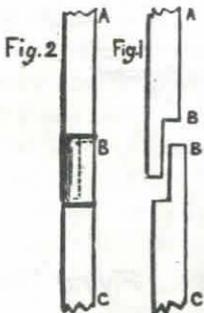
And here it may be worth while to remark what to some must be sufficiently obvious, that the area increases as the square, and that if the surface of a twelve-foot kite contains forty-nine square feet, the surface of a thirty-six foot kite will contain not three times but nine times as many. It was found by experiment that a twelve-foot kite in a moderate wind was as much as a man could hold, and that such a kite in rather a boisterous wind would break a string that would lift two hundred pounds. Further,

as much as half a ton had to follow the kites. As all these data were obtained from the same pair of kites, which spread, as we have said, an area of a hundred square feet, and were attached to a car weighing two hundredweight, the size of the kites to move any given weight in any force of wind can be obtained in a few minutes.

So much having been ascertained, the next step was to find the proportion that the kites should bear to one another, and this resulted in the conclusion that in a "flight," or "set" of

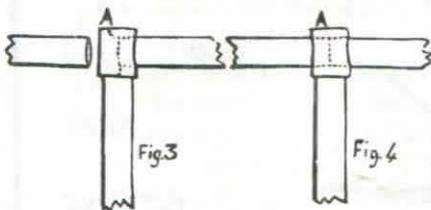
kites, the top or pilot kite should always be the smallest, and if more than two kites were used the intermediate ones should increase in size as they approached the main. Any number of kites could be used, the greater the number the greater the power; but more than three were rarely employed in carriage work, and the usual number was two.

The next thing was to get at the material of which the kites ought to be made; and paper was first tried, to be soon rejected on account of its liability to breakage. Varnished paper was then experimented with, but there was this insuperable objection to the use of a material that was permanently fixed to the frame—the contrivance was much too cumbersome, and

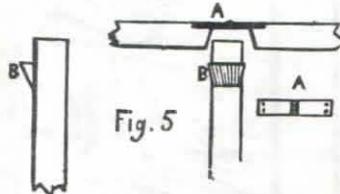


two kites with a combined area of a hundred square feet were found to be easily capable of drawing a carriage weighing two hundredweight.

In a gentle breeze, moving at from three to five miles an hour, they moved three hundredweight and a quarter; in an active breeze, blowing at from seven to twelve miles an hour, five



hundredweight and a quarter were easily pulled along. In a pleasant gale, of from fourteen to eighteen miles an hour, seven and a half hundredweight could be carried, and in a brisk gale, moving at from twenty to twenty-six miles an hour,



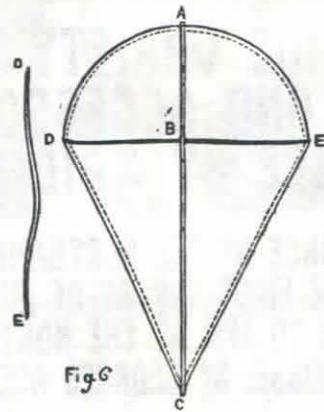
could not well be stowed away; hence paper was soon abandoned. Silk was tried, and found to act perfectly, but was too expensive; and so the working kites were made of a cheaper fabric in the shape of thick glazed calico or linen, sometimes coloured pink, sometimes green.

Kites of all shapes were tried—pointed, square, triangular, and lozenge, but the old circular-headed kind was found to answer best, and the proportions were those shown in the accompanying sketches.

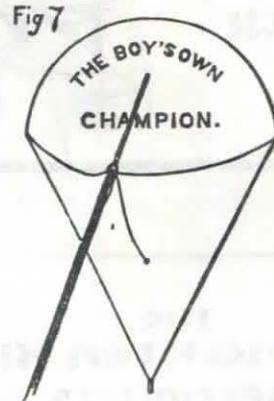
The calico was first cut out roughly to the shape and then strongly hemmed, a double thickness being taken in for the top hem, through which the "bender" ran as a brass rod does through a dwarf window curtain. Just at the centre of this hem a space was left for the "straighter" to come through, and at each of the three corners of the kite strong tapes were sewn on. At the two places down the front through which the belly-band comes a small hole was made for the rings to pass to which the string was fixed.

And now for the woodwork, or frame, which we should, perhaps, have considered first.

The standard, or "straighter" (see Fig. 6,

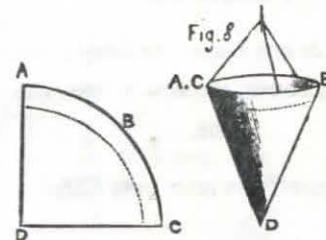


A, B, C), was in two or three pieces, according to the size of the kite. Let us deal with one of moderate dimensions, say of twelve feet, and then it was in two pieces. It was made, as was the rest of the woodwork, of some light strong stuff such as lancewood, and was a little under an inch square. If hinged, the hinges were of the ordinary parasol kind, with a tin ferule slipping up and down, and prevented moving too low by a small pin. If not hinged, the ends were cut away for half



their thickness for a couple of inches from the ends, and the ferule slipped over them, and tied so that it could not slip. The sketch (Fig. 1) shows the ends, and Fig. 2 shows the straighter fixed and with the ferule slid down to its place.

The bow, or "bender," was in two pieces, either hinged or separate. If separate, the ends fitted into a socket, which was fixed on the straighter (see Fig. 3 for the parts separately, and Fig. 4 for them in position. To afford a firmer grip the socket may be a little wider than in the diagram). If hinged, the hinge was of the usual type, and rested on a little bracket at the top of the straighter (see Fig. 5). The hinges were not quite so wide as the wood of the bender, and the thickness of the straighter was left between the ends which



were fixed on to the hinge, so that the parts fitted together like a mortice.

The only other woodwork about the frame was the "stretcher." This was a piece of wood shaped exactly like a bow (see D, B, E, Fig. 6), which passed between the straighter and the kite, and was attached by its ends to the ends of the

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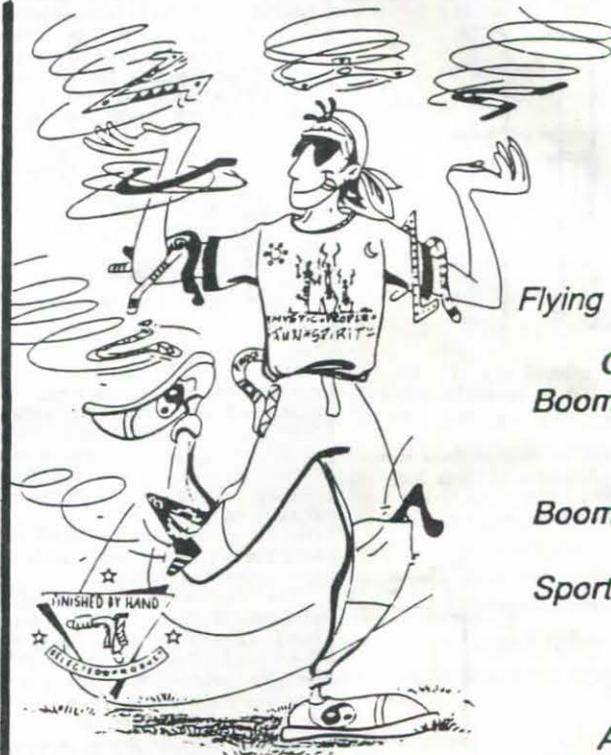
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Trade News

John Ogden writes:

Since the late 1980's I have been involved in the world of kite flying, both as a fun flier and as a member of the Boop Troop kite display team.

I have travelled to festivals all over the world and in doing so have built up a large number of top quality contacts.

It has come to my attention that the retail kite scene within the U.K. has become something of an enclosed market. Making it difficult for a number of high quality kite designs from overseas to become available at reasonable and competitive prices. Because of this I have agreed to work as an agent for a select number of overseas companies.

To promote these kites and to keep the prices down I will be selling direct to the general public and will be working on a smaller profit margin than is normally practised throughout the kite world.

I am currently in negotiations with a number of companies but have already been confirmed as official agent for the following top names:

Guildworks Flight Studio, U.S.A.
Buena Vista Kite Co., U.S.A.
Airmaster Kites, U.S.A.
GEL Boomerangs, U.S.A.
Falhawk Kite Co., Japan

For further information, prices and to be put on the mailing list please write to:-

John Ogden
c/o 25 Wilkes Ave
Hucclecote
Gloucester GL3 3LD.
Tel/Fax 01452 612791.



Martin Thomas of **Fizz Kites** writes:

In preparation of our new, improved, WWW site we are inviting **Fizz Sport Kite** owners / fliers / users to send us their photos and/or video for possible incorporation. We invite you to be as radical (but safe) as practical with the emphasis on fun.

The very best entries will each win a **Fizz Sport Kite** from our range, exclusively signed by Tim Benson and the contribution will be featured as the **Fizz Fave Foto Feature** on the **Box Of Pix** page which will change at regular intervals. All entries used will win an exclusive **Fizz Sport Kite** Official Team Flier t-shirt for the contributor.

Photographs should be as resolute as possible but can be colour or monochrome. In order to avoid massive download times, any video (preferably shot on Hi-8 or similar) should be short and concise. Please mail your video and/or photographs to our address below (ideally video should be sent on tape

Trade News

via snail mail). The new site will be available soon and will include some of our new models including the Phantom Elite V (Vented) and Plus (P38/5P). Watch this space for more news.

Send us your slick tricks and pics right away.

Martin Thomas & Tim Benson. email: Martin@fizz.demon.co.uk.

FIZZ SPORT KITES

Unit 6 Thackley Court

ShIPLEY

West Yorkshire

BD18 1BW, UK.

Sales/Administration Office (Martin Thomas) Tel/Fax +44 (0)1405 862365.

Design/Manufacturing Facility (Tim Benson) Tel/Fax +44 (0)1274 532899.



John Ogden has recently been given exclusive rights to the majority of **Falhawk Kite** products and to allow kitefliers the opportunity to afford these high tech designs, which up to now may have seemed out of reach, he has cut the prices of the complete **Platinum Sport Kites** range, Competition Quadline Parafoils and Icarex Buggy Kites. These special prices are only available by purchasing directly through him. Examples are G.A.V.S. (Giant 12ft wingspan) Retail £350, introductory price £250.00, Pro-Comp retail £235.00, intro £170.00. Prices exclude P&P.

John Ogden

c/o 25 Wilkes Ave

Hucclecote

Gloucester GL3 3LD.

Tel/Fax 01452 612791.



Storm Kites Press Release.

Storm Kites as an enterprise was first envisaged some 4 years ago, and kite design and development has progressed for the last two years, However, experience gained in low-speed aerodynamics goes back many years before that to a period of 8 years spent in the realms of hang-gliding. As a qualified hang-glider pilot and designer of several hang-gliders I decided to put the knowledge gained here to good use, hence the development of the **Quest**.

The **Quest** has been in development for 8 months now, being progressively refined to its present state. It is an advanced, high aspect ratio wing, and as such is aimed at the intermediate to advanced flyer. It is both graceful and impressive in flight, with its unique wing layout and slow flying speed characteristics. The **Quest** is challenging to fly, and once mastered is both enjoyable and rewarding to control in the air. Remember there is a 5% discount to all Kite Society members, just subtract 5% from the total order cost. R.R.P. for the **Quest** £127.00.

Storm Kites

13 Hampton Road

Scarborough

North Yorkshire YO12 5PU.

Tel: 01723 500224.

Events News

The National Trust Kite Weekend, Attingham Park, Shrewsbury. 3rd & 4th August

We have been invited to this lovely location at the National Trust Headquarters for the third year running.

The previous two years we have been a fill-in festival between the hot air balloons, but this year they will not be attending, so we've got it all to ourselves.

As previous kites to this location know, it is a very relaxed weekend, with no formal competitions unless you, the kitefliers, request them. However, I have arranged to have a small marquee on the site where we will have a Peoples' Choice competition.

Camping can be from Friday midday to Monday midday at a cost of £3 per unit per night. This will have to be booked in advance by contacting the Property Manager, Miss Belinda Cousens, at Attingham Park, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY4 4TP, Telephone No: 01743 709203, who will send you camping passes and a map.

English breakfast will be available both mornings.

Entry to the park is free to all kiteflyers. Car passes are available from me before the date, or on site during the festival. I can also provide B&B lists and maps for those who are not camping. For any of these items please send me an S.A.E.

All trading places have been taken.

All types of kites and kites are welcome including buggiers (please be insured).

Any queries on the above please contact me, Tony Slater, 128 Meadow Farm Drive, Harlescott, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY1 4JY. Telephone: 01743 235068.

Being a National Trust property, there will be lots of the public attending and it is our chance to get them as future kite flyers. Please come and enjoy a

really relaxed weekend with fellow enthusiasts.

Royston Kite Festival, Therfield Heath. August 4th, 12 noon - 5.00 pm

The 6th Annual Kite Festival will feature displays from a top British Stunt kite team, children's kite-making workshop (with prizes for the best kites made on the day), kite stalls, music, refreshments (including tea and cakes from the W.I.!), bouncy castle, puppet-making workshops and shows, guided walks, and much, much more...

ENTRANCE IS FREE. A collection is made in aid of World Wide Fund for Nature, and traders will be expected to make a donation - to book a pitch call (01462) 459395.

Therfield Heath is a two-and-a-half mile long chalk ridge giving good flying conditions throughout the year. It is also a Site of Special Scientific Interest - home to several nationally rare species - and a Scheduled Ancient Monument, with impressive evidence of human presence ranging from Neolithic times to World War II.

Audiences during the day usually average between 2,000-3,000.

Hope to see you there. For further details contact:

Eoin Bell - Festival Organiser, Countryside Management Service, The Old Dairy, Bedford Road, Ickleford, Herefordshire, SGS 4RR. Telephone (01462) 459395.



Canterbury International Kite Festival, August 31st & September 1st

PLANS are now well in hand for the 2nd Canterbury International Festival on Saturday and Sunday August 31 and September 1.

Behind the event is the South Eastern Kite Society which is organising a feast of single and two line competitions plus two classes for home kite makers on the 48 acre Morton Farm just outside the historic city.

In addition European champions Sky Dance from

Events News

Essex and Kent-based Cross Lines will give a series of displays alongside the Patrouille de Flandres team from Dunkirk, France.

Society chairman Malcolm Roots said there has been a great deal of interest in the festival from the UK and the continent with competitors already promised from France and Belgium.

The weekend includes an altitude sprint, individual and team Rok and Indian fighter competitions and for two-line enthusiasts there will be balloon bursting and limbo contests.

One of the festival's highlights will be the Great Kent Power-Lift challenge with a prize of £100 worth of beer-thats 105 gallons!

Ron and Pat Dell of Kiteability are putting up one of their coveted tankards - together with prizes worth £50 - as prizes in the best homemade kite competition and books worth another £50 are on offer for the best artistic kite on show.

This year's directors prize - a £100 weekend for two in a luxury country hotel near Canterbury - will be awarded to the best banner on the ground and the kids will get a chance to win themselves a kite in the best dressed teddy competition.

Outside the ring there will be plenty to interest everyone with stalls, sideshows, traders. teddy parachuting, beer tent and refreshments. A barbecue with night flying and an auction is being held on the Saturday night

Admission to the ground is free, parking costs £1 and camping is available on the nights of Friday August 30 and Saturday August 31.

Full details are now available in a flyers information pack. To get a copy send a stamped and addressed envelope to: Alan Sage, SEKS, 22 Cherry Drive, Canterbury, Kent CT2 8HF.

