

THE KITEFLIER

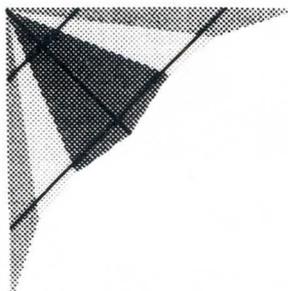
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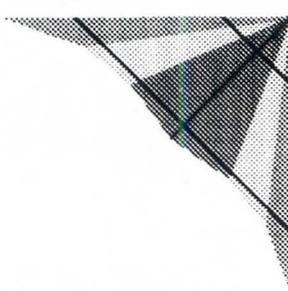


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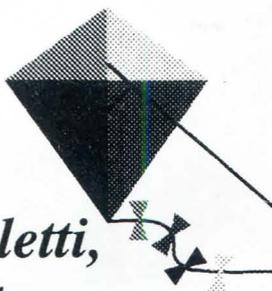
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The Kite Society
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 Colchester
 Essex CO6 4AY

Tel/Fax: 01206 271489
 email: kite_society@compuserve.com
http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/kite_society



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EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

First of all welcome to the new year. We hope that we will see many of you at the festivals that are taking place and that the weather and sun are correct for our sport.

Dieppe 1998. We have been asked by many of you whether it is necessary to register for the festival in Dieppe. The Kite Society normally co-ordinates UK registrations, to assist the organisers in France. Unfortunately they often do not get their act together until quite late but we hope to have more news in the April issue. We are assuming that the same facilities (hostel, meal etc.) will be available.

However, we do know that they have announced initial plans for the 11th Dieppe festival in the year 2000!

Speaking of the year 2000 (well almost). The Kite Society will be 20 years old on the 22nd September 1999 and to celebrate the occasion we are planning to produce a CD-ROM reproduction of ALL issues of The Kiteflier and its' predecessor K.O.N. (Kitefliers Occasional Newsletter). We would like some feedback on what you would like on it. Write to us and let us know.

One thought was to reproduce some of the early newsletters of other groups - for example how many remember the Cornish Kite Fliers? The early Midlands Kite Fliers magazines?

We look forward to hearing from you.

And, finally thank you to all those people who have sent articles and photos - please keep them coming.

Front Cover Photo

Rodney reappears with The Princess Royal and well known faces from the kite world. At Thirlestane Castle, Lauder, Scotland. Photo by Frank Meshane.

Whilst every care is taken to get the details correct The Kite Society cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions that occur. Opinions expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the Editors or the Kite Society.

Letters

From Neville Wing

I would like to thank all the people who have recently sent cards and messages after my recent operation, particularly Lloyd for breaking his journey home to Manchester, to deliver a card from the fliers at the Bristol Kite Festival. It was an amazing "pick me up" to receive such a card two days after major surgery.

I am well on the way to a full recovery, and have recently returned to work, just in time for all those Christmas mincepies. Happy New Year to everyone - see you around the 1998 festivals.

From Fred Bear

Sorry to hear about the problems you are having. Unfortunately such occurrences are all too common these days. It's probably a complete and utter lack of understanding on the part of your Dropnik, coupled with a lack of common decency.

Your mention of being stuck full of needles and pins, then being left overnight with your guts hanging out, before having a walkie talkie thingy shoved up your fundamental, is I'm afraid fairly typical.

It is exactly the same with BOF, for instance when one of the Brothers' head fell off at Pompey, scattering the poor little things guts all over, the BOF showed not the slightest concern as he slashed up the Brothers backseam with a bleeding great knife, jammed his Bonce back on, then calmly shoved handfuls of guts back into the gaping wound.

A cunning plan to get your own back on your Dropnik could be at hand though in the fact that your dropnik has had to put the walkie talkie thingy into a separate bag. If on your next ascent you could contrive to carry said bag aloft with you, the opportunity may arise to use the bag as a wind drift indicator and with a bit of luck you may be able to score a direct hit on your Dropnik's noggin thereby knocking some sense into him.

If that does not work, just remember the Parafauna motto "To put as much egg on the face of your Dropnik, in front of as large a crowd as possible at every opportunity".

Your fertile brain will no doubt think of some really spectacular 'egg'.

From Len Ohltree

Congratulations on an excellent newsletter! I have made the 'Migenk' from issue 70, it's brilliant. I have also doubled the measurements to make a larger version. So is it a Maximigenk? In the latest issue (73) on page 22 the "Centrefold" - I am a bit confused by the measurements for the delta. I know we kite fliers like to be a bit precise but 732.26mm etc is going a bit too far. Has someone done an imperial to metric conversion. Some of us old codgers can use metric when given the correct measurements (I still prefer inches!).

On another subject I am interested in making a kite similar to the Snoopy/Red Baron type of soft kite as on page 142 of Kites by Moulton and Lloyd published in 1992. If anybody can help I would be much obliged.

Applique Made Easier

I think that most of us find applique work on kites a little frustrating at times. Ripstop nylon being such a smooth slippery material rejects quite strongly another piece being sewn to it. You lay your selected colour carefully in position on to the main kite, but once you've lifted the whole bulk of ripstop onto the sewing machine, the piece to sew has moved irritatingly out of place - not a lot perhaps - but enough for you having to realign the material all over again.

I know some kites use spots of glue, this can help enormously, though you still have a lot of rucked ripstop. I find that a small spreading of pritt-stick dabbed along a seam is just as good, and if the alignment of the applique is still not correct it can simply be pulled apart and adjustments made.

A major breakthrough came to me when one evening my wife, Audrey, was sat on the hearth rug in front of the lounge fire working away at a tapestry, jabbing the needle in and out with multi-coloured wools. Her work was so tight, it seemed almost effortless. Her material was not at all floppy and out of control, she had the section of work stretched out on a round wooden frame. It came to me that perhaps I could stretch my kite material on one of those ring frames, including the section of applique work. I could well see that it would hold both tightly together.

The very next day I called in a woolshop to purchase a wooden frame. I explained to the shop assistant what I required.

"Oh, you mean an embroidery hoop," she answered, perhaps wondering why a man should need such an item. "What size would you like sir?"

The largest you have", I said. With that she produced a hoop some 26cm in diameter. Actually there are two rings one neatly tucked inside the other. The outer ring has a brass screw adjuster to clamp it to the inner one.



Later in the week armed with my embroidery hoop I set about the applique work on my latest rokkaku kite. I had made a Japanese rising sun in blue and red with a large cockerel crowing his head off standing in the foreground. The cock is multi-coloured so I named him Harlequin Cockerel.

I placed the largest of the two hoops beneath the ripstop, then placed the sections of applique work on top - adding a dab of pritt-stick here and there; finally pressing the smaller hoop into place while screwing tight the brass screw on the lower hoop. I now had a 26cm diameter circle of tightly stretched material in front of me. There was going to be no slipping and sliding of my design at all.

To get the whole thing in position on the sewing machine I had first to remove the pressure foot due to the thickness of the embroidery hoop and replace it once the work was correctly situated for sewing. It was marvellous! I zoomed up and down with the needle plonking every stitch in just the right place. It became then only a matter of moving the hoop to the next section of rokkaku to be dealt with. It all takes time, of course, but I didn't have any ripstop slip or displacement of applique.

Perhaps you would like to try this method? The air is nowhere as blue as it used to be when I'm making a kite now. It's definitely a case for "applique made easier".

John Stannard

The Next Generation?

The Generation of Two Line Sport Kitefliers

I have completed four years service of flying seriously two line sports kites and I have seen so many changes. When I started, the Original Tim Benson Phantom was a high specification kite of fine quality and rather light. Sparred with Beman 14 Carbon light and a fine Carrington sail, it was possible to fly the Phantom in winds as low as 2mph, and as high as 15mph. The length of the lines flown were about 125ft and the shortest was about 75 - 80ft. The line strengths were either 80 or 150lbs.

Highly Strung from Australia and Rare Air from Cornwall (now in South Africa) made exceptionally tough high wind kites and Top of the Line North Shore Radical was the ultimate. Now these kites are classics or ancient relics but note; they were fundamental for good precision flying. In those days Ron Reich and Ray Bethell were icons or gurus out of which Carl Robertshaw became a prodigy.

From the Paul Jobin 1993 catalogue, there was one kite which I believe became the first of the modern generation of freestyle or trick kites and perhaps it was a reinvention of the wheel. WOW! The leading edge was cambered and there was a leech line sewn into the trailing edge. The aspect ratio was high with a tremendous sail billow. Its' flight was totally and utterly silent, very smooth, graceful as well as precise. If you have not already guessed by now; I am referring to the Skynasaur Tracer designed by Mike Simmons in circa 1991/1992 which revolutionised kite designs and aerodynamics. Hells Teeth! I am going to be bold by saying that this kite is an icon and I reckon it gave birth to a "trick" kite era which was demonstrated awesomely by Dodd Gross in his Flight School One video (or is he God Dross? - Sorry! just a pun no offence intended!).

In April 1994 I met Paul Latham at Parliament Hill in Hampstead, North West London, performing some amazing acrobatics and wizardry with a peculiar shaped kite which he called a Stranger which was sparred with 8mm PS16 Prosper. Well! I had to have one but it could only be sparred in 6mm Excel Strong. So, Paul ordered it for me from his flying chum Andy Preston and within a week it was delivered to me. I flew it the first time at the Isle of Sheppy (should be renamed sheeppy as there are more sheep than people) on 1st May 1994, a date I shall never forget as my F1 racing hero Ayrton Senna unexpectedly died at Imola. This kite was radical and I flew with a perpetual grin on my face totally stunned at its trickability.

I suppose Andy does look a little like what you would expect Jesus Christ to have been but I wonder if Dreadlocks were around in year zero! If any Kiteflier reader was around at the time do let me know. Needless to say Andy's ability to manoeuvre this kite was like turning water into wine as he demonstrated by performing miracles in the Flexifoil Stranger video which came out in Autumn 1994.

Nowadays there are people at kite festivals flying all sorts of "trick" kites made from many different manufacturers; Spirit of Air, HQ Kites, Benson, Flexifoil, Matheson, Air Dynamics, Big Easy to name but a few. The market is flooded with them and for the last three years a new and second generation of flyers has evolved. Yes Andy - look what you have created my son! You have a lot to answer for, as your disciples are multiplying rapidly as The Gospel of "Trick" flying has been passed on to a huge congregation. I am not without sin, so I shall not cast the first stone!

Joking apart I think we ought to pay homage to this man. However, believe it or not, there is a dilemma with Second Generation kite fliers as they have a psychological problem of overcoming the thought of flying out of their depth as they cannot imagine themselves capable of flying precision or ballet routines with grace using length of lines greater than 65ft. I have recently gently persuaded a damn good freestyle flyer to use my Moonshot Storm in 20mph winds on 150lbs 120ft lines and he saw the light and wondered why he thought he could not do it before. Let me tell you readers, it is easier for a freestyle flier to learn precision flying than visa versa.

Therefore, the message for 1998 is, let's see more of you freestyle flyers on longer lines executing precision routines - eh!

Good Winds

Raymond Bramzel.

Wildwood - the 20th AKA Convention

When I enquired which was the best airport for Wildwood in New Jersey I was given several options. JFK in New York, Atlantic City, Philadelphia & Newark. David Davies and I chose Newark because we were offered a lift for the two and a half hour ride to Wildwood with friends from Newark, Carmela Pallotta and Jim Low. In an effort to get to Wildwood in time for the early bird reception, Jim drove kinda fast and we got caught speeding. Jim showed his shield and the policeman told him to carry on but to take it steady. It's good travelling with a New York cop.

The reception was held in the Rio Motel and was hosted by all the mid Atlantic clubs with plenty of food and drink and the company of fellow kitefliers. The next day was Tuesday and us three Brits, Martin Lester, David Davies and I had breakfast, collected our convention packs with convention information for the week and wandered back along the boardwalk meeting old friends and many new ones. Kites were being flown on the beach. That Martin Lester fellow is so damn famous and popular with everyone, that it made me green with envy. I decided to make some notes. Finally one kiteflier approached me smiling with pleasure and then at the last moment said he'd mistaken me for Richard Gere. Just my luck.

The workshop co-ordinator, Scott E. Spencer, had organised an amazing range of workshops & seminars. At the end of the convention Scott told me that he attended 37 workshops, though he didn't stay too long at some. He told me that in all there were 1200 attendees at the 37 workshops. These are just some of the workshop / seminars on the programme:

- Kites N'Computers by Jeff Burka. The Spectra side of the Web.
- Kite building materials (Explained) by Tom Marvin
- How to choreograph a winning sport kite ballet routine by Gil Velazquez.
- An introduction to Drachen Foundation by Ali Fujino & Scott Skinner.
- Buggies 101. Getting started and being safe by John Tavolacci.
- The kite festival as a source of community wealth by Rick Gelinas.
- Attention getting kites & kite projects by Peter Dolphin.
- Thread wrapping basics for kite building by Glen Haynes.
- Indoor flying workshop & indoor demonstrations by Dave & Sherrie Arnold.
- Building competition kites by Tanna Haynes.
- Tissue paper balloons, a study in Gore shapes by Martin Lester.
- Kite Club symposium with Andy Gelinas.
- Bear droppings, or how to become a dropnick by Mike & Cecilia Dallmer
- Much more than you wanted to know about the AKA by Mel Hickman.
- The World Kite Museum-Inside & Out by Kay Buesing
- Materials for making small kites by Charlie Sotich.
- Everything about carbon composite spars by Kurt Degener.
- Club newsletter editor's roundtable by Doug Janelle.
- Buggy riding basics by Fran & Fritz Gramkowski
- Kite aerial photography by Brooks Lefler & Steve Eisenhauer
- Sports kite symposium by David Gomberg.
- Flyin' with Brian by Brian Champie, top trick flier.
- No yelling: Buggy for women by women by Jeannie Merry & Sherrie Arnold.
- So you want to organise a kite festival by Roger Chewing.
- Flying & fighting Indian style fighting kites by Richard Gareau.
- The basics of team flying by Troy Gunn
- "Take on those little tykes" with Joyce Quinn (workshops for children)
- Kitemaking judging - a symposium by John Burkhardt.
- Robert Trepanier & Mikio Toki Making a rectangular bamboo & tissue kite.
- Wolfgang Grimsel talked about his modular kite system

Wildwood is a seaside resort and it was out of season. Our motel was near the convention centre and the flying area was across the boardwalk on the beach with arenas marked out for the various competitions and displays. Buggy took place nearer the waters edge. Each day several mass ascensions and speciality kiteflights of one category of kites, for 20 minutes, showed the wide range of kites and the wide range of kites owned by each kiteflier. Some of the categories were, any kite with red, white & blue, any kite with a dragon, Asian kites, eddy diamond kites, cellular kites, Champion Kitemakers Flight by all past Grand National & People's Choice Winners, rokakus, over the rainbow (any type of rainbow kite, arch or ribbon), box kites, soft & foils, sports kites, rollers, deltas and even a 'surprise' category.

Wildwood - the 20th AKA Convention

On Wednesday, it poured with rain and many kitefliers gathered in the hall and watched some indoor flying demonstrations. It was also the day when children from local public & private schools were invited to participate in a workshop to make a sled kite as well as learn about other aspects of kiteflying. Several kitefliers gave talks on the history of kites and the various types of kites which make up the family of kites and even I was asked to give a short talk on kiteflying in India. Workshops & seminars continued in other areas of the hall. When the rain stopped, we all went out and flew kites. As with every other day, there was always an appreciative and enthusiastic group of kitefliers around David Davies of Interactive Kites, as he invited anyone to have a go with some of his kites. The evening was rounded off with a Chinese restaurant, with friends, where you ate as much as you liked from an extensive buffet. After that I was invited to a birthday party back in the motel with an enormous American-size slice of birthday cake.

Thursday morning was Richard Gareau's, well attended, talk on Indian Fighting kites which he did out on the beach. He then asked me to join in with teaching people to fly these enjoyable kites. In the afternoon was the fighting kite competition which had 23 competitors. I love their method of fighting. They do touch fighting which is far more skillful and sociable. Competitors are drawn to battle one-on-one, in the best of three, where the first fight is to touch line from under, over the next and finally under. The skill level was extremely high and Richard Gareau won the AKA title. The growth of interest in this category of kites has escalated and it is lovely to know that none of the dreaded manjha is used which can cut other kite's lines and cause so much friction. Many American fighter kitefliers seemed determined to continue the 'touch' fight and have nothing to do with manjha. Three cheers. I did surprise them by wholeheartedly supporting the idea.

Friday & Saturday continued with the many competitions, including the rokkaku which is also known as 'Get Gomberg', which he won anyway. On Saturday all the fighters were invited into the main arena for a demonstration which would consist of a contest between Richard Gareau (AKA Champ) and me, also a sheep & wolf game in which I supplied all the kites. I decided the sheep would be black kites and the wolf a shiny red mylar kite. This was the final event of the week and was enjoyed by many kitefliers who hadn't realised how entertaining fighter kites could be. Friday evening was dinner with The Great Kite Auction, which raises funds for holding the 1998 convention and, believe me, Americans do spend a lot of money at kite auctions.

Saturday evening banquet was for the Awards & Presentations. First, second & third placed competitors, in all the many competitions held during the week, each get an award. Pete Rondeau won the Grand Champion Kitemaker beating some very strong competition.

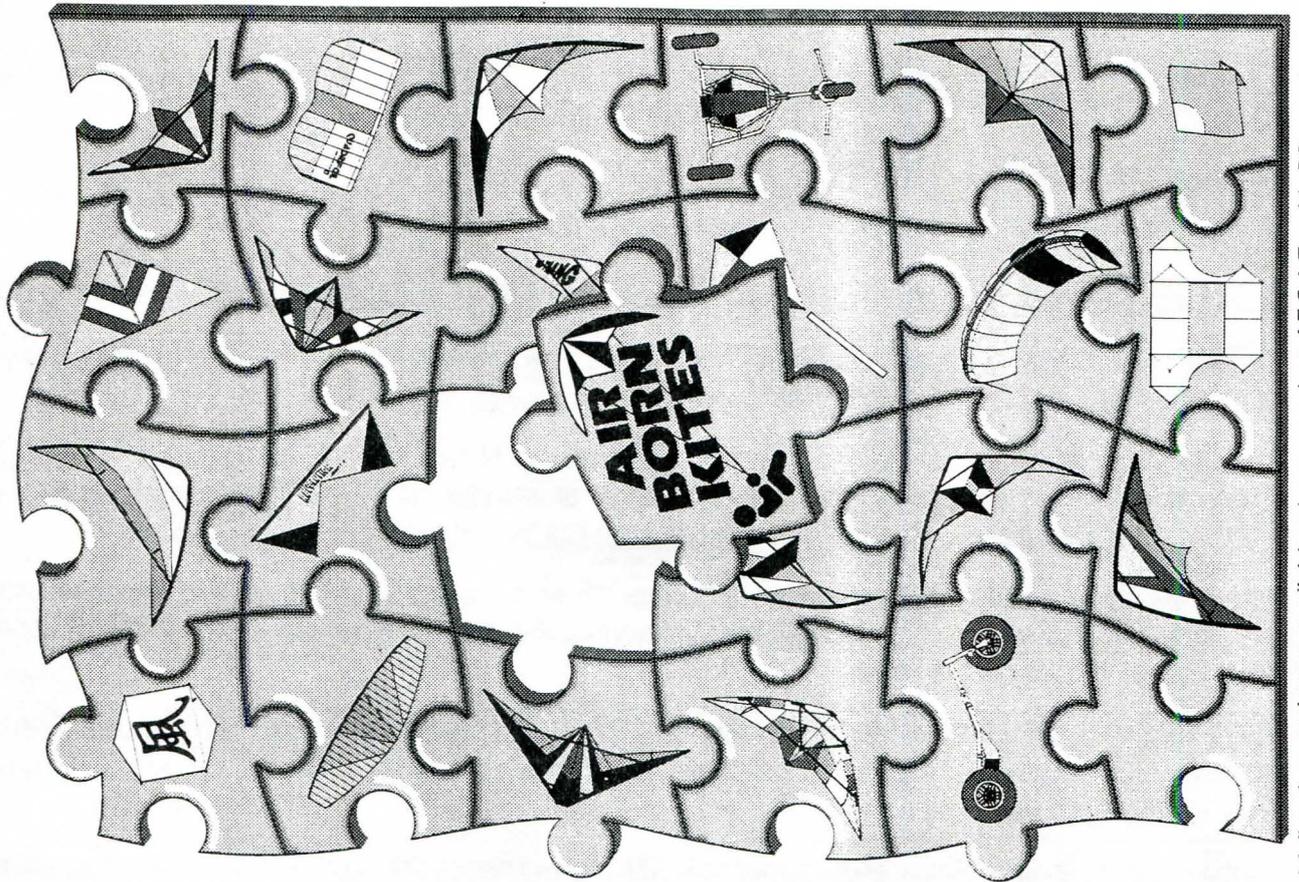
It was very interesting to hear the applause & cheers as Richard Dermer, the AKA President, asked all first time convention attendees to stand up. He asked them to sit and then asked all those who had attended two or more to stand up. Then he continued with three & four till he got to this, the twentieth convention and he proudly announced the Three Musketeers, Ted Manekin, Rick Kinnaird and Bob Price, who stood proudly as everyone applauded. Bob Price was at my table with his wife and she had attended 19 conventions. Americans are proud of their conventions and well over 500 kitefliers registered. One of them who became a good friend during the week, Larry Stebbing, had a 15 hour drive to return home. He said the trip was worth it because he had learned more with Indian kites in a week than with any other fighter kite in three years. David Gomberg and another kiteflier, both pin fanatics, who regularly attend Lunen Kite Festival in Germany as invited guests, chose to attend the convention instead, at their own cost.

