

THE KITEFLIER

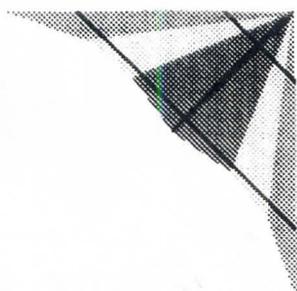
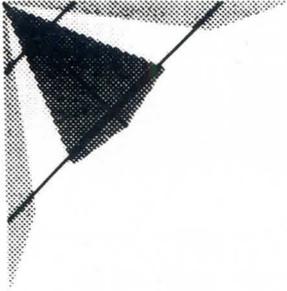
ISSUE 76

JULY 1998

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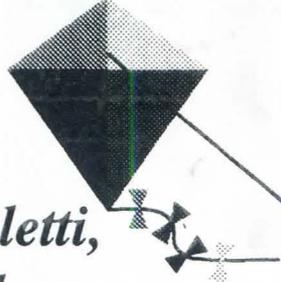
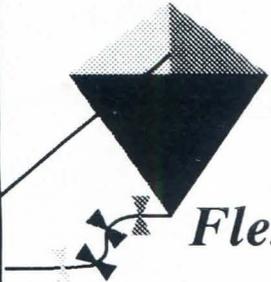
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EDITORIAL

Dear Reader,

First of all we would like to thank all of those people who answered our call for material to publish. We have decided to spread the material over two issues so if you do not see your contribution this issue it should appear in the next. **HOWEVER**, do keep sending articles for publication as we always need more.

We have had some correspondence regarding April's Old Warden event. On the Tuesday before the event the owners of the site contacted us and said that the festival would have to be cancelled because of flooding. We phoned as many people as possible to pass the word round and placed postings on the internet. On Thursday they again phoned and said that it would be possible to fly in a limited area - we said that it was too late to un-cancel the event. It appears that those people who did turn up on the Sunday were charged the **FULL** amount for entry and **NOT** told the event was cancelled until later. We cannot condone this action and can only apologise for any inconvenience that was caused by the Shuttleworth Management.

Dieppe. Well what can we say! After many attempts we have finally managed to get a registration form from the organisers and you will find it on page 33. We have left it as it was sent to us (spelling mistakes and bad translation). It **MUST** be returned **DIRECTLY** to the Organisers **NOT TO US**. Your national organisation has not been invited to attend (unlike most of the rest of Europe) - it must be something to do with the (kite) hooligans!!! We cannot answer any questions about the event as they haven't released anymore than is on the form - contact the organisers directly for more information - and good luck!.

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Front Cover Photo

Mermaid by Italians Claudio Capelli and Marco Casadio. 26m long and 5m wide. Total surface area 170 sqm. Comprises 504 pieces. Bra size? Photo: Gill Bloom

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 Andrew Taylor

Imagine, heaven forbid, that a breakaway kite drifts onto a main road causing a multiple pile up, or into overhead power lines causing a major blackout, or a buggy pilot accidentally runs down and injures a spectator... Is the flier liable?

At an organised festival the organisers presumably take out public liability insurance which covers themselves if someone is injured or their property is damaged either directly or indirectly because people are flying kites, but could the flier still be held liable?

We live in an increasingly litigious age. Does anyone know of an insurance company offering public liability insurance to individual fliers, and if so, how much does it cost? If not, would The Kite Society care to investigate and consider offering insurance as an "add-on" to the annual membership fee?

[To answer the above. The Kite Society has several times looked at cover for members but the cost has been exorbitant considering the number of people involved. In all cases the insurer has required us to state the TOTAL number of members at the start and end of each year and for us to pay on the number concerned. At no time have they permitted a rolling number basis. In addition a large majority of our members also belong to other kite clubs who already have this type of cover. Not being able to split the cost between those who want/need it and the others makes it impossible for us to have such an insurance. In many cases when asked for this we recommend that the individuals public liability clause, generally on the house insurance, be extended to cover kite flying - we have yet to hear of anyone who has failed to do this. However, for buggying it is best to go through the British Buggy Club for their insurance.]

From Frank Wright.

I was much saddened to read the editorial and the letter from Big Dave ("Kitecred Revisited") in the April Kiteflier. Much of what Dave says is very significant, and the future of our hobby is clearly in doubt. However, there are other aspects which could also be considered when addressing the problem.

What makes a kite flier? As an OAP, I was attracted to a hobby which appeared to be reasonably inexpensive, which enabled me to fly something which I had made, which got me out in the open air and which brought me in contact with other people of similar interests, who might advise me when difficulties arose.

It appeared that there were magazines and publications which would be of help, and I began to build and fly with considerable enthusiasm and resulting pleasure.

Having built most of the kites in Ron Moulton's book, and some from magazines, I began to notice changes in the kite scene which significantly affected my attitude to the hobby.

Increasingly, unless the kite one flew had tapered wrapped ultra light carbon fibre spars, was of delta shape and was covered in £7 a metre fabric it was "not really with it!!!". Money had moved in! If one desired a collection, a second mortgage would be required! Published plans for home built kites dwindled to a repetitive series of minute variations on fighter kites, which although filling a need in themselves became boring.

Where were the designs for NEW and interesting shapes? The festivals displayed many new ideas, but the originators in most cases seemed reluctant to publish any information. Most kite fliers would agree that bridling is often the most tricky aspect of new kite design, but where could one find help?

Many hobbies, in the past, have become popular because people of moderate means found they could participate, only to find the sport invaded by people with the means to push out the originators. Anyone remember the 500cc car racing field? Look what happened to motorcycle sport! What resources does one need to start hang-gliding now? How much must one outlay to go dinghy sailing these days?

The pleasure to be gained from building and then flying one's own creation is still, to me, something special, and anything which encourages this must help the overall situation. This means the provision of plans, help and advice is of great importance, We need to find a way to persuade the more inventive builders to publish their experiments and comments.

Letters

Maybe this can only be done with monetary persuasion. Could magazines and publications offer plans at a price? The Aeromodeller Magazine often publishes plans, copies of which can be obtained for a small sum. Maybe this is the way?

Kite Society members are indeed fortunate that Gill and Jon put in so much effort on their behalf, but the April Kiteflier highlights the difficulties they face. So come on you experts, what about picking up your pens?

From John Taylor

I am writing to ask if any members exist in the West London, Heathrow, Uxbridge, Hayes and Hillingdon areas. Except, of course for Ken Parry of 'Kitecraft' and Dave Davis of 'Interactive kites'. I am trying to form a local group and in spite of seeing lots of people flying when I am, and local advertising, I am not getting much response. It seems strange to me that people can spend considerable sums of money on equipment and not want to get together in any way.

I read with interest the 'Kitecred' article in the magazine because my main interest at the moment is developing a sportkite of my own which may hopefully have some 'cred' in the kiteworld in the future. Certainly anyone who wanted to try a kite that I had made would get to fly it first and full backup after. Unless of course they were being unnecessarily critical.

Whilst I am aware that my build quality is not what 'Benson' or the excellent 'Spirit of the Air' range, at least not yet, they stay in one piece.

I am also keen to take advice from anyone who would give it. Dave Mullins of 'Mullins Kites' could not be more helpful in their area.

(Write to 8 Harvil Road, Harefield, Middlesex UB9 6JR).

From Steve Davies (Weymouth and Portland Borough Council)

On behalf of Weymouth and Portland Leisure and Tourism Department a big thankyou to all kite fliers that attended and supported Weymouth's 8th International Kite Festival. Once again creating a wonderful spectacle and entertaining an estimated audience of over 80,000 - a big thank you to you all.

FOUND KITE. Following the festival a stunt kite (turquoise in colour) has been handed in. If the owner would like to contact me 01305 772444 it can be returned.

SOUVENIR ENAMEL BADGES. A limited amount are available, please write to me c/o Weymouth Pavilion, The Esplanade, Weymouth, Dorset DT3 8ED with cheques made payable to Weymouth and Portland Borough Council. Prices: 1998 - £3, 1997 - £2, 1996 - £1. All three for £5.

From Nigel Tansley (a self confessed amateur kite maker and flier whose bag contains everything from parafoil and Stranger to £1.59 from Kwik-Save).

I read in The Kiteflier of the old debate: Why so few members? May I add my own thoughts mulled over when I should have been doing end-of-year cashbook returns.

What is the purpose of flying a kite?

I also enjoy model railways as a serious hobby, yet do I begin to discern in kite flying the same problem as now besets model railways? Specialisation!!!!

In my other spare time, when not making, flying, repairing, dreaming or buying kites, I model the North Staffordshire Railway during 1910, in "O" gauge finescale; building loco's and rolling stock out of brass sheet etc. I am in a minority of very few !! Lots of people model 7mm/ft scale, but some to finescale standards, some to course scale (Hornby clockwork) and some to scaleseven (ultra accurate). Some model diesels, some steam, some Great Western, some Irish narrow gauge railways.

Letters

Then there is OO gauge course and fine scale, E.M., P4 and S4 gauges, H.O. scale, N gauge, T.T. gauge etc etc.

The list seems endless, and so does the bigotry of some of the devotees of these cultish gods, I left one scale/gauge group when one group stated calling other groups nasty names.

So what of us who do battle with the elements, armed with nylon, wood and string?

Read any mag, and highlight jargon. Over 40 words on one page of the April '98 Kiteflier alone which will confuse and confound the novice. I have been flying kites seriously for 4 years and can still struggle to understand some terms.

I also begin to detect the dreaded snobbery which can come from specialisation. Read any mag, like Kite Passion (am I the only one to find it on the top row next to "big and busty in stilettos"? Honest!) which is excellent each edition, with exciting colour pictures each month/two months whatever. To be "in" I have to snowboard down the Matterhorn, only to be pulled back up, in one jump, by a 36mtr Quad inflatable surf kite, whilst building my own buggy from plans supplied. Sorry Gerard Cohen, I am not knocking, just showing why people may not get overcommitted to our hobby; more power to your elbow!

A quick survey of Crewe, where I live, reveals a collection of 59p single liners in "el cheapo" shops, a "colour it yourself" sled in a stationary shop and a few Teletubby sleds in a supermarket. Hardly thrilling is it? The nearest specialist shop is over 30 miles away (unless rumours of a new shop on bridge street in Chester are true). People are hardly going to invest 50p in a plastic diamond, find a kite festival and come away with a 6.5m Peel.

Let all with our backs to the wind remember that kites, from 50p to £3000+ are for FUN.

Let us not decry any other wind warrior just because they do not fly a super ultra megalite with invisible nanothin carbon intrusive rods.

I rejoice when I see the like of Jim White of the M.K.F. put down the lines of a specialist freestyle kite and help a kid launch a make it yourself plastic plastic sled. Good on you Jim, and all others who are not too far gone to realise kites are fun.

As part of my job (as clergyman) I recently took a blind man out to free-run his guide dog. Out of the boot came a parafoil and Arthur knew the thrill of flying a kite. He did not know or care what sort of kite, he just enjoyed it. Yes Big Dave, we do need good kites at the right price at festivals THAT FLY as well as the big stuff for us aeronauts with planted feet.

More members? Certainly. Let us not get exclusive. Specialise in whatever you like but remember (without embarrassment) that there may have been a time when the string in your hand was attached to something you would not allow in your bag today. Ponder. Have you lost something?

Simplicity is something easily lost and hardly regained.

Here endeth the sermon.

From Peter Twivey

Having just read your editorial you have my deepest sympathy. For many years I was in the same position, trying to bring out a magazine for a Society of similar size and getting exactly the same response - NOTHING.

I then read Big Dave's article and, from a different perspective, agree with him too! Perhaps we are too elitist, but from the outside. Once you have a kite and start attending festivals and competitions, getting to know people, the friendship and companionship IS there, but not so much to the outsider.

Last year I wrote on the subject of public transport to festivals. There was no reply and by looking at this years write ups the same old tried and trusted formula has been used, "If the punter don't have a car we don't really want to know".

I went to 3 festivals last year, all superbly easy by public transport even though one was on the Essex coast. This one I had not been to before, and with a minimum of research could see that there was no railway very close. Upon ringing the organisers to see if there was a bus passing the site I was told in no uncertain terms "don't ask us, we don't come from the

Letters

area". As it happens, thanks to a very helpful lady at the local tourist information office, trains and busses knitted very well together and I had a splendid day.

Two that I did not get to last year were Swindon and Bristol. Yes there are about 2 buses a day each way from Swindon station, but don't ask in the enquiry office which bus goes to the kite festival, ask for Wroughton Aerodrome or even the Science Museum and then be prepared for a long walk at the other end.

The other one was Bristol, a huge event, probably one of the best in Europe. Come off it, outside if those in the know, like us, nobody has ever heard of it, least of all Bristol Tourist Information Office, and as for getting a bus to Ashton Court, "well there MAY be a bus going past Ashton Court but it is probably on the other side, so you will have to either walk all through the grounds or all round". Upon hearing this and finding out that it was going to cost me between £50 and £70 for the round trip for one day I decided not to go.

Having said the above, one of our local coach companies did try to arrange a trip to the festival but had to cancel because only I and two other people booked to go.

Sorry to have let off steam in this way but if clubs and festival organisers REALLY WANT the general public to attend their functions there has got to be a lot more publicity, liaison with local bus and train services and at the very minimum at least some idea of what goes past the site for the general enquirer.

From Ellen Farrance

On behalf of The Suffolk Kite Flyers I would like to express our sincere thanks to all the kitefliers who turned up to help us make Rougham 1998 a very good first event for us. The weather was just right, lots of sunshine and a good 'flying' wind. It is a great site and we would like to thank The Rougham Tower Association for the use of the airfield. Many thanks to the S. K.F. members who helped us make this event possible. Watch out for next years date.

From Malcolm Ford

I would like to make my own observations of the kite festivals I have attended, in regard to the article by Big Dave of Team Rikok under Kitecred Revisited in the April edition.

I agree with many of his comments in regard to the suspect quality of some kites on general sale, and also those offered by kite traders. I have always found the reputable traders will take time to talk, give advice and guidance and show a willingness to have you come back to have repairs or advice if your purchase is proving a problem to fly.

Kite festivals do pose a larger problem for me, for several reasons. Those that have competitions, take up valuable flying area for other kites, especially as the teams taking part need another arena just as large to tune up. These may or not prove interesting to the public.

If we wish to encourage more people into kite flying, then I believe that when they come to a kite festival they wish to fly their purchases there and then. It is up to the converted to assist new kitefliers and to give them room to learn new skills.

I also believe that not enough thought is given to setting up sites. By simply setting out different areas and clearly defining them for single, dual and multi line and, if enough room, a separate area for children flying, it would give more freedom to fly. I know that a lot of fliers like to put up single line kites to colour the sky, whilst flying multi-line kites. Another way would be to allow club members to have access so that the two areas are side by side letting members have their equipment in one place.

Perhaps we have reached the stage where there will be two tiers of kite festivals. Those with competitions and demonstrations and those that are basically organised fly-ins.

Small Kites

Small kites have a fascination all their own. They can be complicated and highly decorated but they can also be simple, quick to make and quick to remake if you decide to try a new version. They fly slowly indoors and look good on the wall or on a shelf. But how do you get started?

The important thing is that small kites need light materials if they are to fly well. Tissue paper is a good starting point. For a simple kite take a flat piece, iron it if it is badly crumpled, and cut a rectangle 60mm by 80mm (see diagram). Press a line 5mm from a short edge by running a used-up ball point pen gently along it, and fold the strip over to make a stiff leading edge. Do not glue the strip down. Now mark a centre line of the kite and fold it gently to give a slight dihedral. That is the kite finished. To make the tail cut and join a strip of tissue paper 3mm wide and 900mm long. Scrumple the tail up to soften it and then straighten it out again. Glue one end to each rear corner of the kite to make a loop.