For further information contact Alan Sage 01227 462786: David Rose 01227 368789



Salisbury Sky Hoolie. 31st August & 1st September

And now for something different, I hope, fingers crossed etc. This year Cunning Stunts has joined together with Salisbury District Councils' Leisure dept, in putting on a whole weekend of happenings. the basic idea is that everything will link in some way to events in Salisbury, famous local people, historical locations and so on. The event will be very hands-on, very visual and bags of fun for the whole weekend. Plus the best part of all is that it's all free!

The Saturday of the festival will take place throughout the city, with a focus at the City's Elizabeth Gardens. From here there will be a whole range of workshops, from street art, to sculpting 'Stonehenge' and kite workshops. The city streets will be invaded by buskers and performers of all sorts. Historical actors in character will be at key points telling the story of that location.

The evening will see proceedings focus on Elizabeth Gardens once more for an open air concert (starring major local celebs). Backing this up will be a whole range of visual attractions including coloured water fountains, fire sculptures and a laser and search light kite fly from the adjoining water meadows.

Sunday then moves to Hudson's Field for the Sky Hoolie proper. Loads of room to fly, lots of arena demonstrations (hopefully including Ray Bethell as a Salisbury lad made good in the kiting world) plus buggying, team flying, fighter kites, single line kite arena, loads of competitions and the usual helping of spay string and custard.

The whole festival atmosphere will be added to by roving musicians, face painters and clowns. Plus a good range of festival traders, food stalls and a beer tent.

The weekend will then be finished off by Hudson's field being taken over for a night time

Events News

drive-in movie.

Bristol International Kite Festival, Ashton Court, Bristol. 7th & 8th September 1998

This year believe it or not, will be the 11th Bristol International Kite Festival. Following last year's special anniversary year we're keen to put on a really good show again.

Good news! You will be relieved to know that Noel Edmonds and Mr. Blobby have not asked to come back but hopefully there will be plenty of other things going on to keep everyone amused.

Subject to the legalities of a liquor licence we have secured modest but most welcome sponsorship from Kirrin Beer and have therefore decided to encourage a Japanese flavour to the Festival. Invitations are currently out to various Japanese flyers whilst there has also been interest from Robert Trepanier, Jose Sainz and Richard Dutton.

As the Festival runs into Dieppe this year we are liaising with them over possibly sharing some of the overseas guest flyers.

As advised in the last issue we finally ran out of patience with Redwood Lodge and have negotiated a really attractive rate with the Marriott Hotel in central Bristol. Seeing as everyone seems to drive to the site anyway we hope the extra 10 minutes won't make much difference? The good news is that they are offering a double room for £45 per night including breakfast, with free parking for residents.

To ring the changes we are also holding the Saturday evening party in the Terrace Bar & Conservatory at the Hotel. Tickets priced £14 per head will include a welcome drink, a sit down meal, tasteful music (in one room only) and Auction. The menu will be seasonal salad, then help yourself buffet selection of Chicken in a Mustard Sauce, Escalope of Salmon in a Herb Cream Sauce, Mushroom Stroganoff, vegetables

and potatoes and a choice of Apple pie, assorted Gateaux and Profiteroles with Chocolate Sauce. Anyone who just wishes to join in for post meal drinks and Auction etc. can come along later.

The usual system of Kite Society privileged car parking will be in operation, though we may have to move the location of this due to imminent planning permission on the normal site for public parking. It will all be clearly signposted on the day. For car passes please send an legible SAE to the address below and these will be issued, until we run out, on a first come first served basis.

Camping is still a nightmare but the Council have promised to try to help us this year. So if you're interested send an SAE and we'll try to keep you informed.

We got into a lot of trouble last year for allowing other cars, campers etc. onto the kite site. One plea - when asked to move some people got very stropky with us and the parking officials which is really not fair! This is a kite festival not a car boot sale so please don't flout the rules as you put our good relationship with the Council in jeopardy.

If you would like further information contact Avril Baker/Jackie Wills at the festival office on 0117 977 2002. SAEs should be sent to 5 Lilymead Avenue, Bristol BS4 2BY.

To book rooms call the Marriott direct on 0117

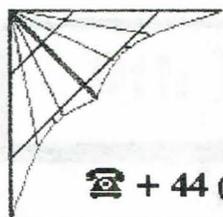


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**THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY IN SPIRAL WOUND TAPERED & NON-TAPERED
CARBON SPARS. WE HAVE ALL THE FITTINGS INCLUDING
CENTRE "X" PIECES, FERRULES, NOCKS & END CAPS ETC.**

**TOGETHER, DUNSTABLE KITES & W. F. COMPOSITES SPONSER TEAM "TRISTAR"
WITH "G - FORCE" SPARS & FITTINGS FOR THEIR THORNBIRD ULTRALIGHTS.
THIS GIVES THEM A 25% WEIGHT SAVING &
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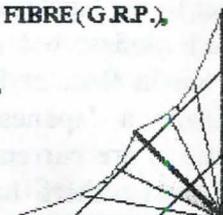
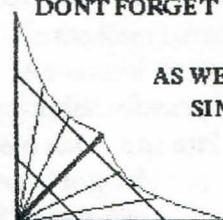
DONT FORGET WE HAVE A HUGE RANGE OF RIPSTOP, STANDARD CARBON, GLASS FIBRE (G.R.P.),

PLUS ALL THE FITTINGS & ACCESSORIES YOU WILL EVER NEED.

AS WELL AS OUR RANGE OF SRORT KITES WE ALSO STOCK POWER KITES,
SINGLE LINERS, BOX KITES, ORIENTAL KITES & SPIN SOCKS ETC.

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2nd Canterbury International Kite Festival

SOUTH EASTERN KITE SOCIETY

2nd Canterbury International KITE FESTIVAL

SATURDAY AUGUST 31st 1996

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 1st 1996

MERTON FARM, MERTON LANE,
NACKINGTON ROAD, CANTERBURY,
(ON THE B2069 CANTERBURY TO H(7)THE ROAD)

11AM - 5PM DAILY

(PLUS: Breakfast & Night Fly-in Saturday From 7pm)

ADMISSION FREE

PARKING £1 PER DAY

FEATURING

SINGLE, DUAL & QUAD LINE KITES

KITE COMPETITIONS

FLYING DISPLAYS by

European Champions and World No 4

SKY DANCE (GB)

and

Cross Lines (GB)

Patrouille de Flandres (France)

PLUS CHARITY STALLS : SIDESHOWS

KITE TRADERS : REFRESHMENTS

BEER TENT : CHILDREN'S RIDES

TEDDY BEAR & SWEET DROPS FOR THE KIDS (both days)

TEDDY BEAR FANCY DRESS (Sunday 2.30pm)

JUGGLING : CIRCUS SKILLS WORKSHOPS

TWO GREAT DAYS OUT FOR ALL THE FAMILY

WITH PLENTY OF SPACE TO FLY YOUR OWN KITES!

ON-SITE OVERNIGHT CAMPING AVAILABLE
FRIDAY AUGUST 30 & SATURDAY AUGUST 31.FOR FURTHER FESTIVAL INFORMATION
CONTACT ALAN BAGE PHONE 01227 482788.FOR FLYERS INFO PACK SEND S.A.E. TO:
S.E.K.S. FESTIVAL, 22 CHERRY DRIVE, CANTERBURY, KENT, CT2 8HF

OR E-MAIL DRKITE@SNON.COM

Memories of Dieppe



The Dieppe International Kite Festival is recognised as one of the world's best with a selection of kitefliers and makers from around the world, and once a kiteflier has attended a Dieppe Kite Festival they always seem full of praise for the event - apart from the fact that the kite festival is a victim of its own success with too many kitefliers in too small an area, and not enough space to fly kites! Still if you haven't been I would thoroughly suggest a visit this year (more details on page 34).

Jon and I have been lucky in that we have managed to attend every Dieppe Kite Festival since the first in 1980, which was a much smaller affair! As the photos on this page show, there were very few kitefliers and even fewer spectators and it gave little indication of the spectacular event it would turn into. I do remember that in

1980 as newly weds it was our first joint trip abroad and everything seemed very "foreign" including strange French food.

How things change over the years! Although the first event was small scale the 'Brits' were still well represented with about 30 kitefliers coming over on the Newhaven - Dieppe ferry, and it must be said that the time honoured flying off the back of the boat was initiated on the very first trip with small deltas and a hexagon being flown on the way out and a hastily constructed brown paper kite being flown on the way back. I'm afraid that my memory of who was on the trip is a little hazy, but Ron Moulton, Greg Locke, John White, Terry Shea, Mike Pavlow, and Pete Waldron seem to spring to mind. I do remember both Pete Waldron and Mike Pavlow received cups for their kite designs which I think were cellular kites perhaps an early Waldorf box?.

The meal on the Saturday was a much more sedate affair than now with perhaps 50 people eating in an out of town restaurant. Not the bussed trip to the sports hall like today. I do remember that John White caused quite a stir in Dieppe by transporting his 40ft plus kites around in a wicker shopping basket on wheels - even the French traffic stopped for that!!



For those of you who go to Dieppe this year we hope to have a photo montage of all the Dieppe festivals to bring back memories and make some people feel really old - well it is 16 years ago! Look forward to seeing you there.

Gill Bloom

Event Reports

The Easter Fly-in at Worcester was well attended, thank you all who came along; I hope you had an enjoyable day.

It was our 4th Easter Fly-in at the Worcester Countryside Centre, the weather was truly in our favour, fair and with a steady breeze, a very good selection of kites, from childrens workshop sleds, to large and colourful ones were flown.

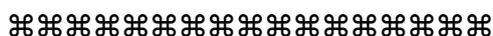
Thanks to the Traders and helpers, also Neville Wing for his workshop. It was gratefully appreciated that contributions to club funds were given by the majority of the traders present. Also proceeds from a raffle helped club funds.

The winners of the raffle were 1st prize to the Longbottom Family; 2nd prize to Mick Burgess; 3rd prize to Mrs Firkin; 4th prize to Mrs Broadhead.

The large turn out of Kite Flyers and Public alike made it a very good day, the more people attend this event the more the Centre benefits.

For those of you who wish to come again, you are WELCOME to join us the 3rd Sunday of every month. For those who didn't come you missed a GREAT DAY.

Fred Taplin



SOUTHAMPTON - THE FESTIVAL THAT NEVER WAS!!!

Sometimes you have the feeling that things were never meant to be. That's rather how the third Southampton Kite Festival appears to the organisers, Solent Kite Flyers and Totton and Eling Lions Club. While never wanting to compete with Weymouth or Portsmouth, we were determined to improve and enlarge the festival a bit each year and place it firmly in the annual UK Kite Calendar. Lack of sponsorship and no funds in the club kept the first two festivals small.

This year was going to be different! Nearly one hundred letters to potential sponsors and a meeting with Southampton City Council's Special Events Manager - optimism was running high. The planned date in June was no good for Special Events, possibly £3000 sponsorship if we could find another date with no Council events planned, but no promises at this stage..... A clear date in May, weather a bit chancey but let's go for it.

"Sorry, we've completed the Special Events Programme now and there's no funding for the Kite Festival" - *&\$#!!!. Should we change the date back?

No, it's been published in Kiteflier, we'll have to go for it. Lots of "very sorry our budget for community support.....blah, blahlots of good causes blahalready spent". OK, so not this year, same little festival, insufficient publicity, no top flyers.....

But, Southampton City Council want an opportunity to promote recycling, waste awareness, environmental protection. If they can have opportunities at the festival they will help with the publicity.....it's back on! Invite the guest flyers, respond to the traders, print the programmes, order the

Event Reports

pin badges, book the Mayor, Southampton Kite Festival 1996 is back on the map.

The elements had other ideas. After less than a quarter of the normal annual rainfall for May and no rain in Southampton for weeks, Saturday, day one of the festival was washed out by grey skies, temperatures that would have seemed unseasonably cold in February and an incessant drizzle only interrupted by the odd torrential downpour. The winds were gusty but fine for kite flying until some severe gusts early afternoon trashed the club kites that had resolutely flown all day.

Hardly anyone braved these conditions. Kites, food, programmes and pin badges remained unsold. Late afternoon the drizzle ceased, Mark Coventry played with a couple of Peter Hall's mini-cats and the solo line area was full on children's sled kites from the workshop. Sunny intervals and occasional showers were forecast for Sunday. Traders and organisers joked that at least "tomorrow couldn't be any worse".....

Torrential rain and strengthening winds interrupted the night's sleep for the two Solent Kite Flyers who remained on site for "security". 3.00a.m., the flapping noises have changed slightly, has something happened? Boots are slipped on as we venture outside for a peep.

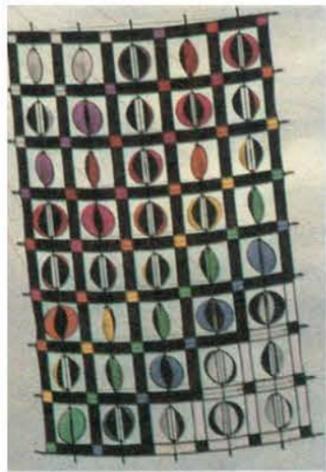
Windpower are wrestling their twisted trade stand into a state where they can collapse it, Force Nine have stripped theirs of any plastic sheeting, Tat's stand is upside down and broken, Kreative Kites' is twisted, Totton and Eling Lions' stand is a pile of splintered timber and twisted metal, Ocean Kites' is in danger of taking to the air at any second and the three marquees are popping poles and pegs.

Plastic sheets are stripped off the stands that are still erect, pegs and stakes are taken from collapsed stands to reinforce the marquees. As the winds swing round from north-east to south-west gusting at over 50 mph, its victims change from minute to minute. The City Council's display marquee starts to lose its canvas, the display inside collapsing. Bottom poles are removed and ropes secured over it to protect what's left. Looking inside the Workshop marquee for another mallet, we find the tables once central are now jammed against the edge. The tent's moved 6 feet to the right! Our sleeping tent gives up the ghost and while we're securing its canvas over the flattened structure the Workshop marquee lifts 6 feet in the air. Kites stakes, road pins, trailers, scaffold poles, anything that comes to hand is used to hold down what remains.

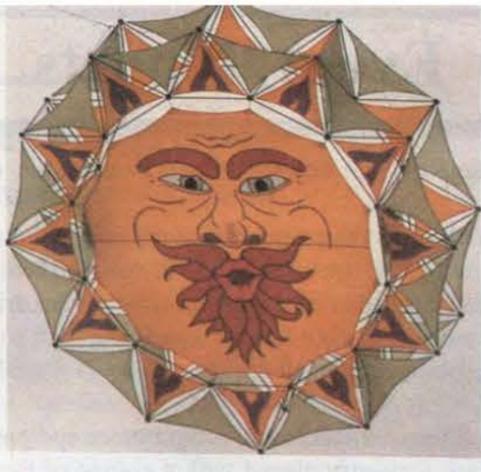
Dawn's grey light illuminates a scene of devastation. Stalwart visitors arrive to winds that refuse to abate to find organisers still struggling to clear up the night's ravages. With poles still popping from the workshop marquee its not safe to hold the children's workshop. Parachuting teddies refuse to leave the toy basket, show kites will definitely not be on show. Team Infinity refusing to be at all daunted by conditions, happily take out their strong wind kites and go into their routines.