On Sunday, the weather resembled some of the weather we've had here in UK this year, with rain and strong winds, so most of the kitefliers left to make their way home. I was taken back to Newark for an overnight stay and a brief tour of New York with a visit to the famous Katz Deli for the biggest sandwich I have ever seen in my life. Being taken around New York by a New York cop is very interesting. Next years convention will be at Long Beach, Washington. I'll end with a quote from David Gomberg, in which he describes an American convention.

"The main thing is that the convention is a bit of everything connected with kiteflying. It is a series of workshops, like Junction or Fort Worden. It is major sport kite competition, like the European Cup. It is a great kitemaking competition, the best in North America. It is Fighter Kites, Buggy Competition, etc. It has year end awards and business meetings. It is also a trade show. But most important, it is a great show."

Stafford Wallace

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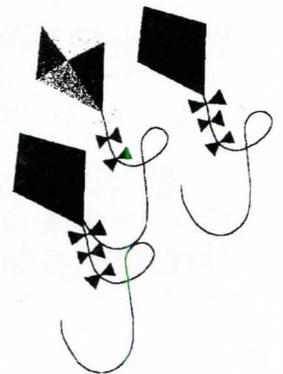
Workshops

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To all our kite friends

As you may have read in our advert, perhaps you haven't got that far yet. Kiteability will cease trading in 1998.

To stop the rumour mongers spreading wild stories, we decided to play it close until the publication of 'The Kiteflyer', so that every one gets the news together.

After purveying *thousands* of meters of ripstop, *many millions* of feet of flying line (string), *mountains* of spars (black sticks, white sticks, & wood), *countless numbers* of assorted rings, end caps, handles, spools, widgets, what'sits, thingamabobs, etc, etc, etc. The decision has been made to RETIRE.

Just for the record we have NOT gone broke or the like. *We have always been kites first and traders second.* Now is the time to reap the benefits of our labours, see life from the other side of the counter, blow the dust off our kites, get flying again and *enjoy* our retirement.

There must be many of our kite friends out there who, if it had not been for us, would not be afflicted by this terrible madness called kiteflying. For this, we must apologise, but there cannot be a nicer way to go and we are coming back to join you, so watch out!!!

As there is a kite shop on almost every corner now. Kite bits and pieces are more readily available than when we first started, all the shops will surely carry a good range of all your wants. You can still find the 'old fashioned' trader if you look, those who make and sell *their own* single and multi-line kites. Perhaps we should grade kite shops in sewing machines, as hotel's etc are graded in stars.

It is hoped that the ground we helped to break in the early days of kite festivals will be appreciated by all who follow in our footsteps, or should we say peg holes. We would like to think we helped to get the UK kiting scene to where it is today.

The intention is that we do a final year, as a thank you gesture to all our customers, we will have a sell off in the form of a discount of 15% on all orders of £20 and over based on our 1997 price list. Doing the rounds 'till all is gone, unless someone offers us a good price for the lot.

Except the name KITEABILITY, to which we will retain title.

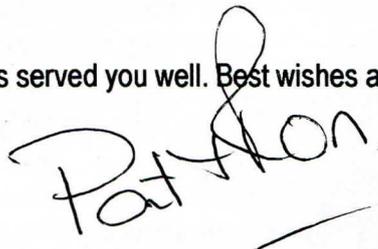
We are looking forward to going back to where it all started

FLYING AND MAKING KITES FOR FUN

Because when it stops being fun, then it is time to stop!!!!!!!!!!!!

We would like to say a **great big thanks** you to all of our kite friends who have supported us since our first outing at Old Warden, at the Autumn rally of 1987.

We hope that KITEABILITY has served you well. Best wishes and happy flying,



Pat & Ron Dell

Event Reports

Hunstanston Kite & Country Fair - September 14th

Kitefliers from all parts of the country came to the first Hunstanston and District Rotary Kite and Country fair at the Smithdon School Playing Field on a glorious sunny Sunday. Kites of all shapes and designs were flown, Giant Frogs, Martin Lester Legs, Giant Fugu fish, Parafoils plus a Peter Lynn Mega Octopus launched to music by the Sky High Team.

Arena events included an altitude sprint, model aerobatic helicopter displays, stunt kite displays by Sky High and myself, plus two periods for everyone to fly in the arena. There were many more events around the field including a mini fair ground, morris dancing, magic and clowns by Justo James and a sweet drop by Kevin Appleton who co-ordinated the displays and arena events - plus a large craft fair. Around 4000 people came to the display and the proceeds will all go to local charities. Hunstanston Rotary would like to thank all the people who attended and supported the event and will look forward to seeing you next year.

Bryan Cantle.

Charity Day at Thirlestane Castle, Scottish Borders - Saturday 27th September

Having organised a successful kite festival in the grounds of Thirlestane Castle in 1995 I was asked if I could arrange a kite display for a fund raising and charity day for the Animal Health Trust and International League for the Protection of Horses both of which have H.R.H. The Princess Royal as their president.

When I arrived on site on Saturday morning there was not a breath of wind - a herd of cattle had just been moved out of the flying area leaving 'deposits' every few metres (not solid ones!!).

There was a good turnout of kitefliers some of whom had travelled hundreds of miles. Everyone made a great effort to get kites into the sky but without success. Stafford Wallace managed to keep his kite aloft with constant tugging. George Webster, our commentator for the day, did a wonderful job competing against other PA systems informing the spectators of our struggles as we ran backwards, forwards and sideways to get lift and avoid the 'brown stuff'.

We had been requested not to fly kites when the Princess's helicopter arrived. Stafford duely obliged and brought his kite down!

After meeting VIPs, the Princess came over to our arena to see and meet some of the kitefliers. Thankfully Stafford managed to get a kite in the sky and I introduced H.R.H. to Stafford and at that moment the wind suddenly came from nowhere enabling others to get their kites airborne. H.R.H. showed great interest as Stafford demonstrated how he could spin and manoeuvre his single line kite. Harry Peart from the North East Kitefliers helped H.R.H. to fly a 2 metre rokkaku while Nick James managed to get his magnificent train of Angel Kites flying. Phil Womack and members of North East Kitefliers managed to get 'Polly', a Peter Lynn Octopus into the air, Art of Air managed to give a display of team flying, members of the Kite Club of Scotland launched a variety of kites and Frank McShane flew his train of 200 kites whilst others did a great job putting on the best display possible under the circumstances.

I had been asked to brief everyone who would meet the Princess the correct way to address her. First 'Your Royal Highness' and then 'Ma'am'. As H.R.H. was chatting to George Webster I heard a loud voice shout 'Ann - grab hold of this!'. Looking around in horror I saw Eddie Megrath handing the line of his fledged kite to Ann his wife!

H.R.H. stayed with us for about 15 minutes chatting and flying and said she had enjoyed it very much and jokingly suggested we have a kite festival on her front lawn - you never know.

As she left the arena the wind dropped never to return for the rest of the day!. We were a little disappointed that we could not give the public a more spectacular display but everyone gave their best on the day.

The charities were very pleased with the publicity they received from the TV, radio and press and many kitefliers had their pictures in the Scottish newspapers the following week. As for the brown stuff - I'm still finding stains on my kites!.

Malcolm Goodman.

P.S. Whilst on the subject of royalty - in the early 1980s I was sponsored by the British Council for one of my kiteflying trips to China. I received the award from Prince Charles who told me he had been given a kite as a wedding present. He took it on Britannia on his honeymoon - it took him and a couple of crew members to assemble the kite - he then went to the rear of the ship and asked a crew member to launch it for him. The kite went up so fast that he burnt his hands which made him let go of the line loosing the kite out to sea. He said he learnt two things that day - first you must wear gloves and second tell the captain to slow down!.

Lunen Festival 1997

Lunen Festival 1997 - The British Gastronomical Tour!

Mid-October and the wind has turned to come from the south bringing with it unusually warm weather for the time of year. A party of thirteen kite fliers from around the country make the annual pilgrimage to Germany for the popular Lunen festival and gastronomic extravaganza.

Arriving Friday afternoon the festival site, a park and glider airfield, was already a wash of colour from camper vans and German fliers with kites high in the sky. The warm wind matches the warm greeting from our hosts and friends made on past visits.

While most launched kites I was soon to be accosted by Germans seeking new pins. Festival organisers are Christian and Suzi Treppner-Schultheis of Vlieger Team Dortmund. Christian holds the largest collection of kite pins in Germany and incorporates within the festival various pin competitions. Extensive and intense pin trading takes place on Friday evening.

An enormous buffet style breakfast starts Saturday off. Large Genki and Delta kites already fill the sky.

This years festival had a Chinese theme and a large marque split into three, contained displays of chinese kites together with the visiting Chinese contingent making miniature dragons, a childs kite workshop and the aforementioned pin competitions.

Pins - Three competitions are run. The first is for the size of collection, in which I gain fifth place. The second is for presentation of a group of pins. Members of the visiting public vote for their favourite. A fourth place here for my display featuring Eddy kites against a rainbow background with kite pins featuring rainbows mounted onto clouds. The third competition is for knowing your collection. Entrants have to find as quickly as possible a pin with a specific feature. With most of the Brit party helping and assembled around my collection two of the ten prizes were won in this class.

Outside the light winds made the ladies rok fight very difficult. A clean launch was essential as running backward soon resulted in the fliers backs hitting the boundary. Carolyn Swift put a gallant effort in far from ideal conditions. It was interesting to note that entrants were all supplied with the same type and length of flying line.

Visiting from Canada, Ray Bethel stunned the public with his multi-kite routines. He was flying bare from the waist and basking in the near tropical weather conditions.

Many large box type kites laid on the ground ready for launch but sadly the wind never increased in strength to allow them to be flown. However, the light winds did allow the flight of a train of over 1000 mylar eddy kites. This drew a large audience as well as the attention of the visiting TV crew.

Sadly after some hour of flight the flying line parted and two thirds of the kites drifted skywards snagging for a short while around the middle of a tall industrial chimney in the far distance. Hopes of a recovery were lost when they broke free of the chimney and disappeared skyward and lost to outer space.

At 3:00pm all Brits went into the arena and flew their kites in memory of Oppa, a dear friend and brother of festival organiser Christian who lost his life earlier in the year, and also to celebrate the thirteenth birthday of Nadine Koll a young girl who lives adjoining the festival site. She became a friend of the Brits three years ago and is now a penfriend of my son Andrew.

Saturday evening's meal was another feast fit for royalty.

Lunen Festival 1997

As soon as it was dark the night flying competitions got under way. Fickle winds made the flights very short which must have been disappointing for the kites' creators. Spectacular and creative designs were illuminated from built in lights and torches from the audience. They made a spectacular sight shrouded by mist from the river that skirts the site. An equally spectacular fireworks display concluded the evenings activities.

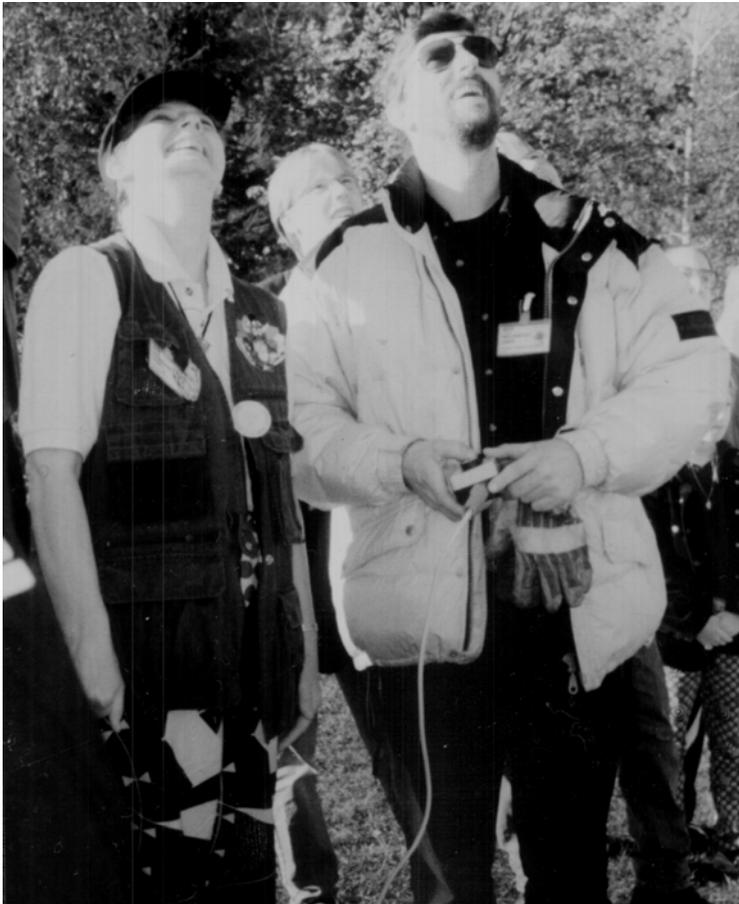
Sunday saw another extensive breakfast with everyone quickly outside to sun bathe and fly kites. A crowd gathered as Jerry and Carolyn Swift walked the width of the site and launched a large rok high into the sky. With about 1000 feet of line laid out a second rok was attached and yet more line paid out until these kites were the highest fliers and the line pulling hard enough to launch the line for bear bunging. An ingenious battery operated launch system was soon busy as bears, pigs and a green dragon soon started falling from the sky. Occasionally with a deployed parachute.

Your correspondent was nearly hooked into bear bunging when Ray Bethel saved the day and my sanity. He launched his kites and normality clicked my brain back into gear. Off to the arena to watch some real kite flying.

Sunday afternoon came too fast but over seventy kites in the individual rok fight was a spectacular launch and fitting end to the weekend festival.

The gastronomic feast was not over yet. Farewells and the flying fields behind us it was time to hit town for the now traditional pizza and ice creams. Fantastic hospitality in the pizza restaurant followed by a visit to an Italian ice cream parlour for the biggest ice creams ever.

The long journey home included a visit to a Belgium chocolate factory which was a fitting end to this kite and food extravaganza.



Visiting fliers came from many countries and an estimated 100,000 members of the public visit over the weekend. It was a very relaxed and enjoyable weekend. Everybody is looking forward to next years event.

The multi-cultural British party consisted of Barry and Janet Poulter, Paul Barrett, John Ogden, Simon Hennesey, Paul Judkins, Jerry and Carolyn Swift, Ray and Doreen Oakhill, Kevin, Andrew and Julie Appleton.

Kevin Appleton

Kite Exhibition

After attending a number of festivals Tim's interest evolved from sports kites to single line. Given his Arts background it was not long before he wanted to 'have a go' himself.

Our early attempts were copies of 'patterns' in kite books. Long discussions were held over images and colourways, and even longer by me cursing and complaining over the difficulty of sewing ripstop compared with the dress or curtain fabrics I was used to. Finally, Tim said, "You'd better teach me to sew!". We spent a Christmas with him cursing and complaining over the difficulty of sewing ripstop - or even of sewing! but eventually he produced a kite bag.

He has come a long way since then. He still discusses images and colourways, but the search is on for new designs. Of course, there are friends who say that kite creation is not art. It was exciting, therefore when a local gallery invited Tim to hold an exhibition of his work.

The excitement soon turned to panic. Although the exhibition was not until January it was obvious that he did not have enough kites to make a respectable display. We worked out that he would have to produce a kite a fortnight during the latter part of 1997. His ideas came thick and fast. However making the kites is proving much slower, being fitted in between a full time job, family and social commitments - not to mention sleep!

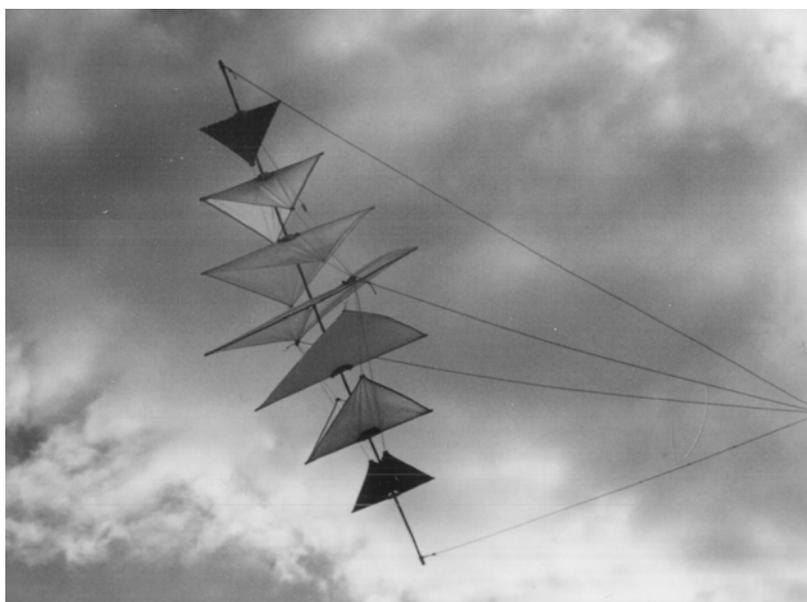
A principle Tim was keen to stick to is that all the kites in the exhibition should have flown. What would you do when a visually stunning creation proves difficult to keep in the air? Spend time 'fiddling' or get on with the next project? There have been times when eventually it has been necessary to move on with problems unresolved.

When considering the content of the exhibition how important is it to have an equal balance of 3D and flat kites? Should sports kites be displayed in an art gallery? In reality these issues are likely to be determined by the constraints of the gallery space, with flatter kites on the walls and the more geometric shapes suspended in the central area.

We are both looking forward to the opening of the exhibition, not least because it will give us time to relax - and even to go flying! Like all challenges the experience has been testing, but one neither of us would have missed.

Pam Ball

The exhibition of Kites by Tim Wilcox can be seen at Dartington Arts Gallery, Dartington Hall, Totnes, Devon from 21st January to 14th February.



Spanish Schooner by Tim Wilcox

Bits & Pieces

Web News

Mullin Kites (Buckinghamshire) have a new Web site with secure credit card facilities available at <http://www.mullinkites.co.uk> and are contactable by email at mullin.kites@virgin.net.

Roy Broadley of Kites Up has a web site at <http://freespace.virgin.net/roy.broadley>. Have a look and see what is there.

Force Nine Kites have also got a web site. They can be found at <http://www.forceninekites.force9.co.uk>.