For flying line use thin sewing thread (the cheaper the better). Bridles are fiddly, so fix the thread directly to the kite 24mm from the leading edge. Use a weak glue so you can peel the line off later if you decide to move it. I use a very small drop of Copydex.

You can fly the kite indoors by walking holding the line in your hand, but it is easier if you use a stick. Find a stick about 0.8m long (a broken spar from your scrap box?) and fix the line to one end. Use a flying line a little shorter than the stick. The stick keeps the kite away from the turbulence caused by your body and hand if you walk, or you can sit in a chair and fly the kite by waving the stick slowly in a figure-eight over your head.

If you use a piece of masking tape to fix the line to the stick it is easy to change kites - of course you could use a proper clip or a clothes peg.

When this kite is working try variations. The kite will fly without a tail, but needs a dihedral angle of about 45degrees each side. Make another one, better, and decorate it. Try more interesting variations on the shape and different sizes.

For a more ambitious kite make a sparless box. Mark out a piece of tissue paper as shown in the second diagram. Press the dotted lines with your used-up ball point pen. Cut on the solid lines (I use a metal rule and a sharp craft knife). Fold over the long edge to make a stiff leading edge. Fold each of the other fold lines to 90degrees and you have a box shape. Glue the overlap. Now use a needle to thread the flying line (sewing thread) through the centre of one edge of the front box and out through the opposite edge. Glue both points so the thread is straight when the box is square. [If you decide later to try moving the tow point, cut the line off leaving the diagonal in place and then glue the line on in the new position].

To make smaller kites which fly well you need a lighter material. 'Tissuetex' is a very light paper, less than half the weight of normal tissue; it will make kites half the size of these or smaller. The kites will also fly more slowly which is more convenient indoors. Try specialist paper shops, or contact Pete Waddington of Airworks who sells it (tel 01274 676976).

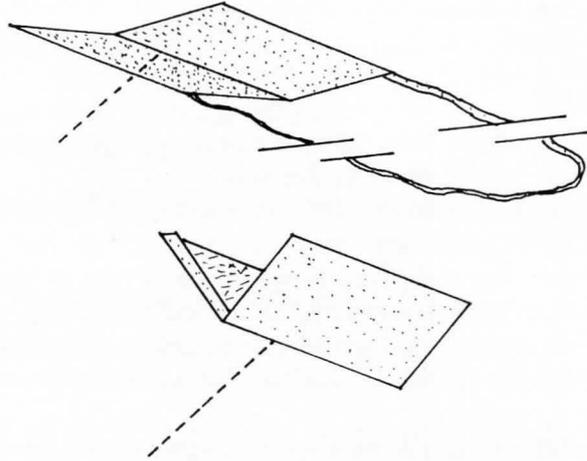
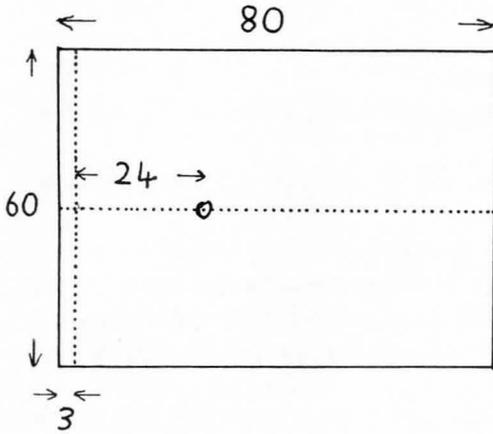
For a stiffer material which glints nicely in the lights try thin aluminised polyester sheet. This is a thinner version of giftwrap and is sold as 'space blanket' or handed out free after the London Marathon and similar events. It is also available, coloured, from The Highwaymen. Giftwrap itself works for slightly larger kites, but being heavier it flies faster.

Next time - Small kites with spars. Good flying

Nicolas Wadsworth

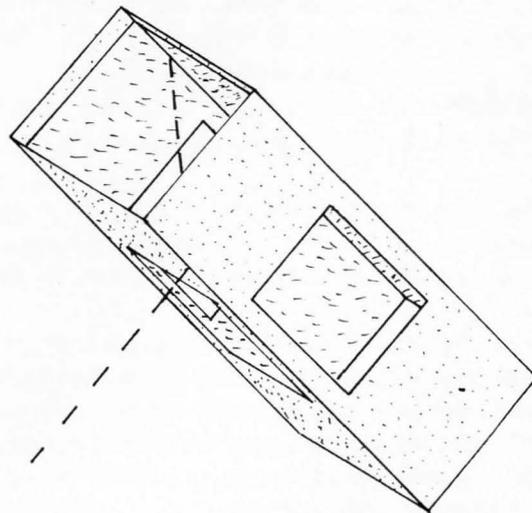
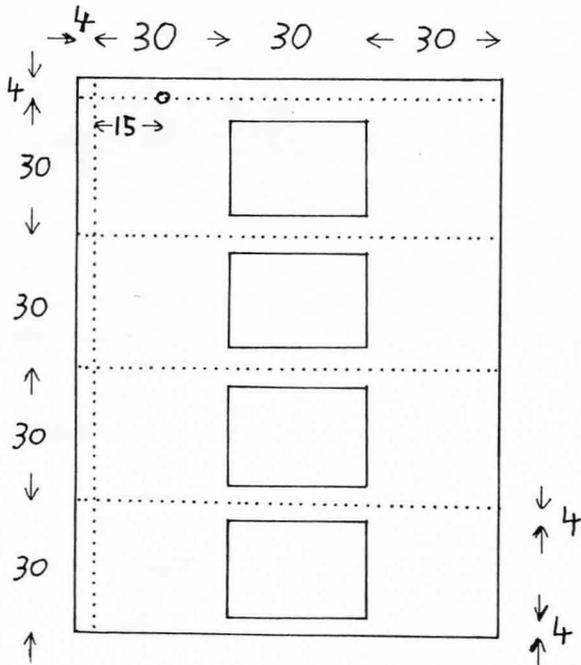
Small Kites

Simple Kite



Dimensions in millimetres

Sparless Box Kite



Small Kites by Nicolas Wadsworth

Viv Comma 1914 - 1998

Following the sad passing of Vivian (King KisKee Dee) earlier this year I thought a look at the man behind the kite would be nice. The following is with kind permission and help of his widow Iris

VIVIAN R COMMA 1914 - 1998

Vivian was born in Trinidad, West Indies to strict church going parents. His father was a school teacher who was promoted to be inspector for schools for Trinidad.

He therefore was a very important person in his community, and did not like his children associating with the "rougher element" in the area where they lived.

Children are the same the world over, wanting what is "out of bounds". Young Vivian often ducked out to play with the other children in his community, making and flying kites with any available materials that came to hand, pieces of frond from local trees and any paper that could be scrounged for the frame and sail. These kites were to be the basis of the kite that become the KisKee Dee we have all come to know, and that most kites have had the pleasure of flying.

Living on a Caribbean Island, the other major influence on his life was the local Calypso music. This was another thing of which young Vivian's parents did not approve. As all youngsters will, he became involved in the music, joining in with local musicians and learning to play he soon joined up with some friends, formed a little band, and found that he had a talent for song writing. This became quite a passion and the band where soon putting on little shows for the local community, the band went from strength to strength.

A film production company making a film set in the Caribbean, were looking for some authentic Caribbean music. Someone had heard the band and of Viv's reputation for song writing and they were employed to perform in the film, Viv was commissioned to write some music for the film. The film is called "FIRE DOWN BELOW" starring Rita Hayworth, Robert Mitchum and Jack Lemon. Vivian wrote three of the "background" songs that the band performed during the café scene. This old film, a disaster film about a fire onboard a ship, hence the title is occasionally dragged out for a showing on T.V. In one scene in the film Rita Hayworth is in a café, in a slinky white dress with Viv and the boys playing in the background, so keep a look out for the next re run.

To complete the studio work Viv and the band came to the U.K., a very exciting time for a group of young men, thrust into the glamorous world of film stars. When this was finished they tried for more film work but it was very thin on the ground so work elsewhere was sought.

This took them to Ibiza for a couple of seasons, to play their calypso music in clubs, such as they were in those distant days, not like today's discos. It was whilst working in Ibiza that he met the young lady who was to become his wife.

When the Ibiza contract finished Viv and his friends returned to England to seek more work for the band. Unfortunately this was not to be, Vivian got himself a job playing the piano on a Greek cruise liner but he was seasick and gave this up after a few months, so a day job had to be found and the music had to take a back seat.

Vivian was a latter day Lloyd Webber and put together a musical play, but unfortunately for Viv it came to nothing, but he kept up with his Calypso music for the Notting Hill Carnival.

Every year there is a competition for the best calypso and Viv performed under his stage name of "The Golden Cockerel", often winning first prize and a lot of respect from his contemporaries.

Having had the privilege of listening to some of Viv's calypso's, some of the words are a bit shall we say a "risqué" but that is what the music's all about, like kiteing, having fun.

Being the son of a school teacher his education was not lacking, Viv soon found work in Somerset House (registering births & death's etc) where he spent his working life until he retired, taking early retirement to make kites.

Viv Comma 1914 - 1998

Remembering his early kiteing as a boy in the Caribbean, Viv experimented with his kite, getting authentic materials from back home and with what was available to him locally, the KisKee Dee as we all know it was evolved.

The KisKee Dee first came to my notice at a Brighton festival, when it was held on the Brighton racecourse. I met a kiter Alan Martin (some might know the name) who had his mini van full of magic little kites. I had to have one, and probably still have it somewhere.

Some time later I came across Viv selling these kites at Blackheath festival, being fascinated by them, I started to make small bulk purchases from Viv to sell at teddy dropping events, as at the time we were part of the Clement's family "Sky Squad". Whilst out at events, we were often asked were there any kites for sale, the KisKee Dee fitted the bill, a small kite that flew like a dream, nothing else could be asked of a kite.

Things moved on, Kiteability opened its door's, we continued to sell these wonderful little kite's. How many have we sold? I do not know. It must be many thousands, bering in mind Viv was churning them out long before I became aware of them, he must have made zillions. We have been asked how many people worked for Viv, well the answer is none, Vivian was a one man kite factory, his output was without equal, and he still had time for his music.

In 1980 we conspired with Mark Cotterel of the Kitestore, to present Vivian with a lifetime award for his contribution to kiteing in the form of a shield depicting his Kiskee Dee bird kite. Viv was lured by Mark to the Bristol festival on some pretence or other where we suitably embarrassed him, but his health kept him away from visits to festivals, as travelling was difficult for him.

Vivian's wonderful little Caribbean kite will hold a place in the memory of all who came in touch with it. Remember the KisKee Dee car race, radio controlled model car's towing a kite over a set course at a Blackheath Festival, I think that event defies description!!!

The familiar sight of Viv's KisKee Dee's at festivals, is sadly to be no more.

Our good friend Vivian Comma sadly passed away on 25th February 1998 at the age of 83 years young. Thank you Vivian for all the kite fun you brought to many children of all ages. There must be a place for you in the "Kiteing Hall Of Fame".

God bless you Vivian. The kite world will miss you.

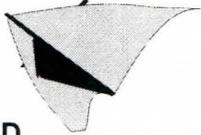
Oh -- and finally the name "KisKee Dee" for the kite. There is a bird that lives in the Caribbean like a Blackbird, its song sounds like kiskee dee - kiskee dee, hence the bird on some of the small kites and the name for the kite. As the bird, the kite fly's.....

As a foot note Mrs Comma has given me a quantity of Vivian's unfinished kites, if anyone would like one or two come, and see me at a festival.

Thank you

Ron Dell Kiteability.

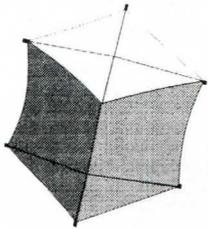
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of flying line.

£10.99 Wingspan
approx. 145cm
(57 inches)



BLOK ROK

£17.50 (excluding
line)

97 cm (38 inch)
Wide



Ball Of Fire

Weight 175grms
Wingspan 156cm
4 Standoffs
Speedy Tricks
£35.00



Dancer

2 Standoffs
Weight 225gms
Wingspan 218cm
Tricks
£45.00



BOXER

4 Standoffs
Weight 255gms
Wingspan 221cm
Tricks & tracks well
Just needs the music to
fly to. Plenty of feel to
play with

£80.00



Mach2 Airfilled Foil Stunt Kite

Two colours and high speed
Recommend 75lb X 75ft Line
140cm span 65cm deep £20.00

SABREFOIL Airfilled Foil Stunt Kite

Well mannered, Self filling, totally
soft kite with a wide wind range.
Made in three or five colours
Recommend 150lb X 100ft line
190cm span 65cm deep £40.00

BBV Airfilled Foil Power Kite Very
wide wind range, easy to fly. High
power in strong winds. BBV is a
totally soft Kite with a simple bridle
for less tangles.

Available with 3 colours
Recommend 300lb X 150ft line
300cm span 95cm deep £70.00

All kites are hot cut and
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www.argonet.co.uk/

kreativ.kites

Trade News

News from **The Climax-line System** for Kites: Due to the success of Climax extra fine flying lines from The Climax-Line System for Kites the German manufacturer has produced a special edition for Summer '98. In addition to the existing range, lines with 85lbs, 130lbs, 175lbs and 240lbs breaking strength are available at a special price for a limited time from authorised climax dealers. For samples, information, specifications and a list of participating dealers send SAE to: EMKAY, 18 Water Lane, Threkingham, Lincs NG34 0BE. Tel+Fax: 01529 241080. Email EMKAYINT@aol.com.

Staffords Indian Fun Kites: Stafford's Indian Kites are no longer being sold by the Highwaymen. Many good customers have contacted me to buy kites for friends or to replace damaged ones, and say they cannot get them from their local shops. If anyone wants replacement kites they are available by mail order or from me at some kite festivals. Please see separate advert for details.

Shanti UK Ltd, Viv Walters, 37a Chapel Street, Warminster, BA12 8BZ. Tel/Fax : 01985 215084. Email : hantiuktd@btinternet.com: As you know Shanti has been around for some considerable time now, at various times we have been distributed by The Kite Store and later by TKC. Now we distribute our products ourselves in this country and other countries in Europe. We're most probably best known for our Speed line flown by The Decorators, Skydance, Aircraft (but now Carl Robertshaw and James Robertshaw), Andy Preston, Simon Dann and Chris Lamb and a few other discerning fliers! However we also manufacture an enormous range of lines for single line kites and other lines for dual/quad line kites. In addition we make wooden winders, various types of spool, handles, straps and a few kites too!

Chalkie Jackets. We have recently been trying out one of "Chalkie" Keith White jackets. To date it has been a godsend as we have been able to fold it nice and small but still get the benefit of two layers of windproof material.

Keith says: The jackets are fully reversible (retaining body heat through a two part construction). Reduced windchill, showerproof, lightweight and compact, also folding into its' own integral pocket on either side. Also excellent value for money. Two styles are available in either child or adult sizes. They are Seafarer - being a throwover and the City - a zip front.

Children 18mth - 4 yrs	£18.50	Adult	Sml - Med	£32.95
5-6 years	£19.50		Lrg-Xlrg	£34.95
7-11 years	£21.95		XX-lrg	£36.95

Write to Chalkie, 22 Cranfield Place, Delves, West Midlands WS5 4PL, tel: 01922 624739.