Richard Marsh having nearly demonstrated the art of man-lifting with his peel, settles for throwing 90 mph axels with a Nipper. Kite lines snapping, icy rain showers streaking horizontally across the flying field, Solent Kite Flyers reluctantly declare the Festival abandoned and set to clearing up the debris and estimating the losses.

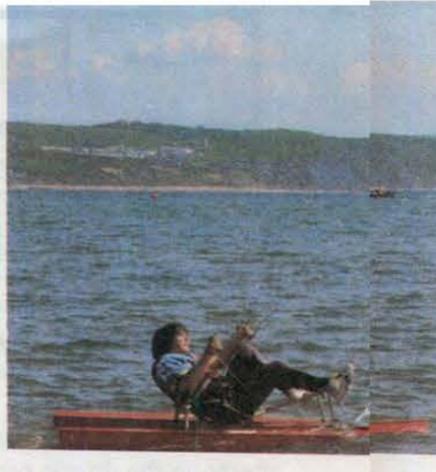
Does anyone want to buy a souvenir programme or Southampton Kite Festival Pin?



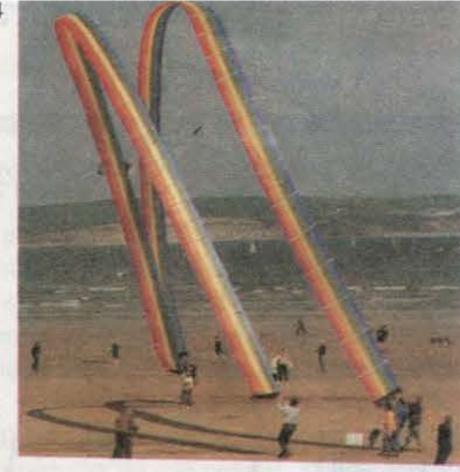
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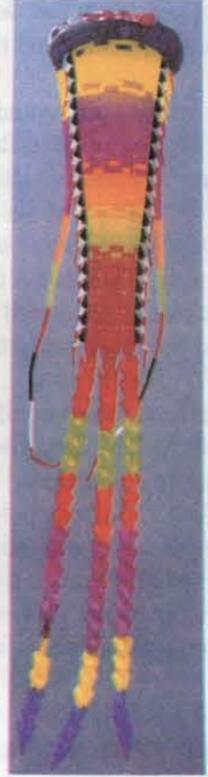
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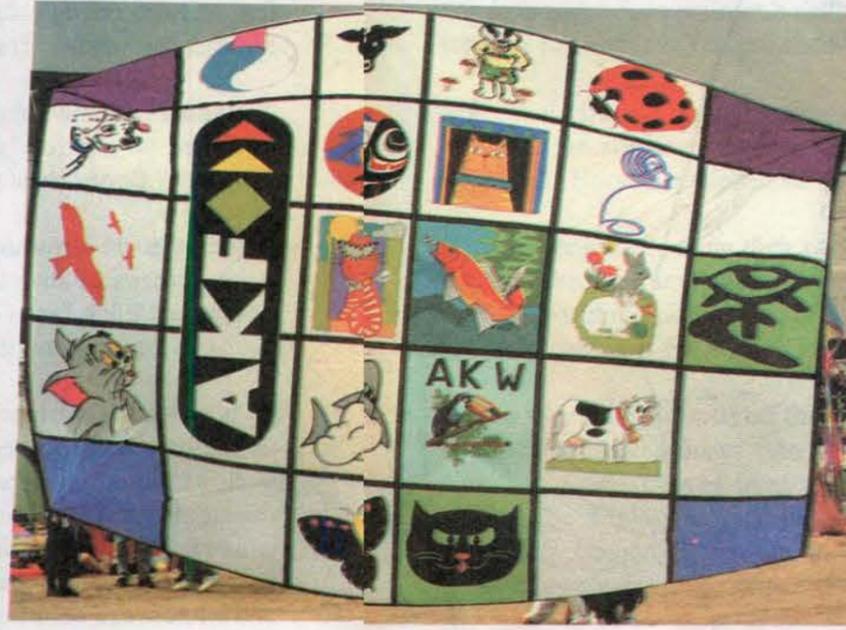
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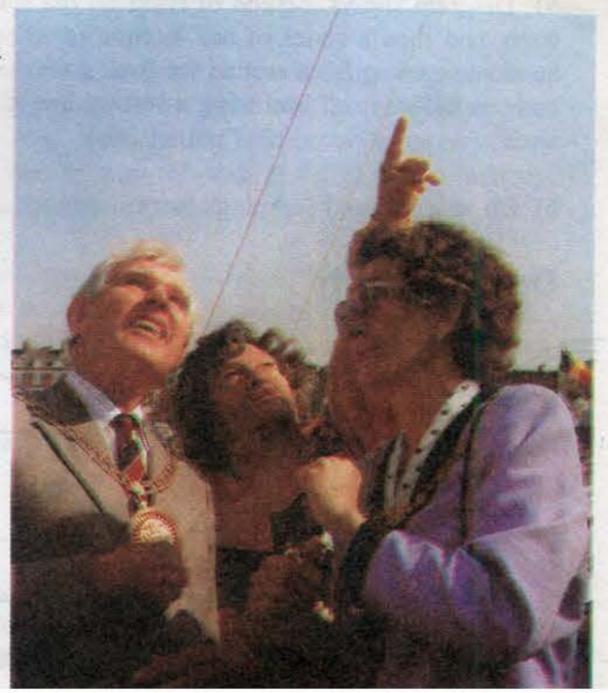


Weymouth International Kite Festival 1996

1. Edo - Wolfgang Grimsel
2. Sun God - Peter Dolphin
3. Andrew Beattie on floats.
4. Peter Dolphin and Rolf Sturm - Double Rainbow.
5. Applique Sode - Willie Koche
6. Kangaroo - Anne Harris
7. Trilobite - Peter Lynn (Owner Peter Dolphin).
8. Avon Kite Fliers Play Sail.
9. Star Kite - Willie Koche
10. Wind Dreams - Art Ross
11. Eurostack - Peter Foulds.
12. Boop Troop Display Kites.
13. Wolfgang Grimsel's wind toys.
14. Mayor and Mayoress with Willie Koche.

Photos by Fred Lailey, Richard Nourse, Tony Bates, Steve Hammatt and Gill Bloom.

14



Budget 4 Line Handle

Having recently made a 4-line traction kite, I went shopping for handles only to learn the cheapest was £36.00! I thought you might appreciate my solution which cost me under two pounds and looks most professional.

1) From a DIY store a 1 metre length of plastic coated steel tubing, cost 98p. More than enough for two handles. A little too big for a spiral bending tool, so whittle a wooden plug to ram into the end, fill with sand and tamp it down before putting another plug in the other end. This will prevent collapsing buckle as you bend it by standing on it and pulling both "short-ends" at ends of tube first, using length for leverage, eventually cutting waste from centre section.

2) I has a scrap of plastic foam about 1" thick which I wrapped around pipe - overlapped, then used string as shown secure this. But I thought sweaty palms and sponge poor companions so sewed cloth rectangles (with 1 inch wide velcro strips) to wrap around the sponge as easily removable washable covers.

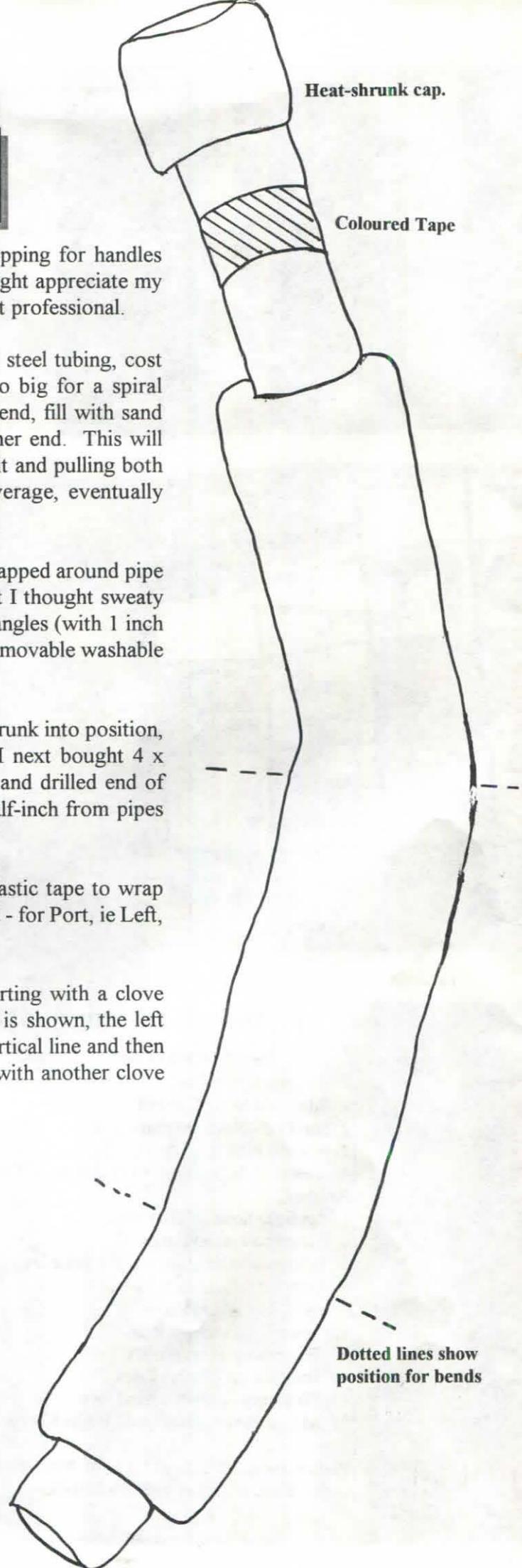
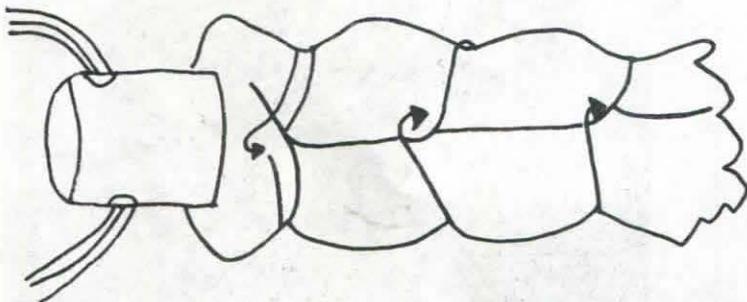
3) I capped the pipe ends with plastic bottle seals heat shrunk into position, you could use plastic tubing (maybe conduit piping). I next bought 4 x oversized key-rings, diameter 1.5", from a key cutters) and drilled end of pipes to accept these. NB Place holes no more than half-inch from pipes end to allow ring to fit on. Cost of rings 60p for four.

4) Lastly, real pro' look achieved by using coloured plastic tape to wrap around top ends of handles, using nautical scheme, is Red - for Port, ie Left, and Green - for Starboard ie Right.

5) Diagram shows method of tying on the sponge, starting with a clove hitch, and then a series of half-hitches, ie where arrow is shown, the left hand line coming from around the back goes over the vertical line and then under it before itself becoming a vertical line, finish off with another clove hitch.

6) Oh, discard sand and plugs (para 1 above).

Douglas Henly



Indian Fun Kites in China

I couldn't afford the trip to China but I persuaded Hilary that we raid what's left of the redundancy money for our first holiday together in 3 years, and hopefully see China before it became too Westernised. It seemed a pity to go all that way, a ten and a half hour flight, and just see Weifang. We decided to take a 7 day tour organised for us by the China International Travel Service which would culminate on our arrival in Weifang, where we became guests of the Government for 5 days. Four days in Beijing, an overnight train journey to Jinan, a day in Ti'an, a day in Qufu (birthplace of Confucius), another day in Ti'an and then onto Weifang, all in Shandong Province.

On our first day in China, I made my way to Tianamen Square where, I had been told, kites were flown in the Spring. Sure enough there were about 50 kites over the Square, most of them Chinese kites like beautiful birds, butterflies, dragonflies and even dragon trains, but also several plastic deltas with bamboo spars. There were several kite vendors selling kites from their bicycles and these plastic deltas seemed to be a very popular choice amongst visitors to the Square. Interesting isn't it?

I wondered what the Chinese would think of my paper & bamboo kite, seeing as they too make kites of paper & bamboo. I launched my kite and 'accidentally' buzzed a few fliers and people. Within a few minutes I had a crowd of about 50 around me, highly amused with the kite and getting excited, with lots of 'oohs' and 'aahs' everytime my kite went near someone. Even the kite vendors came to see how this strange kite seemed able to move around on one line. When I reeled my kite in, they all applauded, then they pounced on my kite and by the time I fought my way to the centre of the group, I found they were measuring my kite using handspans, fingers, some actually had a measuring tapes. They were drawing it on the palms of their hands, on their forearms and in their notebooks and photographing it too. During my regular evening visits to Tianamen Square and even when I flew my kite at the Great Wall, The Emperors Summer Palace, The Forbidden City and The Temple of Heaven (just name dropping) I got used to this 'measuring & examination' procedure which happened dozens of times during my stay in Beijing and during the time in Shandong Province. Language problems made it difficult to explain how the kite was controlled, and even the word bamboo, which is understood and used around Europe, USA and India, was not used in China. I soon learned the Chinese word for bamboo.

During my first visit, I gave a kite to an elderly kiteflier, who was very interested in my kite. This nearly caused a riot as everyone wanted one. The next day, at the Square, this same man came, and with a big grin all over his face, showed me his attempt at copying an Indian kite. He had the identical shape and size but it was impossible to fly. People don't always understand the subtleties of working the bamboo sticks. I had taken about 50 kites to give away as presents, but after the hassle of the first present, I decided not to give anymore kites. One evening over 100 people watched as some children chased my kite from left to right and vice-versa. They organised a rota system for different groups of children to have a go at chasing the kite. It became dark at about 6.00 PM, the floodlights came on in Tianamen Square and the crowd wouldn't let me go because not all the children had had a go, and I was still entertaining the children and the crowd at 9.00 PM when, sadly, I said I had to go. Somehow, language isn't a problem when everyone is smiling. On the Saturday & Sunday, there were hundreds of kites flying in Tianamen Square more than we have flying at many a kite festival. The long dragon train kites were having problems with all the plastic deltas. I was sad to leave Beijing and the many friends I'd made in Tianamen Square, but not sad to leave the traffic jams, the mobile phones and the numerous Mercedes and Audi cars everywhere.

At the end of the 7 day tour we arrived at Weifang (pronounced Weefung) station and were taken to our hotels. It was then that Hilary & I learned we were the 'Indian Team'. I had exchanged several faxes with Mr Liu Yu Kui, the organiser, and offered to be Indian for the festival, seeing as I was born in India and only fly Indian kites, and unknown to me he had taken up this option. Great Britain was being represented by the others in the group.

The following day, Saturday, was the opening ceremony of the 13th Weifang International Kite festival. We went under police escort in a convoy of about 30 cars, buses & mini-buses with national flags flying out of the buses. We felt very important as this official convoy went through and all traffic onto the main road was stopped and the locals stared with interest.