Rescue Kite

Seen in Yacht World, November 1997. An article concerning an inflatable beacon which has come to the notice of the RNLI. It starts off as a silver foil pack the size of a bag of peanuts and weighs 43gms. Inflated by mouth it comes with a light line and when inflated looks like an inflatable cycle helmet. The Skystreme is the result of six years' work by Vernon Pascoe and partners. The Skystreme is an inflatable kite but much more stable and reliable than an ordinary kite. Its primary purpose is to aid in rescue work as it can be clearly seen from over a mile away.

Group News

The Midlands Kite Fliers have recently held their AGM and a number of changes in officers was the result.

The new General Secretary is Garry Box, 55 Loughshaw, Tamworth, Staffs B77 4LY. They have also changed the Chairman (now Karl Longbottom), Treasurer (Linda Richardson), Events Co-ordinator (Sara Longbottom), Newsletter Editor (Dave Salmon) and Membership Secretary (John Larson). They have a generic email (mkf@nexus1.demon.co.uk). Julie White continues to maintain the MKF web page at <http://www.canleo.demon.co.uk/mkf.htm>.

Lawrence Rayment has written to announce the formation of the Taunton Kite Flyers. Their first fly-in was held on December 14th at the Taunton Racecourse. If you want more information write to him at 8 Hartley Way, Taunton, Somerset TA1 2LJ. Tel: 01823 278470, Fax: 01823 334503.

Ian Chamberlain has taken over the leadership of the Midlands Group of the Fighter Kite Club. He can be contacted at 324 Rugby Road, Burbage, Leicestershire LE10 2NP.

Shop News

Manni Kluge of Kites & More writes: The Australian Kiting CD Rom available to interested kites. Price £17.50 + 50p P&P. There is another CD Rom from Germany (Just for Fun) price £14.50 + 50p P&P.

Also available soon a computer game (fun and educational - Win95). Kiting Cartoons is a small book with 78 pages full of kiting cartoons. Humour and situations we all can relate to. German subtitles, but I include an appropriate translation. I can also take your subscriptions for Drachen Magazin.

For your kites: Climax flying line for kites - special offer.

Send an SAE to Kites & More, 18 Water Lane, Threekingham, Lincolnshire NG34 0BE. Tel/Fax: 01529 241080. Email: kitesmore@aol.com

Whaam! Kites have opened a new shop in Chelmsford. The address is 2 Market Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1XU. Tel: 01245 359252.

Free Event Publicity

If anyone wants to publicise their kite event (or for that matter any event) on the web try sending the details to Whats Happening. This site was launched at the beginning of January and is free. Send them details of the event, where it is being held, date/time and a contact phone number and they will add it to their list. Obviously you can email the details (nick@whats happening.co.uk) or snail mail to Cliffe and Company, Steele Grange, Steel Heath, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 3LB. Tel: 01948 840080, Fax: 01948 840020.

Kites on CD

Peter Batchelor writes: I finished creating an archival Web-CD of the AKA (Australian Kitefliers Association) newsletters and magazines along with a great collection of photos and plans.

The info below is taken from <http://www.srl.rmit.edu.au/peterbat/cdform/form.htm>. There is an order form on that page, should you wish to buy a copy of the CD.

Australian Kiting: The newsletters, magazines and website of the AKA.

The AKA has produced a CD-ROM of all issues of the AKA newsletters and magazines published in the past twenty years. The CD-ROM contains a listing and links to all the plans and profiles from these issues and "Kites in the Classroom", an 85 page resource for teachers. As far as we can ascertain, this is the first kiting collection available on CD-ROM anywhere in the world.

Also included is a copy of the AKA website and a large number of full colour images, drawn from the collective resources of the AKA membership. These photos are of events, kites and people, and form a lasting and interesting addition to the newsletters and magazines.

Bits & Pieces

It contains over 80 plans and diagrams and is a major resource for people interested in the history of kiting in Australia over the last twenty years. All photos and newsletters have been saved in a format that will allow for easy reading on computer screens and can also be printed or saved to your own computer. All software needed for viewing the files on the CD-ROM are included, as are complete installation instructions.

This historical CD-ROM is available in limited numbers and for a limited time. It has been produced to coincide with issue number 200 of the Association's journal, "The Australian Kite" and has been produced with the assistance of Sunrise Research Laboratory, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. Computer requirements: Macintosh or IBM compatible (486 or better) computer, with a minimum of 8 Mb RAM, with a CD drive and 10 Mb of free disc space.

Australian Kite Association Website: <http://netspace.net.au/~peterbat>

(The CD is also available from Kites & More - see page 15).

Bear News

Anthony Thyssen posted the following on rec.kites. Officially Announcing New Parafauna Pages and Plans:-

Tuffy's Parachuting Adventure

<http://www.sct.gu.edu.au/~anthony/parafauna/>

The Adventures of Tuffy the "I'm not a bear" Koala, as he makes his first parachute jump from a kite messenger.

Hemisphere Parachute Design

http://www.sct.gu.edu.au/~anthony/kites/parafauna/chute_design/

How to design the gore pattern for a simple hemisphere parachute. This is easier than it sounds.

Anthony's Lifting Messenger (experimental)

<http://www.sct.gu.edu.au/~anthony/kites/parafauna/messenger/>

Discussion and plan for an experimental messenger for "lifting" parafauna, candy, and other reasonably 'heavy' loads up near vertical kite line. The above is part of Anthony's Kite Workshop of kite plans, links and other kite related information. <http://www.sct.gu.edu.au/~anthony/kites/>

Kites International

An Update from Barry Pitman.

I wouldn't blame anybody for calling me elusive, but self preservation, by keeping a low profile, has given me a renewed level of energy and commitment to continue with my plans to produce a twice yearly international publication. After taking time out I can appreciate Jon and Gill's cry for more support. One person, let alone two is just not enough to produce a quality magazine with out any additional support.

To those of you who have provide services and support thanks again. For those of you still awaiting refunds, these will be sent out at the beginning of March. Please accept my apologies for the delay but along with my accountant, I have been finalising the accounts for KITES Magazine.

So let me update you on future plans. Following discussions with my accountant, a new company, adequately funded by outside shareholders and bank financing has been formed to handle the relaunch of KITES Magazine as KITES INTERNATIONAL. The old company will continue to exist and there are no plans for it to disappear, so no conspiracy theories please! The business plan has been prepared and once the shareholding of the new company has been established the final draft will be submitted to the bank for consideration. Initial discussions have been favourable and I am optimistic that the required backing will be in place early in the new year. With the right funding in place I will be able to employ and pay freelance contributors to promote the title the way I would like to and to have the funds to invest in new technology.

KITES INTERNATIONAL will be launched at Weymouth in May, supported by advertising and promotion at all UK festivals throughout the summer. In the next issue of the Kiteflieger, I will be announcing news of an exciting development of the magazine. So to use an old cliche - "watch this space". Should you wish to contact me, you can do so by writing to PO Box 2530, Saltdean, Brighton, BN2 8BL or by email at kites@mistral.co.uk. Telephone and fax facilities will be available again during January, together with the launch of the KITES INTERNATIONAL website.

Weymouth Beach Kite Festival

The eighth Weymouth International Beach Kite Festival will this year be held on Sunday 3rd and Monday 4th May. Saturday 2nd May is reserved as a free flying day with no organised events taking place but the beach is free to be used for flying. As usual a number of overseas visitors will be there flying their particular style of kites as well as many UK based kitefliers.

The festival will run along the normal lines with a few competitions, many demonstrations and free flying. Talking of demonstrations if anyone who is thinking of attending wants to do something in the arena as a demonstration can they please contact us in advance so that we can plan it in. A childrens kite workshop will also be held on the beach.

Saturday evening has the usual Civic Reception with the Mayor and there will be basket meals available for those who want and a pay bar. Everyone is welcome to come along to chat - it is free! In the Ocean Room, Weymouth Pavilion from 7:30pm till midnight.

For those who want to there is a slot for night flying on Sunday evening, from 9:00pm, which is followed by the usual firework display.

Again we request that you do not set up your cabanas etc along the tide line but along the edges of the arenas - this allows the free flying areas to be as large as possible when the tide goes out.

Accommodation

Accommodation can be booked via the Accommodation Line on 0800 765223. Reservations can be made for all classes of accommodation including caravan and camping.

Car Parking

Again there is free parking available but space is limited. Once the tickets have gone we cannot get any more. Tickets are valid for two days, Sunday and Monday. One ticket per car for both days. Two car parks are in use - one situated behind the Pavilion and the other a multi-story carpark near the station. Note if you have a high vehicle - such as a camper - please ask for Pavilion car park. Please use the form below and remember to enclose a stamped addressed envelope as passes will NOT be sent without one.

Traders

Kite traders are very welcome to attend and ply their wares. The charge will be £160.00 for three days, £130.00 for two days and £80.00 for one day. Payment for this must be with your booking which should be sent to the address below. Please make all cheques payable to the Kite Society. Note that only 15 sites are available so book early.

If you require a car pass then please send an S.A.E. to the address below. Indicate the number of passes required.

*The Kite Society
P.O. Box 2274
Gt Horkesley
Colchester*

Event News

Kites over Kent - 22nd March

Those of you who participated in Kites Over Kent at Ifield School, Gravesend approximately eight years ago will remember a brilliant family day and the evocative sight of a sky full of kites of all shapes, types and sizes and the happy sound of novice fliers getting their kites airborne.

On Sunday 22nd March Kites Over Kent will be seen again!

Practical kite making workshops, free kite making materials, 15 acre grassed site, buggy racing, high flying, payload parachuting, competitions, demonstrations and refreshments will comprise a few of the attractions.

The aim of the day is to encourage an interest in kiting and provide a memorable and enjoyable community day.

Planning starts in earnest soon and the organising team have a few ideas up their sleeves to make this day a uniquely special event.

Ifield School is situated 1 mile from the A2 in Gravesend and easy parking will be provided on site. Gates open at 10:00am and the day ends at 4:00pm.

For further details contact Simon Harrison, Ifield School, Cedar Avenue, Gravesend, Kent DA12 5JT.

Portugal Kite Retreat - 12th - 19th March and 19th - 26th March

Get ready for the season! Come out and hang around with one of England's premier kite fliers and designers - Chris Matheson. Chris will give you some helpful hints and tips on both flying and designing. He will be with you each afternoon on the beach giving you advice on - Precision, Freestyle, Trick, Four Line and Power Kiting.

Chris is well known to be one of the best of his kind, so can you afford to miss out on an unique opportunity?

Flying takes place on the glorious Meia Praia beach in Lagos each afternoon from 2:00pm to 6:00pm. Afterwards there is ample time to get together and meet new friends and exchange ideas. There will be an introduction at the beginning of the retreat at the Burgau Sports Centre which is a 5 minute walk from the majority of the accommodation offered.

The cost of this week is £75.00 supplement which needs to be added to the cost of your accommodation price and flight. These usually add up between £260.00 and £300.00 per person per week. Please ask for our brochure on self-catering accommodation.

Contact Natural Heights on 0181 682 8990 or fax 0181 673 7466.

Easter Fly-in, Worcester Countryside Park, Spethley, Near Worcester - 10th - 13th April

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

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

The Stowe Gardens Kite Festival, Buckingham - 25th & 26th April

The National Trust in conjunction with the White Horse Kite Fliers are organising the above event which will run from 10:00am to 5:00pm each day. Usual stalls and refreshments. Entrance fee £1.00, WHKF members free. Camping available on Saturday night.

For further details contact Carole Adams, c/o The National Trust, Stowe Gardens, Buckingham MK18 5EH. Tel: 01280 822850, or Neil Harvey, 2 Meadowlands Cotts, Bibury, Cirencester, Glos. GL7 5NA. Tel: 01285 740295.

Fairbourne Kite Festival 3 - 20th & 21st June.

Event News

We have been asked to do it again this year - so here it is; the third Fairbourne Kite Festival. A week later this year, as the Three Peaks Race start is tide driven and following the interest shown and the excellence of the grandstand view of the start last year we have moved to accommodate it.

Nothing much will have changed, the views are as grand as ever. The ferry still runs to meet the trains. The locos have all passed their boiler tests and there will be some new rolling stock for the disabled. Good news includes that "The Wildlife Discovery" is finished and will be open and also we are resolved to make the festival even better.

Some details for you: Free event without car parking charges. Free party pass on the Railway for the whole weekend; please tell us at least three weeks before the Festival that you intend to come so that we can send your pass to you together with any other details you may require. Sorry about this prior notice but it prevents nausea at the booking office on the day. Roger's banquetine BBQ on the Saturday night (small charge for this I fear) with a local band to entertain. Foot plate rides around the loop at Porth Penrhyn after the BBQ special arrives. We promise to continue as a friendly and relaxing event so come and join us.

For accommodation lists, maps and registration contact Colin Jessop at the Railway on 01341 250362 or write to him at Fairbourne & Barmouth Railway, Beach Road, Fairbourne, Dolgellau, Gwynedd LL38 2PZ.

East London International Kite Festival - June 20th & 21st.

Moving back to its original position in June the organisers hope once again to be running a round of the National Sport Kite Championships along with lots of other mind stretching kite related activities. For the first time we hope to have some international invitees - top of our list are Frank Schwiemann from Germany, Pierre Fabre from France and Steve Brockett from Wales.

Camping is available on site and further information can be obtained on 0171 275 8799 or 0181 555 0709. Or you can email Jeremy@ideasphere.demon.co.uk.

Southampton Kite Festival - June 27th & 28th

Taking place at Lordshill Sports Ground, Lordshill, Southampton, Hampshire. We are all hoping that this next kite festival will be blessed with good weather after the past two years damp proceedings. The festival is run as a Fun and Family Kite Event, the main emphasis being on everyone enjoying themselves, along with a few special competitions and displays, 'Have a Go' sessions, Childrens Kite Workshop, Parachuting Teddies, Kite Traders and Stalls. Entry and parking is free. All fliers are welcome and a limited camping area is available but places need to be booked prior to the event.

Contact Michael Lowe, 44 Bellemoor Road, Shirley, Southampton, Hampshire SO15 7QU. Tel: 01703 770788.

Shrewsbury Kite and Boomerang Festival - July 4th & 5th

After organising this festival for the last twelve years out of the fourteen I feel it is time to step down and let someone else have a go.

This year's event will be organised by Paul and Helene Morgan of Sky Bums who have kindly volunteered to give me a rest. As far as I know they are intending to run it as per previous years.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank various people who have helped me run this festival over the years it has been in existence.

Bill Souten, a member of the Midlands Kite Fliers who first came up with the idea fourteen years ago, members of the Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council, ie Mike Cox and his department, and Ken and Doreen who provide refreshments and so much more during the period of the festival and also throughout the year when we have other functions on the site. Without their willingness and sense of humour to help us I feel the festival would not have been as successful as it is at the present time.

Event News

A lot of credit for the continuation of the festival must be to the enthusiasm of you, the kite fliers, who have turned up year in and year out and have taken part - as I have said before "Fliers make Festivals".

See you at the end of a line somewhere. Tony Slater

3rd Golden Valley Kite Festival - 18th & 19th July

This event will take place at Tewkesbury School, Tewkesbury. The format of the event is the same as previous years where a relaxed atmosphere has contributed to its' success.

Camping will be available on site from Friday 17th to Sunday 19th inclusive. Once again there will be a BBQ and auction on the Saturday evening and a welcome reception on Friday evening.

Remember to bring your swimming costumes as the pool has been booked for Saturday and Sunday usage.

We will be raising funds for the James Hopkins Trust for Severely Disabled Children. In 1997 we donated £800 from the auction to them and I would like to thank both the donators and purchasers of items for their help. For more details contact John Ogden on tel/fax 01452 554821 or Clive Greaves on 01242 243382.

Middle Wallop Kite Festival - August 1st & 2nd

As last year there is camping available, a round of the British Buggy Club Challenge. More details will follow in the next issue. For more information contacts are for Kites - Roy Broadley (Kites Up) 01256 812487 or for Buggies - Mike Shaw 01256 461960.

Wellington International Wind Festival, New Zealand 5th - 14th March 1999

The Wellington Wind Festival, previously a relatively small annual event has now become a biennial festival. This change was made to allow time to re-launch the event as The Wellington International Wind Festival. This will enable Sports Impact to create an icon event that will showcase Wellington to the world and to create a festival with a major international focus. The festival will now be held 5th - 14th March 1999 and is supported by both central and local government with significant sponsorship under negotiation.

The festival will cover a multitude of events such as Birdman competitions, a National Air Gallery Art Kite Exhibition, a major Wind Energy conference and challenges to world records such as the World Altitude record and the World Indoor Flight record. The centrepiece of the festival will be the Kite displays and competitions featuring international competitors.

For more details contact Barbara Summer, Event Manager, Wellington International Wind Festival, Sports Impact Ltd., PO Box 13063, Johnsonville, Wellington, New Zealand. Tel: (04) 479 5563, Fax (04) 479 7974. Email: impact@mail.netlink.co.nz

Private Ads

Wanted: AirCrafts Legend sports kite or your (retired?) Shuriken (nor Shuriken Omega). Please phone Andrew on 01703 474622.

For Sale: Six, One metre rokkakus. Can be flown as a stack or individually. £185.00. Joy stick kite complete. Spectra lines, training video £30.00. Telephone 01603 431964 evenings/weekends.

Private Ads are free to all Kite Society members. Just send us your copy as you would like it to appear and it will be published in the next available issue. For the April issue the copy date is 15th March.