Kites Aloft have recently opened a new shop at 49 Bridge Street Row, Chester, CH1 1NW, Tel: 01244 311125. This is in addition to their other shop at 16 Railway Street, Altrincham, Cheshire WA14 2RE, Tel: 0161 929 9808, Fax: 0161 927 9082. Email: hharrijon@aol.com.

Both shops stock a full range of all types of kite plus buggies, videos, books and juggling equipment. Open Mon - Sat 9:30 - 5:30.

The Kite Shop. 1c Arbury Road, Cambridge CB4 2JB. Tel: 01223 502211. The kite shop is open 6:30pm to 9pm Mon - Fri and 10am until 2pm Sat. The owner, Wolfgang Dahmer is passionate about kites, mainly those with two or four lines that pull like stink! The shop stocks the flexi range of kites as well as carbon spars, connectors and the new climax lines at good prices. A friendly welcome, a running video and a hot coffee await you. This summer Wolfgang is running a Sunday bus service to the coast. Contact him at the above address.

Kites & More in Lincolnshire can make the Beach Rolly available again. The perfect partner to carry all your kite gear, children, crates of beer and all other essential items up to a maximum weight of 200lbs. Constructed from light weight, non-rusting aluminium and equipped with buggy type wheels the Rolly is ideal for kite festivals, the beach and other outdoor activities. At your destination, the Rolly transforms into a comfortable chair. Easily folded down the Rolly requires only a little space in your garage or car.

Only available from Kites & More, 18 Water Lane, Threkingham, Lincs NG34 0BE. Tel+Fax 01529 241080. Email kitesmore@aol.com. They look forward to sending you some information.

Private Ads

Homemade 3 wheeled kite buggy, pump up tyres worth £500 - sell £75 O.N.O. for quick sale. Two 10ft Flexifoil powerkites worth £130 each - will sell £50 each O.N.O. for quick sale. Buy 2 kites get free line and handles worth £50. All kites are in excellent condition. Phone 01495 321672.

For Sale: Peter Lynn Kite Buggy. Good Condition. £150. Tel: 0181 858 2405.

Selling part of my large collection of single, dual and quad-line kites at very reasonable prices. Too many to mention here. Please send for complete list to: Paul Carline, 27 Thirlestane Road, Edinburgh EH9 1AL.

For Sale: Revolution I [Pink/Black] Good condition. Lines and winder but no handles. £110. Original Benson Phantom [as new] £75. Benson Energy £20. Six stack of one metre Rokkakus with applique Japanese ladies. £100. Joy stick, spectra lines, handle and video. £25. Telephone 01603 431964 evenings/weekends.

Wanted: Powerhouse Dynamo 6mm for stacking. Phone Nick 0989 515833 (day) or 01323 848707 (Eves).

Spare seat for Dieppe! I'm off to Dieppe and have a spare seat that'll get you to the Festival if anyone's interested. I'm based near Swindon and will be travelling, via Basingstoke, to Newhaven on the Thursday, 10th September, in the morning for the 1p.m. ferry; and returning on the Monday, 14th Sept. I'll be charging £25 for the seat to cover the ferry costs. If anyone is interested call me on 01367 710791 for more details and fill the car of like minded individuals!! Peter Dawson.

Private Adverts are free. All we require is your copy to be with us by the 15th of the month prior to publication. So for the next issue, October, we require your copy by 15th September.



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Tel/Fax: 01206 271489

Email: kite_society@compuserve.com

Bits & Pieces

Group News

News from the **Camelot Kite Fliers**.

At our recent AGM Andrew Teague resigned from his secretary position and our new secretary is Terry Dabinett. So new contact details are:

Terry Dabinett
13, Cowen Close
Crewkerne
TA18 8JF
01460 74655

Membership details: £5.00 per person or £8.00 family membership. Monthly newsheet. Shirts and pin badges. Fly-in every Sunday 2pm at Wadham School, Crewkerne. Insurance cover to £5m.



Press Release from the **British Fighter Club**. Interest in Fighter Kites grows apace and a new Midlands organiser has been appointed. Paul Barratt (01604 453252), well known to many for his flying skills, will be available to help and advise on the first Sunday of the month at the Old Racecourse, Northampton. All welcome.

The organiser for the West and Wales is, of course, Tony Slater (01743 235068) and National Chairman Malcolm McLeod can be contacted on 01705 591171.



STACK UK has a new team on board to shake things up and get everyone remotivated. They are:

National Director - Mark Lummas, Head Judge - Steve Hammatt, PR Officer - Avril Baker, Membership Officer - Kathy Jarvis, Logistics Officer - Andrew Phelps. Together they hope to rebuild the organisation and drive the sport forward. Write to Kathy Jarvis, 33 Catherine Close, Pilgrims Hatch, Brentwood, ESSEX CM15 9RJ/ Tel/Fax 01277 373865.



Sadly Missed

Yvonne Womack. Following a short illness, Yvonne Womack of Great Ayton, North Yorkshire, previously of Fylde, Lancashire, died rather suddenly in the early hours of Friday 24th April.

Phil and Yvonne were regular fliers on the beach at Lytham St Annes - Phil is renowned for his large black Cody and his Enigma Box kites and Yvonne for her wonderful photos of kites and events. They were original instigators and organisers of the 1st Fylde Kite Festival, and founder members of the West Coast Kite club.

Yvonne leaves husband Phil and their son Ben, who will be three in July. She will be sadly missed by kitefliers from all over the North of England.



Takeshi Nishibayashi. It was with sadness I read of the death of the Japanese kite-maker and kite-ambassador Takeshi Nishibayashi in the April Edition of the Kiteflier. In the mid-eighties, Sunderlands' Art Development officer Adam Sutherland, ran a two day kite workshop at the Washington Arts Centre. I seized the opportunity to extend my developing interest and with a dozen or more others, cut, stuck, tied and flew.

Adam's passion was Japanese kites and it was no coincidence that the kite makers that Sunderland Council invited for summer programmes in schools were Japanese. Takeshi was a regular visitor and was based at the Washington Centre.

I believe Takeshi was the designer of the Washington Peace Kite. He was an innovator and published several books of kite designs. Construction and design extended to plastic film, fibre spars and tape in an astonishing range of ideas. For example the use of spars in leaf-spring pattern for a graduated response.

Takeshi had a workshop for his own use at Washington and on my frequent visits for informal kite making sessions with Adam, I would often see him trying out a new kite on a small adjoining open space. The kite was usually small and fast and its movement would be accelerated by his nimble use of a large reel with a 50cm cane through its centre. The Japanese word

Bits & Pieces

is silk-spinning reel.

Takeshi must have enjoyed the opportunity to carry out kite making and flying internationally as I would see his photograph in kite magazines from time to time.

His manner was modest but I believe his contribution to kites will be recognised as considerable. He will be missed.

W J Wall.



Press Release: From April 1st the ownership of the European Air Gallery has been transferred to The North East Kite Fliers. The club meet at venues all around the North East of England and plays a significant role in assisting Malcolm Goodman to run the Sunderland International Kite Festival. The European Air Gallery was a gift to the club from the City of Sunderland Council who wanted the collection to stay in the North East of England and continue to be flown or displayed at their kite festival each year.

The European Air Gallery is a collection of 22 Edo style kites made in modern materials by Gerard van der Loo and painted mainly by European artists. Since 1994 kites from the collection have been flown and displayed by staff from Sunderland City Council at many venues around Europe.

For more information on the collections history and the artists involved contact: Michael Martin, The Secretary, North East Kite Fliers, 38 Allerdean Close, West Denton Park, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE15 8XW.

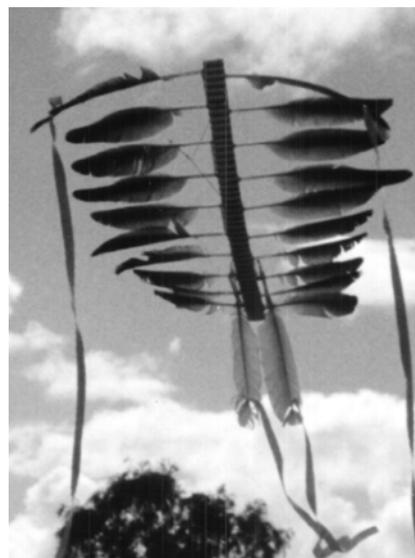


In the Press.

Part of an article talking about drug wars in Rio de Janeiro. "Dindo, a 12 year old who says he's been to school only once makes more than his mother, who earns £10 a month as a maid. His job is to fly different coloured kites from the corrugated rooftop of his home to message his bosses about the arrival of drug shipments or warn about the presence of rival gangs or the police. 'Red means the coke has arrived and blue means hide everything because there are enemies nearby' explained Dindo".



An unusual kite. Whilst attending the Vasteras and Stockholm kite festivals in Sweden we came across Johan Hallin a kite maker from Gottland, a Swedish island. Johan incorporates bird feathers and other assorted materials scavenged from the beach (and rubbish skips) into the making of his kites and windsculptures. On the right is one of his kites and on the left windsculpture.



W.H.K.F. Autumn Workshop

24/25th OCTOBER 1998, HEADLANDS SCHOOL SWINDON

Due to the success and popularity of our past workshops, we are extending them to four; two-day classes, this autumn. In February we had some complaints that participants didn't know which class to choose, because of this we are running two of the classes again. All classes will be two-days.

Franchesca Caton, who is fully trained, in the manufacture of large inflatable structures for the advertising industry; items such as large animals, cars, wine bottles, beer bottles etc; will be giving a lecture on the principles of wind inflated structures, plus taking a two day class on making a Teddy Bear windsock. For this class you will obviously need some sewing skills, plus of course a sewing machine: cost £25, material supplied, you will need, pencils, ruler, scissors, sewing thread in various colours, and of course your sewing machine. Maximum in this class is 15, Minimum 4.

John Browning took a lot of persuading to do his "Swarm of Bees" class last February, however, luckily for us, he enjoyed it so much he jumped at the chance to do it again. In this class you will make five bees from cigarette paper and rattan, the bees are small Yakos, to create the swarm you bridle them branch fashion on a single line: cost £25, all materials supplied, you will need to bring; pencils, ruler, scissors & a small hammer. Maximum in this class is 10. Minimum 6

Barry Poulter. If you spoke to anybody who did Barry Poulter's Hexagon with Celtic knot, they will tell you what a fantastic class it was, Barry supplied the kite in kit form, with so much attention to detail, it must have taken him hours to prepare them! Barry then followed this at our last workshop with an art class, teaching students the method of how to scale up a piece of artwork large enough to fit a kite, and then how to appliqué it. For his next workshop, Barry is taking a two-day class to make a Fan kite with an appliquéd Celtic knot design; the kite measures 120cm by 90cm tall and has a 9m tail. Knowing how much time and effort that Barry puts into his work, this will be an excellent workshop, you will need sewing skills! All materials supplied. Cost £48. You will need a sewing machine, 80pt sewing needles, 1000m of black polyester thread, small pair of sharp scissors for cutting out appliqué, large scissors for cutting tail, one can of 3M spray mount, one can of cigarette lighter fluid, 12" steel ruler (Must be clean), 80lb breaking strain flying line. A couple more items are needed, however if you haven't got them don't worry because they can be shared: hot cutting tools, belt punch. Maximum in class 15, Minimum 3

Arthur Dibble, is the Vice-Chairman of the W.H.K.F. he is also responsible for taking teddy-bear parachuting into the World of high-tech, by motorising the dropping rig, so if you ever wondered how teddy bears shot up the line at about 25mph, have a chat with Arthur who is always happy to explain his dropping rig to you, to this end, Arthur as decided to do a workshop on, teddy-bear parachuting, however this workshop will include the low-tech, non-motorised version of the dropping rig, plus, Teddy bear and back-packed hemispheric parachute, there will be added bits and pieces, including, print outs of 'chutes of any requested size. Harnesses will be to individual design and 'chute colour schemes optional. Any one completing the basics will also be able to start a "LARA" design and for a small extra charge, materials will be available. Cost £25 all materials supplied, (Lara 'chute materials £5). You will need; Sewing machine, thread, scissors, un-picker, etc. craft scissors for cutting card templates, other useful items to bring, but not essential, because Arthur will supply one of each, hot cutter, hair dryer or hot gun, heavy duty pliers, small pipe cutter, please bring an ice-cream box lid. Maximum in this class is 10. Minimum 4

These workshops are run by W.H.K.F. on a non profit basis, however there are administration cost's involved, so there will be a £2 registration fee added to the above prices for non-members of the White Horse Kite Flyers.

You will notice that each class as a maximum number of participants, obviously the teachers have costs involved so to make the classes viable there are minimum numbers as well.

Complimentary tea & coffee will be available throughout the weekend, lunch will be "Potluck" style, you bring some food that you have bought or prepared yourself, we add it to the "POT" and share it, we have full use of the School kitchen so we can re-heat any of your recipes.

If you require accommodation for the week-end, there are several bed & breakfast places within about two miles of Headlands School, obviously, to avoid disappointment these will need booking early, so contact me and I will give you phone numbers.

W.H.K.F. Autumn Workshop

Workshop	Price	Deposit	Please Tick
FRANCESCA CATON	£25.00	£12.50	
JOHN BROWNING	£25.00	£12.50	
BARRY POULTER	£48.00	£24.00	
ARTHUR DIBBLE	£25.00	£12.50	

Please add £2 to the above prices if not a W.H.K.F. member.

NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE NUMBER

No cheques will be banked until each class has its minimum number, when it does you will be informed by letter. Send form to W.H.K.F., P.O. Box 585, Swindon, Wilts SN3 4YR.

Dubai

The good thing about taking your kites on the water is you have all the space you could need - the bad thing is that you could drown!

Dubai was a really brilliant event not only for its' slick organisation but the venue was wicked. Light sands, turquoise ocean, blue sky, great people, factor 20 sun lotion, cool box, no complaints.

With only a narrow strip of sand to buggy on, myself and Paul Thody soon took full advantage of the water space. Launching our Flexi-stacks we were soon skimming that bay making out we were doing a job of entertainment but mostly to stay cool. Conditions were nearly always perfect and you soon became casual about being in the water.

I discovered that by adopting a flying-superman pose in the water I was able to tack across the bay and could manage a degree of directional control and as I'm thinking you could probably body surf anywhere, Paul says 'Fancy getting out of the Bay?' - 'Yeah, let's do it' I replied, no hesitation.

So in we go and it was superman pose all the way out of the confines of the bay. The sea swelled up, going deep blue and noticeably cooler we had now distanced ourselves from the kite festival. Loneliness, then adrenalin came in. Paul has left me standing/hobbing in his wake and I watched his kite stack manoeuvre around the rock tip of safe haven. Concentrating and powering on around the tip Paul comes back into view as a small flying fish skidded across the water, but the biggest shock at this point is how far the beach is away. No problem. Kites are good, I'm feeling a rush, feeling indestructible. Powering the flexi-stack through the sky they stay absolutely solid. I'm getting huge pull from them whacking my body on the surface I take a right beating and loved it! The festival is now in another world, I'm all alone shouting yahoo, faster and Come on then, challenging the wind to pull me harder. It obliges, and as I approach the shore Paul has already landed and has a crowd of onlookers around him. I put on an extra effort as I approach a separate appreciative audience and welcoming group of sunbathers! Am I glad I landed here? 'Where have you flown from? Is it easy to fly those kites? Where is the festival?' I'm trying to look cool but really I'm gasping and before I can give an answer a gust sends me slightly airborne and very fast onto the beach, at which point all the questions are forgotten and replaced with cheers and laughter as I attempt to halt the skidding and create some form of composure. Paul has a grin across his face, he enjoyed the sortie as much as I did. And so it was, a week of it, kites sea, sun sea, beach sea, more kites, more sea and sea.