Indian Fun Kites in China



The opening ceremony took place in an enormous sports stadium at about 6.30 PM with no kiteflying and the only kites to be seen were those held in their hands by invited kitefliers. All the kitefliers from the numerous countries were taken into the arena to form groups. Several dozen very pretty Chinese girls, each with a large placard with the name of the country, headed each group. We all looked around in amazement at the enormity of the spectacle around us. The stadium was full and I think over 75,000 were there, perhaps more. Soon a band started playing marching type music and a procession began with a very large flag carried by about 12 people. Other groups followed and we were asked to follow behind the girl with the placard as she walked proudly holding the placard aloft. I had looked around the arena and seen all the flags blowing in all directions, but as I followed I launched my kite and flew it around the whole perimeter of the arena, rolling it over the heads of the dignitaries and the public. People stood up and applauded as I passed. Perhaps it was the first kite seen flying at the opening ceremony of the Weifang International Kite Festival. *(Note from Ed: We attended the first Weifang Kite Festival and the several hours were spent flying kites in the stadium!)* It was lovely seeing the looks on peoples faces as the kite rolled above their heads. When I got back to the centre of the arena with the other kitefliers, lots of them came to examine the kite more closely, and guess what, they went into measuring mode. I kept being asked to come to kite festivals in some very unpronounceable places in China. TV

crews wanted to interview me and people kept giving me the thumbs up sign, with grins all over their faces.

There then followed lots of groups performing the most amazing and exciting shows, in many different costumes as well as dragon and lion-dog dances etc. It was like being at the Olympics. We were all then escorted to an area of seating for the kitefliers and we watched the most amazing display in the arena by several groups of children and soldiers, each in groups of a hundred or so.

After about an hour of displays, we were treated to the most amazing fireworks display we had ever seen. The highlight of the fireworks display was a 'waterfall effect' about 50 mtrs above the arena and about 100 mtrs long. A water bowser had been damping down the area below and we all thought it was a safety measure. Then the 'waterfall' began at one end and continued across the whole length, and continued for about 20 minutes. A curtain of white fireworks fell like water and actually bounced on the ground giving a 'splashing effect'. At the end of the display we returned to the hotel in convoy and most of us didn't want to go to our rooms. We just wanted to talk to each other to confirm the experience.

The next day was the kite festival. We were told to be ready by 7.30 AM and were escorted, again in official convoy, on a drive of about 30 minutes to the kiteflying site. There seemed to be half a



Indian Fun Kites in China

minutes to the kiteflying site. There seemed to be half a million people there and all the foreign kitefliers soon got to work launching their kites giving a lovely display for the crowds. All groups of visiting kitefliers were surrounded by lots of Chinese who showed interest in the kites. I had the usual crowd around me. Some wanted to swop kites, others thrust Yuan (Chinese dosh) at me, the measuring procedure was in full swing, as they took and drew all the details of my kite, whilst I was busily giving interviews to the numerous TV crews covering the event.

We flew kites from 9.00am to 11.30am, when we were asked to return to the bus for our packed lunches, and then told that we must be ready at 2.00PM at the buses for our return to the hotel. We couldn't believe it, but we had travelled from UK to China for a one day kite festival of about 5 hours, of which 1 hour was spent having lunch. David Gomberg and the American contingent, had their packed lunches taken out to the 'stockade' where they were surrounded by a large crowd. I'd know better next time, though I'm not sure I'd want to have a packed lunch with an audience. I flew my kite by the bus and entertained the dozens of soldiers as they ducked whenever the kite came near them. They also had their lunch, whilst keeping a beady eye on the kite at all times. With grins all over their faces, they gave me the 'thumbs up' sign which must mean they enjoyed the game, unless this means something different in China.

Later in the evening a prizewinning ceremony was held in the hotel. I was asked to step up and join David Gomberg, Nakamura and an Indonesian lady as one of the four prizewinners. It seems that a group of judges had walked around the flying site deciding the winners. I received a large cup from the Minister for Propaganda and didn't catch the translation to know what it for. I emailed Dave Gomberg and he told me it was probably for being the most acrobatic kite, because the other prizes were for the biggest, the longest and something else. I faxed Mr Liu and asked him and here is his reply. "Because all the Weifang people like your kite. You played tricks during the opening ceremony and at the flying arena. The leaders from high ranks and the people from all walks saw your kite and your performances. They knew it was very difficult to fly your kite and you must have very high skill for it. So you should absolutely get the prize".

Well I never, and I thought it was for being the best looking and modest kiteflier there! I had taken about 50 kites to give as presents as I didn't think the Chinese could afford to buy them. I was surprised to be asked the price and so many wanted to buy a kite that I knew I couldn't satisfy the demand, furthermore, I was worried they may not be aware of the skill involved. Several Chinese kitefliers found their way to my hotel room to try to obtain a kite, even TV crews wanted one. One TV producer spent an hour in the room asking for a kite. Ironically I brought back half of my kites as I could never have supplied everyone who wanted a kite and one sale would have caused a riot. During the 5 days we were taken on visits to kite factories, silk factories and to a village where we were shown a traditional Chinese wedding and then in groups of six or seven we were taken to a farmers house to enjoy a 'farmer's feast'. Other touristy type places like the Kite Museum were also on the itinerary.

The similarity to India was that people just bought a kite and flew it without any need to know who had made it. Whilst in Beijing, I saw lots of kites being flown from narrow green areas by the roads and from the bridges over the ring road, but I didn't see many kite shops except for those kites I saw in the Friendship Store and the vendors in Tianamen Square. In Weifang, I saw kites being sold everywhere, even in large Western-type Department Stores, but I rarely saw a kite being flown around the city, which claims to be the International Capital of Kites.

I have been asked to bring some British kitefliers next year, so anyone interested in going to Weifang should contact me for any information on costs and possible tours. It certainly was an exciting experience I shall always remember. I had turned down a 3 island kiteflying tour in the Dutch West Indies because it clashed with Weifang. I'd like to go back again sometime and see again all the good friends I made during the stay. China is an experience not to be missed.

9th International Kite Festival

Dieppe, September 1996

We are now taking registrations for the 2nd Weekend (September 14th - 15th). Registration is necessary in order to have the FREE Saturday evening meal and to benefit from the accommodation facilities on offer. Registrants will be entitled to an access badge to the flying areas and to a pass for reserved parking spaces - **both issued upon arrival in Dieppe.**

As before hostel accommodation, including continental breakfast, is available - FREE Friday and Saturday nights, 50FF per person (including children) Thursday and Sunday nights. Free camping site reservations are also available.

Please note that the free Saturday evening meal and free hostel accommodation is only available to the registered person, partner and their children. So please copy the form and make separate registrations for all other members of the party - unless they want to pay.

Please fill in the form below and return it to us by 28th July. We will forward the completed list to the organisers in Dieppe. We would like to point out that we have no control over the allocation of hostel places or camp sites - any queries with these will have to be taken directly to the organisers in Dieppe.

For those who wish to enter the competition the theme this year is "Transparence et colours". There are three categories - amateur, professional and junior. Please indicate your category on the form. This is only to give the organisers an idea of numbers - you will have to enrol formally upon arrival. The competition is being judged from 9:30am to 1:00pm on Sunday 15th. The order of appearance will be determined by a random draw organised at 9:30am Sunday 15th.

Name:

Address

Saturday Evening Meal (8pm)

(Please enter number of meals)

12th	13th	14th	15th	

Hostel Accommodation

(Please enter number of beds)

(50FF per person 12th & 15th)

Camp Site.

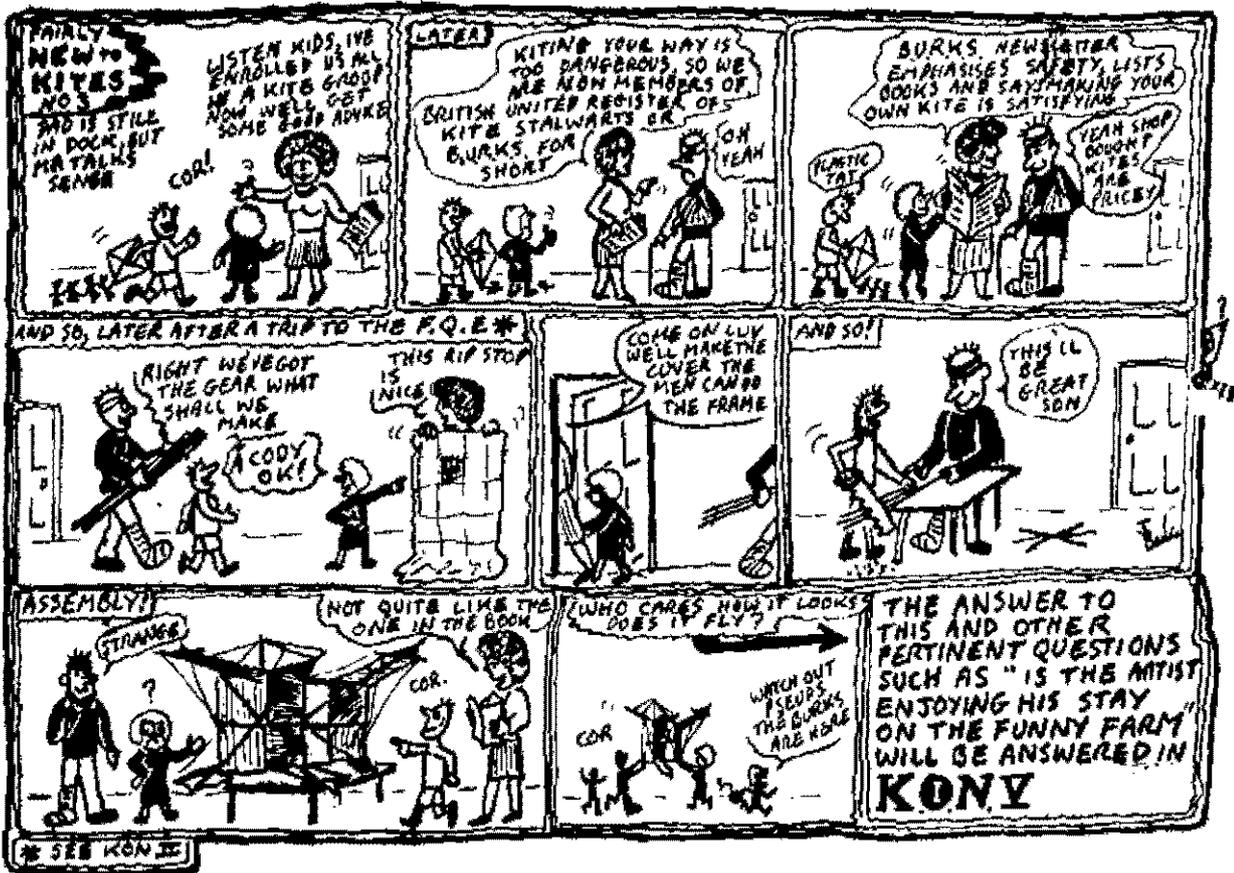
(Please show number of units)

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For other accommodation try
Dieppe Tourist Office + 33 35 84

**Please return this form to The Kite Society, P.O. Box 2274, Gt Horkesley, Colchester CO6 4AY
BY 28th July.**

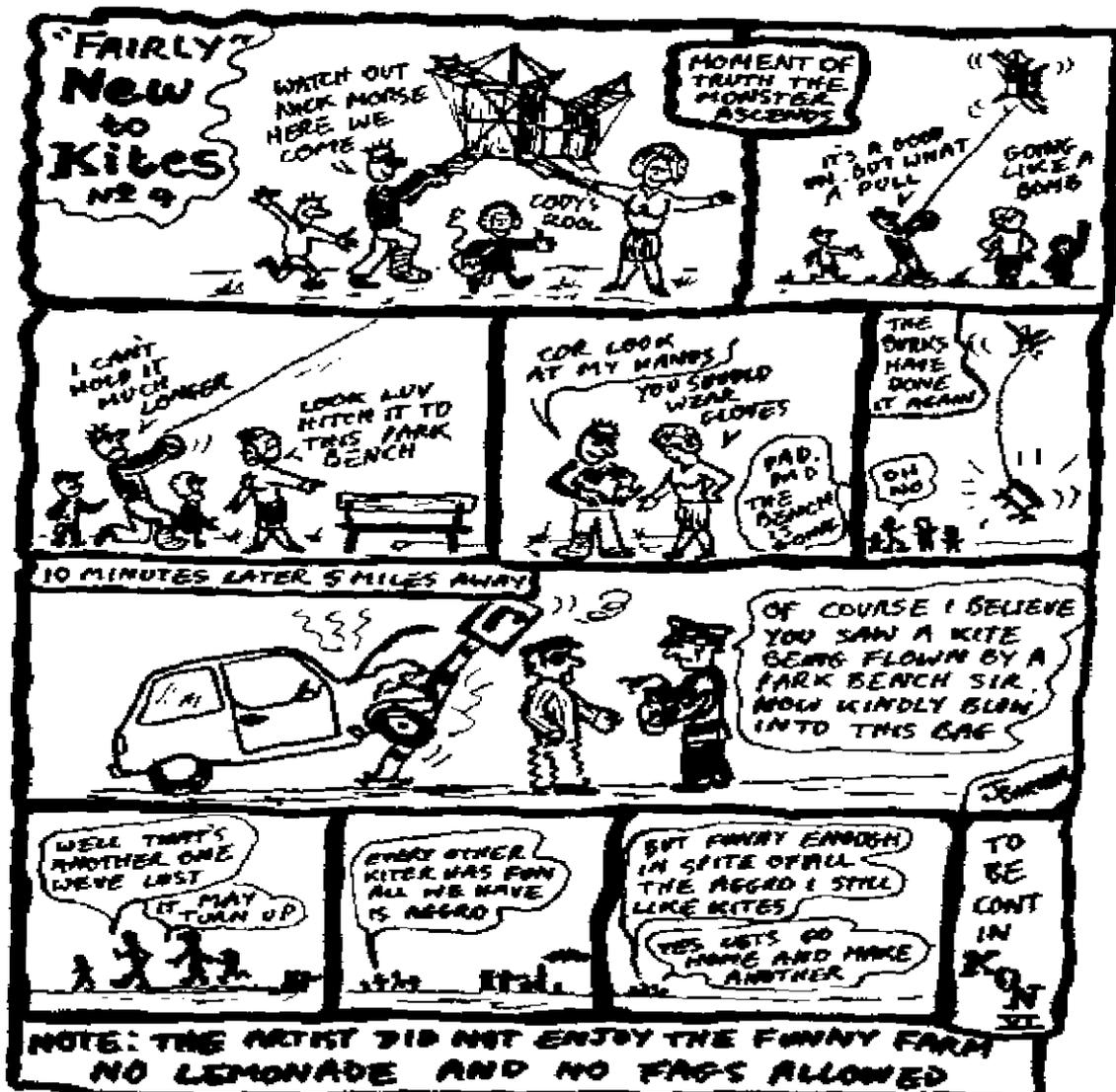
Please note - we will not be sending acknowledgements of your registrations.



This is the continuing story of "New to Kites" - started in the April issue. These first started to appear in the second issue of The Kiteflier Occasional Newsletter as it was called then).

Drawn by John Barker (BOF to his friends).

F.Q.E. = Flying Queerthing Emporium.