Kite Event Calendar

U.K. Kite Events 1998		
22nd March	Kites Over Kent, Ifield School, Gravesend, Kent.	☎01474 365485
10th - 13th April	Easter Fly-In, Worcester Countryside Park, Worcester.	Fred Taplin
12th & 13th April	Blackheath Easter Kite Festival, Blackheath, London.	Sky Kites
18th & 19th April	Stowe Gardens Kite Festival, Stowe Gardens, Buckingham.	White Horse Kite Fliers
25th & 26th April	Caernafon Kite Festival, Wales	Tony Slater
26th April	Old Warden Spring Kite Rally, Old Warden Aerodrome, near Biggleswade, Beds.	The Kite Society
3rd & 4th May	Weymouth International Beach Kite Festival, Weymouth Beach, Dorset.	The Kite Society
4th May	10th Anniversary Alcester Kite Fliers Fly-In, Worcester Countryside Park.	Fred Taplin.
9th & 10th May	Swindon International Kite Festival, Wroughton Aerodrome, near Swindon, Wiltshire.	White Horse Kite Fliers.
16th & 17th May	Capstone Country Park, Chatham, Kent.	Kiteability
23rd - 25th May	Festival of Flight, Kelburn Castle & Country Centre, Ayrshire.	Irene Patterson
30th & 31st May	Bath Kite Festival, Lansdowne Playing Fields.	Zoe Hancock ☎01225 462944
6th & 7th June	Basingstoke Kite Festival, Basingstoke, Hampshire.	Al Cosgrove
13th & 14th June	Peterborough Kite Festival, Nene Park, Peterborough.	Great Ouse Kite Fliers
20th & 21st June	East London Kite Festival, Hackney, London	High As A Kite
20th & 21st June	Teston Bridge, Maidstone, Kent.	Kiteability
20th & 21st June	Fairbourne & Barmouth Railway Kite Festival. Gwynedd Wales.	Colin Jessop ☎01341 250362
27th & 28th June	Southampton Kite Festival, Lordshill Playing Fields, Southampton.	Michael Lowe ☎01703 770788
4th & 5th July	Washington Festival of the Air, Washington, Tyne & Wear.	Malcolm Goodman
4th & 5th July	Petworth Kite Festival, Petworth Park, West Sussex	Kiteability
4th & 5th July	Shrewsbury Kite and Boomerang Festival, Shrewsbury.	Sky Bums

Kite Event Calendar

11th & 12th July	Brighton Kite Festival, Stanmer Park, Brighton.	Ray Oakhill
19th July	Silloth Rotary Club Kite Festival, Cumbria.	J McGarry ☎01697 366400
19th July	Blackheath Summer Kite Rally, Blackheath, London.	Sky Kites
25th & 26th July	Weston Super Mare Beach Kite Festival, Somerset.	Avril Baker
25th & 26th July	Kennet Valley Kite Festival, Thatcham	☎01635 828400
26th July	Camelot Giant Fly-In. Honeydown Farm, Crewkerne.	☎01460 75445
1st & 2nd August	Middle Wallop Kite Festival.	Roy Broadley
8th & 9th August	Teston Bridge, Maidstone	Kiteability
16th August	Blackwater Valley Kite Festival, Aldershot Park.	☎01252 334225
29th - 31st August	Portsmouth International Kite Festival, Southsea Common, Hampshire.	The Kite Society
5th & 6th September	Bristol International Kite Festival, Ashton Court, Bristol.	Avril Baker
13th September	Hunstanton Rotary Club Kite Festival, Norfolk.	Brian Cattle ☎01223 243825
12th - 20th September	Brean Sands Buggy and Kite Week, Somerset.	Mike Shaw
11th October	Old Warden Autumn Kite Rally, Old Warden Aerodrome, near Biggleswade, Beds.	The Kite Society

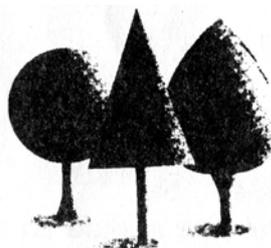
	Major Overseas Kite Festivals	
26th Feb - 2nd March	Roaring Forties International Kite Festival, Tasmania, Australia.	Jeremy Carson ☎00 61 3633 71215
4th - 13th April	Berck Sur Mer International Kite Festival, France.	Gerard Clement ☎00 33 1 44 68 00 75
16th - 17th May	East Duinkerke Kite Festival, Belgium.	Nest Lernout ☎00 32 31 449 1221
18th - 22nd June	Fano Kite Fliers Meeting, Denmark.	Rainer Kregorski ☎00 49 40 213 848
27th & 28th June	Scheveningen International Kite Festival, Holland.	Vlieger-Op! ☎00 31 70 385 8586
5th - 13th September	Dieppe International Kite Festival, Dieppe, France.	The Kite Society

Kite Event Calendar

Contact List	
The Kite Society	P.O. Box 2274, Gt Horkesley, Colchester CO6 4AY.
Avril Baker	5 Lilymead Avenue, Bristol BS4 2BY. ☎0117 977 2002
Roy Broadley	Kites Up, Flat 2, Millars, The Studio, Station Road, Cliddesdon, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG25 2NH. ☎01256 812487
Al Cosgrove	18 Loggon Road, Basingstoke, RG21 3PH. ☎01256 818922
Fred Taplin	20 Henley Street, Alcester, Warwickshire B49 5QY. ☎01789 762350.
GOKF	Alec Daniels, 51 South View Road, Walton, Peterborough, Cambs PE4 6AG. ☎01733 700718
Malcolm Goodman	134 Thames Road, Billingham, Cleveland TS22 5EX
Irene Patterson	☎01475 568685
Ray Oakhill	'Spindrift', 6 Hartfield Road, Saltdean, Sussex BN2 8RE. ☎01273 306842
Tony Slater	128 Meadow Farm Drive, Harlescott, Shrewsbury SY1 4JY. ☎01743 235068
Sky Kites	17 The Oval, Sidcup, Kent DA15 9ER. ☎0181 302 8203
Kiteability	2 Garfield Road, Ponders End, Enfield, Middlesex EN3 4RP. ☎0181 804 9080
White Horse Kite Fliers	P.O. Box 585, Swindon, Wiltshire SN3 4YR. ☎01793 824208
Mike Shaw	British Buggy Club, PO Box 4015, Smethwick, West Midlands B67 7HJ. ☎01256 461960
High As A Kite	153 Stoke Newington Church Street, London N16 0UH. ☎0171 275 8799
Sky Bums	7 Sunnyfields, Bell Lane, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY2 5EW. ☎01743 244677



G-FORCE SPARS



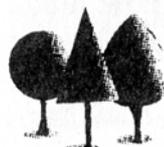
FITTINGS

FOR THE BEST AND LATEST TECHNOLOGY

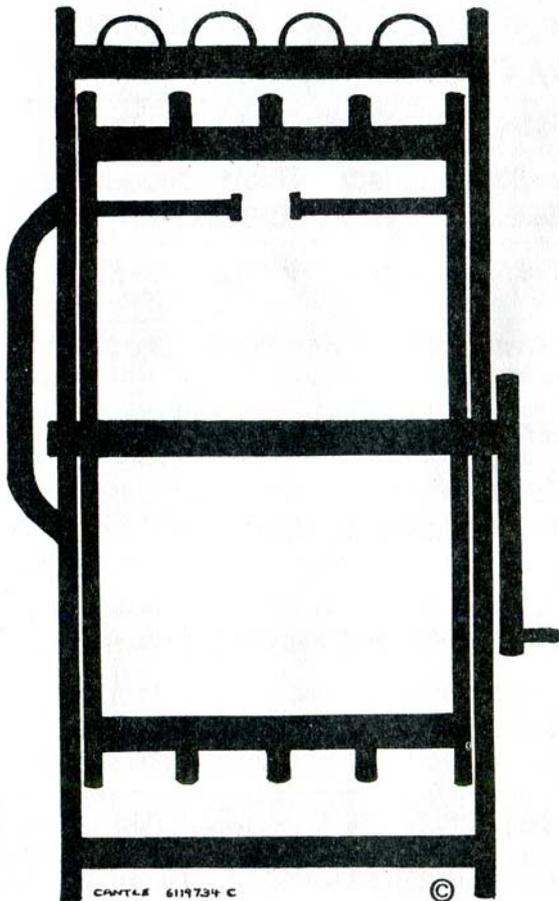
WOOLMER FOREST COMPOSITES

44 Hilland Rise, Headley, Bordon, Hants GU35 8LZ. UK

Tel: 01428 712126 Fax: 01428 714914



Multi-Line Speed Winder



Four Line Speed Winder

A Brief History. Having flown four-line kites for many years, I find a lot of time is wasted setting up the lines ready for flying, not to mention the tangles and twisted lines that always seem to appear when using the conventional winders. It is quite an arduous task to lay out four x 100 ft lines on a windy field. So I decided to try and design a way of storing and laying out the lines quickly on a single multi line winder.

After many attempts at different size round reels and different shape winders I came to the optimum size and shape which will wind and unwind line at a walking speed in a flat mode with no twisting of the line. Crossed lines can also be wound up, as they are run along the lines (as you wind in) towards the kite handles and can be uncrossed at the end. The winder can also be used by left and right hands by simply turning the frame over.

A stationary outer frame was added to mount the line guides which stop any chance of the lines falling off the frame or getting tangled with each other.

The first model Mk 1 (fig 1) was made from a small plastic waste pipe, perspex and wood. It has performed very well for many years, so I decided to make a Mk 2 with some slight modifications which had been learned from the Mk 1.

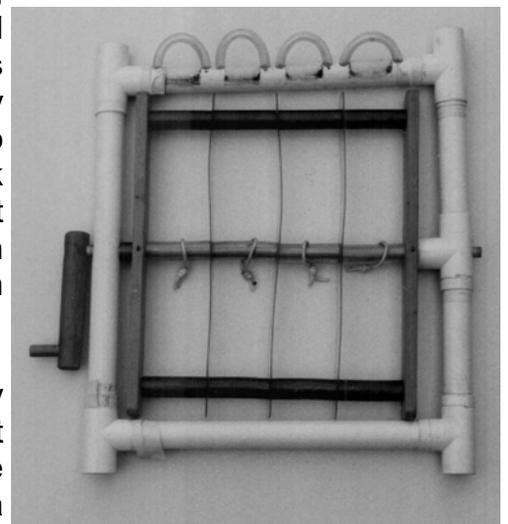


Fig 1. The first Mk 1 Multi-Line Winder

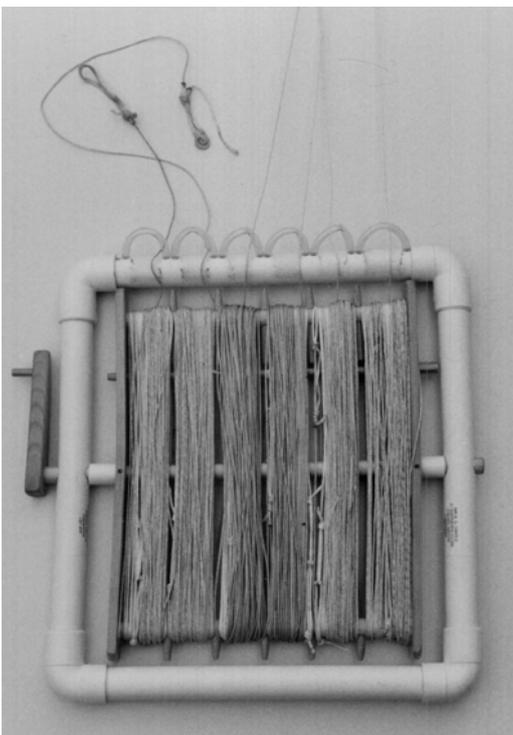
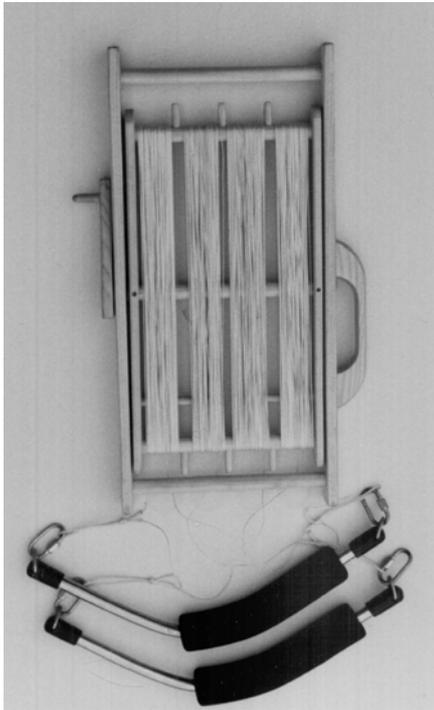


Fig 2. A Mk 2 Six Line Speed Winder

The Mk 2 is slightly more compact, without the perspex line dividers and with a retractable line end retainer bar. This model has worked so well it has been made in two, four and even a six line winder (fig 2). In August 1997, I completely revised the design, Mk 3. It is now made completely of pine, more compact (approx 6" x 12") and much stronger, with fixed line end retainers. It can now be made for all kites: two, four or six-line in right and left hand operation (fig 3).

Multi-Line Speed Winder



Operating the New Mk 3 Four Line Speed Winder. The procedure for operating the winder is very simple as long as a few simple rules are observed.

Working from the kite or parafoil, unfasten the lines in turn and loop them on the frame. Leave the kite handles loose on the other end and just wind up the lines while walking towards the handles. Unwinding is the reverse but the lines may be staked to take out any slack in the lines. Then just walk away from the handles and the frame will spin, laying out the lines.

The winder will wind up or unwind four x 100 ft lines in about thirty seconds.

It is also possible to store all your sets of kite lines on one winder, ie a set for high winds and a set for low winds.

Fig 3. The New Mk3 4 Line Speed Winder with Rev Handles. Wound with 4 x 100' Lines.

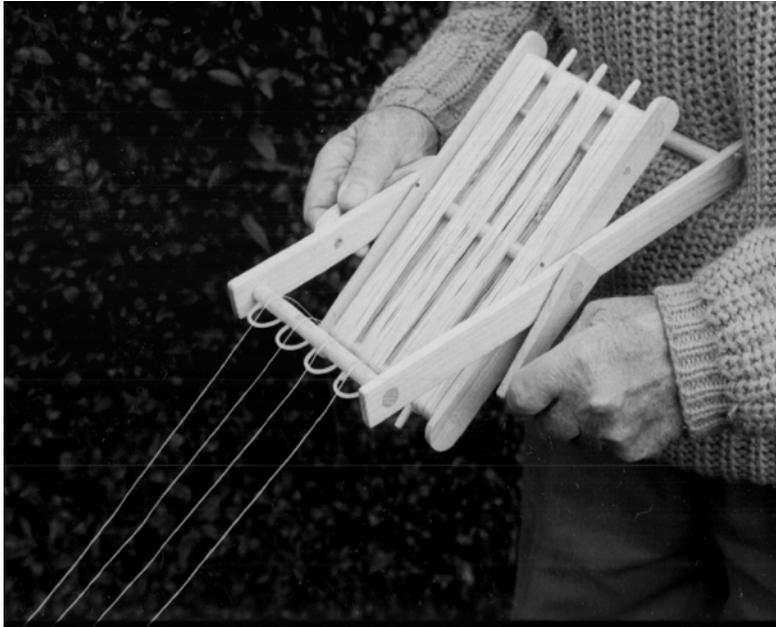


Fig 5. Winding Up Four Lines with the Mk 3.

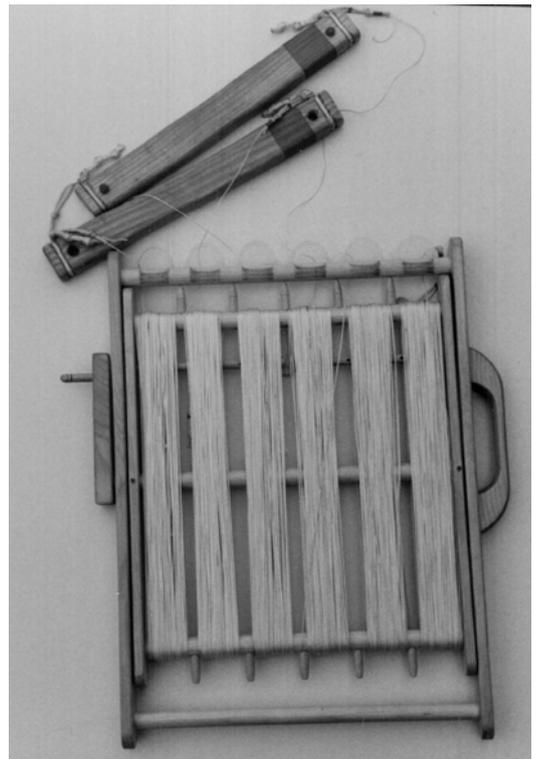


Fig 4. A Mk3 Six Line Speed Winder, Wound With 6 x 100' Lines

have a number of Mk 3 four-line winders for sale. For further information ring Cambridge (01233) 243825.

Bryan Cattle

BERROW 97/98

The International Kite and Buggy Week held at Berrow England during September proved yet again the need for this premier kite bugging event. Over 175 registered buggiers braved the elements during the week, some only managing a day but most were lucky enough to take in all eight days.

Ramp Jumping, Speed Trials, Two and Four line Racing, Extreme buggy tricks and antics, No-wind competitions, Evening entertainment, Safari's, Mountainboarding, The cake eating competition with a twist, Heated Marquee with Food and Licensed Bar, Off-site Entertainment, Trophy Awards, Mass Mud Marathon, Slow-bo Award, Sponsors Flexifoil, Sky Kites, Kites-up, Sandz quads and of course The Brilliant Chris Croft Commentary, Miles of space, Nudity, New Kites and cracking home grown sails, not to mention all of the weird and wonderful buggy variants and great people all in a relaxed atmosphere, made this a never-to-be-forgotten event.



Mike Shaw with Mad John ..photo by SD

Berrow '97 Week Overall Results

2-Line Racing

1st	Mad John Eaton
2nd	Mike Shaw
3rd	Mr Darren Burgess
4th	Matt Hurrell

Novice Race

Sunday	14th	Mark Elliot
Monday	15th	Matt Hurrell
Tuesday	16th	Kevin Hooke
Wednesday	17th	Gary Box
Thursday	18th	Roger Aldridge

4-Line Racing

1st	Mark Kingshot
2nd	James Bromley
3rd	Mike Shaw
4th	Chris Lamb

Overall Novice Race Winner

Kevin Hooke

Berrow Challenge Cup

Pro:-	Mike Johnston
Novice:-	Andrew Wardley

Top Recorded Official Speed

43 mph	Andrew Beattie
--------	----------------

Berrow 97 Kite And Buggy Video

Yep, it's still happening. Shutterman Dan entered his first 4 minute video into the Videosynchrasy '97 Competition and came away with the top prize and award. Meridian TV picked up the video and broadcast the show on TV.

Anyone at Berrow will know Shutterman Dan was recording pretty much anything at the Event including spectacular exhibitions of Buggy speed,

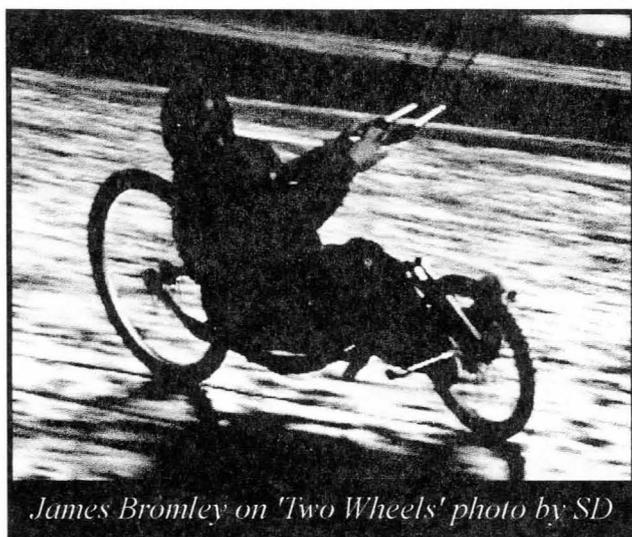
ramp jumps and capturing over 25 crashes, he even managed to get run over doing it! If you cannot buggie every day this will be the best fix that you can get.

Copies will be available shortly from the British Buggy Club (non-profit making). All funds raised will be used to hold future kite and buggy events.

BERROW 97/98

The auction held on Saturday evening managed to raise £1751 which will pay the final costs for the Berrow 97 Event and help towards Berrow 98. Special thanks to all who attended the auction and contributed with items for sale. Also our sponsors Flexifoil, Sky Kites, Kites Up, Sandz Quads and Chris Croft.

Two special thanks to Chris Croft for his commentary throughout the week and Bill Andrews for his judging, scoring and control.



James Bromley on 'Two Wheels' photo by SD



Mike Johnston Receives Award photo by SD

Berrow '98

New plans and ideas are being organised for Berrow '98 and the organisers are keen to hear of any kite, buggy or water events that could be considered for inclusion. If your ideas sound extreme, unusual or just unreal it is probably just what everyone is looking for!

Dates to book are Saturday September 12th 1998 to September 20th 1998 inclusive.

As with all previous years the event will be totally free of any entry fees to all BBC insured members. The only cost is food, drink, accommodation and more drink.

Book early to stay close to the action. Booking enquiries start at Embelle Holiday Park, tel:-01278 751346.

Tides will also probably be more favourable this year especially as the week goes on. Tides should be lower than 97 giving us continuous access to the beach to play all day.

If you require any information regarding Buggy or insurance please write to the address below

British Buggy Club
PO Box 4015
Smethwick
West Midlands B67 7HJ

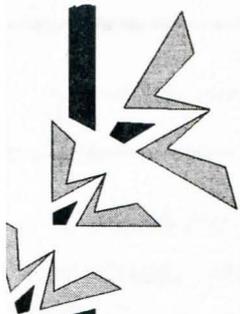
Email Mell@buggy.demon.co.uk.