Small world it is when, surprise, surprise who should turn up on the beach but bugger and kite flier Simon Baker Gwithian-

Dubai

Man from England. He's on rest and relaxation from his aircraft carrier job which is in the port of Dubai and can't believe his luck when he sees there is a Kite festival on. Simon soon gets into it, taking advantage of any kites loaned to him.

That afternoon I was just coming out of a doze after lunch, Simon was just coming out of the water after a body surf across the bay grinning from ear to ear. 'Here, take this off me' he says and hands me over one of Peter Lynns 4 line N-Gen kites.

'Crackin' I said, 'Just what I need'. After tightening up my shorts so I didn't lose them I sank in the water up to chest height and I'm away - Oh yes, this is good. Feeling cooler and feeling good I started concentrating on tacking across the bay lining myself up for a fast approach into the beach. All was going well though my speed was reducing, even then I felt safe, safe that is until the kite started flying backwards! Tugs, swoops, turns, whatever, it all amounted to a down moment and altitude drop. All I could do was land the foil on top of the water and try to relaunch if the wind was ready to oblige. It didn't.

I treaded water for a few moments. I was probably 100 - 150 metres off from the beach - I decided the distance wasn't a problem. I was capable of swimming it. I knew I had one chance of a relaunch if I could get it into moving air the N-Gen would fly.

In one movement with the lines held taught and above the water I pulled hard back at the same time as swimming a couple of strokes backwards... AAARGH! I couldn't believe the pain in my legs. My AARGH turned into Glug, GULP and CHOKE, my body went rigid and started to take in water, spluttering to the surface choking I realised the kite had raised three foot and landed back on the water. It wasn't going to happen. I had to swim back but I don't want to leave the kite. I attempt to swim while the choking and spluttering continued. My legs aren't moving, my body is rigid. I'm trying to swim with one arm and trying to tow in a kite that's impersonating an anchor. It was hopeless. The kite would have to go. Time to save myself, but I have left it too late. I'm exhausted, more stupidly I'm panicking. Half of my body is reaching for the bottom while the other stretches my neck to the top. Again and again I take in water, I'm losing control, my legs still don't move and my swimming has reverted to something resembling a doggy paddle. I'm drowning, shout for help. As soon as I could clear my airways, I took in the largest breath I could and shouted 'HELP! Raising my arm to show my position.

Up until now, to most on the beach this was just another kite on the water. Fortunately for me Simon Baker had heard my shout and was soon in the water, Christian from the German team followed and David Gomberg decided to have his first swim of the day. Yvonne De Mille ran for the Lifeguard.

Going straight back under water I stayed under for what seemed forever. I was calming. Give in John, Let it go. Then I think I tried to take in a breath, the silence was broken.. NO!! Bursting to the top I shouted for help again. This time I'm paddling on the top of the water repeating No, No, No. Face up, my eyes cannot focus literally rolling in my head. As my eyes closed I could hear Simon shouting 'John stay above the water, we're coming', and then 'Stand up', but I knew all too well that I was out of my depth. I don't remember my savers arriving, I heard 'We've got you'. My eyes closed, I remember suddenly being conscious floating on my back and being towed in with a buoyancy belt around me by the Lifeguard.

On approaching the beach the Doctor asked if I needed an ambulance and in typically English style I shook my head not wanting to create a fuss or should I say any more fuss! At this point David Gomberg was on one arm and I can remember him telling me to stand up for the rest of the way. I was weaker than I thought, because as they released me I fell back into 12" of water like a sack of spuds. Save drowning again I was hoisted out and beached.

As the day went on I recovered fairly quickly, Angelo, a local Dubai had suggested going out on the town and thought this would be a good night to do it. Naturally I felt obligated to the organisers if any official event was going on that evening - SONAL and THE TEAM seemed to always have something planned for us all and after asking around it turned out there was to be a presentation later. So I apologised to Angelo knowing he understood the commitment I had. It was only later that I was to realise that the 'presentation' was to award me a set of kiddies waterwings for my days antics! Naturally I wore them.

Dave Gomberg had to leave the festival a day early, his departing message was - 'John, when all else fails, STAND UP!!!! So often true. Great festival with people I genuinely miss. Right. What next? Kites, always an adventure.

John Eaton.

Event News

26th July - Camelot Kite Fliers Giant Fly In.

Honeydown Farm, Seaborough Hill (off B3165 Crewkerne/Clapton road). 10am - 6pm.

This year's event, as in previous years, is an opportunity to meet other kite fliers in an especially beautiful part of Somerset, with outstanding views in all directions. There are no competitions or displays, just plenty of room to fly, picnic, and have a natter. There will be kite shop stands, a kite workshop, refreshments and plenty of room to fly in! Admission is FREE!

By signing in on arrival, fliers will be covered by insurance all day, and CAA approval will allow up to 1000ft line lengths. We know the variety of kites being flown will be as good as in previous years, and your latest creation is especially welcomed! Directions to the field will be signposted on the Crewkerne/Clapton (B1365) road.

For further details contact either Robin Teague 01460 75445 or Frank Wright 01460 75055.

1st & 2nd August, Middle Wallop Kite Festival

On the A343 Andover to Salisbury Road(Hampshire). 10 am to 5 pm both days.

The 1998 Middle Wallop Kite Festival is going to be rain-free this year....(and we've booked the wind and sun!). We have negotiated an entrance fee of £2 a person (children under 16 get in for free, and the money goes to the upkeep of the Flying Museum), this includes free camping on the Friday and Saturday evenings, for those who stay on site.

There will be a licensed Bar, with reasonable prices (including soft drinks and nibbles),as well as food traders, staying open for as long as possible.

As I'm sure a lot of you already know, there are 800 acres of flying space--England's Largest Lawn!--, of which some will be allocated for buggying(please adhere to this !).Providing you have B.B.C. Insurance, there will be no charge-FREE- to buggy. We will have a Kite Workshop for the kids, hopefully parachuting teddy bears, tandem buggy rides, a "friendly" Rokkaku fight, a Simulator Ride and Boomerang displays. (We are also working on having Helicopter rides).

Flying is allowed until 10.30pm on the Saturday evening, so bring your night lights!

There will be two trophies to be had, for a round of the Middle Wallop Buggy Challenge. Safety will be paramount, so please be careful! For all you single line fliers, bring your kites-large or small-and lets fill the sky with colours!! Colin the Cobra should be making an appearance-weather permitting.

We want to make this a good weekend, so please come along and give us your support. See you there!!!

Contact Roy Broadley(Kites Up) 01256 812487 or Mike Shaw (BBC) 0468 765887 for any further details.

15th & 16th August - 7th East Kent Kite Festival,

Palm Bay Recreation Ground, Palm Bay Road, Cliftonville, Margate. Contact Malcolm Ford 01843 224593. This event is to promote the Charity SERVE (Service by emergency riders) which delivers emergency blood and blood products for free after the normal working day.

16th August, Taunton Kite Festival.

Unfortunately it has been necessary to change the date of the planned Taunton Kite Festival to Sunday 16th August 1998. This has been due to a clash with another event in the area. The festival will again be held at Taunton Racecourse, from 10:00 to 18:00. Although the festival will now be a one day event, camping will still be available on the Saturday night at the racecourse, and we are intending to arrange a barbecue for flyers camping on the Saturday night.

More information is on our web site www.foxacres.demon.co.uk.

22nd - 23rd August, 4th Canterbury International Kite Festival

Event News

This event starts on the Friday night and runs through to Sunday evening. The organisers are promising a packed weekend of kite action.

Skydance once again will be there giving displays throughout the weekend, along with Crosslines and 'A new team on the block' Wind Magic. We have also had promises of some teams from abroad, but as yet these have not been finalised.

The festival takes place on part of Merton Farm which is on the southern outskirts of Canterbury.

The competitions include the old regulars of Rokkaku, team and individual, Indian Fighters and of course the Kent Power Lift Challenge plus a few new ones.

Our main sponsors are Canterbury Times, Adscene Kent Newspaper Group.

The trade stands, charity and refreshment stalls will be around the outside of the main arena. Teddy bear parachuting, sweet drops and a mini funfair will be there for the children.

The site will be open from Friday late afternoon for early campers to arrive. The beer tent will be open Friday evening, all Saturday and Sunday. Saturday evening will be rounded off with a BBQ and night flying.

For further information about the festival and fliers' passes are available by sending a stamped addressed envelope to: Alan Sage, South Eastern Kite Society, 22 Cherry Drive, Canterbury, Kent CT2 8HF.

22nd & 23rd August, Cleethorpes Kite Festival.

Could you please enter the 1st Cleethorpes Kite Festival into your diary of events for Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd August 1998. The event will take place on Cleethorpes Beach between Brighton Slipway and the Leisure Centre.

Contact for further information, Andrew Pidgen Entertainments Manager, Knoll House, Knoll Street, Cleethorpes, North East Lincolnshire. Tel (01472) 323004 Fax (01472) 323005.

Telscombe Tye Family Kite Day - 20th September.

Located five miles from Brighton Centre. Map Ref 198 TQ 392 017. 10:00 - 17:00.

Kite fliers of all levels of experience are invited to this free event, which will take place on a vast area of downland overlooking the sea, where the first Brighton Kite Festival was held in 1979. Bring your picnic or visit the pub with food which is only 3 minutes walk away. Teddy bears will be dropped by parachute, with proceeds going towards the Rocking Horse Appeal.

This is very much a family event to encourage the children to enjoy kites. There will be no arena and no competitions. Further information from Ray Oakhill 01273 306842.

26th & 27th September - Kites over Bewl,

Bewl Water, nr Lamberhurst, Kent. Contact Heather Town 01892 545596 or 0802 182795. This event is to promote the local Y.W.C.A. and Parenthood.

27th September, Castle Cary Kite Festival, Somerset -

This years event will again be held at Ansford School Playing Fields just past the main line station on the A371.

The event is free, there will be a kite workshop, displays from The White Horse brigade, Andrew Furniss, our British Boomerang champ plus a host of whatever the winds allow.

For those wishing to camp there is a local camping site with first class facilities and the town has good B&B. Details on request. For more information contact: Ken Knight, Dimmer, Castle Cary, Somerset BA7 7NR. Tel: 01963 351482.

Event Report

Alcester & Worcester Kite Fliers Easter Fly-in - 10th - 13th April.

We got our camping gear ready to go to Worcester Countryside Park. All was well until the Thursday night and we saw all the floods around and in Worcester.

Friday morning Fred Taplin rang to tell us he was stranded in the village due to the floods. It was a very cold wind and wintry showers and heavy rain. We decided to stay at home, but on Sunday the skies cleared and although it was still cold it looked promising for the Easter Monday fly-in.

We set off in perfect weather, sun and a good wind. As we arrived we saw kites flying well and the playsail about 12 foot off the ground, its' maiden flight having been finished the weekend before - it looked lovely and particularly the Teletubbies pat on the back for the makers.

By the time we had met everyone, had a chat and got our kites ready to fly, guess what, the wind dropped. Jason flew his bluebird but he had to run to keep it in the air. He went over and did two teddy bear drops - and got a diploma. We then went to have a sandwich in the car. It went very black overhead and the snow came thick and fast. Guess who found enough snow in their small flowform to make a good sized snowball - Dorothy and Ken.

They managed to get The Legs dry later on. The banners looked nice, AWKF MKF and GVKF - pity they were not all together. Two traders, Dave Salmon and Selly Oak Juggling. We had a piece of Lillians cake - delicious.

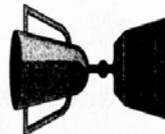
Make a kite and an Easter raffle plus the mud make a lovely Easter fly-in. At 5pm those who wanted went into the cafe and had a baked potato. Whilst in the cafe Lillian and Fred presented Dorothy with a T-shirt with the legs on the front, it was a surprise and Dorothy was very emotional.

Nellie.

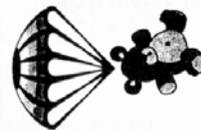
Middle Wallop Kite Festival August 1st & 2nd 1998 At Middle Wallop Airfield

A343 Andover to Salisbury Road (Hampshire)
10am to late on Saturday
10am to 5pm on Sunday

Entrance £2.00 (Under 16's FREE)



BOOMERANG DISPLAYS
KITE & BUGGY COMPETITION-THE WALLOP
CHALLENGE
TANDEM BUGGY RIDES
FREE CAMPING
LICENCED BAR...FOOD TRADERS
KITE TRADERS
MUSEUM OF FLYING
KITE WORKSHOP
PARACHUTING TEDDY BEARS
SIMULATOR



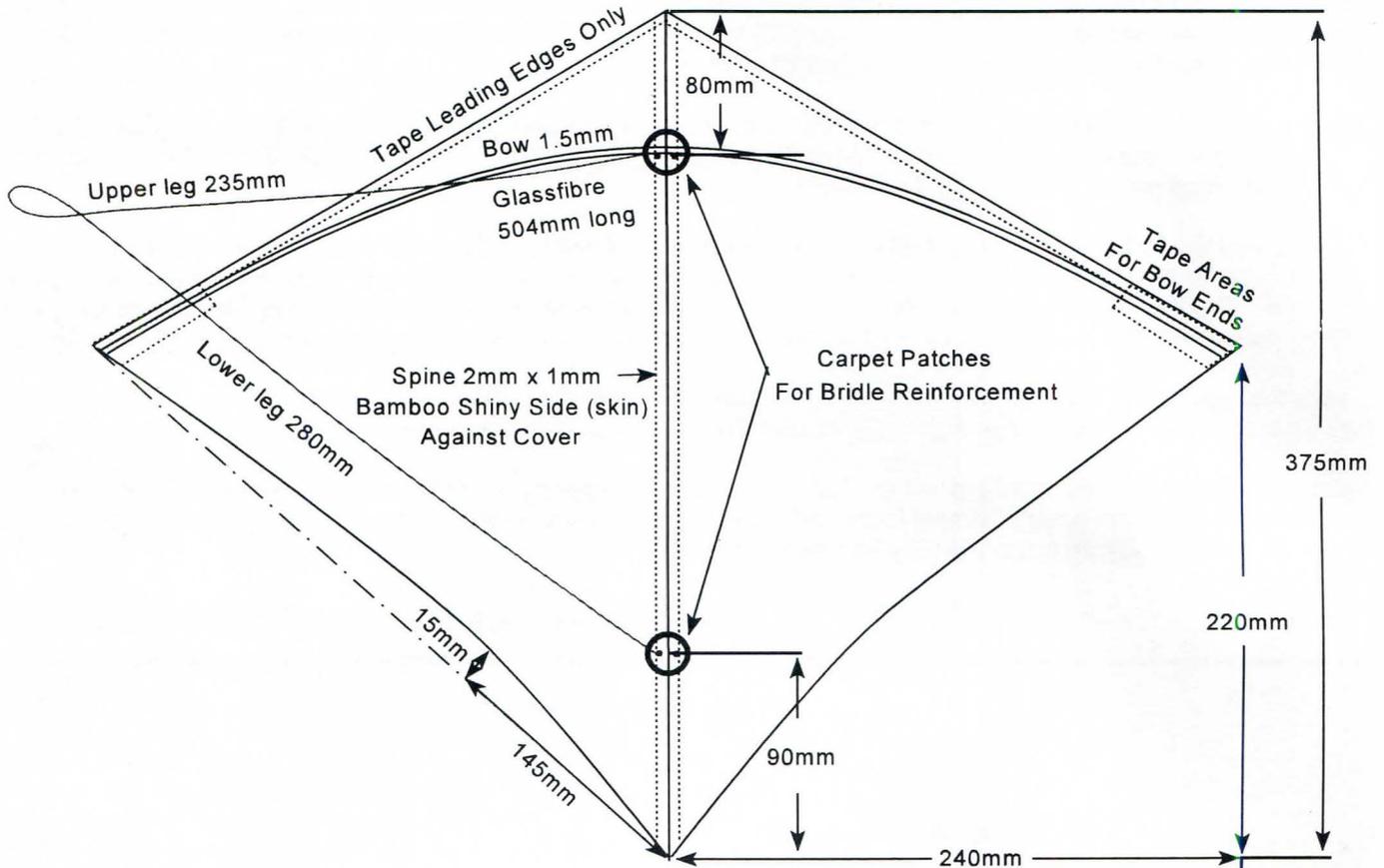
NIGHT FLYING
800 ACRES OF SPACE-ROOM FOR EVERYONE!!!