KITE EVENT CALENDAR

U.K. Major Kite Events		
July 13th & 14th	Wales International Kite Festival, Monmouth Wales.	The Kite Store
July 13th & 14th	Brighton Kite Festival, Stanmer Park	Air Born Kites
July 21st	Blackheath Summer Rally, London	Kent Kite Klub
August 3rd & 4th	Festival of Free Flight, Middle Wallop.	Mev Turner
August 24th - 26th	Portsmouth International Kite Festival	The Kite Society
August 31st & Septem-	Canterbury International Kite Festival.	SEKS
August 31st & Sptem-	Salisbury Sky Hoolie, Salisbury.	Cunning Stunts
September 7th & 8th	Bristol International Kite Festival, Ashton Court,	Avril Baker
September 22nd	Old Warden Kite Festival, Biggleswade, Beds.	The Kite Society

Other U.K.Kite Events		
July 7th	Petworth Kite Day, Petworth Park, West Sussex.	Kiteability
July 20th & 21st	Golden Valley Kite Festival, Tewkesbury.	Neville Wing
July 21st	Fenland Kite Festival	Viv Peters
July 27th & 28th	Barmouth Beach Kite Festival, Wales	Sky Bums
July 28th	Giant Kite Fly, Crewkerne, Somerset.	Robin Teague
August 3rd & 4th	Attingham Park Kite Festival, Shrewsbury	Tony Slater
August 10th & 11th	Teston Bridge Kite Fly, Kent	Kiteability
August 10th & 11th	Cannock Chase Kite Festival, Staffs.	Cannock Kites
August 11th	Bournemouth Kite Festival, Hengistbury Head.	Greg Lock
August 17th & 18th	5th East Kent Kite Festival, Palm Bay, Margate.	Heather Town
August 18th	Blackwater Valley Kite and Juggling Thing	Alan Williams
August 18th	Coventry Kite Festival, Memorial Park, Coventry.	MKF
August 18th	4th Oldham Kite Day, Oldham Edge.	Ron Ogden
September 20th - 22nd	Caernarfon Kite Festival, Clynogg-Fawr, Wales.	MKF
September 21st - 29th	Brean Sands Kite Week.	B.B.C.
September 21st & 2nd	Kites over Bewl Water, Lamberhurst, Kent.	Heather Town

Major Overseas Kite Events		
September 6th - 15th	Dieppe International Kite Festival.	

KITE EVENT CALENDAR

STACK Events	
July 27th & 28th	Fylde Kite Festival. Open Team competition and Round 3 UK National
August 3rd & 4th	World Cup VII, Japan
September 7th & 8th	Bristol Kite Festival. Round 4 UK National Pairs. Quad Line UK Nation-
	For information of these and other STACK events please contact Avril Baker.

Contact List	
The Kite Society	P.O. Box 2274, Gt Horkesley, Colchester CO6 4AY.
Air Born Kites	97 Trafalgar Street, Brighton BN1 4ER. ☎01273 676740
Tony Bates	32 Ashleigh Close, Hythe, Southampton SO4 6QP.
B.B.C.	P.O. Box 4015, Smethwick, Warley West Midlands B67 6HJ
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
SEKS	A Sage, 22 Cherry Drive, Canterbury, Kent CT2 8HF. ☎01227 462786
Avril Baker	5 Lilymead Avenue, Bristol BS4 2BY. ☎0117 977 2002
Sky Bums	01743 244677
MKF	4 Hermitage Court, Oakwood, Derby DE21 2LG. ☎01332 669203
Neville Wing	9 Howard Road, Tewkesbury, Glos GL20 8QX.
Ron Ogden	☎0161 682 9308
Viv Peters	☎01353 778955
Cunning Stunts	☎01722 410588
Alan Williams	☎01276 678798
Greg Lock	☎01202 451175.
Mev Turner	☎01225 702755
Robin Teague	37 Wynyards View, Crewkerne, Somerset. ☎01460 75445
Heather Town	19 Hazlewood Close, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 3HW. ☎01892 545596

Portsmouth International Kite Festival

The Portsmouth International Kite Festival takes place on Southsea Common, Southsea, Hampshire on Saturday 24th, Sunday 25th and Monday 26th August and is jointly run by The Kite Society and Portsmouth City Council. The site is a large grassed area and there are many local facilities including a leisure centre - so plenty to keep the non-flyer happy. Other events that are happening during the weekend including the Portsmouth Music Big Top on Castle Field Thursday to Sunday. This is a free music festival featuring a mix of music styles; Giant Fireworks display Friday night.

Saturday and Sunday will have a full programmed arena displays with the Monday, once again being a relaxed, informal day. You will be pleased to hear that no massive marquee is being built this year.

There will be free car parking for kitefliers for which a pass is required. This is available from us using the form below. The festival will run along the same lines as previous years with displays and contests, including the final rounds of the U.K. Rokkaku Challenge. We are hoping to have a good mix of guest kite fliers from around the world including the USA and Europe (unfortunately Peter Lynn couldn't make it this year). Also coming are some of the best from the U.K. including World Champions Aircraft.

Accommodation for the event has been arranged at the Portsmouth University Halls of Residence which are sited at the edge of the common. Accommodation is £14.45 per person including full English or Continental breakfast. If you want to book this then please phone Liz Jackson on 01705 843178, Fax 01705 843182. For details of other accommodation options - ie B&B and camping contact the Portsmouth Tourist Office 01705 826722.

Kite traders are welcome on the site and the cost for the two days £95.00 and all three days £125.00. Please note payment is required BEFORE the event. Send cheques, made payable to The Kite Society

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

Name

Address

Post Code

Car Passes Required

(One required for complete weekend)

DEAR BKF...

I just returned from a super sponsored kite trip to Honolulu, Hawaii, where I competed and gave daily multiple kite demonstrations at the Hawaii Challenge, the Paradise Cup and the Honolulu Kite Festival, winning four golds and a bronze. When I checked my mail at home I found I had won another GOLD which was the Life Membership to your club - it is indeed an honour to be a member, thank you all very much.

I have always felt as if I was a part of the Brighton Kite Flyers since you gave me such a warm welcome a few years ago, and I am looking towards the day when I can meet and fly with you all again. I was so pleased to have met Barry Pitman in Australia - I was eager to hear all about the BKF and what has been happening since I was last there. We had a super time, but there is never enough time to do everything one plans - especially in my case - where I am sponsored to give daily demonstrations. Don't tell anyone but I love every moment!

1995 was a very busy year for me with two sponsored kite trips Down Under, and sponsored trips across Canada and the US. This year is going to be even busier, if that's possible, and I hope to be able to send you a few stories for your (sorry, that should now be 'our'!) newsletter.

Your newsletter is always a joy to read (I do pass it around both our clubs) especially for me, being an old English lad - although I'm not saying how OLD! No one gets my age right - in fact I don't know myself. It's the sponsors who do all the write ups and when people come up to me after demonstrations and ask "are you really 76 years old?" I tell them to check with my sponsors as I don't know how old I am at this festival - it's always good for a laugh! It's also true that my job is to entertain and put on the best show possible for the entertainment of the spectators and the satisfaction of the sponsors and the organisers. I love what I do and I do what I love!

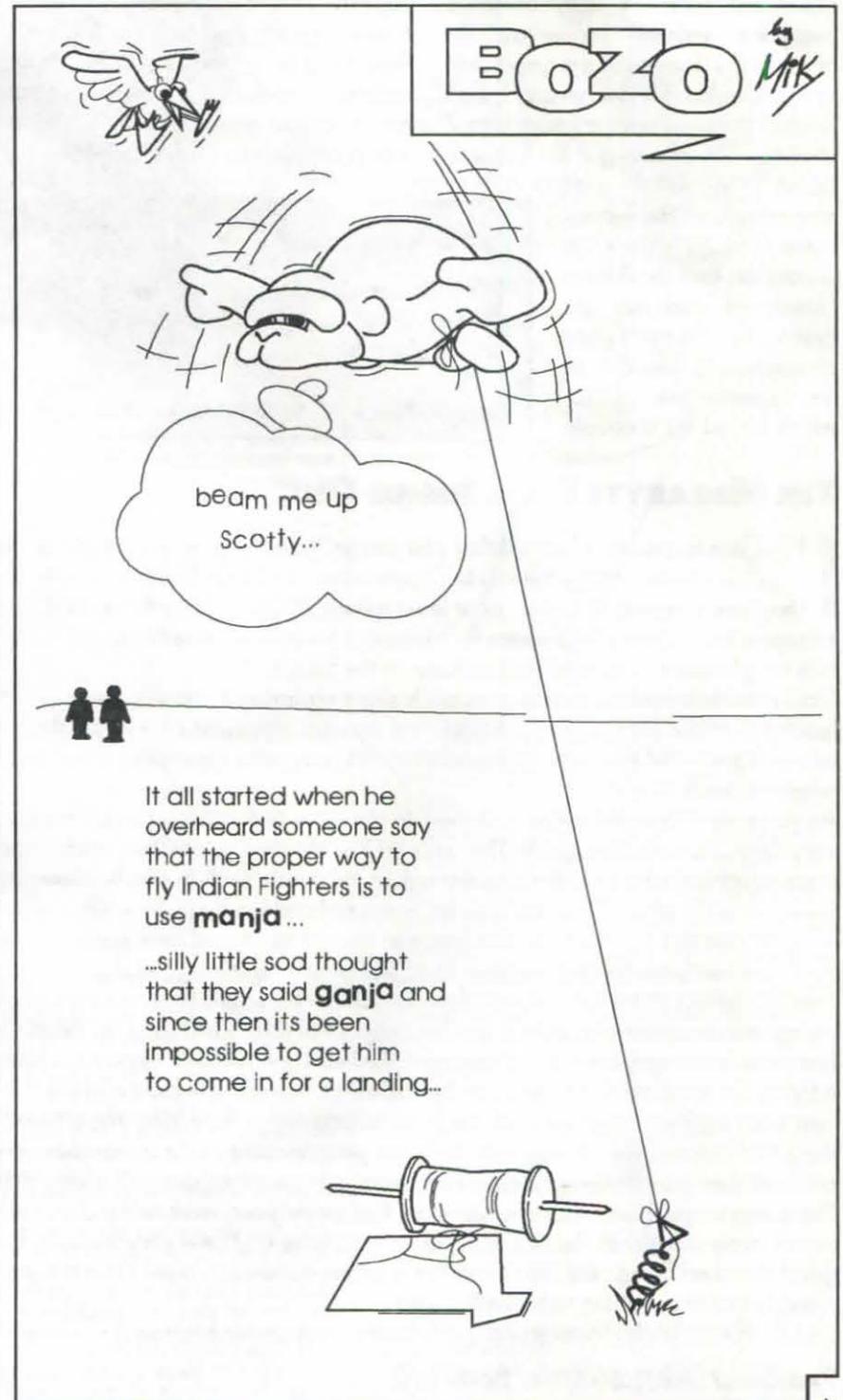
Thank you all again... "GOOD STUFF"

RAY BETHELL (VANCOUVER/CANADA)

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July 1996

the newsletter of the brighton kite flyers



DIEPPE VISITS BRIGHTON

Serge Gaillard, one of the Dieppe International Kite Festival organisers, often comes to Brighton and wished to bring some French fliers over the Channel for a visit and a joint fly-in on the seafront. This was to coincide with the Dieppe Market, which visits Brighton every year during the Arts Festival. They arrived on Saturday 18 May and we invited them to a local Italian restaurant with 14 BKF members. Everyone seemed to enjoy the occasion - it looked like a good start to the weekend. How wrong I was! Sunday dawned with a Force 6 to 7 blowing. When we got to Brighton beach the wind was screaming and the waves were crashing in over the windsocks that the French contingent had set up. Eventually Pierre Fabre courageously flew one of his spectacular kites, which lasted for a couple

of hours before sadly being caught by a gust and getting trashed on a wire fence. That was the deciding moment and everyone started to pack up.

Parking was also a problem as it always is in Brighton. They were hassled by the police on two occasions and it was only down to Simon Hennessey that they were able to get privileged parking on the promenade. It's not what you know, but who you know! Thank you Brighton Council for the help that was *not* offered to our guests.

It was decided then to go to Stanmer Park for a less windy fly-in, but they needed a drink first. So after visiting four pubs that were closed after 3pm, we finally found a student bar open at

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the University of Sussex. Hoorah!! Off to Stanmer Park for a fly, but we didn't reckon on the horse trials that were on. Horses and kites don't mix as most of us know - and the horsey people were certainly quick to let us know! No flying until the show ended. At that point I had to leave them, but I'm sure they were there for some time as their Stena Lynx was cancelled and the ferry back to Dieppe was running three hours late! What a day!!!!

Thanks to all who supported the event from both sides of the Channel - including Don Eccleston and Derek Kuhn of the Midland Kite Fliers.

RAY OAKHILL

THE CULTURAL BIT: No 13

Through an upraised hand holding a single length of string, we experience the joining of heaven and earth.

TSUTOMU HIROI (KITES SCULPTING THE SKY)

THE MEGABYTE FROM INSIDE OUT

If this kite is ever at a festival that you can get to it really is worth making the effort, not only to see it fly but if at all possible - to see it from the inside. I count myself lucky for being given the opportunity of a virtually private viewing. I had been helping to launch, or at least inflate, the giant Megabyte for a time in the hot Italian sunshine. With barely enough wind and very little space for launching it was only possible to see the brightly coloured one hundred and eighty feet long beast as it lounged enormously on the beach.

From outside it looks impressive as each slight variation in the wind makes it come to life. The twenty or so little legs (each one about six feet long) on each side move in waves and the whole thing moves as the wind changes direction by a few degrees. Wherever you are standing this is a pretty impressive bit of engineering, but it really comes home to you when you walk inside.

As you enter through the mouth of the kite the giant pink ripstop tongue closes the gap behind you, sealing you in to a very large cartoon like space. The colours, like the dimensions, are much larger than life. As you walk from the black area, which is the head of the kite, through to the purple section - the light becomes even more pleasing. The purple goes on for about fifty feet then becomes red and finally yellow. The colours by this time had left me feeling pretty relaxed so I found a nice place in the tail to sit and look back. From inside all the kite's floating movements create the feeling that you could be flying yourself.

Sitting in the tail I watched the kite fill with people. First came the photographers who stood in the head area trying to capture the whole thing on film. Then lots of other kite flyers, quickly followed by legions of curious Romans. The first ones in are very cautious; stopping in the head and wondering perhaps how many people it needs inside to prevent it flying. Or just stopping to gaze at the cathedral like space in front of them. It is shaped like a Nissan hut, about seventy feet wide by forty feet high and one hundred and eighty feet long. The stained glass quality of the ripstop nylon is the thing that creates the atmosphere. As more people come in the atmosphere changes to much more of a party as first children, then parents and grandparents become intoxicated due to the very bizarre surroundings.

The queue to get in was four people wide, fast moving and went on for about an hour. On the second day, with a slightly more favourable wind, the kite was put up with ease and flew very steadily for a couple of hours. I could tell you how good it looked flying - but that's another reason you need to see it. I will tell you that when it came down the queue was already in place waiting to be swallowed.

Thanks to Aquilandia for organising this event - with so much to see and such a nice place to do it.

PAUL THODY (AIR BORN KITES/BRIGHTON)

HAWAII CHALLENGE 96

The Hawaii Challenge (2 & 3 March) was not as wide scaled as the Falhawk Paradise Cup or the Honolulu Kite Festival because of the lack of sponsorship. None the less, it was well organised and well attended. The competitions ran very smoothly on Saturday - the weather was great, with trade winds of 15 - 20mph gusting to 25mph at times. This being one of the reasons it's called the Hawaii Challenge as the winds are so unpredictable and can change direction four times in a five minute routine. I got good TV and news media coverage which brought all the Canadians that were on holiday in Honolulu out to the Festivals to support me. There were hundreds from all over Canada and they all made themselves known to me, which was very heart warming. After finishing a demonstration I was asked to come to the main tent and on arriving there I found a couple of hundred people gathered together. As I got closer they

parted and started singing 'Happy Birthday' - on one of the tables was the biggest birthday cake I have ever seen compliments of the organisers and owner of Kite Fantasy. What a super surprise - everyone enjoyed the cake! Robert put the first Challenge on in 1983 and this was his 14th year. Hundreds and hundreds of top flyers from around the World (both Teams and Individuals) have competed and performed at the event over the years, I hope it carries on for many more.