There is also a buggy web page at
<http://www.buggy.demon.co.uk>

Organisers and Information

Mike Shaw
Ian Meredith
John Eaton
Embelle Holiday Park

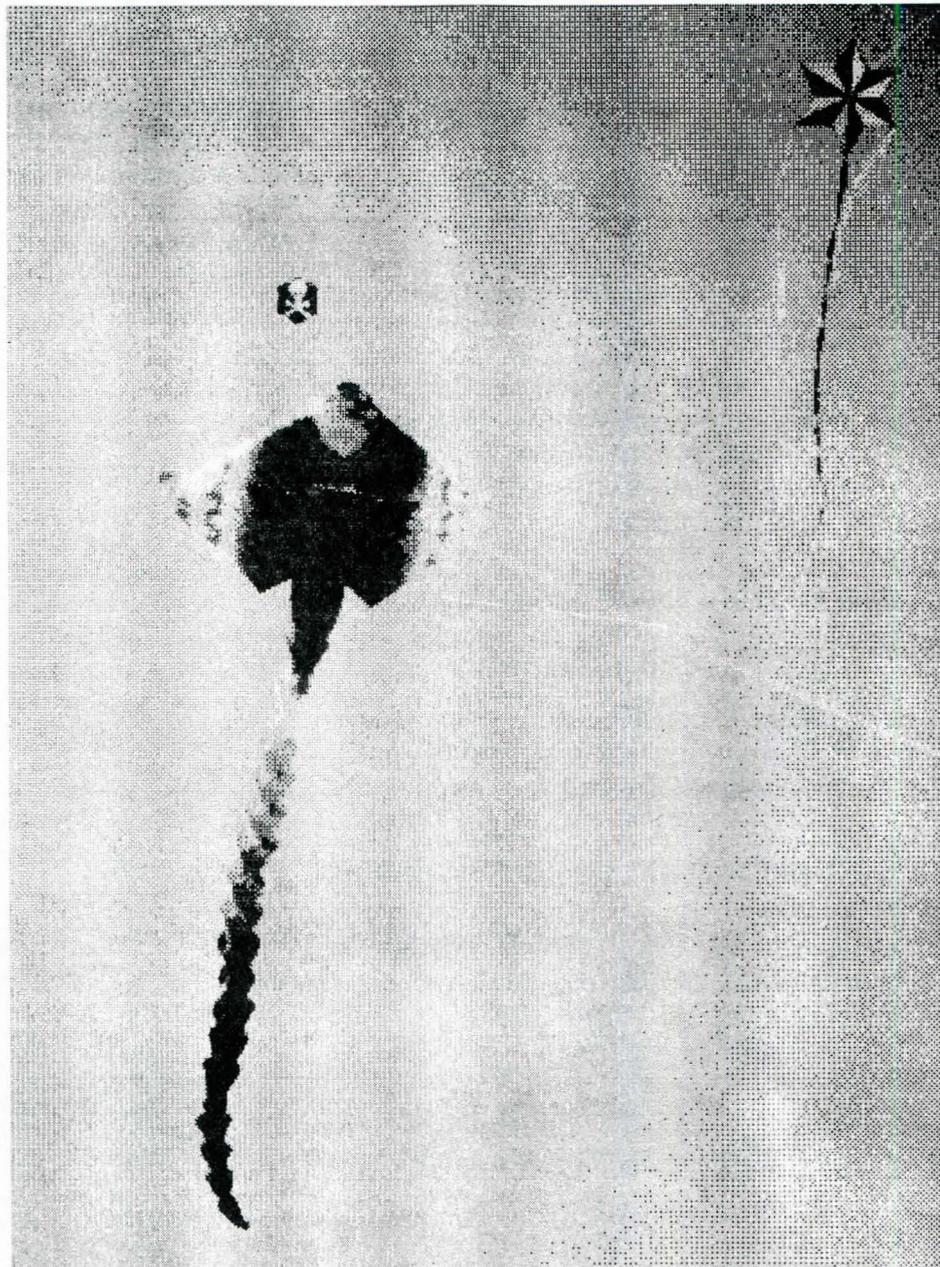
0468 765 887 or 01256 461960
0411 209267
01543 424921 or 07970 750122
01278 751346 (please mention the kite week)



MIDLANDS KITE FLIERS

MKF Extra

The Extra Newsletter of The Midlands Kite Fliers



**HAPPY NEW
YEAR**

Where to Find Us

FEBRUARY

1st MKF Fly-in Hednesford hills Walkers Rise Hednesford Cannock Staffordshire. Just off the Rugley road out of Cannock days without any wind at this site are rare. Toilets and the Pine Cafe next to the site. Walks across Cannock Chase.

MARCH

1st Fly-in at Braunstone Park Gooding Avenue/Hinkley road, Leicester Large well cut grass site with parking on site and toilets a short walk away. Lakes, walled gardens and playgrounds.

APRIL

4th-5th April Make a Playsail at the 2nd Annual Workshop Weekend Dorstone, Herefordshire (prior booking is essential). This will be followed by a fly-in on the Sunday. Next door to the village pub, serving quality food.

Contact Sara Longbottom Tel:- 01981 550326 for more details.

12th Fly-in at Shipley Country Park, near Heanor Derbyshire. A nice site with parking next to the flying area and all the amenities of the park.

15th April MKF Member Stafford Wallace is organizing a return trip to China.

The trip will be for 10 days and will include the Weifang international Kite festival and the international festival at the beach resort of Qingdao (pronounced Ching Doe I hope). Other festivals may be included on the trip but these are to be confirmed. Some interest has already been shown. For further details contact

Stafford Wallace on Tel 01780-460389

e-mail:- staffordlucknow.demon.co.uk

Sunday 19th April Stafford Castle Spring Kite Flying Day Newport Road Stafford (A 518 west of Stafford)

The first visit of the year to the Castle hill. Views over Staffordshire from the ruins of the Castle walls. Visit Paul and Helen Morgans stall and buy a kite. Childrens Competition and kite workshop. The parking fee (£2.00 for the public) is waived for kite fliers. Mostly a single line event for safety reasons. No parking on the top of the hill, only provision for unloading and loading before returning your car to the car park at the bottom of the hill.

25 & 26th April Caernarfon Kite Weekend, Clynog-Fawr near Caernarfon, North Wales. 10 miles south of Caernarfon 12 miles north of pwellheli, North Wales. Freindly Steven Williams invites fliers to the new enlarged site Next to the Coaching Inn Clynog-Fawr amongst the scenery of north wales. Caravanning and Camping for free and the site has been improved. Local accommodation is available (book early) Through the Inn on and breakfast is available at a reduced rate Phone Steven at the Coaching inn on Tel:-01286 660212.

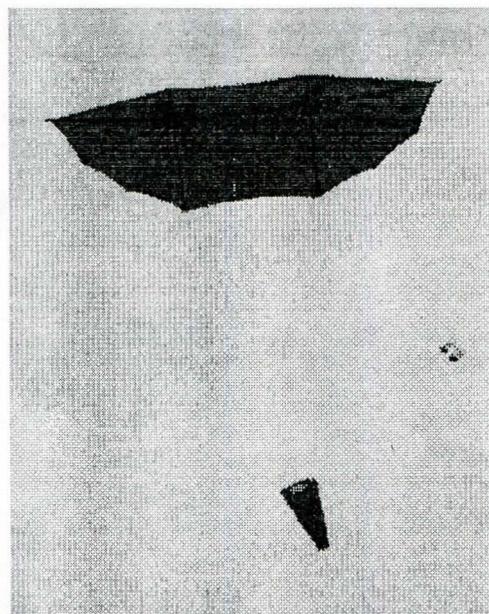
Last year Peter Powell turned up at this event. For more details phone Tony slater on 01743 235068

MAY 4th we have a Fly-in at Sutton Park, Sutton Coldfield, Entry by Streetly Gate on the B4138

A Wide open space with Plenty of parking space right next to the field.

May 17th 3rd Calk Abbey Kite Flying Day Ticknall Derbyshire Visit The Abbey and fly on this lovely big flying site. Last years event was Very well attended by both Fliers and Public alike

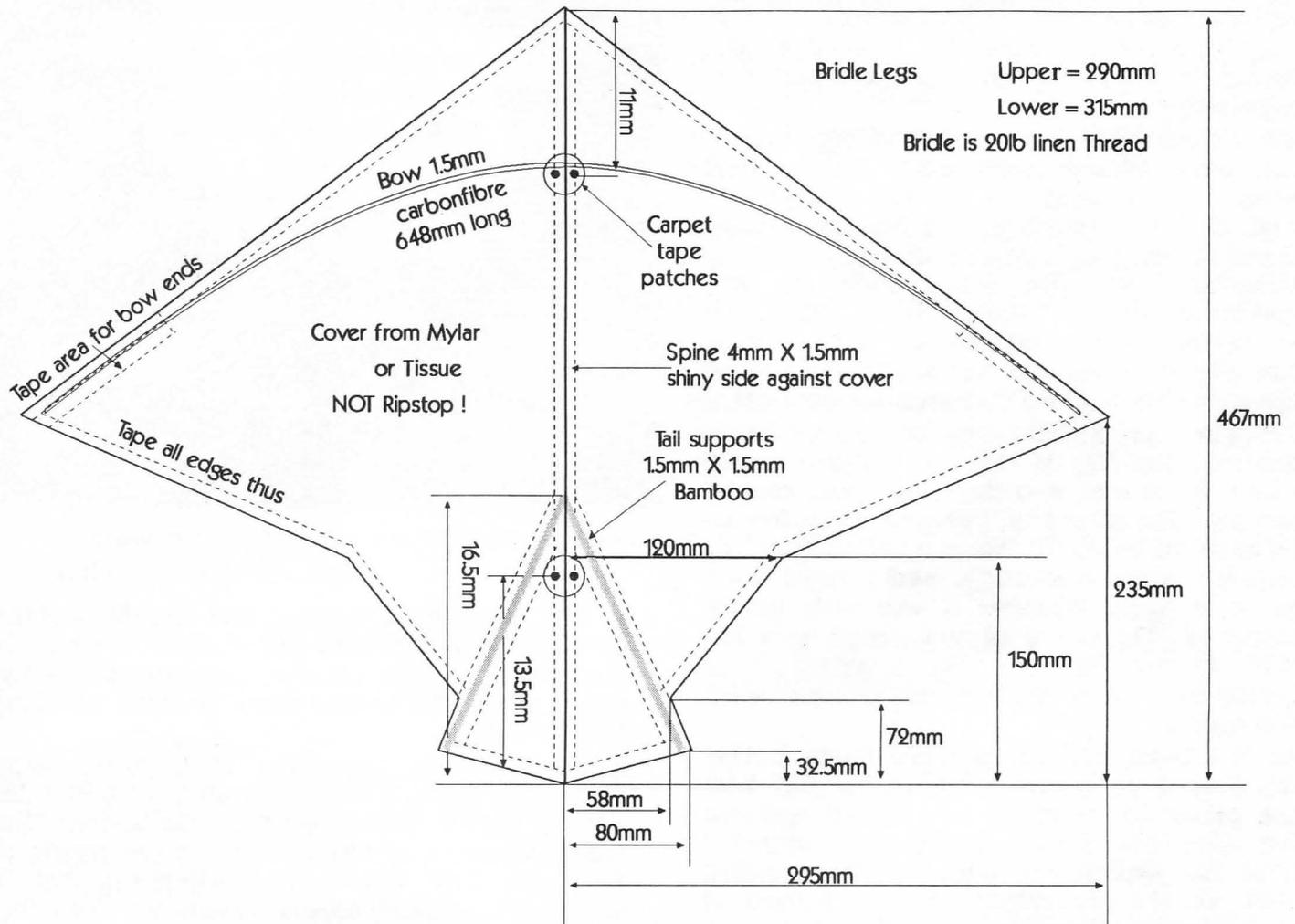
.JUNE 21st A Joint Fly-in and Family Fun Day at Shipley Country Park near Heanor, in Derbyshire. The park put on enough attractions to keep everyone smiling. Lots of public support and the Cafe and Shop next to the site.



Contact us By Email at: mkf@nexus1.demon.co.uk
Internet Pages: <http://www.canleo.demon.co.uk/mkf.htm>
55 Loughshaw, Tamworth, Staffordshire, B77 4LY
Tel 01827 893221 (after 3pm please)

GOODY

Designed By Tony Slater
March 1997



The Materials used in this kite are important to maintain the high performance level.

The tape needs to be waterproof 3M's, Vinyl or Polypropelene NOT! Sellotape.

The cover must be Mylar or Tissue. The Mylar is available from

The Highwaymen Shirley and Dick Turpin,
3 Beechwood Avenue, Burbage, Hinkley, Leicestershire.
LE10 2HD Tel 01455 230736

or

Jack Crouch

829 Belmont Road, Bolton. BL1 7BU Tel 01204
591021

The 1.5mm carbon spar is from Kitability

Building Sequence

1. Tape cover material to board
2. Draw out design
3. Tape edges
4. Attach spine, tail supports and carpet patches
5. Attach bow
6. Cut out kite outline
7. Reinforce bow ends at wingtips with tape
8. Pierce bridle holes and tie bridle
9. Fly
10. Enjoy

Never say Never..

by Alan Poxon

When the local BBC wanted to do a piece on kiteflying in their Friday weather slot, it's called 'Lisa at Large' because Lisa Lynch is the weather girl, and she goes out... well you can follow the rest, Julie took this as the ideal opportunity to advertise the Rushcliffe event which Tim Curwood was organising.

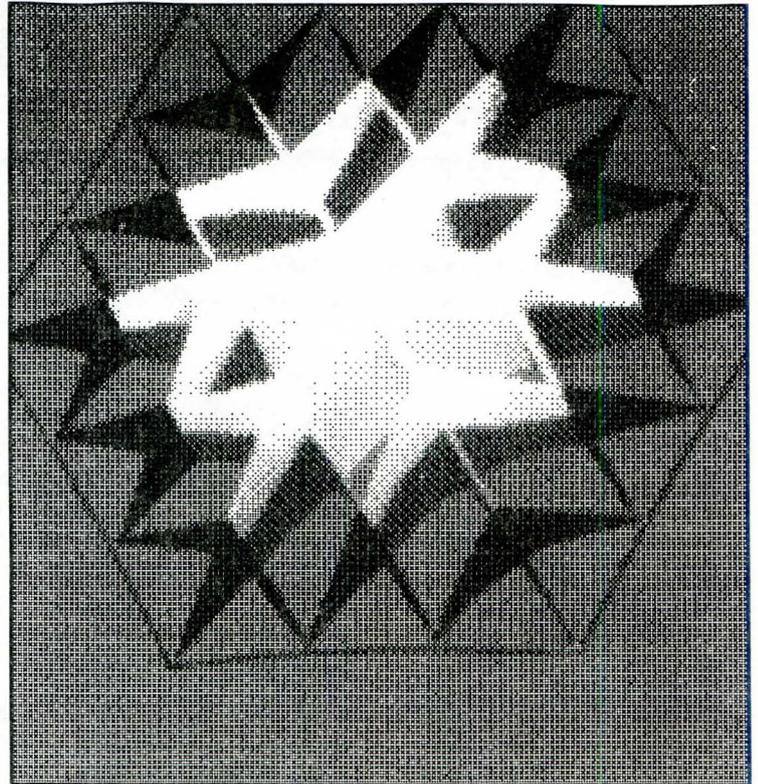
She asked me if I would be willing to help out, even though we'd both agreed that kites and TV tend not to mix particularly well, after last year's trip to Pebble Mill and 'Good Morning with Anne and Nick' For those unfamiliar with the story, look up the reference 'NEVER WORK WITH..' from the September 1996 edition of MKF News, basically detailing our nerve-racking day at the expense of the TV licence subscribers.

Catch me on a good day, and I'll probably describe the day as quite an experience; on a bad day it was an ordeal, not unlike mental torture. The stress of flying to order, live on TV, is to be avoided. So you can imagine my surprise when Julie suggested I might want to do it again. Whether it was very gentle blackmail, "Do you think you could help Tim out?" or the fact that I'm a sucker for a pretty face, I can't decide, but an agreement was made.

As it turned out things were much better this time around, mainly due to the fact that the piece to camera was taped and not live. (like the jargon, 'piece to camera'? I think I'm getting the hang of this stardom lark). On the prescribed date we turned up at Rushcliffe Country Park; Tim Curwood, John & Joan Larson & small relative, Paul Jamison, & myself. A few others of Tim's acquaintance also arrived later to do a little bugging.

When the film crew arrived it was a bit of a surprise. Just Lisa, her production assistant, Alison, and a cameraman. At Pebble Mill there had been two of everyone, except for Nick Owen, thank God. I couldn't have coped with two of him. There had been people everywhere, rushing around at high speed. Obviously, this was the difference between national and local TV.

Everything was also a lot more laid back. Plans were discussed, and then altered as soon as filming was tried, and then it was done again. We did several takes of the kite making, from different angles, and I tried to remember where I'd put things before and what I'd said, so that it would all go together well when it was edited. They filmed everyone flying different kites, some



of the bugging & jumping, and Tim did a piece specifically advertising the Rushcliffe event in two weeks time. I also suggested a small piece about the safety aspects after watching the jumping.

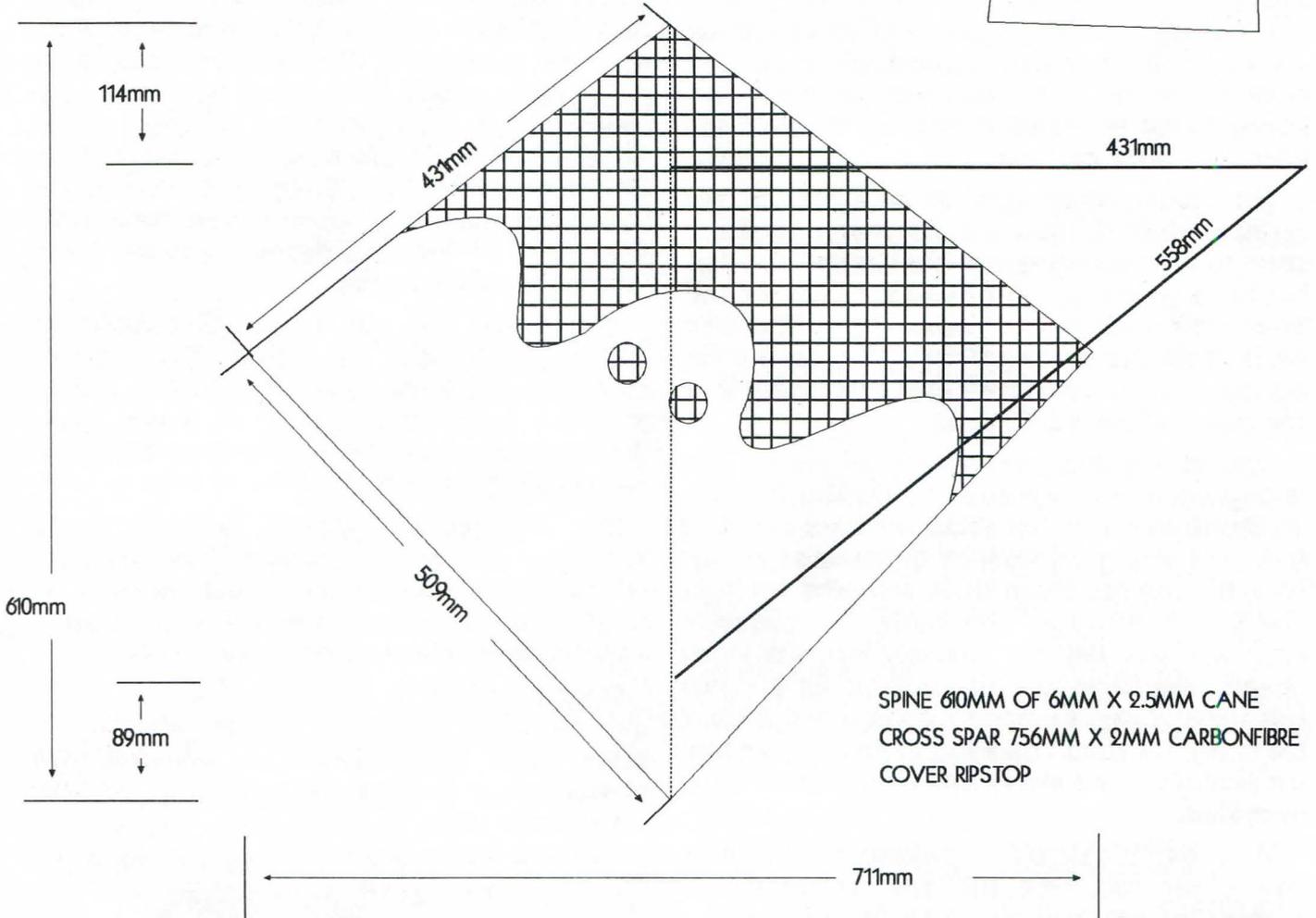
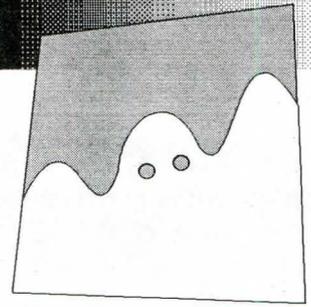
Overall, I think we were there over three hours. But then, a few days later, we had a call to say that it wasn't going to be shown that week, because of the opening to the public of the new Law Courts in Nottingham, but it would be on next week. Then the following week we had another call to say that it wasn't going to be shown because of the death of the Princess of Wales. But it would be shown next week... after the Rushcliffe event.