COME ALONG & HAVE SOME FUN!!

For more details contact:
Roy (Kites Up) 01256 812487
Mike Shaw (BBC) 0468 765887

WEE-WUN

BY TONY SLATER 1990



The correct materials are important to maintain performance

Try to Keep it light

Cover from mylar or tissue not ripstop

The tape needs to be 3mm's, Vinyl or Polypropelyne not Sellotape.

As this is a smaller fighter it tends to spin faster making it more of a challenge to fly.

Building sequence

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

Portsmouth 1998

The Portsmouth International Kite Festival takes place on Southsea Common, Southsea, Hampshire on Saturday 29th, Sunday 30th and Monday 31st August and is jointly run by the Kite Society and Portsmouth City Council. The site is a large grassed area and there are many local facilities including a leisure centre - so plenty to keep the non-flier happy. Also during this weekend there is a Maritime Festival.

Saturday and Sunday will have a full programme of arena displays and demonstrations with Monday, once again being a relaxed informal day with no planned events. The event will run along the normal lines and if anyone wishes to put on a display for the public then please contact us before the event so that we can timetable your demonstration in.

Amongst the confirmed attendees are World Champions Skydance, French four-line display team 'Team Flic', a group of fliers from the U.S.A., Art of Air, Arthur Dibble and a number of other kite fliers from Europe.

Free parking is available for KSGB members and the pass below should be displayed in your windscreen. Please photocopy the pass as required.

For details of other accommodation contact the Portsmouth Tourist Centre on 01705 826722.

Finally, kite traders are welcome to attend the event and the cost for two or three days is £160.00. Please note payment is required **before** the event. Pre-booking is essential. Send cheques, made payable to The Kite Society with your booking to the editorial address.

We look forward to seeing you there.



Kitefliers CAR PASS Portsmouth International Kite Festival Southsea Common, Portsmouth 29th - 31st August 1998

This pass entitles you to park, free of charge, in the festival car park. Parking is not permitted anywhere else on the flying site without permission of the organisers.

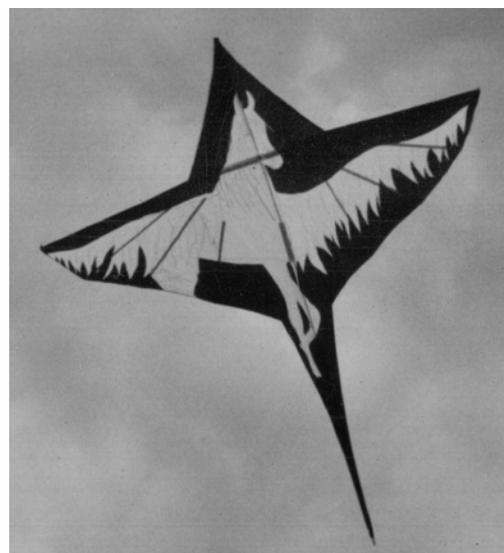
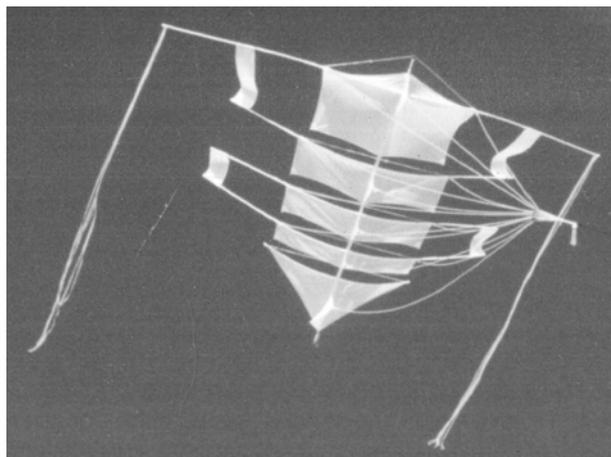
Kite Event Calendar

19th July	Silloth Rotary Club Kite Festival, Cumbria.	J McGarry ☎01697 366400
18th & 19th July	Kennet Valley Kite Festival, Thatcham	☎01635 528400
25th & 26th July	Weston Super Mare Beach Kite Festival, Somerset.	Avril Baker
26th July	Camelot Giant Fly-In. Honeydown Farm, Crewkerne.	☎01460 75445
1st & 2nd August	Middle Wallop Kite Festival.	Roy Broadley
2nd August	Royston Kite Festival, Therfield Heath, Royston. 12noon - 5pm	Tony Bradford ☎01462 459395
8th & 9th August	Teston Bridge, Maidstone	Kiteability
8th & 9th August	Barmouth Festival.	Sky Bums
9th August	Milton Keynes Kite Festival, Campbell Park, Central Milton Keynes.	Dunstable Kites ☎01582 662779
15th & 16th August	7th East Kent Kite Festival, Margate.	Malcolm Ford ☎01843 224593
16th August	Blackwater Valley Kite Festival, Aldershot Park.	☎01252 334225
16th August	Hengistbury Head Kite Festival, Hengistbury Head.	Chris Saunders ☎01202 451451
16th August	Taunton Kite Festival, Somerset.	Lawrence Rayment
22nd & 23rd August	4th Canterbury International Kite Festival, Canterbury, Kent.	Alan Sage ☎01227 462786
22nd & 23rd August	Cleethorpes Kite Festival, Cleethorpes Beach.	Andrew Pidgen ☎01472 323004
29th - 31st August	Portsmouth International Kite Festival, Southsea Common, Hampshire.	The Kite Society
30th & 31st August	Vintage Show and Traction Engine Rally, Dyfed, Wales.	D Davies ☎01559 370885
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
27th September	Old Warden Autumn Kite Rally, Old Warden Aerodrome, near Biggleswade, Beds.	The Kite Society
26th & 27th September	Kites over Bewl, Bewl Water, Lamberhurst, Kent.	Heather Town ☎01892 545596
27th September	Castle Cary Kite Festival, Somerset	Ken Knight ☎01963 351482
3rd & 4th October	Kruzy Kite Festival, Westward Ho! Beach, Bideford, North Devon	☎01271 346033

Kite Event Calendar

Contact List	
The Kite Society	P.O. Box 2274, Gt Horkesley, Colchester CO6 4AY.
Fred Apperley	9 The Meadows, Bidford on Avon, Warwickshire B50 4AP. ☎01789 778424
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 421800
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	'Spindriff', 6 Hartfield Road, Saltdean, Sussex BN2 8RE. ☎01273 306842
Lawrence Rayment	8 Hartley Way, Taunton TA1 2LJ
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
Jeremy Boyce	226 Elm Grove, Brighton, BN2 3DA. ☎01273 602292
Sky Bums	7 Sunnyfields, Bell Lane, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY2 5EW. ☎01743 244677
Neville Wing	9 Howard Road, Tewkesbury, Glos GL20 8QX. ☎01684 295132

Berck, France - 1998



Clockwise from top left.

Peter Dolphin and 'Moon Kite'.

General View of some of the Big Kites.

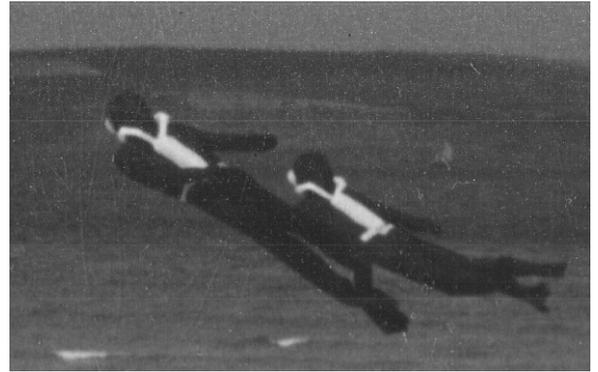
Cloud Beetle by Guy and Claudette Gosselin.

Flying Horse - Maker Unknown

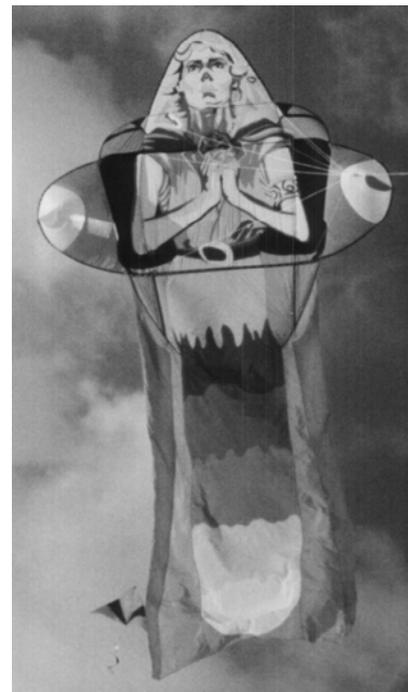
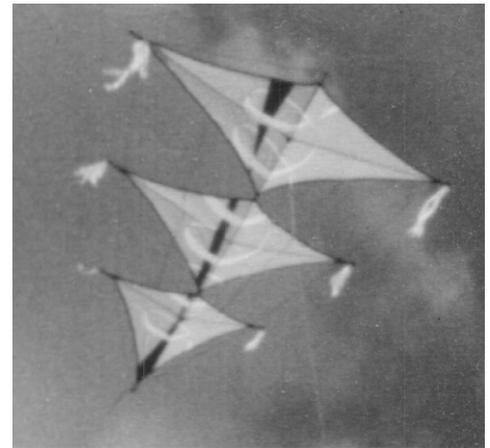
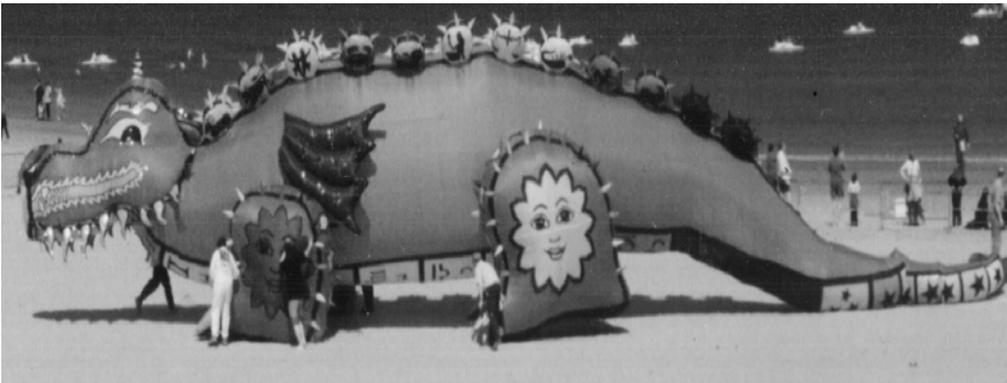
Butterflies by Swiss Kite Group CI.

Whale Kite - Maker Unknown

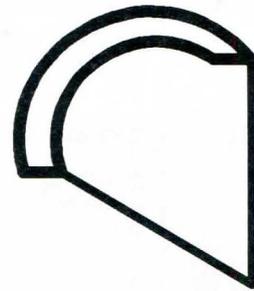
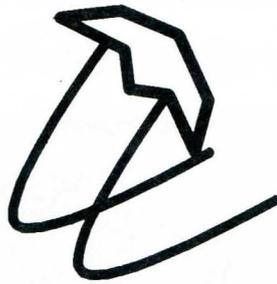
Weymouth 1998



Left: Grim Reaper - Christian Baden-Powell
Top: Frogmen - Martin Lester
Below Left: Zodiac the Dragon - Ann Harris
Below Right: Kite by Tim Wilcox
Bottom Right: Lady of the Storms - Christian Baden-Powell



kHite |



trick flying ...

encourages new flyers ...

not so long ago I took a friend kite flying. he was generally interested so what did I do ... teach him to take off, land, punch turn and fly squares ... strangely no, because to him this would have been as exciting as watching ice skating or snooker; it wouldn't fit in with his other hobby: street in line skating, and certainly did not appeal to his creative youth culture. I taught him to pop the kite on its back, stall, and axle. he was soon pulling his own combos and finished the afternoon by smashing the kite into the ground (should have taught him to land). the moral of the story is: keep your lines slack.

getting popped ...

and why not. start with a tricky kite. you are spoilt for choice. freestyle kites will do most of the stuff you want, "a rapier will do! some freestyle kites are better at (some) newer tricks than the trad high aspects, but generally you have to work these kites harder to get those stalls and axles and inverts.

lesson 1 ...

take the kite to the top of the sky. throw your arms forward, and balance the kite as it floats downwards on its back. before it hits the ground pull both lines and fly off.

lesson 2 ...

whilst the kite is lazy (on its back) push one line gently. you should either get the kite to rotate or fly off. practice rotating.

lesson 3 ...

you've got the kite lazy, nose towards you. it may rise, it may not. slam both arms back and then give loads of slack. slam back again. time it right the kite will hover in the air flicking back and flacking forward. some kites are considerably better than others at this!

lesson 4 ...

fly the kite sideways across the wind space. slam your arms forward to stop the kite. practice in all directions.

lesson 5 ...

fly the kite to the right hand edge of the window (wind space). push your right hand, the kite rotates a/clockwise. pop it back (or across your body for extra spin) and give loads of slack. axle! practice.

lesson 6 ...

go home and practice your arm movements. think about your moves, and how you could link them together. irritate your friends by axleing beer mats and ashtrays. buy "tricky flickery (video from flexifoil) and show it to your boyfriend / girlfriend / spouse / gerbil. buy lots of surfer-wear, grow your hair, and get a power kite to help you unwind after a hard days trick flying.

who flies ...

kite culture is unusual in that the sport attracts a wide range of people. the following defines 99% of kite fliers:

pepsi max

young & looking for sensations expect them dressed like surfers, skateboarders, etc. tend to be into trick flying, dance music and power kiting. will talk about sensations and that radical new trick / jump / water-skiing / snowboarding thang they've just pulled off.

bearded caravaners

will be seen, flying noisy precision kites in endless squares, circles. tend to do so to classical music and may smoke a pipe.

middle aged hippies

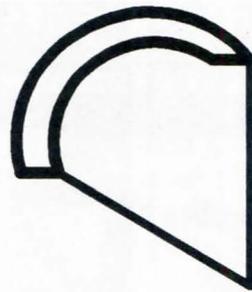
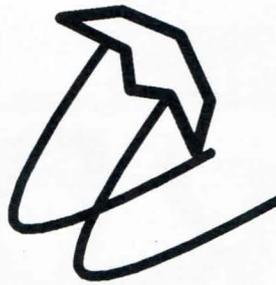
discovered kiting on the pilgrimage to india and have a collection of single line controllable's (fighter kites). do not mock. they can control that one line paper and bamboo miracle better than you could.

the single line liberation front

passionate about single line kites. whole family normally involved in this quasi religious organisation. it is highly likely that they invented two line trick flying to cause dual line flyers to smash as many dreaded carbon monstrosities as possible.



kHiTe |



kHiTe unmembership ...

kHiTe is not a club, it is not a club at all, and has no rules, except that it is not a club. kHiTe has no membership, no money, no treasurer, no politics, no nothing. kHiTe is not a peoples collective. kHiTe is distributed to the "city life fliers" which isn't a club either really, but does very much so exist in the sense that people fly. fly kites that is. kHiTe is open to all aspects of the community, but reserves the right to use the terms gnarly, nice, smooth and bearded with no regard for thier actual meaning. to become a non-member of kHiTe and maybe, ocassionally, recieve information on what is going on - kite wise - in cambs please fill in the form below. please indicate without prejudice what kind of kite flier you are based on the scale to the right. the information you submit will be kept on a computer thingy purely fro the purposes of kHiTe and will not be turned into a directory of any kind and sold to any major kite manufacturers for huge amounts of money. please complete the form and send it to:

edward green,
1 potters lane,
ely, cambs,
cb7 4bx.

feel free to send any kite fly meet dates to the same address.
thankyou for your attention.

please send me kHiTe when you can be bothered

name _____

address _____

i am proud to be a: _____

kite flier

rapier

...

spirit of air ...