Sunday was the second day of competitions and was overcast with winds blowing 25mph, gusting to 30mph at times, with heavy rain showers. This kept a lot of the spectators away, but somehow we managed to complete the competitions. I flew three Kestrels for the TV sports channel which was aired later that night - in spite of the high winds and rain it came out very well.

The award banquet was very warm and friendly with great food. The awards were won predominantly by the Japanese, who were very good flyers with great routines. I did manage to pick up a couple of golds.

One evening Robert and I did some night flying to the joy of many spectators that were strolling the beach. I was putting on a show with three kites in a very small confined area - I had landed two and was just about to bring the third in for a landing when it got caught in the biggest and

ARDINGLY AUTUMN SHOW

After the success of last year's event, Ardingly will once again play host to members of the Brighton Kite Flyers. We have been invited to give demonstrations and drop bears at the South of England Showground, West Sussex, on Sunday 6 October of this year.

If you wish to attend please let me know ASAP, or by 31 August at the very latest, so that I can organise free entry for you to the site. Unfortunately this offer is only open to BKF members (but you've just about got time to join if you're quick!). For further details I can be contacted in the evenings at home on: 01273 306842.

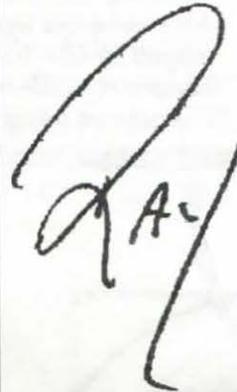
RAY OAKHILL

highest tree in all of Honolulu! No way could it be retrieved unless we borrowed the \$40,000 crane brought in for the

big 'Boys' Day Carp'. But "No Worry" - a phone call to my kite sponsor and he sent a new one by fast post which I got the next day. The kite was still in the tree the day I left - the kite flyers were calling it the 'Kestrel Bethell Monument! I would like to thank Robert and Barbara Loena for their sponsorship and for their hospitality and friendship, plus

being perfect hosts - "Good Stuff!" I would also like to thank Alan Nagao and Falhawk Co Ltd for their kite sponsorship and for sponsoring me to go to the Paradise Cup and the Honolulu Festival. I had a super time and I hope I was able to add a little to make your festival the success it indeed was - Thank You.

RAY BETHELL
(VANCOUVER/CANADA)



WEYMOUTH 96

The Brighton Kite Flyers were once again well represented at the Weymouth International Beach Kite Festival (4 - 6 May) - with the Oakhills, Hennesseys, Poulters, Swifts and Chittys. Toody and Mik had just

moved flats, so they had a great deal to do. All the usual antics took place on the beach, with someone flying two liners at 5am, shortly followed by the White Horse Kite Flyers. Do these guys ever sleep? We had light winds on the Saturday and lighter winds on Sunday, but it picked up on Monday with a splendid display by the International guests. Whenever possible Art Ross was flying Wind Dreams, his enormous tailed flowform - Don Mock flew flowforms as often as possible too. Pete Dolphin, AKA President 1996, gave a fine display of line junk hung on another flowform and Rolf Sturm flew Snoopy and the Red Baron as well as dropping teddy bears from a very well engineered ferry. However, his parachute packing was not so well engineered, as his teddys did some Roman Candles during the afternoon!

A new tradition was instigated by members of the BKF at the festival, it involved the demon drink! So what's new? A Port and Stilton party, that's what! Partaken on a wall at the side of the road in the middle of Weymouth! So who cares? I do for one! It seems that the reputation of the BKF is sliding into the ever deepening abyss! Who said "What reputation"? All in all a great weekend.

RAY OAKHILL

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RETURN TO THE SODDON VALLEY...

Good Grief! We actually made it to a festival at last - having been severely deprived so far this season by weddings (not ours!), moving flats and other such trivialities!...

Pitching tents just prior to the start of the now traditional soggy Basingstoke Saturday (doesn't keep us away but seems to guarantee a 'Sixpence' free zone!) - Ray, Mik and I found the Hockey Club bar rapidly filling with fliers as the skies opened. The Altitude Sprint had already taken place and for those able to finish their beer in time the Basingstoke Open

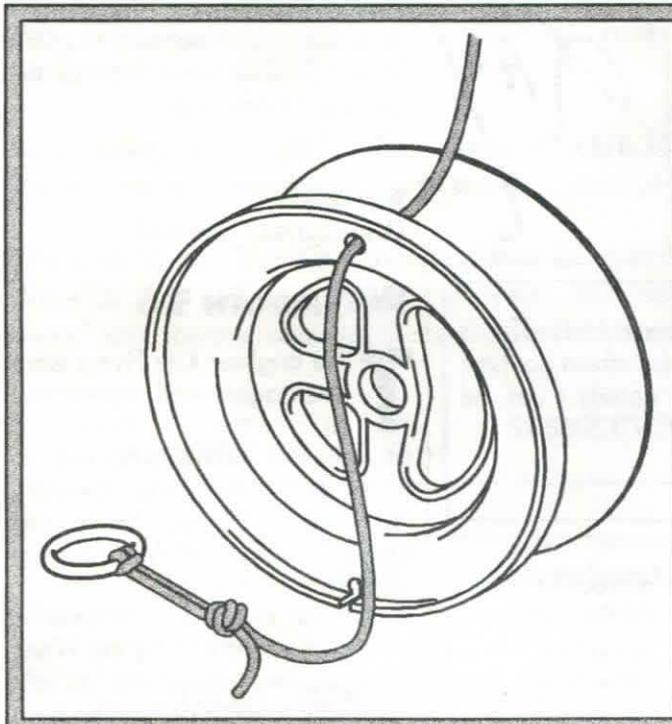
can't seem to recall much about it - except that, unlike Ray (Party Animal), we had the will but not the where-with-all to party into the early hours at the Highwaymen's Port and Stilton bash.

Sunday dawned and as usual The BOF was up at the crack of 4.00am. By the time we surfaced much (loud!) banter (ouch!) was flying to and fro across the festival campsite - never the best places to be nursing a hangover. However, there was not a cloud in sight and fliers were soon dotted about flying various creations and discussing the previous night's antics over mugs of tea and bacon butties. The winds were extremely light but perfect for both Mik's latest lightweight mini Roller and Ray's new 'X4i'.

After numerous wind recesses competitions kicked off with the KSGB Indie Rok judged by Gill Bloom. The wind kept disappearing then reappearing from a completely different direction: causing much confusion in the arena, with competitors trying to launch Rökkakus in all sorts of opposing directions. Mik

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THE USEFUL BIT: No 17

This method of attaching line to a yo-yo reel has many advantages over the conventional method of tying (or Larks Heading) a loop around the entire reel.

It's simple to remove and replace, can be used to chain lines together with snap swivels, won't slip around the reel (as a loop would) when line is fully payed out and you're starting to wind in, and lastly - the ring clips on to a dog stake easily and quickly.

◆ Thread the line end through the small hole in the flat side of the reel.

◆ Tie a loop in the end of the line - making sure that the knot is small enough to pass back through the hole.

◆ Using a Larks Head Hitch - attach a ring on to the loop you've just tied.

◆ Pull the knot and loop back through the hole until the ring butts up to the reel... and start winding!

Mik JENNISON (ILLUSTRATION: © 1996 Mik JENNISON)

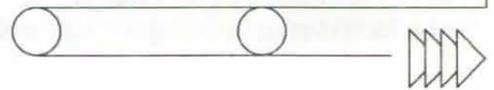
Solo Rok competition kicked off at 1.00pm. The sky had cleared up a bit but the wind was still gusty - undeterred, Ray (Oakie 1) disappeared off to tune up his trusty 'Slack Alice' (Japanese warrior) for battle. Most of his opponents turned out to be fellow BKF members - Jerry & Carolyn Swift and Simon Hennessey (fighting for the first time). Having won the Open for the last two years, Jerry was set on a third - but the trophy was snatched away from him by Oakie 1 by just one point.

Saturday evening's bash and auction must have been another good one as I

and Oakie 1 fought it out for 1st and 2nd places respectively, in two out of three rounds resulting in yet another victory for Ray by just a single point.

The afternoon saw displays from AirKraft, Mark Coventry, Team Flair and the Loddon Valley Kite Fliers 'Largest Cobra In The World' (200ft inflatable). 'Groucho' was resurrected for the Team Rok, which we drew 1st with Doug Jones and 'Hello Jim' - followed by a swift beer break with Baz, Jan and much WHKF on the Hockey Club balcony where we were just in time to witness the ceremonial burning of The BOF's 'Wild Thang.' Knowing John's passion for two line kites Nick Webb sent him one for his birthday this year - and finding it reappearing in the auction - he bought it once again (for a great deal more than £3.50!) to give The BOF the pleasure of sacrificially torching it on the barbiel. Just as we were packing up, the Beer Lifter competition was re-instated due to public demand (well... Oakie1) and was won by Simon Hennessey, using Ray's multi sled to lift 20 cans. However - Oakie was not to be done out of the spoils as kite and line rental cost Simon 50% of the beer! Thanks to all the LVKF for another wild weekend in Basingstoke.

TOODY OAKHILL



THE PARADISE CUP & HONOLULU KITE FESTIVAL

08 - 10 MARCH 1996

I was very happy to be sponsored to give demonstrations and also to compete in the Paradise Cup and the Honolulu Festival at Sandy Beach in Honolulu, Hawaii. It was a European type kite festival which drew 25 - 30,000 spectators from across Hawaii, Japan, Canada and mainland USA. It was the biggest festival ever held in Hawaii and was well organised from start to finish with the help of dozens of volunteers. It was a super success with plenty of sunshine and good winds - a little heavy at times, "but who's crying!"

There were 130 Japanese kite flyers from the Japan Kite Association (JKA) and they brought large Japanese kites with faces painted on them, which they used to do battle against teams from other Japanese cities - like Hamamatsu and Shirone, plus others that also came to the festival. A lot of these flyers have years and years of practice in this unique sport and are now in the 70 - 80 year age bracket. As Alan Nagao pointed out, these flyers with their skills, talent, knowledge and craftsmanship may not exist ten years from now. They were a joy to watch and their kites were pure art. I made friends with many of them - there was no language barrier as I can't hear anyway - so we got along great. They all wanted to arm wrestle me... it was a lot of fun! Saturday was the sport kite competitions which went off without a hitch. I came away with two firsts and a third, there were a lot of excellent flyers there with plenty of trick flying in three routines. I gave multiple kite flying demonstrations along with Team High Performance, Scott Allghenbaugh, Dodd Gross and many more performers who put on great demos. The High Performance Team did a great routine to live music by the Taiko Drummers - 15 to 20 Japanese drummers simultaneously drumming in synchronised sound patterns... it's very dramatic.

Sunday was a real fun day featuring the Japanese battling kites, fighter kites flown by some of Japan's best. Peter Lynn was flying his vivid marine monsters: the Trilobite, and his latest - the Megabyte at 60 metres long and 20 metres wide. He's even made it bigger by placing zippered compartments in the kite to add length, but the winds were too strong to add these on. There were also sport kite and boomerang demonstrations, plus a demo by the World Class Yo-Yo Champion: Dale Myrberg - a day we'll all remember for a long time. The organisers had planned something very special on Sunday at Sandy Beach

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The organisers had planned something very special on Sunday at Sandy Beach



- they were hoping to get the largest 'Boys' Day Carp' (which is over 300 feet) into the 'Largest Kite': 'The Megabyte'. It was said that they had brought a special crane over from the mainland to launch and hold the Boys'

Day Carp, at the cost of \$40,000 plus \$1,000 a day. On its first flight in Ala Moana Park, after only a few minutes in the air, a sudden gust of wind ripped the tail end around a palm tree - tearing the ripstop. It was very disappointing to everyone that had turned out to see the World's largest Carp in flight.

But "No Worry", there were other special features going on just across the street at the Ala Moana Shopping Center - with a full scale kite display in the central court exhibition area. Japanese kite building workshops were run every day for ten days and were well attended by children and adults from all over the Island.

The awards banquet was held at the Ala Moana Hotel - with good food and good company. New friends were made and much talking was done with old friends that I had met in New Zealand and Australia just a couple of months before at another banquet - it is indeed a very

small World! A super time was had by all and we came away so much richer in sharing our experiences, laughter, joy and disappointments - but most of all, I think, for the love of the sport we all share together. We have this common bond that cannot be broken: at every festival we attend it gets stronger.

I had a chance to fly the newly introduced 'Platinum

GOOD NEWS FOR GLOBAL SPIDERS...

At a brief meeting with Phil Chitty at a fly-in, we discussed putting the BKF on to the World Wide Web. He had the know how to put together a very attractive web page for the club with most of the relevant information displayed. If you look at it keep the graphics switched on to get the full effect. There is a HOT NEWS link for the latest events and links to the Midland Kite Fliers, KSGB, weather forecast etc. It must be down to this that we had an enquiry from a kiteflier on the Pacific Coast of the USA about joining the Club. The URL is:-
<http://www.netlink.co.uk/users/webman/bkf/bkf.html>
It is not:-

laurel.lane.w/drayton.middx.uk.kon.on.kin.ell

... as some would have you believe!
Thanks Phil for assembling this page.

RAY OAKHILL

laurel.lane.w/drayton.middx.uk.kon.on.kin.ell

... as some would have you believe!
Thanks Phil for assembling this page.

RAY OAKHILL

Sport Kite' by Falhawk Co Ltd - we nicknamed it the 'zipper' because of the two zippers that can be opened part or all of the way for different wind conditions. I gave multiple kite flying demonstrations with three of them in light, medium and strong winds and was able to complete any of my routines without any problems - in fact I picked up two first place wins and a third in the Paradise Cup competitions. I still have to work on the fine tuning for my way of flying but I'm happy so say that I am now sponsored with Platinum kites. Honolulu spent huge amounts of

money from Japan to put on this festival. It not only features kiting but many other activities including Japanese horseback riders - shooting arrows into archery targets while galloping full blast down a Honolulu street, Sumo wrestlers, Taiko Drummers, Ninja Warriors and a 90 minute parade down the main street of Waikiki. With hundreds of Japanese dressed in their traditional costumes it was a truly 'East meets West' theme, the likes Honolulu has never seen before. At the Grand Finale Banquet, held at the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel, there

aerodyne
the newsletter of the brighton kite flyers
July 1996

were over 4,000 guests - with as much food and drink as you would want. It was a super way to finish a great kiting trip and I'm looking forward to seeing all my Japanese friends in Ishikari Hokkaido at the 1996 World Cup, in Japan.