This was very disappointing. It seemed that we had wasted a lot of effort, and a good opportunity to advertise our wonderful pastime. But all was not lost. Two weeks after Rushcliffe was the Sutton-in-Ashfield festival, so a quick re-jig by Lisa let us put out the piece three weeks later, and to advertise this instead. Sadly, it only lasted about two minutes, and Tim's piece was no longer appropriate. Better luck next time, Tim. Despite this, the finished article was very good; and conveyed things in a light-hearted but professional way.

And the best thing about it? Nowhere, but nowhere was there one single bar of 'LET'S GO FLY A KITE!' All other media people please take note!

SPOOKY FIGHTER

By Fred Broadhead



If you don't like Fighters push the bridle point up, add a tail and fly as a Malay. I didn't intend having the eyes but must have been influenced by the proximity of Halloween.

Easiest way of doing the eyes is to cut out two circles of rip-stop, get some of that iron on wonder web stuff, tack a peice on to each of the circles with the tip of a iron on low heat cut the wonder web to the size of the circles and iron with low heat on to the cover.

Spars fit into pockets and I've Hemmed all round. Just hot cutting may allow the cover to stretch too much in time. 3mm fibreglass can be used for the cross spar I think, This is a derivation of one by Don Mock, I've used 2mm carbon 'cause I had some handy.

To the discerning few who voted for this design at the AGM showing an appreciation of a subtle, simple and small design I extend my thanks. Thanks Nellie!

Fred Broadhead

A Year With TEAM RIKOK

B Team Rikok is not a club as we do not hold meetings, have a newsletter, pay subs or have a meeting place other than the field on which we intend to fly. In fact we meet on a very informal but frequent basis to fly kites and go to festivals and fly-ins. The rationale is quite simple in that it is more fun to fly in a group than on one's own. Having stated the negative let's look at what and where we went this year.

The season kicked with off at Worcester over Easter with Fred Taplin and his merry persons. I seem to remember that we failed to buy any kites but had a good time flying those kites that we had taken. Next to Old Warden where Helen Howes of Raindrop sold us all some kites and we sat and eat her melon whilst thinking of excuses for having gone too close to Helen's selling arm!

Missed the foul weather at Weymouth and Wroughton as we were off to Dunkirk the next weekend. All the cliches about the food exercised to excess, very good flying off the beaches, met up with The Beccles Bunch again and John the Kent Kite Klub bear bungler and family. The corporate meal was foul but the company including Helen Howes who came with us made up for it. John's kids were golden as midnight approached without the benefit of food. I think that I remember through the alcoholic fumes that Helen Howes sold us some more kites.

Back in the UK next off to Tewkesbury for another day in the sun, flew, fed and conversationally basked. Don and Bernie revelled in the Indian Fighting Kite events and the Fire Engine Genkies were much admired. Nothing purchased nothing gained.

Fairbourne beckoned for the whole weekend so packed bag (of kites) baggage and party and away. There are many times I envy Tony Slater for what he flies and on this occasion it was the capacity of his vast van as everything and bodies stretched our small estate car to extremes.

A time warp of the early fifties or late thirties would not seem an unkind description of Fairbourne as a seaside resort. A great part of its period charm is the railway. The Fairbourne Railway is a 12in. gauge steam driven line the locomotives all being half scale narrow gauge prototypes. The owner Roger had arranged a second Kite Festival this year and we were invited. Part of the deal which was open to all kite fliers were free train tickets for the weekend with foot plate rides during and after the bbq on Saturday evening. The bbq was gigantic and on a scale to make the splendid breakfast

provided at the guesthouse on Sunday morning a mite unneeded. Flying on a river estuary with views of Barmouth on one side and the Welsh mountains on the other with the fussily busy railway at your back was truly exhilarating. We shall return again next year. In fact three of us joined the supporters group and have only just returned from their steam weekend (with kites). MKF types met there include Ken and Dorothy Campbell, Kevin and Sue, Fred and Graham et families from Worcester & Alcester Kite Flyers, the tribe Morgan, my fireman mate Kevin from Stoke on Trent and the Tony and Mrs Slater with the van craved earlier.

What's next you may wonder, Shrewsbury of course, winds light to missing, this sounded expensive; with Helen Howes, Paul & Helen Morgan and Dave Salmon leading the pack it was. Many thanks to Tony Slater for another good day in the sun amongst friendly folk.

The cultural bit, mob handed in the blazing sun to Baddesley Clinton, the National Trust property where Fred Taplin organises an occasional fly in. Negative winds but fine house with a small church, a chance to reminisce and be justifiably idle.

Coventry calling, it's your Festival so only to say that we sat in the shade together with Beccles Bunch, threw the occasional kite skywards with varying lack of success and had a fine old time. Many thanks MKF.

Saturday at Bristol despite the date, was the Bristol International Kite Festival that I enjoyed more than some previous years, maybe it was the lack of crowds, or the less frenetic pace but there seemed to be time for everything and everybody. Met up with the Beccles Bunch yet again, Ann kept being engaged by a staked French Rok, final score Ann 3 - French nil. Little Dave was parted from some money by straying to close to SkyBums tent.

Congratulations to Avril and the team for having the courage to continue with the event and our heartfelt thanks.

Full circle, Old Warden again, that was the year according to RIKOK. If you live anywhere near Kidderminster and would like to fly with us please ring me on 01562 66102 any evening and we can arrange to meet. Something a trace more urgent is how to explain the kites Helen Howes is sure to sell me at Old Warden.

Big Dave of RIKOK.

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- One Standard Mylar Fighter Kite
- Four paper fighter kites

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Special Price £35.00

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10 traditional paper fighter kites
(bridled and test-flown)

Normal Price £35.00 Special Price £25.00

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25 Main Street, Empingham, Rutland LE15 8PR

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After 30 hours or so of travelling... 5 tired kitefliers arrived in Cervia on Thursday evening, accommodation being an apartment above a bar/cafe 30 seconds from the flying site. A re-emergence late Friday morning to brilliant sunshine and a light sea breeze was an excellent way to ease us ('us' being Paul Thody, Estelle Barton, Tom Greenfield, Simon Catlin and myself; John Turner) into the free flying day.

The site was a beach with barriers on three sides, the sand being soft but compact on the shore line - suiting the buggiers. Tom chose to fly a stack of Rev 1's, working hard putting on a display. The rest of us flew various sized Skytigers from the full range available, myself going for a HI 100 - a bit ambitious for a first time quad fly... but what the hell! Various other stunt, power and single lines kites flew around us together with Peter Lynn inflatables, including an original looking puffer fish. There were two kite stalls plus the Italian kite magazine 'Tempo D'Aquiloni' (half English/half Italian - subscription details if interested from me on 01323 500191) and, most importantly, a beer tent for the fliers. This was free for all three days with no one taking obvious advantage of their good hospitality! The evening had been arranged for 30+ fliers and was spent in a pizza restaurant. Having communication problems with the Italians made for an interesting, intriguing and often amusing time.

On Saturday morning a one tonne builders bag was filled and half buried in order to get a sufficient anchor in the sand. This was for my red and black Spiky Donut, and as luck would have it, the main display area had a half circle 'bump' in the barriers. With the anchor placed in the centre said Donut could wander from side to side - using the 'bump' to great effect and staying there for most of the day. Simon disappeared off for hours on end with a group of buggiers, going miles along the beach. Tom did some more excellent flying with a Rev 1 - by



aerodyne

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the newsletter of the brighton kite flyers

actually flying around the Donut as it moved. He also managed to get between the bridle lines and fly inside - getting rounds of applause for his efforts. Paul (with a stack of Prospeeds) and Estelle also showed their flying skills and teased the crowd with low passes and manoeuvres just above their heads. The Peter Lynn inflatables came out again and were joined by power jumpers (that didn't!), roks, boxes, deltas, edos, Jimmy Segree's diamond kite trains, various stunt kites, a Rev team and childrens' workshop kites.

The highlight of the day came when Paul added to his stack of Prospeeds, taking centre 'stage' 20 were launched. The conditions were good, so after five minutes of flying - down they came to have 10 more added. This happened again to make a total of 40 flying. The pull was ok for one person (un-anchored) so low passes and figure eights were possible. A certain amount of practice was required to help counteract the delayed twisting turns and snaking. The rest of the day passed all too quickly.

BKF AGM '98... AN INVITE TO MEMBERS

- ◆ **Date:** Thursday 26 March 1998 ◆ **Time:** 7.30pm
- ◆ **Venue:** The Downs Hotel/Woodingdean
- ◆ **Map Ref:** 198 TQ 356 059

The Function Room is upstairs - through the door at the right hand end of the bar (next to the fruit machine). There is ample free parking and the room is free! Beers on tap include Boddingtons, Abbott, Whitbread, Flowers & Murphys and food is available until 8.45pm. Hope to see you there.

RAY OAKHILL (CHAIRPERSON)

Franco Mammana was also present, bringing with him several folders full of mounted photos. The kites were captured with stunning backdrops, deep blue skies and with the sun bringing out the colours - making the results quite amazing. There were many kites in the night fly with various means of illumination, along with setting fire to the tail of a delta which dropped burning debris onto the beach below. Another use was found for glowsticks; attaching a couple to 200ft of line, then, once out of sight, pulling it past a non kite flying crowd - one of which followed it, trying to retrieve the strange glowing object until he saw the culprits rolled up with laughing! Drinks and much talking rounded off the evening.

Day three (Sunday) followed very much the same but with more spectators. Jimmy Segree invited five fliers to make up a six man team - all flying stacks of diamond stunters with tails. A colourful display for the crowd with lots of movement and collisions. Tom was 'joined' by the foreign Rev team (he's the newest member of 'The Decorators') while the kids enjoyed playing with my big inflatable football - only to be sorted out occasionally

At the evening meal on Saturday the building noticeably moved as it suffered the long reaching effects of an earthquake some 300km away! Fifty or so fliers attended this second organised dinner and the well known kite photographer

^ ^ occasionally \

by a helpful Italian guy when they got over boisterous with it. The show stopper this day was, once again, Paul with his Prospeed stack. Starting with 10 and adding another 10 at a time - a total of 50 were able to be launched in the near perfect conditions. The stack was sort of majestic and graceful, stretching colourfully into the sky, with Paul flying loops and passes for good measure. This incredible feat earned him the World Record for the most Prospeeds flown by one person without the use of ground anchors. He also got to sit at the head of the table for the last evening's dinner!

All in all a very good fest with excellent hosts and hospitality, and with thanks to Paul and Estelle for sorting out the arrangements. What better way to end the 97 season!

JOHN TURNER (BKF)

(According to a reliable source - the earthquake happened at 10am while John 'Big Turner' (Christened by Claudio Capelli... think about it!) was in the shower. Apparently he didn't feel a thing! - Ed)

RAY'S 'WORLD WIDE KITING ADVENTURES' IN 1997!

PART I: TRAVEL IMPRESSIONS / THE LAND OF SMILES

Sometimes I look up from a beach or a flying field and for a moment wonder: "Where am I?" Can you imagine over 25 sponsored trips with 20 of them outside Canada - plus a lot of local commitments, demonstrations in parks and school grounds, and several TV spots. One must ask: "When will this madness end?" Answer: "Never I hope!"

Sometimes I never even bothered to unpack as I was off again the very next day. Just consuming the different foods of all of these countries, staying in so many different hotels from a 5 star to a hostel, food from steak and lobster to the "God what the hell is this?"

variety and "Hope it tastes better than it looks!" - which in many cases it doesn't! I never thought in my life I would go to bed craving and dreaming about a McDonald's hamburger and French fries!

Oh - and the most weird of all things 'Sanitary Requirements!... I mean when you got to go - you got to go, right? You open the door and for a moment you're in shock, because there is no

'toilet' as we are accustomed to. Just a hole in the floor! The first time I felt like a Second World War aircraft bomber: "Steady-y-y, Steady-y-y a little to the right, a hair to the left, hold it right there... Bombs away! Damn, missed!" And there's a 3 foot hose with an on and off nozzle on the end instead of paper, and the water feels cold as ice! The first time I used it, it was such a shock I must have jumped 6 feet or more. And how do you explain going back to the flying field like you have just taken a shower with your clothes on?! In other countries they have toilets but no seats, another cold fact! Oh how I longed to be back in the bush in Australia. All you had to do was take a shovel with you: "No Hose - No Mess - No Problems!"

But I would not change this year's experiences for anything. The good things that happened far outweighed the inconveniences, that's for sure. The only sad thing was that when I got home I had to be re-toilet trained as my wife did not like the idea of me dragging in the garden hose each morning... and she insisted that I put the toilet bowl back!

My first stop and the first competition to be held in North America is the Hawaii Challenge, for which I have already written an article (see *Aerodyne* issue July 97 - Ed). My next stop was Malaysia, with visits to Hong Kong and Singapore, which have also been covered in previous articles (see *same issue* - Ed). This in itself is more travel than most people have in a lifetime, but for me it did not

stop there. For now I was off to Thailand!

The Thailand International Kite Festival is held in Bangkok every two years and organized by the Tourism Authority of Thailand. No one loves kites or a kite festival more than the Thais. They call it 'Sunuk' which means 'Having Fun' and every festive occasion in Thailand is celebrated in great style, as was shown in the 1997 International Kite Festival.

Ron Spaulding and the Thai Kite Heritage Group did a fantastic job of organizing and catering to every whim of all the 128 invited guests from 14 countries around the world. Great accommodation, comfortable transportation to and from the flying fields and for all the sightseeing tours that were specially arranged during our stay - which gave us all a wonderful opportunity to see so much more of the Kingdom and discover for ourselves why Thailand is considered Asia's most exotic country. They call it 'The Land of Smiles' and they got that right, for indeed it is. Everyone greets you with a smile!

By now you will have read from kite magazines all about the festival, so I won't go into that, but I must say a few words on how great it is to be able to perform along with all the outstanding flyers from around the world. As always it's a great pleasure for me sharing the arena with the renowned Bay Area Sundowners. This year they gave me the honour of being their 7th team member. In all my 18 years as a sport kite flyer I have never met a Team that works so well together as they do. It is all for one and one for all, for we have worked together for many years in many different countries and they are always there ready to help. They are indeed great kite ambassadors and thrill the crowds with their fantastic kite train ballets.

And talking about crowds, Thailand was mind boggling, with over

EDITOR'S NEW ADDRESS...

Toody Oakhill
Flat 2
No 3 Buckingham Road
Brighton
East Sussex
BN1 3RA
Tel/Fax:
01273 774000

300,000 spectators on the Saturday and well over 400,000 on the Sunday. What a thrill to perform in front of so many people! Yes indeed you better have your act together, or there will be a lot of disappointed faces out there. It was a major job to leave the park each day. We could not do it without a police escort taking us back to the hotel. As all the spectators brought out their kites after we left - the flying field and every inch of the sky was full of kites of all sizes and colours. It was shoulder to shoulder kite flying in the parks, and along the streets

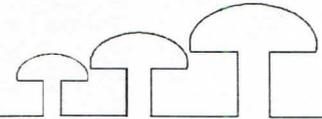
it was an awesome sight to see so many happy people. Thank you Thailand for this unique and wonderful experience. Bangkok is a large, sprawling city with a charm of its own combining the past and present, with huge vendor markets that sell everything from a sewing needle to a full grown elephant. Just to browse around these markets was an experience in itself. The Thai capital preserves its culture in such sights as the Grand Palace and historic temples. After shopping in a huge modern shopping centre you are back in the street again - taken back by the beauty of this pure oriental wonder. There is one thing I learned while in Bangkok. Never ever will I cry about the traffic in Vancouver again! Nothing in all my worldly travels compares with the traffic in Bangkok; it's rush hour all day and every man for himself. Can you imagine 5 on a motor cycle? One child on the gas tank then the father, two more children and the mother hanging on for grim death! And when there's a traffic stop they go on the sidewalk until they can find an empty spot on the road again it's unbelievable!

I would like to thank the sponsors 'The Tourism Authority of Thailand' and the 'Thai Kite Heritage Group' for their sponsorship which allowed me to be part of their International Kite Festival. But most of all - thank you for giving me this opportunity to visit your beautiful country, meet the people and enjoy the Thai culture, I truly understand why it is called 'THE LAND OF SMILES'.

Thank you for listening..

(Ray will continue his kiteflying travels in the next issue with California and the WHKF Swindon Kite Festival - Ed)

RAY BETHELL (BKF: VANCOUVER/CANADA)



ONE SKY ONE WORLD...

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

The impetus for 'One Sky One World' (OSOW) was the gift of a kite of peace from a citizen of the United States to the people of the Soviet Union. That citizen was Jane Parker-Ambrose, who designed a diamond kite for her visit to Russia. The kite featured Halley's Comet in the centre and the flags of the USA and USSR joined together. Halley's Comet, which visited the Earth in 1986 for the first time in 76 years, was chosen as a portent of peace.

When Jane presented her 'Peace Comet' diamond kite and friendship letter (signed by more than 300 American and international kiteflyers) to the Soviet Womens' Peace Committee during a visit to Moscow in October 1985, it was intended merely as another expression of 'people to people' diplomacy. However, the Russian women were especially touched by the beauty of Jane's kite and her thoughts of the kite as a globally unifying and peaceful symbol. She suggested that other people around the world might be persuaded to fly kites in October to demonstrate that this is 'one sky and one world'. Her hosts insisted that Jane must bring the idea to fruition and would not allow her to leave without a promise that she would strive to make her grand suggestion a reality.

This display of international goodwill gave birth to 'One Sky One World' - a world-wide kite fly held annually on the second Sunday of October. All kites flown on that day are recorded at every venue around the world - and the resultant tally is sent to OSOW headquarters in Denver, Colorado, USA. The total tally is made there and then published in the yearly OSOW publication 'Sky Times'.

RAY OAKHILL (BKF)



FIRST BKF ONE SKY ONE WORLD

SUNDAY 12 OCTOBER 1997

For the first time in the history of the Brighton Kite Flyers we organised a One Sky One World event at Devil's Dyke. When we arrived the reluctance of members to erect the frame tent was obvious because of the horrendous northerly wind, which was not only very cold, but gusting to 20mph (*it felt more like 40mph!* - Ed). There was further reluctance to fly kites once the tent was up, because everyone tried to get inside out of the wind! However, a few courageous souls braved the elements and were slowly joined by the rest. By the end of the day 125 kites had been recorded to be added to the world tally of kites flown for peace on the second Sunday of every October.

Thanks to the fourteen Brighton Kite Flyers who turned out and showed the flag (and their kites), and special thanks to Alan Outram who flew 14 kites and to Danny Steer who just beat him with 16 kites flown. When you consider that the wind was so turbulent at the top of the hill that you could launch a kite close to the ground **FACING THE WIND**, their achievement was quite significant.

Apart from the official list of kites flown, Sophie Horton and Toody Oakhill assembled a 'Dead Kite Society' list of kites that came to a nasty end in the terrible conditions. The final total for the day was 27 casualties.

There were thirty seven members of the public recorded who flew kites on the day, which was considerably more than we had expected, especially as the hoped for publicity was minimal in the local press, radio and TV. Yours truly did get his picture in the local rag, however... but that was after the event!