£17.50



the rapier is a beginners kite with a lot of potential for fun. The kite, just over 1 meter in span, comes packaged with 25m lines on solid looking handles. the rapier is easy to unpack and put together, coming with basic instructions on assembly and flight. In optimum wind conditions the kite springs up with a gentle tug. Being so small the kite is twitchy, but bridled correctly is highly recoverable. wingtip snags are easy to remove on the ground (or in the air if you are quick) and the kite dead launches: one pull on the lines belly down, release and the kite springs into the air lays on its back, tug and your flying. it all looks great. the rapier is about as precise as a blunderbuss, and tricks like a maniac. half, single, one and a half, double, even triple axles are all available with snappy but minimal hand movements, as are flik flaks and yo-yos. as for flat spins the kite will hit the floor spinning, bounce and carry on flying. madness in a plastic packet. this kite is a riot, an ideal starter kite for the beginner who wants something a bit more challenging than a standard stunter, and awesome on really windy days. a three stack pack is also available for £45. the news is that dodd gross can 540 the entire stack

kHiTe



**INTERNATIONAL KITE AND BUGGY
WEEK
12th - 19th SEPTEMBER 1998**

BERROW '98

YOUR POWER BREAK!

The International Kite and Buggy Week held at Berron Sands, England during September proved yet again during '97 the need for this premier Kite Buggy event. Over 175 registered buggiers braved the elements during Berron '97, How many this year ??? **Be part of it !!!**



Ramp Jumping, Speed Trials, Two and Four line racing, Extreme buggy trick and antics, No wind competitions, Evening entertainment, Safari's, Mountainboarding, Heated marquee with food and licensed bar, Off-site entertainment, Trophy Awards, Slow-bo Award.

Sponsors Flexifoil, Sky Kites, Kites Up, Sandz Quads and of course the brilliant Chris Croft Commentary, Miles of space, New Kites, and probably the largest collection of buggy variants you are likely to see. Great people all in a relaxed atmosphere make **Berron '98** an event not to miss...

Looking at the booking sheets, flying into Embelle Holiday Park, it looks like most of you are coming to **Berron '98**.

Berron '98 organisers are keen to hear any kite, buggy or water events that could be included 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 to September 19th 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.

POWER BREAK INFORMATION

**British Buggy Club
PO Box 4015 Smethwick West Midlands B67 7HJ
Email Mell@buggy.demon.co.uk.**

Mike Shaw 0468 765887 or 01256 461960 Embelle Holiday Park 01278 751346 (please mention Kite week)

Dieppe 10th International Kite Festival

September 5 to 13, 1998

Organised with the help of :
Cerf-Volant Club de France,
Fédération Française de Vol Libre,
STACK, Manjha Club International
Cerf-Volant Club de Dieppe



With delegations from 32 countries, the 9th world cup and the events listed below, the Festival will celebrate its 10th anniversary.

1st World Challenge of Fighter Kites

With the help of the : Manjha Club International

This competition will bring together the top knights of manjha, from Australia, Afghanistan, Chile, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines, Singapore and Europe.

Kick off meeting on Saturday 5, 10 am under the Reception tent.

The Wind Garden

Wind produces sound, and possibly music, evidence of this will be provided throughout the Festival.

Workshops

With 32 countries on the spot, Dieppe Capital of Kites make it possible for you to meet kite makers from worldwide horizons and to learn how to make a Chinese dragon, a Patang, a Rokkaku. ...

These workshops will be held on Thursday 10 and Friday 11

Sprint flight

Flight angle competition. You will be allowed a few minutes only to show evidence of your kite's flight qualities.

Drachen Foundation symposium

Its archives, restored items and a research centre in Seattle make the Drachen Foundation the best possible interlocutor in the field of historic and utilitarian kites.

O-dako take-off

PierVal

Every year in May a Festival is held in Yokaichi, Japan, with as its peak feature the take-off of an O-dako; A kite of impressive size : 13m x 12m, half a ton and hundred kitefliers required to escort and guide its take-off. Can we tempt you ?

Meeting point is on Friday, September 11, 2pm at the Reception tent,
for your first Japanese lesson with the Yokaichi team.

Creative Kite Competition

Theme : "Demons and wonders"

13

In order to facilitate jury deliberations after seeing your kites, it is absolutely necessary that you provide a photography of your kite by september 4 at the latest. Failing that, the jury will be unable to conclude.

Category :

first entry ⁽¹⁾

Experienced ⁽²⁾

junior ⁽³⁾

(1) This is your first or your second entry to the competition.

(2) You have enrolled twice in the past

(3) Enrollees under 16.

Competition will start on Sunday 13 at 9.30am. Meet at Kite Village. Remember to state your name and the name of your kite on the back of your photo.

NB : Presence of any trade mark on Festival premises is subject to organiser's authorization.

For this Festival I wish

5 & 6

to fight with : Cutting line

Rokkaku

5 - 13

to contribute to the Wind Garden *

* Structures will be taken down every evening

10 & 11

to get a registration form when available

11

to enter the flight angle competition

10 & 11

to attend on

Thursday

• Presentation and exhibition of S.F. Cuddy archives.

Friday

• Historic kites in the USA.

• Kites and research at high altitude.

11, 12 & 13

to take part * in the O-dako take off

* Take-off, 12 & 13 September

Enrolment form

Enrolment is absolutely required in order to join the festival. In return you will be provided with an access badge to the demonstration areas and a pass to reserved parking spaces.

Name : _____ Surname : _____

Address : _____

Tel : _____

Name of the club : _____ Registration Number : _____

I'll we be accompanied

YES NO

Number and name of the people (for badges purposes)

I need a space for my camper

I do not belong to a kite association,

I wish that Dieppe Kite Festival take out an insurance poolicy for myself

Total Nbre of people X 100 FF = (I)

I require Festival Accomodation *

OUI NON

If SO, please tick required nights

F4 S5 S6 M7 T8 W9 T10 F11 S12 D13

* Dorm beds being in limited number, bookings will be taking into consideration according to date of reception.

Total Night X 90FF** = = A

** Breakfast included

Number of people X A = (II)

I will have meals at the Festival cafeteria

YES NO

If SO, please tick required meals

Lunch : S5 S6 M7 T8 W9 T10 F11 S12 S13
 Nber X 60FF* =

Dinner : F4 S5 S6 M7 T8 W9 T10 F11 S13
 Nber X 60FF* =

Total = B

* Drink included

Number of people X B = (III)

I will join the Saturday evening meal (12 /09)

YES NO

Cancellation conditions

Number of people X 50 FF = (IV)

- 21 days before : 90% refund, 7 days before : 70% refund.

- Shorter notice, only meals will be refunded, provided the organisers are informed before September 5.

Please find enclosed a check adding up to : I + II + III + IV =

Please inform before august 14, payment will be on the spot,

Dieppe Capitale du Cerf-Volant

Les Tourelles, Boulevard de Verdun. 76200 Dieppe

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WEIFANG '98 (Could this be the last one?)

A group of 8 Brits set off for Weifang to join 4 others who had arrived earlier and were doing other tours. A special flights offer meant a reduction of about £200 each on the previous year. We arrived in Beijing and on arrival in our hotel, I got a phone call from a friendly official in Weifang to tell me that all kitefliers were being accommodated, three to a room in Weifang which was unacceptable as we had 5 couples in the group. After some frantic phone calls and faxes from our Beijing hotel, I was assured we had 6 rooms for all 12 of us.

The group went to out for lunch and a visit to the Friendship Store and in the evening we went out for dinner and The Peking Opera. It was the first wet & windy day in 3 visits to China. The next day the group visited The Great Wall and the Ming Tombs whilst I went to fly kites in Tianamen Square and meet many friends from previous years. Next day the group visited the Emperor's Summer Palace and The Forbidden City while I flew kites in Tianamen Square. After dinner, we waited in our rooms till about 10.30 PM when we were taken to the railway station for the overnight train to Weifang. At the station we met up with some French kitefliers including Pierre Fabre. When boarding the train at about 11.30, I was greeted affectionately by Chinese twin girls who were travelling on the same train. I had to explain to the group that we were triplets and these were my sisters. Somehow they didn't believe me and pointed out that they had Chinese features and I didn't, also they seemed about 30 years younger than me. Mere detail methinks!!

On arrival at Weifang station, we were met and taken to a different hotel from the previous year. I was informed that they'd budgeted for 400 kitefliers and over 700 were coming, resulting in kitefliers having to be put in three hotels as opposed to the usual one. We were in the International Hotel which was very central, comfortable and the food was good. We had breakfast, explored the immediate area, did some shopping, had lunch and visited the Kite Museum in the afternoon. Next morning we visited Yangjiabu Kite Village where we saw kitemakers at work. In previous years lots of the local people would come into the compound, fly kites and closely examine the foreign kiteflier's kites. Sadly this year, people were charged for entering the compound, consequently there were very few locals to meet and mingle with and vastly reduced the value of this visit. We were taken to a posh hotel for an official reception and lunch, where we met all the other visiting foreign groups.

After an early evening dinner, all the foreign groups went in convoy, with police escort and sirens blaring, to the Opening Ceremony. It was a truly exhilarating experience to be in a large stadium, with over 50,000 people. We all proudly walked around the stadium in procession behind our flags waving to the crowds and enjoying the applause as each country was announced.

Unfortunately the two from the Isle of Man were not allowed separate country status by the officials, but they proudly held their flag aloft as they walked a few steps behind the other Great Britain kitefliers. I represented India and found there were two others from India, though they weren't kitefliers and knew nothing about Indian kites. I managed to do some kiteflying in the peculiar winds of the enclosed stadium. We were shown to our seating area and an amazing programme of dancing and other entertainment was performed by hundreds of children, followed by a typically Chinese fireworks display. Everyone enjoyed the evening, saying it was like being at the opening ceremony of the Olympics. We returned to our hotel and had a party with the Brits and other Chinese friends.

Next day was the kite festival at the Fuyanshan flying fields. We set off in convoy with police escort and sirens blaring for the drive out of Weifang to arrive about 9.00 AM. It was not like anything we were used to, with no separate arenas for single and two line kites. We just selected an area to deposit our kites and flew amidst the chaos of hundreds of other kites. Over 250,000 people were kept behind fences until noon when they were allowed to walk around the flying field. Everyone flew their kites and the British kites attracted a lot of attention. We decided to eat our packed lunches on the field and we felt like zoo animals as a crowd stood around us and just stared at us eating.

After the kiteflying finished, a short presentation ceremony followed for various prize winners. From the British group, John & Francesca Caton won a large cup for their Bart Simpson kite. Every kiteflier was presented with a

WEIFANG '98 (Could this be the last one?)

medal and T-shirt and I was asked to be one of the presentation officials giving out the prizes. I went up in the estimation of our interpreters who told me I had been given a great honour.

Next day we were taken for a delightful drive through the countryside in convoy to Qingzhou, a city which does not normally receive foreign visitors. We were given free time to walk up Yunmen mountain and Qingzhou museum. At the plush Qingzhou hotel we were individually welcomed by the mayor and treated to a banquet and invited to walk around the lovely gardens. Two further days were spent exploring Weifang, visiting many different kiteshops and kitemakers, some of whom took us to a restaurant where you selected uncooked food from a buffet and cooked it at your table.

Our Chinese hosts looked after us very well and ensured we were kept busy and enjoying ourselves. We finally left Weifang on the overnight train back to Beijing. We spent the next day in Beijing visiting the Temple of Heaven and flying kites in Tianamen Square. The Isle of Man flag was sent up on one kite and very quickly some police appeared and asked them to bring it down. They're still touchy about flags in the Square, even when they don't know which country it represents. The next day we got our flight back to UK.

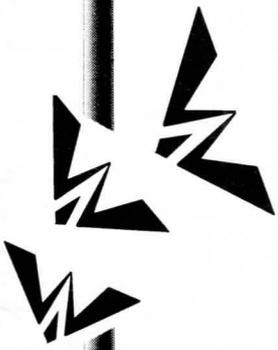
We had been invited to another kite festival in Qingdao, for which we were asked to pay £160 each to help towards the 3 day stay there. Prior to leaving England, the group decided not to go to Qingdao. I was disappointed to be asked for an increase from last year's £136, because it was the British group which made up the majority of kites flown and the best display. I received several urgent faxes asking me to bring my group of kitefliers to Qingdao, but our return flights were booked making it impossible. Whilst in Weifang, I was told the Qingdao festival was cancelled which didn't surprise me.

Each year I bring kitefliers to China and I am always surprised at the number of foreign visitors who have nothing to do with kiteflying at all, but come and enjoy the free hospitality. We have to afford the return costs of getting to Weifang and they provide 5 days free hospitality, including hotel, 3 meals a day, transport and interpreter for each group, tours and visits, Opening Ceremony, Kite Festival and Closing Ceremony plus much more. At our hotel there was a group of 45 Australians, about 6 adults and the rest aged between 15-17, none of whom had brought a kite or had any kiteflying experience. This was just one country's example of, so called, kiteflier representation at Weifang and there were others. Guess who picked up the bill for their stay? I was told that the Government were considering not paying for next year's festival and may decide this at a future Council meeting. If this happens then some private organiser would have to raise an enormous amount of sponsorship to afford the sort of extravaganza for which Weifang is famed.

Some of the regulars at Weifang observed that the quality of kites and quantity of kitefliers was significantly less than previous years. Weifang has always issued invitations without any limit on the numbers coming, nor any requirement on a minimum kiteflier content per group. I wonder if the Chinese were clear on what they were trying to achieve and perhaps this is the reason for the problem. It would be very sad if Weifang were to disappear from the kiteflying calendar because it is a very, very unusual event and every member of previous groups has raved about the experience.

The intrepid aspiring Marco Polos were John & Marian Buller, Mick Burgess & Rosemary Kavanagh, John & Francesca Caton, Mike & Margaret Sherwood, Bill & Joan Wilson, Lloyd Berriman and Stafford Wallace. Between us we represented GB, India, Isle Of Mann, Kite Society, Midlands Kitefliers, White Horse Kitefliers and the Northern Kite Group. It was a very agreeable group with no serious complaints and everyone really enjoyed the China experience.