RAY BETHELL (VANCOUVER/CANADA)

SWINDON INTERNATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL

Another fabulous weekend on the incredibly enormous flying field at Wroughton over the weekend of 11 & 12 May. Unfortunately the wind god didn't seem to know about it! On Saturday the wind was up and down and on Sunday it was down for most of the day, with 180 degree changes of direction in the middle of a high pressure zone. Art Ross had little chance to lift Wind Dreams, but Don Mock flew his flowforms at every opportunity. The team Rok was won by the Boop Troop, after a difficult battle with Team Vertigo and the solo Rok title went to yours truly after a close run in with Andrew Batchelor. And he got the beer! Something seems amiss with the WHKF priorities! I don't like to mention this, but I was presented with a card and present from my wife by Jerry and Co as a memento of the day we first met 40 years ago (my wife that is, not Jerry!). Neil Harvey made the most of it over the PA during the day and at the pizza bash in the evening. Finally, he presented me with a sled kite with a photo of me in the full morning dress at my youngest daughter's wedding. A conspiracy by other BKF members... and I thought they were friends of mine!! Another Port and Stilton party ensued in the Highwaymen's tent later on. Warning:- Kite Festivals Can Damage Your Health! - Carolyn and Shirley Turpin will vouch for that... Carolyn actually refused nourishing pizza for breakfast! It was good to see Mike and Ann Heanes there on Sunday - and I know that all kitefliers who know Mike wish him well for a full recovery after his operation.

RAY OAKHILL

IS THIS YOUR NEWSLETTER?

Having just read this latest 6 pages hot off the press, you'd never guess that we have 90 BKF members.

I guess at least half of you must have been to a festival this year or last season? Did you have a good time? What did you fly? What did you see? What did you think?

I guess maybe a quarter to a third of you must have built something during the winter? What did you build? How did it fly? Was it your own design? Did you need any advice? What did you think of the plans?

I guess (almost?) all of you must have had some kite related thoughts or experiences at some point? Well how about putting them in to print and... sharing them with your fellow club members, giving the (much appreciated!) regular contributors a break, giving Aerodyne a little more variety, not to mention making life a little easier for your Editor... or is it time for some new blood after 4 years?

Your newsletter can only be as good as the articles you send in... so please, please have a go - you never know: you may even enjoy it!

YOUR EDITOR

FURTHER BKF INFO...

Membership & Fly-Ins: Ray Oakhill (Co-ordinator & Membership Secretary) - Tel: 01273 306842 (Eve)

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

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 (including a stamped SAE for items requiring return) for the October issue by 7 September 1996 to...

Toody Oakhill/BKF Editor
6 Bath Street
Brighton
East Sussex
BN1 3TB
(Tel: 01273 321397)

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. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Editor or the BKF.

brighton
Kite
flyers

KITEABILITY

HANDMADE KITES AND KITE MATERIALS

'SHE' says "we're off on holiday,
and moan as well you might,
We're going to Pontlins by the sea,
and you'll take not a single kite".

"Yes my dear" I said to her,
but being a wily old git,
In my suitcase I've hidden away
some flying line and some sticks.

"I'll not spend a week without a kite,"
despite what Mabel said,
"I'll find a nice big plastic bag,
and make myself a sled."

While her indoors was sipping gin,
I slipped off to the beach,
with my plastic bag and sticks and tape,
my sled great hights did reach.

"Where did you get that? Mister"
a small voice did enquire,
"Please make another one for me,
Then I can fly higher and higher."

Soon the beach was full of kites,
and all my sticks were gone,
an urgent call to **KITEABILITY**
reinforcements needed Ron!

Now Mabel was not happy
to hear of this event,
The Boss said "have another gin".
"Your old man's heaven sent.

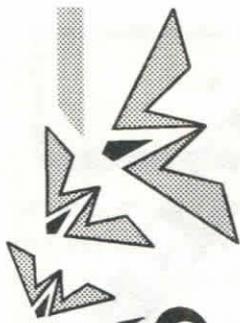
'HE' is just what we need, my love,
an event to bring people here,
and Harry says he will help us,
with a kite week for next year."

It matters not what happens,
It matters not where you be,
You can always rely of good service,
from **KITEABILITY**



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Proprietor : Mrs. P. Dell

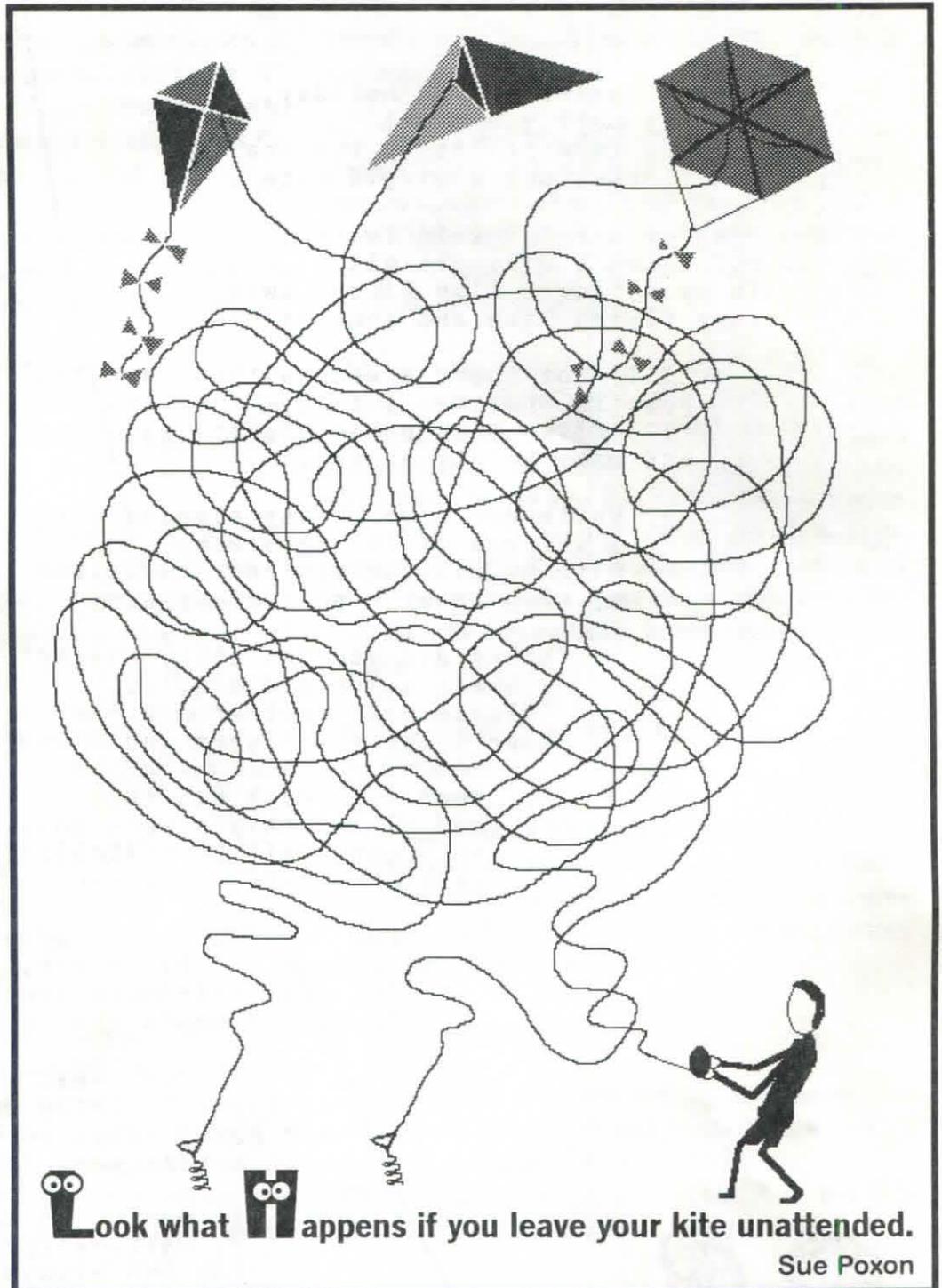


MIDLANDS KITE FLIERS

MKF Extra

July 1996

The Extra Newsletter of The Midlands Kite Fliers



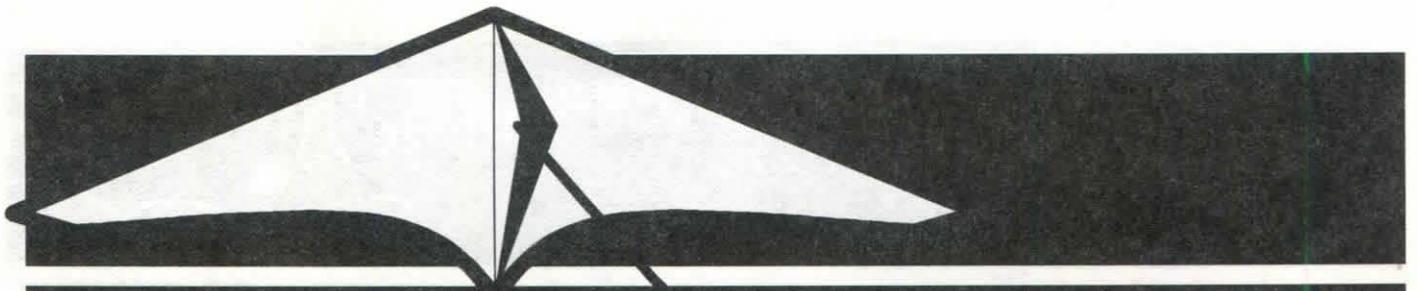
Sue Poxon

This four 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





Sunday 18th August 1996 10am till 5pm

Major kite retailers. Kite Workshop

Advice shops, for the new kite flier

Artistic kite competition - Win the Coventry Artistic Kite Trophy

Phoenix Sport Kite Masterclasses from top flier Richard Marsh

Arts and Crafts. Craft stalls. Food stalls.

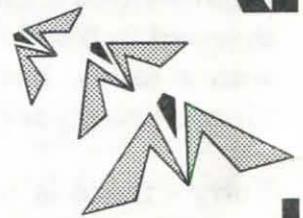
Juggling displays.

The Energy Drainer assault course for the kids

The Best Dressed Teddy Competition.

Bring along your teddy dressed in his or her Sunday best and win a prize and a certificate from The Highwaymen

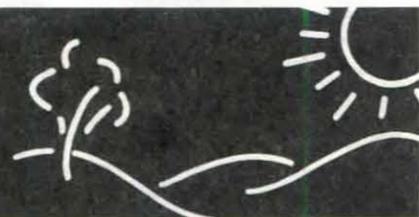
kite **The 3rd Coventry** **festival**



The Midlands Kite Fliers



© Midlands Kite Fliers



The 3rd Coventry Kite Festival

Follow the AA signs (as well as the Park and Ride signs) to event in Coventry this year. Wind or no wind the park is a very pleasant place to be on a summers day. No car park charges, no admission fee.

Separate single line and two-line areas. No 'arena' - you and your kites are the stars. MKF members invite you to come along and put on a great display with us for the very appreciative public.

Attractions to entertain you this year include: Major kite retailers, juggling displays, music by a 'Glenn Miller' dance band, Craft stalls, Food stalls, Arts and Crafts, Juggling workshop - learn how to juggle (with fire!), spin plates etc. Mini Golf course. Coconut shy, Band stand and cafe.

Artistic kite competition. Show off your best kite and win the 1996 Coventry Artistic Kite Trophy.

A 'New to Flying' Advice Shop will be run three times during the day, helping the general public to choose the right kite.

Phoenix Sport Kite Masterclasses by top flier Richard Marsh. Price £12.50 for a one hour session to improve your sport kite flying/tricks. Certificate awarded at end of session. Pre-booking advisable, but not essential.

For the children: Kite making, their own area with mini fun fair, Energy Drainer assault course, Coconut shy, face painting, ball pool, play scheme pursuits, etc etc.

Two children's competitions - the usual mind-bending quiz and, new for this year, The Highwaymen's Kite Kitchen 'Best Dressed Teddy' Competition. Bring along your teddy, dressed in his Sunday best and win a prize and a certificate. Sorry if you are a big kid with a teddy, but the competition is only open to kids under 13 years, but you could always bring your teddy along anyway!

Sorry - there is no on-site parking. Access for loading/unloading allowed, but all cars must be off-site by 10am. The car park is alongside single line arena, so early risers can be near to their car.

For more information on the event please send an SAE to
The Midlands Kite Fliers, 4 Hermitage Court, Oakwood, Derby DE21 2LG
or E-mail: MKF@canleo.demon.co.uk



The 2nd Ashfield Kite Festival

Sunday 29th September 1996 10am till 4.30pm

The Lawn Park
Sutton in Ashfield
Nottinghamshire

Follow the signs from the M1 to our second event in Nottinghamshire this year. Major kite retailers, juggling displays, roving entertainers, brass band, food stalls and a large open area with separate single-line and two-line areas.

For the children: Kite making, mini fun fair, Punch and Judy, games, and the usual children's quiz - answer six kite related questions and win a kite.

Ashfield Council heavily involve all the local schools in making and designing kites before the day, and the free paper sponsor the event, so advertising and promotion is high.

Special car parking on site for fliers. If anyone wishes to camp next to the flying site on the Saturday night, please send a SAE to the club address, where a security pass and directions will be sent to you. Toilets and washrooms/showers available.

How to find the site: From Junction 28 of the M1, which also interchanges with the A38, follow the A38 towards Mansfield for approx. five miles. Kite signs will be posted along this route. Turn left at traffic lights into Station Road, signposted to town centre. The park is on the right, and special kitefliers parking has been arranged through this entrance, only on production of a kite club card.

For a map or more information send a SAE to The Midlands Kite Fliers.

The Spring Time Quiz - Winner

Congratulations to Paul Cleverley of Ringwood, Hants for being the first out of the sack from all of the correct replies sent in. Paul should have received his MKF cloth badge last month. Thanks for everyone who participated - we hope to do another quiz soon.

MIDLANDS KITE FLIERS



4 Hermitage Court Oakwood Derby DE21 2LG Tel: 01332 669203
E-mail: MKF@canleo.demon.co.uk



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LATEST NEWS

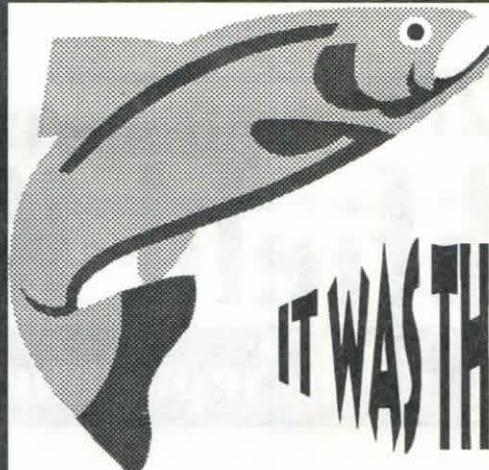
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E Mail - Stafford @ Lucknow.demon.co.uk

ROMAN CANDIE 41

GENIUM FROM HELL



"Offensive Writing" R. Beavon....."Not for Seven Decimal Five Year Olds" R. Kean.
"Its Disgrrrrrraceful, It ought not to be Allowed" Mr Grouser. "Unfair to Slapheads"
Follicarly Challenged Monthly."Bad Language and Inane Stupidity" R. Kean."Why Us?"
Po-Faced Kite Group. "A Right Load of Crap" Various. "100% Mindless Drivel" The BOF

BEACH HORROR Red Baron Causes Tragic Accident



EXCLUSIVE

By JERRY SWIFT

BYSTANDERS watched in horror as an unknown schoolboy duck from Dusseldorf in Germany plummeted to an uncertain end on WEYMOUTH BEACH.

The spring bank holiday kite extravaganza saw Dropnik Rolf Sturm operating a ferry on a large flowform from Don Mock.