RAY OAKHILL (BKF)



NEW BKF PINS...

Are here at last. They are the same basic design as our first pin - a 2.5cm x 2.5cm BKF logo with 3 colours of enamel - and are now available in the following colour combinations:

◆ Single Pin:

Lettering: Brass
Background: Royal Blue
Sun (Circle): Yellow
Kite (Triangle): Hot Pink
Price (BKF members): £3.00
Price (non members): £3.50
Please add £1.00 P&P per pin

◆ Limited Edition 4 Pin Set: (25 Sets only - not sold singly)

Lettering: Brass (all 4 Pins)
Background: Pale Grey (all 4 pins)
Sun (Circle): Yellow (all 4 Pins)
Pin 1: Kite (Triangle): Red
Pin 2: Kite (Triangle): Green
Pin 3: Kite (Triangle): Turquoise
Pin 4: Kite (Triangle): Purple
Price (BKF members): £12.00
Price (non members): £15.00
Please add £1.50 P&P per set

◆ P&P:

UK: Sent 1st class in jiffy bags
Non UK: Please ask

◆ **Please phone:** to check availability before sending any payment. This is particularly important if you require a Limited Edition 4 Pin Set as at the time of going to press (15/12/97) they are selling fast!

◆ Contact: Ray Oakhill

'Spindrift'
6 Hartfield Road
Saltdean
Brighton
East Sussex
BN2 8RE

Tel/Fax: 01273 306842
E-mail: rao@mistral.co.uk

◆ **Cheques/PO's:** should be made payable to 'Brighton Kite Flyers'. Please do not send cash by post.

For other BKF Merchandise available please see the contact details on the last page of Aerodyne.

CHAIN WITH NO NAME BRIGHTON STUNT KITE LEAGUES '97

STANMER PARK/FALMER/BRIGHTON
02, 09 & 16 NOVEMBER 1997

aerodyne
the newsletter of the brighton kite flyers
January 1998

It was good to feel the benefit of the fresh Autumnal weather in November for the second Brighton Stunt Kite Leagues this year. No one seemed to miss the winter chill of January that we've had for the last two years when we've held them in the New Year in Brighton. We regret that we weren't able to hold the Leagues at a different time of year other than to have to clash with the Basingstoke Leagues, which unfortunately we ended up doing. We had a light to moderate wind on the first and third Sundays, and pretty good weather to be flying a kite in - blue skies, crisp air and even some

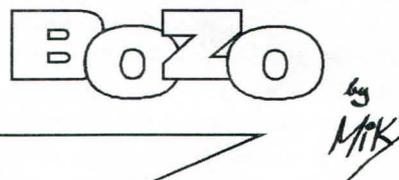
CLASS		NAME	R 1	R 2	R 3	TOTAL
NOVICE	1	Daniel Maroni	50.34	45.00	52.00	51.17
	2	Pete Southern	-	44.66	55.00	49.83
	3	Tina Risley	37.34	-	47.33	42.34
	4	Nancy Kupfersmith	24.20	-	26.33	25.27
EXPERIENCED	1	Nathan Clements	-	56.66	57.20	56.93
	2	Owen Thompson	-	49.73	-	49.73
	3	Tim Clarke	46.74	-	-	46.74
MASTERS	1	Graham Piggot	62.00	67.66	47.33	64.83
	2	Giles Smith	52.86	58.33	57.73	58.03
	3	Estelle Barton	-	63.00	44.73	53.87

sunshine. This just about made up for the second Sunday's conditions - which couldn't have been more off-putting to compete in! Unfortunately there was a torrential downpour and we all got completely drenched right through! However, once planned, the event takes place whatever the weather.

The competitors were judged on speed control, accuracy of flying the given figures, figure size and position, square cuts and take-offs and landings. These give an over all score and positions are then awarded on the best two scores from the three weeks rounds.

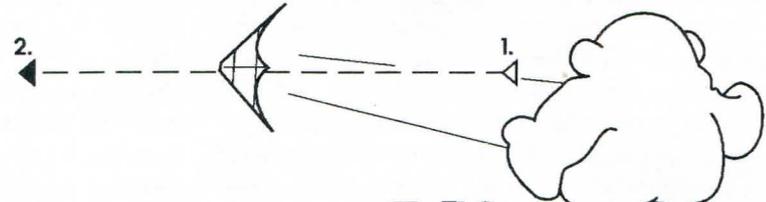
Well done to all the competitors concerned for taking part and thank you to Flexifoil International, Spirit of Air Kites and Air-Crafts for generously donating the prizes.

ESTELLE BARTON (EVENT ORGANISER)



Bozo's GUIDE
To COMPETITIVE
FLYING ...

The **STACK** compulsory figures (Masters category)



1. The IRISH CORKSCREW.

*** S.T.A.A.C.K. -**
Short Tempered And Aerodynamically Challenged Kiteflyers

MMN

LÜNEN KITE FESTIVAL

17 - 20 OCTOBER 1997

Doreen and I felt quite privileged to be invited by Kevin Appleton to join other kitefliers in the mini-bus for a visit to the Lünen Kite Festival in Germany. When I first asked my wife if she would like to go, she responded with considerable enthusiasm. When I told her that we would be sleeping on the floor in the gymnasium, the idea went down like a lead balloon! However, it revived a little when she discovered that Simon Hennessey, Bazzar & Janet Poulter, Jerry & Carolyn Swift (all of the BKF) were also on the trip.

With experience of previous years at Lünen, we were advised to take thermal underwear and many layers of clothing, which we did. However, nobody recommended taking shorts, which would have been the most sensible attire in the glorious weather that we had on the site.

We met at 7am in the long stay car park at Folkstone and attempted to stuff clothing, bedding and kites in and on top

of the mini-bus, before travelling through the Tunnel. With dual carriageway nearly all the way to Lünen we arrived in the early afternoon to be welcomed like long lost friends. Kevin registered the group and we were directed to the school gymnasium to assemble bedding for the night.

Back at the flying site we had a very filling

meal of pork and sausage, sauerkraut and potatoes and the beer began to flow. Substantial and appetising meals were provided for several hundred kitefliers.

We were impressed by the organisation. The pin trading began in earnest after the meal and anyone who dared to unwrap a felt roll of pins was instantly surrounded by a horde of fellow pinheads. This was the time to trade as the great pin collection competition took place on Saturday, with prizes for the largest collection, knowledge of your collection and the best display of pins. Kevin achieved success in all the competitions, with fifth place for the biggest collection, fourth for presentation and two pins for knowing his collection. Well done Kevin! Saturday dawned bright and sunny, which came as rather a shock to some after the beer, gluhwein and Feigling consumed the night before! Even with very light winds there were already many kites to be seen in the air as we

walked to the site at 9am. After a very handsome breakfast we assembled on the flying field and I was very

surprised to see Ray Bethell talking to other BKF members. I had e-mailed Ray some weeks earlier and although he was attending three festivals in Germany before Lünen, he intended going home before the event. It seems that he decided to stay on when he heard that other Brighton Kite Flyers were going to be there... "Good Stuff" Ray! On the Saturday evening get together I discovered that despite being totally deaf, Ray is one of the most accomplished joke tellers that I know.

With such light winds I spent part of the day trying to get my Mockform into the air with very long launches and part socialising and walking around the camping area, where kites and other windborne paraphernalia were displayed.

Sunday was a similar day weather-wise to Saturday, but Jerry and Carolyn decided that a BMISS demonstration was the order of the day. So first thing on the agenda was to get two roks into the air, which took the best part of a quarter mile LONG launch. With a height clearance of 600 metres, the top kite was close to that and produced enough lift to drop some light teds. The lower kite, however, was well below the draught and just waved around in the sky. Eventually the sheer mass of spectators, the drooping line and the embarrassment of catching Ray Bethell's kites in the arena, signalled a time to call it a day, but every teddy that was dropped aroused a cheer from the crowd, so it was well worth making the effort.

At some point in the late afternoon Kevin discovered that we had been sleeping in the wrong school

gymnasium and that we had to move all the gear to another school. It was a late beginning to the traditional pizza and Italian ice cream that I had heard so much about and we eventually crawled into bed at midnight thinking about that 4am alarm call!

The return journey was uneventful, except for the demands of Bazzar to stop at the Belgian Chocolate Factory, where we were persuaded by John Ogden to buy the erotic variety, but thereby hangs another tale! Ask me about it sometime.

What a great weekend! Many thanks to Kevin Appleton and Paul Judkins for organising the trip. We certainly intend going next year, but with a little more comfort in the sleeping department... as we will have our own camper van by then!

RAY OAKHILL (BKF)



WELCOME! NEW MEMBERS

- ◆ Richard, Stephanie & Andrew Heasman, Thomas & Christopher Elliss
Crawley/West Sussex
- ◆ Ian & Mark Berry
Crawley/West Sussex

BKF FLY-IN REMINDER

- ◆ **Date:** 1st Sunday Monthly
- ◆ **Site:** Ladies Mile Rd/Patcham
- ◆ **Map Ref:** 198 TQ 317 092
- ◆ **Time:** From 11am
- ◆ **Height Clearance:** 1500ft
- ◆ General all year fly-in

WHITE MAN PUTS HEAP BIG FOOT IN IT!

A STORY FROM RAY BETHELL...

While waiting for the rain to stop at the Swindon International Kite Festival last year, I was sitting having a beer and a chat with Ray Bethell. I asked him what was the most amusing thing that had happened to him during his travels and kite demos around the world. He told me this true tale which I thought was very amusing...

"About five or six years ago I was asked to give a multiple kite flying demonstration at an Indian Pow Wow at Squamish (about 60 miles from Vancouver) for the British Columbia Hida tribe. It was a great event with hundreds of Indians present from the very young to the very old. Many were dressed in their traditional costumes, dancing to the pounding of drums or making canoes, with the women sitting outside their tepees making clothes and moccasins from deer hide.

After a while I was asked by the Edlers of the tribe to show them some kite flying. Most of them had never even heard of a sport kite, let alone seen one - so I set up 3 Kestrels, which the Indians call 'Thunder Birds'. There was a nice open area which was not very large, but I could just about manage in the available space. The only problem was that the Indians were crowding me from behind - I asked them to please move back, but as soon as I went to pick up the kites they were right on my heels again. Anyway, I took a step back and up

went the 3 kites, then I heard one of the Elders shout something which sounded like "Na - Ka - Tai - Khe - Tha - A - Hi - Tatanka - Ta - Mai - Sapa - Wa-o-wa - Kia - Ta."

Right away I thought; he's probably saying "Hey wow man... look at this guy fly. Wowee!!" I was really on a high as I landed all 3 kites. Then with a big step back I had them in the air again, and once again this same Elder shouts out "Na - Ka - Tai - Khe - Tha - A - Hi - Tatanka - Ta - Mai - Sapa - Wa-o-wa - Kia - Ta." I thought he must be saying "Wow! This guy is unreal. Man are we lucky to have him at our Pow Wow!" I flew around for a few more minutes and then landed. When I turned around I found that everyone was gone except one Indian around 40 years old. I said "Could you tell me what the old man was shouting when I launched the kites?" He said "My grandfather said: "The next time that white bastard steps on my foot, I am going to kick the shit out of him!"

DEAR BKF...

Dear Mr Oakhill
I am writing to thank you for your part in organising the kite flying day held on Telscombe Tye on Sunday 14 September. It was certainly a great success and the Town Council has received some very complimentary letters on the whole weekend.

Enclosed are some photographs which I hope you will pass on to the people in them.

Following the success of the day, the Amenities Committee, which met last night, would like to make a provisional booking to hold the same event next year on Sunday 13 September if you are willing to take on the organisation.

I look forward to hearing from you.
Yours sincerely

KATHLEEN VERRALL (TOWN CLERK)

RAY OAKHILL (BKF)

USE THIS SPACE...

Thanks to all of this issue's contributors. Anything sent to the Editor will be considered for print unless marked otherwise. Please send material for the April 1998 issue by **1 March 1998** to...

Toody Oakhill/BKF Editor
Flat 2/No 3 Buckingham Road
Brighton
East Sussex
BN1 3RA

CURRENT CLUB COMMITTEE

- ◆ **Chairperson:** Ray Oakhill
- ◆ **Secretary:** Jerry Swift
- ◆ **Treasurer:** Gill Pitman
- ◆ **Committee Members:**
Alan Outram, Toody Oakhill,
Paul Thody & Paul Fellingham.

FURTHER BKF INFO...

- ◆ **Web Page Address:**
<http://www.netlink.co.uk/users/webman/bkf/bkf.html>
- ◆ **Membership Secretary:**
Ray Oakhill: Tel/Fax: 01273 306842 E-mail: rao@mistral.co.uk
- ◆ **Merchandise:**
Pins/Patches: Ray Oakhill (above)
Tee/Sweatshirts:
Simon Hennessey: 01273 415763
- ◆ **Library:**
John Turner: 01323 500191
- ◆ **Brighton Kite Festival:**
Estelle Barton & Paul Thody (c/o Air Born Kites): Tel: 01273 676740/Fax: 01273 676752

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 Brighton Kite Flyers.

Fairly New to Kites No 10

THE SCHEV DO SHOULD B A BIT OF ALL RIGHT
HEH HEH
NOPE ITS NOTHING LIKE SPAIN

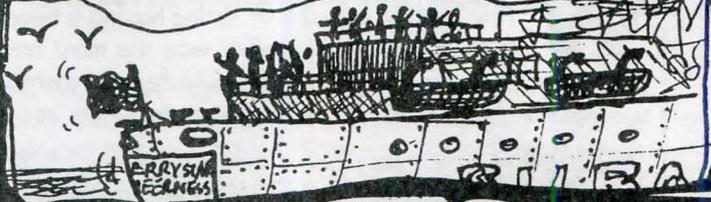
OH! SPAIN WAS JUST ONE OF THOSE THINGS, ANYONE WHOSE ANYONE GETS DEPARTED FROM THERE
WHAT! FOR KITEFY ME

GAND, YOUR ARE A PESSIMIST. SCHEV IS THE BIGGEST DO IN EUROPE WHAT CAN GO WRONG?
LOOK MATE, IF TROUBLE IS GOING, YOU'LL FIND IT O.K

COMES THE DAY...
RIGHT! WE THRASH IT DOWN TO SHEPPEY

WHERE WE MEET ALL THE OTHERS, ONTO THE FERRY

AND GOBS YER FLIPPIN...
WERE OFF TO JOLLY OLD HOLLAND



STOP LOOKING FOR ARGIE SUBS KIDS, ITS TIME WE GOT THE KITES UP

NOW YOU MUST ADMIT, IT DO LOOK THE PART WIV ALL THE KITES UP

MEANWHILE ON THE BRIDGE
MOST PECULIAR WE'RE SHOWING REVOLUTIONS FOR THIRTY KNOTS BUT WE'RE ONLY DOING TWO

THOSE KITES ARE HOLDING US BACK NO 1, IM NOT HAVING THIS, CHOP 'EM DOWN

DOWN COME THE KITES FROM A WHACK WITH AN AXE. OFF GOES THE FERRY LIKE A SCALDED CAT

GORDON BENNETT THAT SHIP IS KNOCKING ON A BIT
BOO! HISS! YAH BOO
THIS IS MORE LIKE IT SKIPPER HOLD ON TO YOUR HAT 60KNTS

ROTTEN *** CHOPPING OUR KITES
NEVER MIND KIDS WE'LL HAVE THE LAST LAUGH

70 KNOTS SKIP AND IT STEERS LIKE A PIG
VLISSIGEN AHEAD PUT THE BRAKES ON
BRAKES ON A SHIP?

WALLOP

oi MATE, THIS DONT LOOK LIKE VLISSIGEN DOCKS, WHERE ARE WE

THE TOWN CENTRE YOU TWIT AND THERES NO PARKING FOR SHIPS



LET EM FIGHT IT OUT TO SCHEVENINGEN BE HERE WE COME

J. BARBERS

ROMAN GANDLE 47.

THE JOURNAL OF THE BEARLY MADE IT SKYDIVE SQUAD. THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHER AND SISTERHOOD OF PARACHUTING FAUNA AND THE U.K. TED DEVILS. MINDLESS DRIVEL CONTENT EXCEEDS 100%, POLITICALLY INCORRECT, BUT THEN YOU ALREADY KNEW THAT.

Look at the fine print before you leap

AND AS SURE AS NIGHT FOLLOWS DAY YOU'LL FIND THAT FAR FROM BEING THE FIRST TO DO ANYTHING OF GREAT IMPORT, A HUME WAS USUALLY A JOH-

NNIE COME LATELY OF THE FIRST ORDER. A case in point recently in Paris where they were celebrating the first Practical Parachute Descent.

Twas a grand affair, as Seventy Six Parachutists, including the the French National Skydiving and Precision Landing Teams, plus representatives of the French Army and Air Forces, along with a sprinkling of Television Celebrities, leapt from a Transport Plane above the Champs de Mars Gardens, next to the Eiffel Tower.

At the same time as the Parachutists jumped from the Plane, Hundreds of Model Parachutes made by French Schoolchildren, floated down from the first floor of the Tower. Very spectacular was the verdict of Marie-Pierre Michel of the French Parachute Federation, and, he added, very, very, safe.

The City of Paris has it as its duty to remind the World that it was a Frenchman, and a Prisian at that, who became the first Parachutist in History, Trumpeted the Mayor of Paris as he Unveiled a commorative Plaque to one Andre- Jaques Garnerin, who, clutching a small French Flag, landed safely, apart from a Twisted ankle ,after jumping from a hot air Balloon at 5.28pm on October the 22nd 1797.

Garnerins jump was from an estimated height of 1,300ft, say 400 metres and was witnessed by a sizeable crowd in the Parc Monceau. However M. Garnerin was not the first Parachutist in the World.

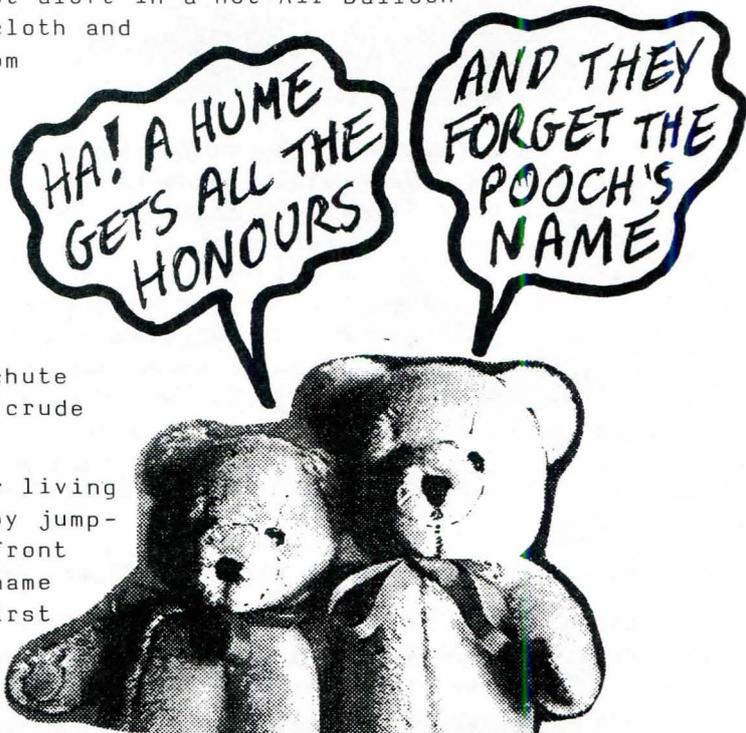
Actually, some months earlier in 1797, whilst aloft in a Hot Air Balloon M. Garnerin tied his Dog to a large piece of cloth and promptly threw the poor unfortunate animal from the Basket. Wether by luck or judgement, the Dog was recovered completely unharmed.

Born in 1769, Garnerin was 14 when he saw his first Balloon flight over Paris. Years later whilst held prisoner of war, by the Austrians he began to mull over the problem of providing a means of escape from a punctured Balloon.