Stafford Wallace (Indian Kiteflying Fanatic)

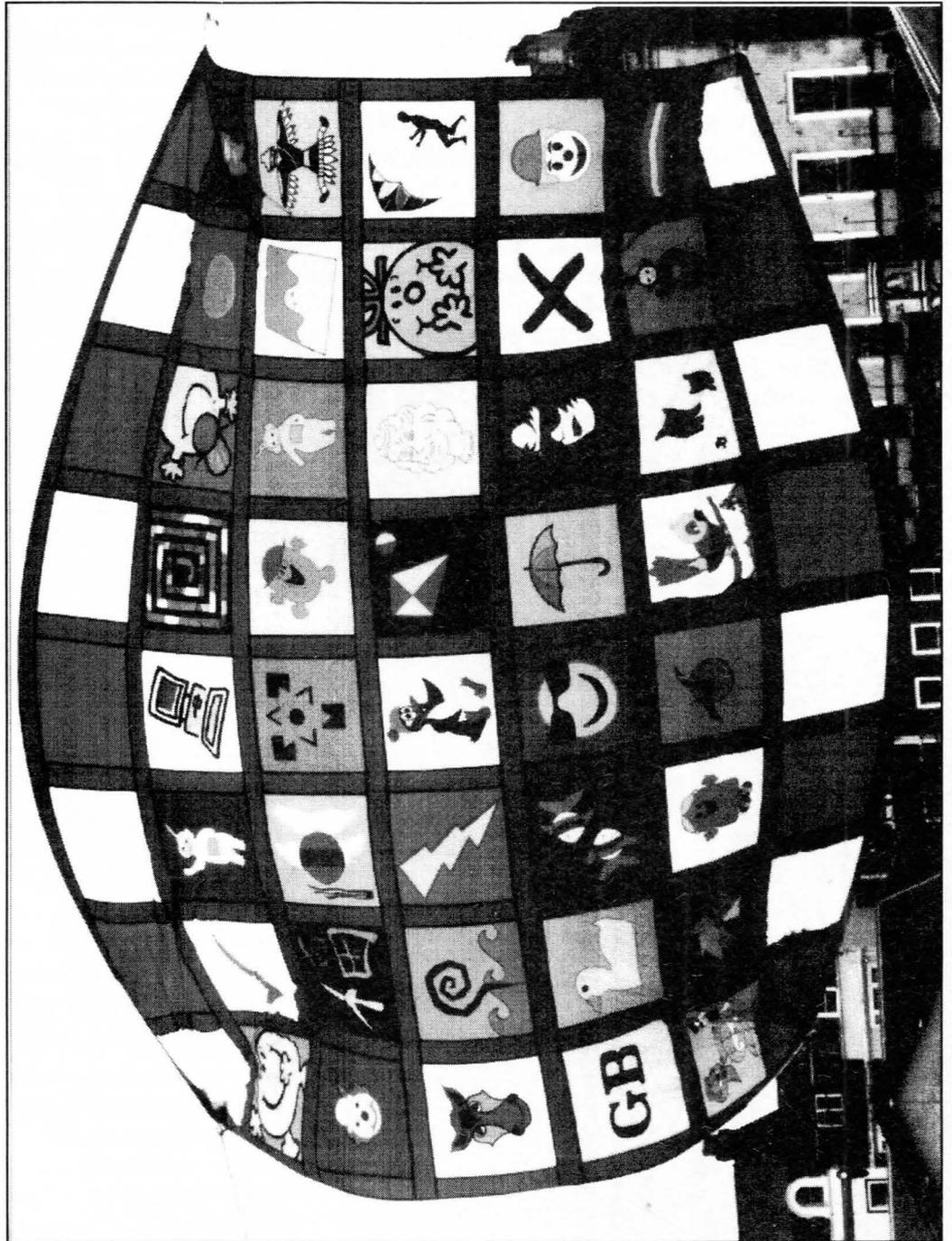


MIDLANDS KITE FLIERS

MKF

EXTRA

The Extra Newsletter of The Midlands Kite Fliers



The MKF Dorstone Playsail
Flying at Weymouth
Photograph by Arthur Dibble

Festival Reports

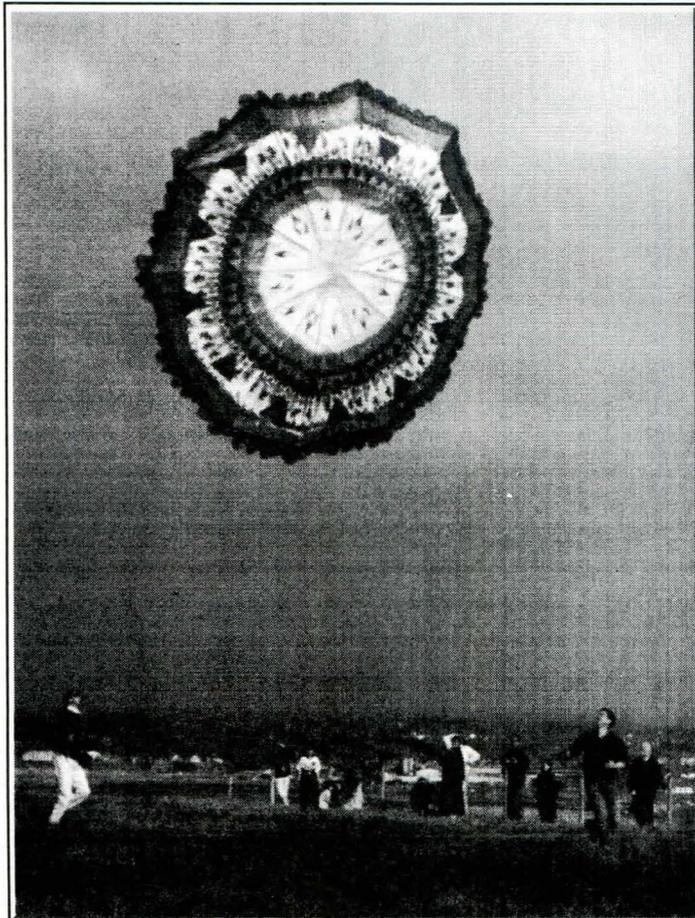


**Sunday 22nd March Apedale
exKITEMent day.
Apedale Country Park,
Chesterton, Newcastle-under-Lyme**

The Apedale site is a new venue for a kite festival, but having been there on few occasions with Dorothy and Ken Campbell I know it has the potential to be an excellent flying site.

Prior to the day there had been coverage in the local press of the forthcoming event, the MKF publicity machine had obviously been very active! Living quite close to the site it was easy to be there quite early, the sun was shining, there were a few clouds in the sky and the familiar die hard MKF members were there setting up cabanas and banners to herald the site and the start of a glorious day of kite flying.

All facilities were on hand, car parking, toilets and food retailers, everything was in place for an excellent day except for the one thing that all of us kite flyers need---- not a breath of wind, not even a ripple. The banners stood still and even the fighter kites were struggling to get airborne. I have never known it not to be windy at Apedale, but today was most sadly the exception. It is unfair to paint such a grey picture, there were some points in time when for 10 minutes or so the wind blew.



The frantic activity of the MKF members was a credit to the club, we had turned out to show the public what kite flying was all about and so the name of the game was to get as many things aloft as possible whenever possible. Jim White was sporting a Circoflex which turned out to be quite a crowd pleaser with many members of the public and MKF members taking a keen interest. Dorothy, Ken and myself took the opportunity of doing two sweet drops in the windier moments much to the pleasure of the children present who very much enjoyed the experience of chasing chocolate bars falling from the heavens attached to parachutes made from carrier bags! Lots of fun for both the kids and for us to have carried off such a feat of team work, we made it look so easy!!!!

One of the main reasons for the event was that it was the culmination of a science week in local schools, one of which had made a huge kite and had some success in getting it aloft much to the delight of the assembled school children and parents.

The turnout of both MKF members and the public was very encouraging, for a day out in the country the weather was perfect and no doubt was a contributing factor the success of the day. It is too easy to loose sight of the fact that whilst the lack of wind was a huge disadvantage, having so many members of the public there to see the kites in the air for however short a time gives us the opportunity of attracting new members to the club and gives much needed exposure to kite flying as both a hobby and a sport. I look forward to many hours of flying at Apedale and hope that we can arrange another event there in the not too distant future.
Mike Lawton

April 19th 1998, Lytham St Anns, PKA invite to BBC Organiser: Matt Hurrell

The weather didn't look promising all week, and when we arrived, the yucky grey sky, may have been a bit of a down'er, but the wind was a'blowin'.

We pulled up behind Matt, who was sorting out his kit. A quick scramble over the dunes revealed the PKA encampment. Matt decided to walk over, I stuck everything together, put out my Mirage 4m, and headed for the camp. It was good to see Chris Lamb, Chris Croft, Gary, Neal, James Bromley, Bill Andrews, Uncle Tom Cobbley and all!!! Heck! It was great to be with these reprobates (swanky, Huh!) Again!

A race had finished, so I cruised on over to Bill, to have a chat. I asked if I could have a go round the course. Bill told me it was OK, but to remember the race times. I rounded the first marker, and then did some pretty big zig zags to the far marker, because I lost sight of it for a while, but don't tell anyone, then I headed for home and just let it do it's stuff. Mind you the ripples gave your eyes a good shaking, but it felt "f..ine" to have this expanse of beach! Yahooooooo!!!!

I parked up to have a chat with Matt. Not many others had made it, the weather, and Stowe Gardens Kite Festival (B.B.C. Demo) had made a big dent in our numbers.



Matt coughed up the cash, and joined in the races, while I tootled around and enjoyed the space. I spent some time with Martin, new to buggying, to help him with the basics, and after a short time he was sliding and a grin'in, and I'd lost my buggy now, because Martin Karen had bought it!

Around 1.00pm, Bill came over to say that there was to be 1Hr endurance race, and we were all invited. I asked Martin if I could borrow my old buggy, no problem, and with the wind picking up, I prepared for the start. I was feeling a little overpowered, but no time to change, as the 2min hooter bellowed. Matt had moved up nearer the front, but I played it cool and tactically positioned myself at the back?? It's only when your with the PKA, that you appreciate how screaming fast these guys can race! I'm only a fair to pathetic racer, (Help him! Crofty's choking on his bacon sarnie) and I was only there for the fun of it, (Get him a glass of water!) But I was getting lapped, easy peasey, and I was impressed. (easy to please, me). Chris Croft went out of his way to have a chat with me, that's why he lapped me 7 times to my 2.5 laps in approx 20 mins???? Disaster!! My left back wheel fell off, sheared through the bolt, luckily on a slow turn. When I got back to camp, Crofty was there to, with a sheared rear. (Weird or what??) "Well Martin it was like this", what do you say to someone, when you've just bust, what is now, their buggy????!! James to the rescue, and with 2 bolts in my pocket, he saved my bacon and Martin's day. Ta! James. I must say thanks to David Roberts, if it had not been for your generous loan of your kite and buggy, I would have had a very long walk! So thank's again, The rain started around 2.30ish, and the camp pulled back to the Land Yatch Club's car park, for gallons of tea and lashings of scrummy "My wife's" cakes, in the bijou, time share, caravan. Ta ! Gary. I hope one or two more invites can happen, thank's again PKA !
Steve Walt Webb

Tewkesbury Kite Fun Weekend Sat, May 23 Mon, May 25 Tewkesbury School

This event sponsored by Hi Jinx kite shop and run by the Golden Valley Kite Fliers. Beautiful weather. I got there on Saturday Morning and after a trip around the field stopping to look at the visiting french groups beautiful big Edo Kite. I had a go at flying two 7ft kites one in each hand. By the end of the day I was managing to keep both kites in the air (Well mostly in the air) and I was feeling pleased when I noticed a couple of the french lads flying in the arena looking very good.

There had been a Rok fight earlier and now two of the GVKF fliers were flying a good routine with a pair of Shurikens when the two French lads went up to them and asked to borrow their kites and proceeded to fly a routine which included one kite being coin tossed over the other, excellent speed control and precision Peter Taylor of Air Dynamics decided to handicap the pair so while they were flying he nipped in and tied their shoelaces together they still flew. Later I discovered that the pair included the french Champion. On Sunday we had altitude sprints, Rok fights, and Indian fighters.

The french lads flew an awesome routine with tremendous control and feeling even Tony Slater was looking for someone with a camcorder. Monday saw more fighters and I had a go at the altitude sprint (came nowhere) Talked flew and visited the Butty Man till everyone else had gone. The whole weekend was spent doing the things I love with super company thanks to the GVKF for a fun weekend. Humble apologies for not including the French groups names. Dave Salmon

Make a Playsail Weekend

The Village Hall, Dorstone, Herefordshire April 1998

Karl and Sara live in Dorstone, Herefordshire and have the good fortune to live next to the pub on one side, and the village hall on the other - where Karl used the floor space to make the rather large kites he makes. In 1997 Karl and Sara invited everyone to their village to fly kites, Unfortunately the weather conspired against them, and the assembled fliers were restricted to inside all of the Saturday. During their time of incarceration, the sewing machines came out, ripstop was gathered together, and kites were made - some of them large!!

So, it was inevitable that the weekend should be attempted again - and this time with a purpose in mind - a Playsail. On the Saturday morning, as members arrive clutching their squares, the village hall floor began to disappear as more and more bright images were laid down by their makers. By 10.30am 40 squares were ready to be joined together. First of all there was loads to be done. And all 35 members found themselves with a job to do.

By lunchtime the squares had been sorted and made the right size, been sewn onto an edging strip and placed in rows ready to be sewn together, and then, as if by magic, lunch appeared. The food had all be pooled by those present - and it was amazing to see what had been brought to keep out energy levels going. As the day went on, less and less people were needed, and everything revolved around the three sewing machines working away, but everyone took turns

The Sunday morning started very slowly!! But soon the sewing machines were whirring away and the playsail was taking shape. A strip of squares is finished - only six more to go!! It was all over by about 3pm - when it was decided that its inaugural fly would be postponed until the following week. Tea and cakes were served, stories were told, the hall was put back the way we had found it and we said our goodbyes. The weekend was a story of how over 30 people could work together in true harmony - something that I felt very honoured to be a part of. There was no bickering or griping that 'so and so' was lazy, or not doing his/her bit! Everyone (and I mean everyone) just mucked in and everything got done when it needed to be done. Even kitchen duties were shared (at times it was difficult to get near the sink!!) I hope that Karl and Sara, or another MKF member, organises another workshop next year - but I am sure it could never be the same at 'Dorstone 1998!'

Cheers Sara and Karl and "thank you!!"

Julie White.



KITE LIGHT ZONE

Welcome, my children of the kite.

History recalls many great names linked with kites, Benjamin Franklin and Marconi, to name but two. Mysteriously, there have been others, many others whose stories, out of fear, or worse still, ignorance, remain in the shadows. Together we will delve into these tales of folklore and provincial legend!

The "Walberswick Star", is such a story.....

Dr Jonathan Pinkney, formally of Cambridge, having inherited an unexpected sum of money from a distant Uncle, decided to take residence in Walberswick, a small Suffolk village, which had been a favourite haunt in his childhood.

Being a busy fishing port, he soon became aware of the problems encountered by the local fishermen.

Their biggest fear being, a lack of navigation lights during the low mists, which would blot out the coastline. This had caused many a wreck and loss of life, bringing misery to the widows and families.

Dr Pinkney felt that not enough was being done to help these wretches.

He flicked through the pages of his Scientific Journals, frowned upon by many not connected with the establishments of learning, looking for any articles that may provide a solution, he suddenly stopped. He could not remember when he first saw this article, but there it was again. A report of an American, who had flown a kite in a storm to attract lightning, or some such!

Yes! It was so obvious! Kite, Lightning, remove the "ning", and the solution was staring him in the face, Kite Light!