Don is usually better known for his bizarre Indian inspired creations.

Rolf Sturm is responsible for the Red Baron and other inflatable aircraft. His latest kite is a Betty Boop monoplane for the Boop Troop.

As the ferry hit the stop and the duck dropped his chute RC'd and he hit the deck hard. His condition is unknown as a Rolf carried away the injured lad.

Sturm appeared unrepentant about his involvement in the accident.

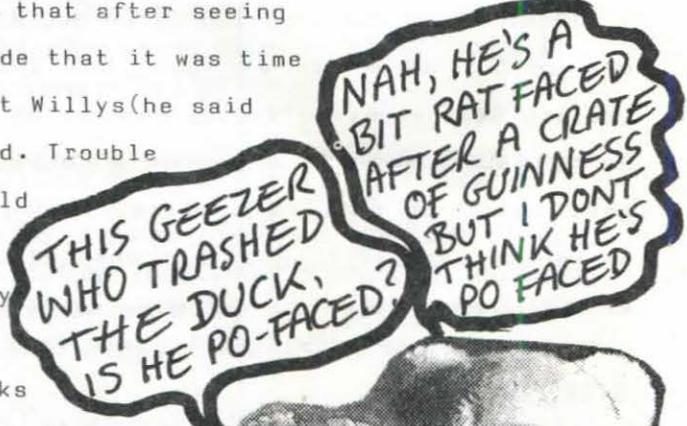
Considering the advanced state of Sturm's equipment, this accident is particularly surprising.

An expert commented "He obviously spends a lot of time on the dropper and not enough on the chute"

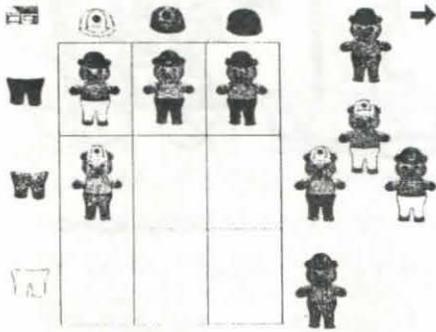
Our correspondent in Germany is trying to seek relatives' views. The only three ducks he could find were too plastered to comment.



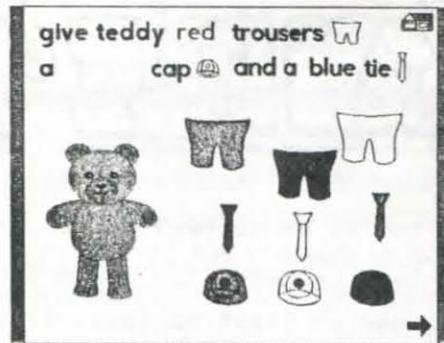
Vic@tosser.bear.drop.splatt.soddit.co.uk says that after seeing references to the Internet in our last,he decide that it was time he went Surfing. So, after cruising down to Fat Willys(he said its only a rumour)he purchased anice surf board. Trouble was, when he got it home the sodding thing would not fit into his A Drive. Some bloke down the pub said he really needed 95 Windows to as they say Hang Ten. Luckily, Jewsons Joinery had an intrest free deal on at the time, but Vic thinks they must have turned him over with some old stock in feet and inches, 'cos he still cant get any of them into his A Drive, in fact he cant even get into his room either So if any of our readers out there want some Double Glazing then Vic can do them a good Deal.



My World 2 - Teddy Grids



My World 2 - Teddies



Following from the success of the *Teddies* pack, this takes language and conceptual development a stage further. Place the teddies in the correct places on the grid, according to attributes such as red hat, blue tie etc. Excellent for group activities.

A multi-disc pack for KS1. Matching, sorting and counting activities, all using teddies and their belongings.

My World 2 - Rotate



This info is probably very Old Hat to all you Mega Byte Heads out there but may be of interest to some Droptnik who wants some other type of programme for the Sprogs other than the usual crappy Shoot em up Bang, Bang type .

Unfortunately these progs seem to be a little short of Kites and Parachute, but as our detractors would say, That's probably a good thing (yah boo sucks) Still, any thing that teaches Sprogs somethig worthwhile cant be bad.

For more info you can contact SEMERC on 01223 254214.



B.M.I.S.S. GOING TO THE DEVIL? NOPE, HE'S COME TO US.....

Its probably been arguable ever since the BMISS was started, that it was going to the Devil amongst other things. However, believe it or not, the Devil has come to us. Yes, you're right membership is open to all even Devils,

We're not sure if the little sod has been cast out of you know where, but its says something when we found out that this particular resident of a very Hot Spot arrived at BOF Towers by way of Swindon.

Hmm, maybe the Starving Horse Mob have a surfeit of Devils and have decided to cast one in our direction or what, but this Devil is keepig pretty Schtum, apart from telling us that his official moniker is Beelzebub Eight million and twentythree, but as he says that this is a bit of a Gobfull, he prefers to be called Dick. Be that as it may, Devil or not, he's already equipped with a Chute, and awaits his first drop. Meanwhile were getting rather cheesed off with hearing "FIRE" by the Crazy World of Arthur Brown. Nope the Bof does'nt have that particular record, but we keep hearing it all the same, oo'er missus.....

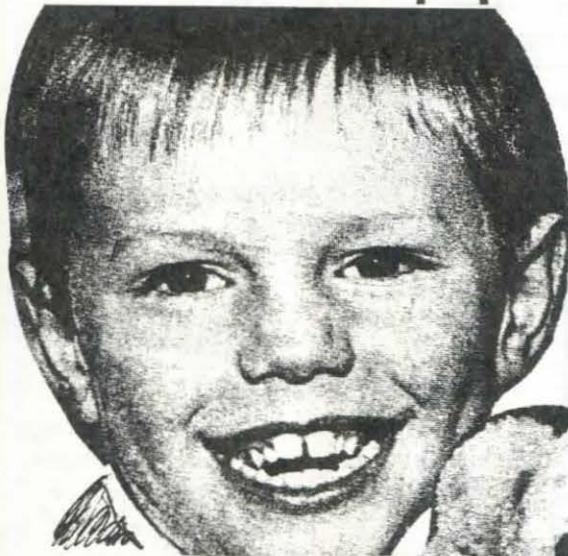
STOP PRESS.....

Holy Cow, literally Beelze, ah s***it, Dick broke his Duck at Cowpat, and proved to be a right little Devil with two R.C's straight off. However his third jump, which was successful was of the Weird Sh't Happens variety. Question, for all you Trivial Pursuit fans out there. "How many Gallons of Cow Slobber do you reckon a 6 cell Ram Air chute can soak up? Loads and loads yuk. thanks to Brave Mr Croxton for rescuing Dick from the Jaws of a Slobbering Cow. well to be honest it was Dicks Rag that was being slobbered. Meanwhile we are watching to see if Dick Chute develops Mad Parachute Disease.

Ted the travelling bear lives happily ever after



MR POO VIA MIK+TOODY



THINKS, COULD DO WITH A CHUTE



A TEDDY bear has been reunited with his owner after an adventure spanning three countries.

Nine-month-old Bobby Worsley's mum Mary was distraught when they returned from a trip to Ireland without the brown bear his grandma had bought for him.

She gave up hope of seeing it again — but she reckoned without the determination of the Hughes family.

Trevor Hughes' son, seven-year-old William, had been entertaining Bobby, of New Hall Lane, Heaton, Bolton, during the flight from Derry to Manchester and absent-mindedly held on to the bear when they said farewell at the airport.

Engineer Trevor, 43, and his wife Brigeen, of Wrexham, did not know where to return the bear but their other son Richard, 10, remembered enough details about Bobby and Mary to place an ad in a Bolton newspaper.

Mary's neighbour Helen Leigh spotted the ad and alerted her.

Mary, 38, a teacher at Bolton School's girls division, contacted Trevor who then drove 60 miles with his family to take the bear — called Ted — back to Bobby.

Today Mary said: "Bobby and I had been to visit my mum in County Tyrone and gave him the bear.

"On the way home we got chatting to Trevor and his wife and their boys were playing with Bobby at Derry, on the flight and again at Ringway before we went our separate ways.

"William was keeping the baby entertained by doing the Bobby Bear Show on the bus which took us to our cars and forgot to give it back. When we got home I searched high and low for Ted and was very upset to find he was missing."

Trevor said: "William was distraught when he realised he'd forgotten to give Bobby back his bear. He cried all the way home.

"Richard remembered how old the baby was, what Bobby's mum was called and that she taught girls in a school.

"So we put those details in the ad and sure enough Mary's neighbour read it.

"The least we could do was drive over to deliver Ted in person."

Mr Poo the bear comes unstuffed at hands of Frankfurt customs

AP in Flint, Michigan

AT LEAST his last days were full of fun — overseas trips, visits to Las Vegas, zoos. But the travels of Mr Poo, a toy bear, came to a tragic end when he was shredded at the hands of a suspicious customs worker.

The stuffed bear, which school children sent, complete with backpack, on a trip with a USAir crew in January, came un-stuffed some time in April in Frankfurt.

He was to return with postcards, notes and other

souvenirs from the travels that people would take him on. The pupils were to use what was sent back with him in their lessons.

But the harder lesson was learning that Mr Poo's stuffing had been shredded in a search for contraband. None was found.

The pupils got the bad news shortly before their bear was due to arrive home on a flight from Pittsburgh. The crew presented them with a replacement bear, but the backpack was gone.

The new bear did have two plastic bags stuffed with little packets of airline snacks and air travel brochures.

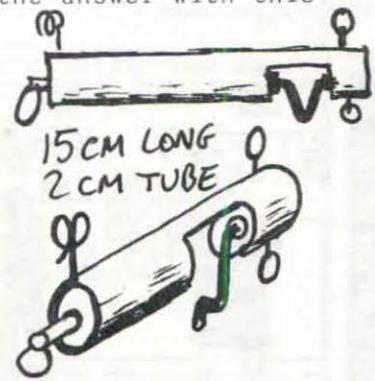
"I'm kind of mad that Mr Poo got cut," said 11-year-old Antione Minor. "But at least they sent this new one. I don't want to see any bear guts."

The bear's flight log book, which also returned to Flint, showed Mr Poo had crisscrossed the United States for two months before going to Europe, where he saw the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame and the Louvre.

As well as not apparently having an X-Ray machine, its a cert that these Jerks atwhe- relse? are in need of a sense of Humour. Right tossers.

Kiteability "TEDDYDROPPER".....

Right, so you've got your Parafauna through its basic Jumps, but the old Pipecleaner Caper is proving a bit tiresome. Sods law says that either you're not too clever at knocking up a Dropper or that you have other Fish to Fry. Not to worry as Team Dingley has the answer with this nifty devicewhich does the bizzo. The spring loaded dropper which is of the sepearte trip line variety worksquite well and is made from plastic ,ali,steel and nylon and comes with 200ft (approx) of trip line,just add a Kite and fauna. Available from the one and only Kiteability for 15½ drinking vouchers or £15-50.....



TEDDY BEAR APPEAL

PRINCESS CAROLINE OPENS EXHIBITION IN MONACO



UP TO THE MINUTE ? AINT WE JUST...

The only problem with producing a quarterly Dose of Mindless Drivel is the fact that most of what you include is of the Been and Gorn variety. The Princess Caroline piece, via Don Henly is a case in point. However its included for what its worth.

Don wonders, from the last paragraph, wether or not someone has been playing the Goat whilst on their Euro Hol. This Cross matching seems to be catching. If this "Free for all" mentality is 'nt nipped in the Bud, Don reckons,, Humes'll soon be setting up a Gene Bank for Pure Teds.

Hows abou, says Don, a Health Slogan... "STOP BARE JUMPING" and keep for the Bears.

As regard this Cross matching for years the Poshest bears have been made from Goats or Moh-

air (phew, always did wonder what a Mo was) For us lesser lights plush is mostly used, Hmm, is Plush Man Made from chemicals? and if so does that mean that the majority of us Soft Cuddleys are the result of some

Princess Caroline got down to the "bear necessities" of life recently when she inaugurated a unique exhibition of teddy bears at Monaco's National Museum.

The exhibition, which runs until September, traces the story of this much loved soft toy back to its origins in Germany in the late 19th century. It boasts a fine display of bears from the Margarete Steiff private collections, many of which have never been shown to the public before - including a teddy bear called Alfonzo, once owned by Princess Xenia, the granddaughter of Tsar Nicolas I; and a pristine-looking 93-year-old bear!

The Princess did not take her own three children along but she was keen to make sure that the accent of the day was on the world's children. She presented a smart-looking teddy bear, wearing a gold medal, that she had previously chosen to be reproduced in a limited line and sold to raise funds for AMADE (Association Mondiale des Amis de l'Enfance - the Worldwide Association of Childhood Friends).

The Princess also stayed for the auction of a group of bears made from mohair, a collector's item specially created for the exhibition by the Margarete Steiff company. The money raised from the auction will also go to AMADE.

The bear necessities

Siemens Nixdorf has won an order to supply IT systems to one of Britain's latest retailing successes, the English Teddy Bear Company. The point-of-sale systems will be PC-based and modular in design, thereby enabling the company to develop its IT systems in line with future business growth. Formed by three university students just three years ago as a dedicated supplier of teddy bears for all ages, the English Teddy Bear Company already has stores in Japan and the USA, as well as the UK.

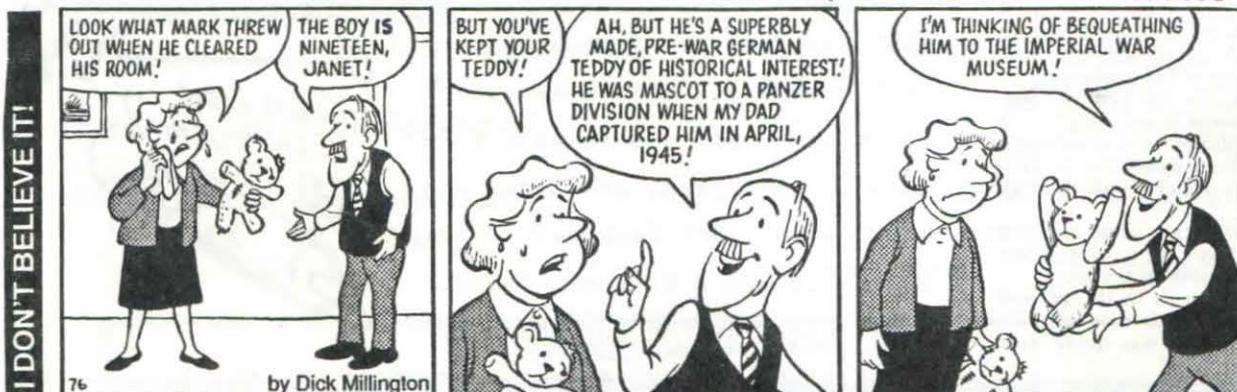
Test Tube Jiggery Pokery in some Seedy Laboratory somewhere or other. Bleeding Ada. that makes yer think a bit.

Gordon Bennett, once again we've huffed and puffed and cobbled together another dose of M.D.

Thanks to all who contributed amongst others. Jerry Swift, Vic Winton, Arthur Dibble and Don Henley. Apologies to those whose names are not mentioned, rest assured, you're much appreciated.

To those out there who profess not to read this, Did yer Muvva wean you with Prunes and Vinegar?

As always its the usual to the usual, the Teddy torial, c/o not the only B0F.48 Laurel Lane West Drayton Middx UB7 7TY United Kingdom.



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