Ultimately he came up with a practical Parachute although by todays standards it was extremely crude the device did perform as intended.

In later years M. Garnerin made quite a fair living and was also to fund his Paracuting Research by jumping from Hot Air and Gas Filled Balloons, in front of Paying Crowds, Sadly no one remembers the name of his brave little Dog, who really was the first living thing to successfully make a Parachute Descent.....

Whats the French for **GNASHER?**



Low jump by troops proves they can beat radar

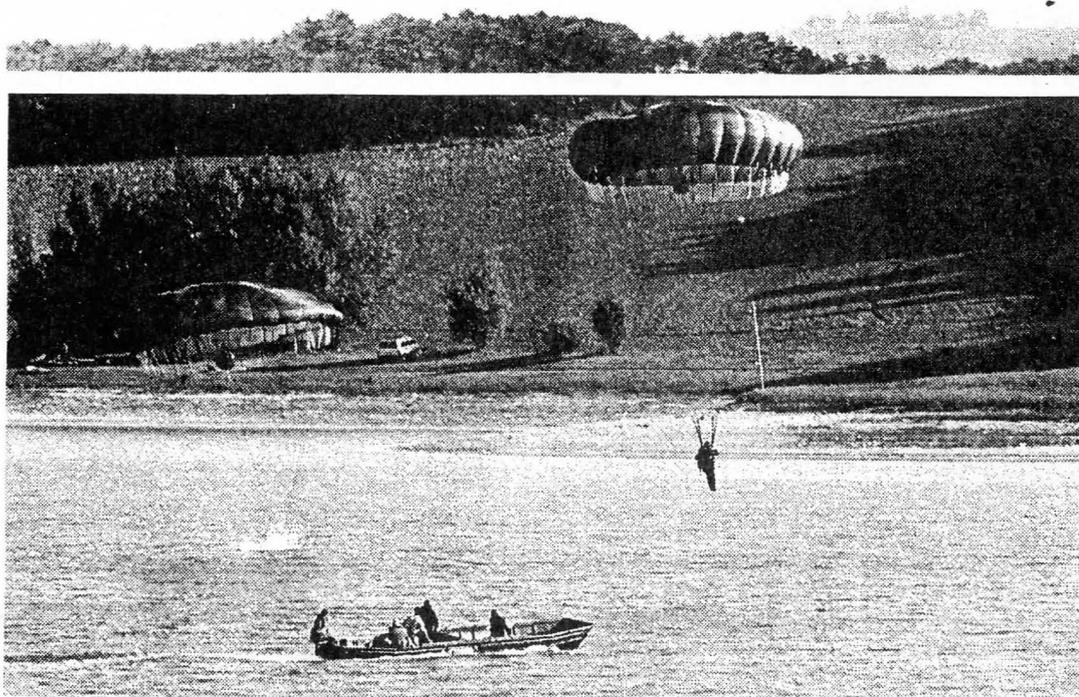
A RECENT TEST PROVED that from now on Paratroops and Members of the Special Forces can be delivered safely and fully equipped, below enemy radar.

Officers and Men of the Parachute Regt, the Royal Air Force and the French Special Service jumped from an RAF Hercules at a height of 250ft say 75 metres, into a fresh water Lake near Toulouse.

A series of jumps was completed, initially from 600ft, say, 200 metres, down eventually to the height at which there was no room for error.

Due to the extremely low height, reserve Chutes could be of no use whatsoever but the Test was designed to minimise the risks normally associated with Parachuting from such low levels.

It the 10 seconds it took between leaving the Hercules and hitting the surface of the Lake at



a descent speed of 18ft, or 6 metres a second, each Man had to spreadeagle, steer himself, drop his equipment container and adopt a landing position.

When you realise that the men were halfway down before the Chute deployed, standing in the door of a Hercules at 250ft, "Certainly concentrates the mind wonderfully" said one Paratrooper, "There simply is no room for error".

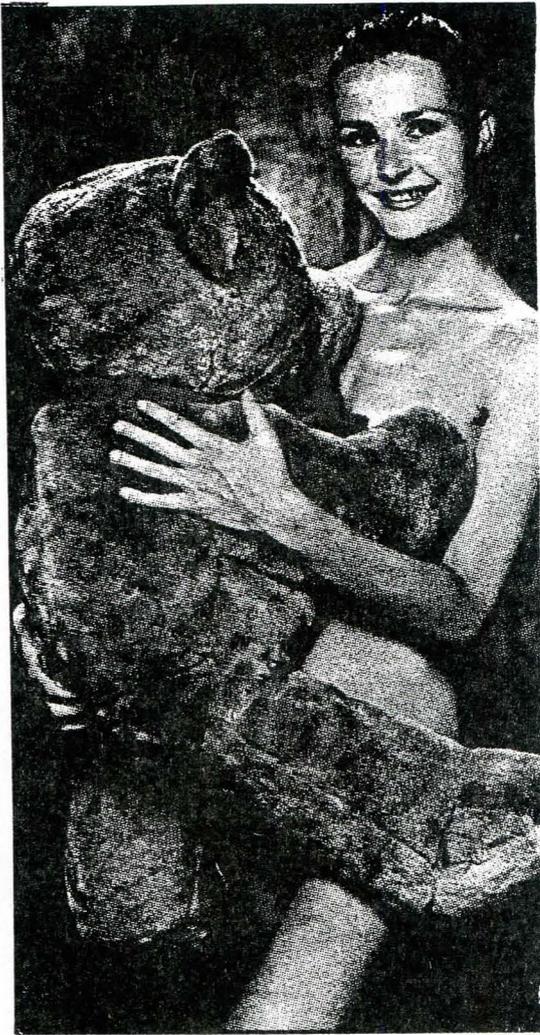
Aircraft Flying at 250ft are extremely unlikely to be detected by Radar, whereas an Aircraft at 500ft can be spotted on Radar from a distance of 30 miles.

So far only the British Airborne Brigade is able to operate at such a low level.

Parachutists have jumped from lower than 250ft or less when forced to leave aircraft and Sports Parachutists may have done so, but this is the first time that anyone has jumped from this height with a full load of Military equipment.

ALL THE ABOVE, SOUNDS REALLY GOOD, ITS ABOUT TIME THE HUMES GOT DOWN TO WHERE WE OPERATE,

though we're not sure if they will ever master the Ancient Art of the BMISS Bounce, Oh, Boy, dont we all know from long experience, all about that. will they have time from now on to emit the famous cry of Geronimo? or will it be modified to something approaching **GER.....SPLAT.**



Judging by the smile on the face of this young lady, you could be forgiven for thinking that one of our Members was up to no good as usual.

However, all is not as it first appears. This Picture, which, by the way has nothing whatsoever to do with Parachuting Fauna, (we just bunged it in for the benefit of some of our more Prurient readers), yes, we know that there are quite a few of you out there, just as there are quite a few of our professed non-readers hate the slightest hint of a combination of Hankey Pankey and Parafauna of a Soft Cuddley Toy Persuasion.

This Picture comes from a Do It Yourself answer to the Pirelli Calendar, put together by the Patrons of a liquid lunch establishment in the Hamlet of Canada, near Romsey in Hants.

The customers of the Rockinham Arms had the Famous Calendar on the Pub wall every year, but thought that its standard was falling, They were of the opinion that they could do better, and what you see here is one twelfth of the end result.

We dont know about you dear reader, but we think that the Amateur Models have done really well, all things considered. In fact you could say that they are more realistic than the Professionals.

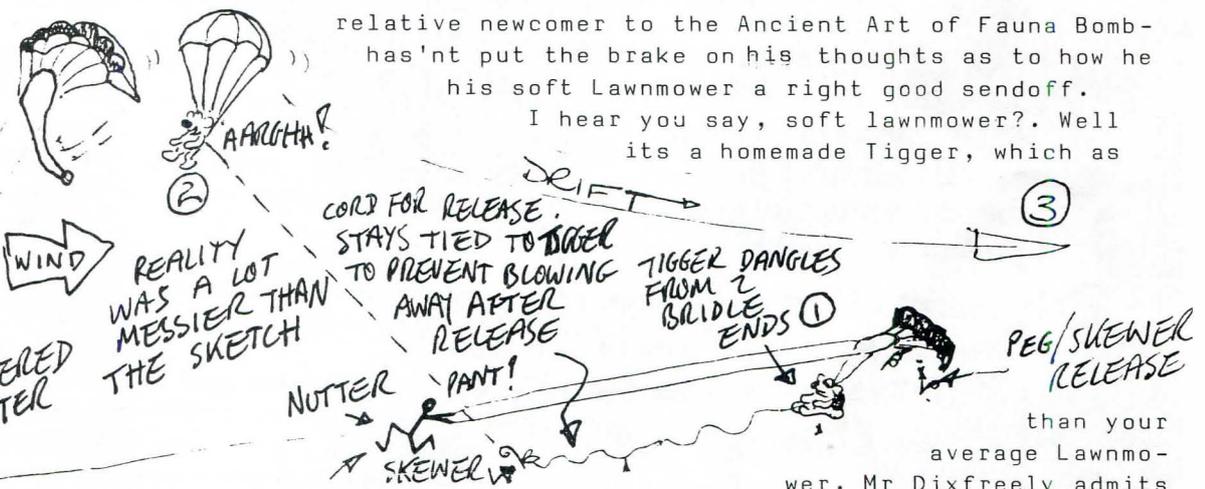
No doubt there are those of you out there who require all the details, this picture is for the Month of November, the Models name is miss Louise Broomfield, (her mum by the way, is landlady of the Pub) and we're not taking bets on the Bears name being Gobsmacked.

■ A honey-loving bear with a memory has attacked an 18th-century wooden church in the remote Bieszczady mountains of south-east Poland for the second time to try to get to a comb lining its dome, a local priest, Fr Henryk Dobosz, said yesterday. The bear left claw-marks on the door and on the side wall of the sacristy of the church. In October, it wrenched away several planks of wood, but failed to get in. AFP, Warsaw

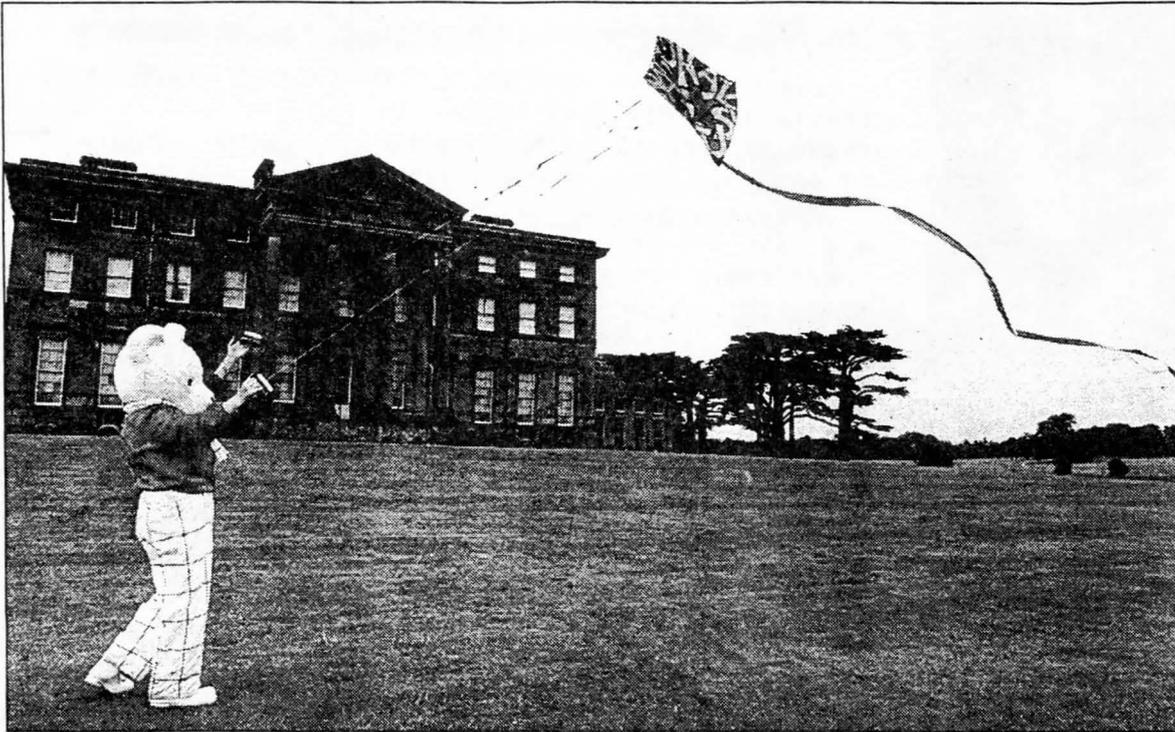
*** FLARANTE? MORE LIKE FLAGRANTE

MR DIX DISCOVERS ENERGETIC WAY TO LAUNCH HIS SOFT LAWNMOWER.....

Mr Dix is a ing, but it could give Hold on actually Mr Dix say, weighs a smidgen less



relative newcomer to the Ancient Art of Fauna Bomb- has'nt put the brake on his thoughts as to how he his soft Lawnmower a right good sendoff. I hear you say, soft lawnmower?. Well its a homemade Tigger, which as than your average Lawnmower. Mr Dix freely admits that he was 5 minutes from the end of his tether when he was nailing together the 4metres of Ripstop and 186 metres of sewing thread on a 14 night nocturnal sewing marathon. Nethertheles, the aforesaid lawn whoops Tigger together with a launch rig cobbled together from kitchen skewers, a Lolly Stick, a Film canister and assorted King size Paperclips, enabled a rather knackered Mr Dix to celebrate the



Dropnik Slatter wonders if this picture foretells the imminent arrival of our Po-Faced chums worst nightmare.

Think about it for a moment, they are used to keeping a weather eye open for display mucking up Furry capers from above, only to find that the Curse of the small furry objects is sneaking up the Blind side.

Terror piles on Terror as they see that this onslaught is fronted by the in-cucous Rupert. Where will it all end

Having a crack

AT THE POLITICALLY CORRECT BUMS WHO CAME UP WITH THE BAN OF FURRY WOTSITS from the front of Hastings Dustcarts, the aforesaid Crack being delivered by means of Cricket Bats would do us all a load of good. What is it with these Tossers, are they anti British or what? As you know

from time immemorial British Dustcartshave been proudly decorated with all manner of Furry wotsits and other assorted mascots, including tastefully handpainted Patriotic signs.

Why, it only seems like yesterday that our local Dustcart was emblazoned with a large sign on the front, which read "two world wars and one world cup, doo dah, doo dah " whilst the myriad assorted furrries tied to the grill each waved little Union Jacks.

Get real you Smeg Heads, its Tradition, the lot of you should think yourselves lucky you aint up on a charge of TREASON.

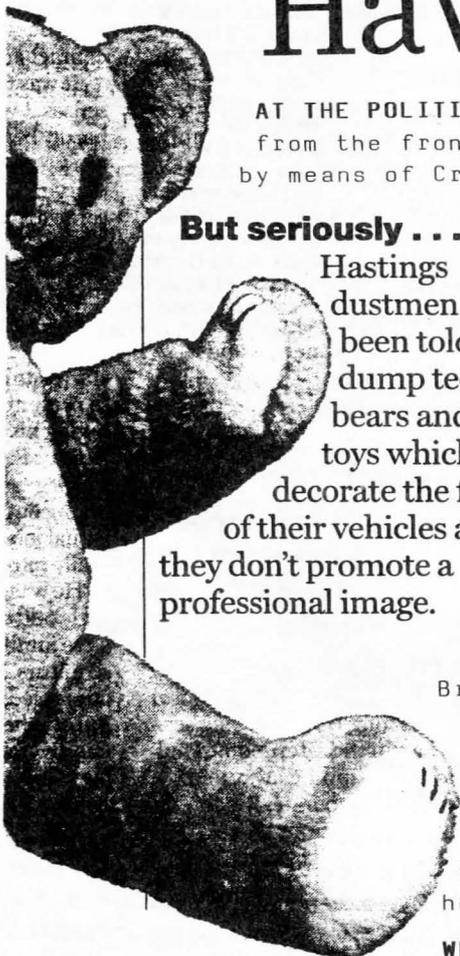
And as for the Nanny like Bleat "its not a professional Image you are promoting" Get a Life, before the Furry Brothers and Sisters of Hastings get you, Nuff said?

Are we the only ones to have had a gutful of this P.C,B.S. of late, dont do this, dont eat that, when we shout Shoot you jump on the Shovel , cant say G'Day Mate to an Oz, cos its racist, bone in Beef banned cos the Cat murderers say they know best, crypto prohibitionists hide under every stone, how long, before the Bums try to ban soft cuddley Toys?

WHATS THE BETTING THAT SOMEWHERE,SOMEONE IS WORKING ON ANOTHER E.C. Directive, in English that should read EUROB****CKS, DOING JUST THAT,GORDON BENNETT, DONT IT MAKE YER WANNA Puke.....

But seriously . . .

Hastings dustmen have been told to dump teddy bears and toys which decorate the front of their vehicles as they don't promote a professional image.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The Kite Society of Great Britain was founded in 1979 and, since then, has grown to be recognised as the leading organisation for kite flying in Great Britain with over 2500 members worldwide.

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

In addition the Kite Society organises kite meetings where guest speakers are invited to talk about their specialist area of kite making and flying.

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

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

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

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

Name _____ Family Members _____
Address _____

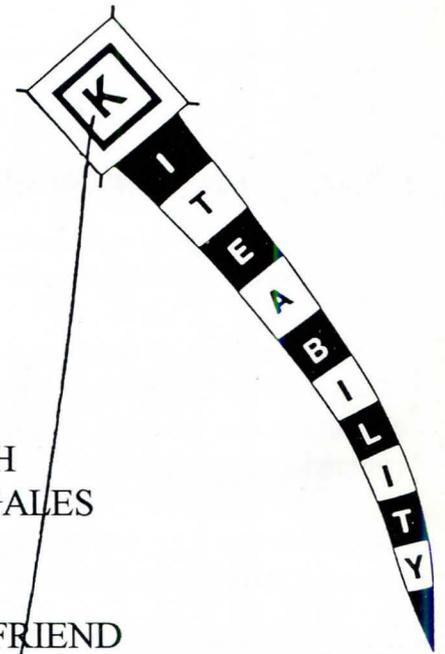
Post Code _____ Telephone _____

* This is a RENEWAL/NEW MEMBERSHIP. For renewals please give old membership number.
* New members please state which issue your membership should start with - JANUARY/APRIL/JULY/OCTOBER.

Please send this form with payment to:
The Kite Society, P.O. Box 2274, Gt Horkesley, Colchester CO6 4AY

KITEABILITY

HANDMADE KITES AND KITE MATERIALS



OUR OLD TENT IS VERY TIRED
WE THINK IT'S HAS HAD ENOUGH
WE'VE ALL BEEN OUT IN HOWLING GALES
HAIL STONES, RAIN AND STUFF

IT'S BEEN OUR GOOD AND FAITHFUL FRIEND
NOW WE KNOW ITS' GREATEST DESIRE
IS NOT TO BE BATTERED BY GALES AGAIN
SO IT'S TIME FOR US ALL TO RETIRE

WE ALL AGREE THE TIME HAS COME
TO PUT THE GOODIES AWAY
FOR MANY YEARS WE SERVED YOUR WANTS
NOW IT'S TIME FOR US TO PLAY

PLEASE DO NOT BE DOWN HEARTED
ALL BE OF GOODLY CHEER
AS A LAP OF HONOUR
WE WILL DO A FINAL YEAR

AS A GREAT BIG THANK YOU
FOR SUPPORTING US ONE AND ALL
COME FOR SOME FINAL BARGAINS
TO THE **KITEABILITY** STALL

NOTHING LASTS FOR EVER
AND ALL THINGS GOOD MUST PASS
FOR NEXT YEAR IT WILL BE OUR TURN
TO GO AND PLAY- -AT LAST!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



2, Garfield Road, Enfield, Middlesex EN3 4RP Tel & Fax: 0181-804 9080

Proprietor : Mrs. P. Dell