The feared mists, stayed close to the ground, and barely reached higher than 150 to 200 feet, but a light, some how attached to a kite, could be flown above the mists to provide the fishermen with accurate navigation back to port!

Having solved the problem, he realised he had now to overcome the practical problems?

Various Kite designs were taken from books, built up, and tested for stability and lifting capabilities. He decided to use a Box kite. This flew well in the coastal breezes, and had considerable lift.

The light would be generated by a gas lamp, which would be bright and constant, due to its unlimited fuel supply.

Hollowed out reeds, fitted together to make a long pipe, proved to be light and flexible, and when fitted to his cottage's gas supply, and run along the line, it would supply the lamp suspended aloft.

Dr Pinkney had been keeping records of all his flight trials, and added these latest modifications to his notes. He looked out of the window and decided that if the winds remained steady, he would conduct his first lamp tests tonight!

Around 8.00pm, with all his equipment assembled, and his friend William Adnam to lend assistance, he turned on the gas and lit the lamp's mantle, instantly lighting up their faces.

William Adnam took up position with the box kite, Dr Pinkney checked the wind strength, and at his given signal the kite was launched. Jonathan Pinkney felt the pull on the line, and carefully let it out. They watched the lamp climb into the darkness, as the chill of the mists wrapped itself about them.

According to his line knots, the kite was at around 100ft, with the lamp

suspended some 20ft below. He tied the line off, on the gate post, anxious to view the lamp from a distance.

Pinkney and Adnam made haste to the Deanes, the dunes between his cottage and the shore, to assess the brightness of the lamp.

As they turned, it was as if a new star had appeared in the night's blackness. The two of them shouted out in delight and slapped one another's backs, as the sea looked on and sent waves dashing onto the shingle beach.

A new light appeared now, long and thin and, "Oh my God"! Shouted Pinkney. "The gas pipe's alight"!

They rushed towards the cottage, but the loose shingle turned them into slow-motion characters. They reached the grass edge and picked up speed, the flaming gas pipe had passed the gate post and headed for the cottage.

Adnam burst into the cottage, with Pinkney right behind him.

"Turn the gas tap off!" Pinkney shouted as he made for his study, his notes, he must get his notes!

A loud explosion shattered the night, followed by an unearthly screeching, and honking from the roosting geese, as they ran and flapped in all directions, waiting for the second barrel!

The villagers and fishermen could see the flames for miles!.....

"How do you know so much detail?" His heavy eyes fixed on mine.

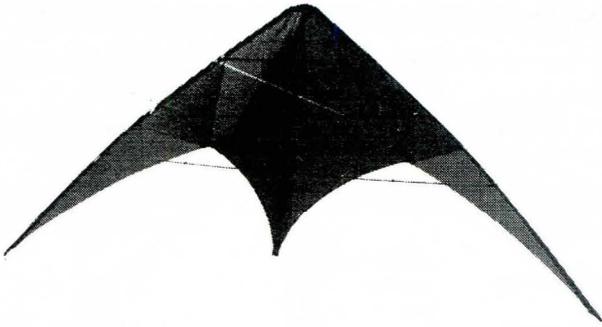
"I've stayed at the cottage, in Walberswick, on holiday. I'd taken my kites, it's very pretty there, the one night the mists, the mists....." A bell rang out, "Visiting time over" echoed from the Tannoy. I'll never forget the look in his eyes!!!

Zachary Cope



Air-Crafts Solo

By Ian Newham



Those of you who attended the last fly in at Hednesford may have noticed a chap tucked away to one corner flying a rather pretty all white kite. That was Neil Pritchett of Air-Crafts with a prototype of their new kite, the Solo.

I didn't recognise the shape so I went over for a chat, gave it a try and very nice it was! The kite he was flying at the time was the ultra light version, if you were there you will know that the winds were very light, particularly as the sun went down, yet this kite carried on flying with no effort and no running around.

This was all the more impressive when I found that the kite had a 5.5mm pultruded carbon frame. There are many kites with pultruded frames that claim to be ultra light, but few are truly successful requiring maybe 2-3mph of wind and soon becoming overwhelmed as the wind increases. Below 3mph is usually the domain of expensive wrapped frames or smaller micro carbon kites. The Solo on the other hand really would fly in next to no wind, without effort and never felt under framed.

That kite was one of a range of kites. There are currently 3 models in the range: The Lite, which has an Icarex P31 sail with 5.5mm pultruded carbon frame, The Std. Which has a Carrington K42 sail with 6mm pultruded carbon frame and finally a model with a Carrington K42 sail with Sky Shark 5P wrapped carbon frame. Having since had the opportunity to try the Std. and even get a sneak preview of a vented prototype I found that the flight characteristics are nicely consistent all the way across the range, whilst coping well with progressively higher winds. Construction on all models was excellent, stitching near perfect and using Air-Crafts own excellent fittings.

The Solo is a full sized kite, with plenty of sail, which I would describe as a free-style rather than a full on trick kite. It will perform most tricks, but can turn in some nice straight lines and sharp corners. It also launched easily off the leading edge, something often not so easy on some trick kites. The Solo likes a laid back, relaxed flying style, in some ways reminiscent of flying an Icarex Stranger.

For me its forte is 'floaty' tricks like flat spins and slides. The kite will drop into a flat spin with ease, either from a dive or from a horizontal pass and once it's into a move like the flat spin just give it plenty of slack, sit back and watch it smoothly but slowly rotate. One surprise was the kite's performance in stabs, pop-ups and the lazy

susan. It is common practice for trick kites to be built with a deep billow and short spine, which can make some tricks more difficult because of too quick a recovery. The stand off length of the Solo is a little shorter which has the benefit of widening the window and helping a lot with the aforementioned tricks. Stabs were steady, pop up moves as used in the flip flop and fountain had much more drive, and in a turtle / lazy susan the kite didn't want to recover and leap straight back into flight before the trick was complete. On the other hand, recovery was good enough to keep the kite trick-able.

On the whole a very nice range of kites for a spot of relaxed, smooth flying. The real star of the range for me has to be the ultra light. Ultra lights are generally expensive or if cheaper never actually deliver their promise. The Solo on the other hand fills a nice niche, which before it's demise I think the Light Cat had previously made it's own, real low to no wind performance at a realistic price with no compromise on quality, and this time in a full sized package too.

Outer Space first impressions

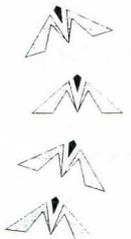
Manufacturer Benson

Dimensions 224x102 cm

Sail Icarex

Frame 6mm pultruded carbon

List Price £135



This Kite is my latest addition and this report is based on my first two days flying of it at Bath Kite festival. I arrived with my and Sam Eatons's newly purchased kites on the Friday evening. It was almost dark and there was very little wind but we just had to try the kites out. They flew perfectly with plenty of drive. It was very difficult to do much with them as could only just see the kites but they were extremely solid with a massive wind window. We went to bed very happy with our new purchases. The next day we spoke to Andy Wardley who designed the new active bridle that the kite is fitted with. He informed us the kite was set up for light wind and explained how to adjust the bridle for the then 15 mph winds (need to slide the top of the A-line forward for light winds and back for heavy winds. With the kite and bridle in front of you this will make sense). Once adjusted the kite was easier to control in the winds and its the easiest kite I have flown to snap stall. Even in 20 mph could get a perfect stall in the middle of the wind window. Obviously the kite design itself is responsible for a lot of this but the active bridle helps in that it allows the kite to adjust its angle in flight depending on the pressure on the kite. Again this is easier to see and explain if you have the kite in front of you but it definitely works. If you see me in the field flying a orange an black kite with a B on it that is my new outer space ,come across and i'll show you. This kite is I believe destined to become a classic.

Garry Box General Sec.

Delta Sport Kite Design

My intention in writing these two articles is to give hope to the budding Andy Prestons and show that if you work from scratch it is possible to create some amazing sport kites which will be entirely your own without using a computer.

It is actually quite difficult to build a delta sport kite that won't fly as the delta shape is very forgiving. most designs can be made to fly but not always the way you thought they would (some better some worse some just different). The important thing is to be accurate in your building and take your time at the drawing stage.

All my drawing is done in scale of 1cm to 10cm (1/10th) this seems to fit well on a landscape A4 sheet and is easy to transfer. The whole design requires two drawings one for the frame shape and one for the sail shape.

For this first article I will concentrate on the frame Drawing. Carbon fibre frame material is available in all sorts of lengths and strengths these days. Strength will determine the wing and cross spar length for your kite design too long, light and flexible a spar will restrict you to flying only in light winds (unless this is what you want). Most moulded fittings require you to use the same exterior thickness of material for the whole kite frame. The internal diameter can be varied to provide stiffer spars were you wish. There is a convention that a slightly stiffer spine is a good thing. The length of material will mean a choice between certain frame shapes to prevent excessive wastage of the expensive carbon rod this factor is what has determined the common frame sizes in commercial sport kites. Early designs mostly used carbon arrows of 825mms in length and these sizes are still very common today.

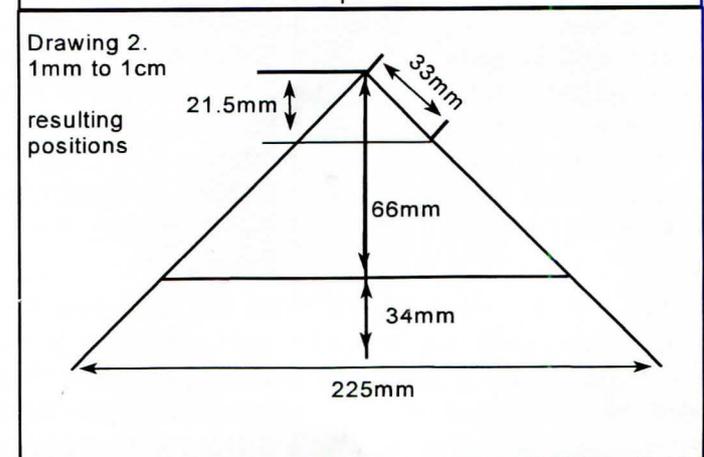
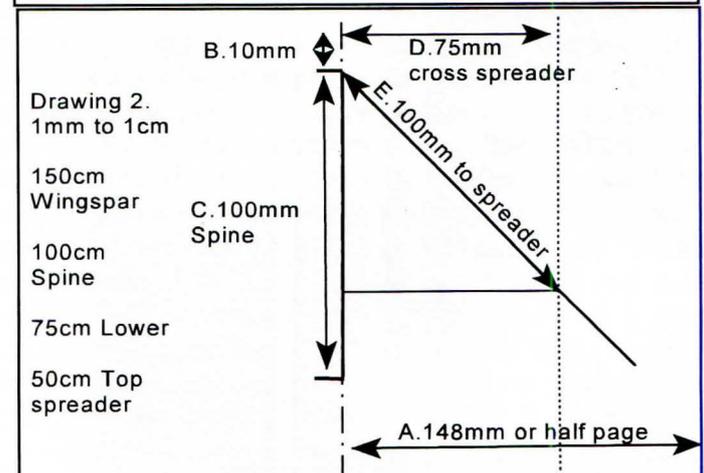
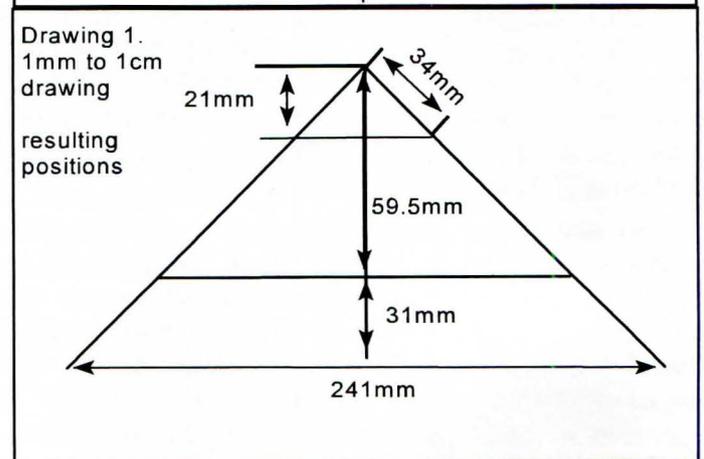
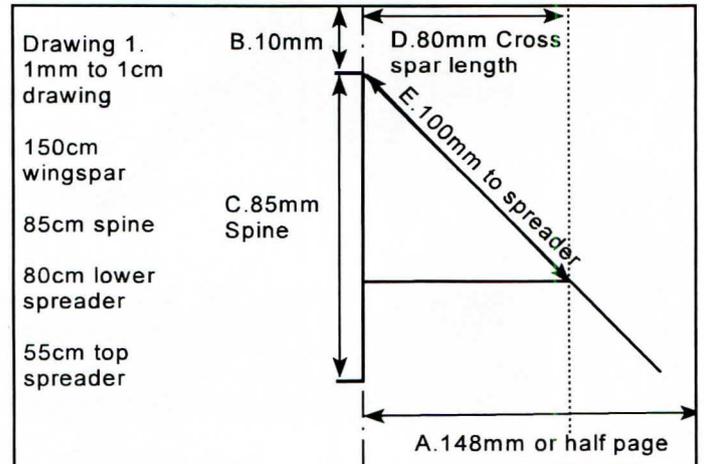
For this exercise I will use a wing spar length of 1.5 metres as a guide. The rest of the spars of the frame can be divided in many ways depending on the end result you wish to achieve. The length of your carbon stock will determine the shape of the frame to a some extent. The frames on the right are all based on a material length of 3 metres of 6mm thick carbon tube. This frame drawing determines the position and length of the upper and lower spreaders and spine as well as the position of the crosspiece and leading edge connectors on the sail. Two 3 metre lengths of carbon are required for these frames, one for the 2 wing spars and one for the spine and the lower and upper spreader.

Starting at A. find the centerline on your A4 sheet measure down B.(10mm) then mark the length of the spine C. Now mark a line parallel to the centre line at distance D. You can now decide the lower spreader connection point. Too long and flimsy a wing may tend to twitter. I tend to start with a drawing at two thirds down the spar and work up or down depending on the carbons stiffness (and the wind strength I want it to fly in).

The top spreaders position is determined quite simply by it's length but it's importance to the quality of the kite's flight should not be underestimated.

Some deltas can be made to change character completely just by changing the top spreader length by 5mm. Drawing 1 has 5cm of extra length to maintain support for the wingspar. In the second article I will run through the sail design. Happy drawing

Dave Salmon.



EVENTS NEWS

1st 2nd August Attingham park Kite Weekend Attingham park

Friendly Kite flying in lovely surroundings, peoples choice Kite competition with prizes, Altitude sprint. Pete Waddington's Kite workshop with altitude sprints every hour for the builders.

Camping must be booked in advance by contacting property manager Belinda Cousins, at Attingham Park, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY4 4TP Tel: 01743 709203, Who will send a pass and map if Required.

For more information contact
Tony Slater Tel 01743 235068



Shipley Park, 9th August

Steward: Alan Poxon Tel: 01773 716047

Our Fly-in coincides with another Fun Day at Shipley, but this time I'll be doing a kite workshop as one of the attractions, as well as some 'old fashioned games' (but that's not me).
Alan Poxon

Rushcliffe Country Park, 20th September

Stewards: Alan Poxon Tel: 01773 716047

Tim Curwood Tel: 01949 81712

Last years Rushcliffe kite day coincided with an MG Rally and a Fun Run, all part of the much broader Rushcliffe Festival. This years event also winds up the areas festival period, and the Park hope to make it bigger and better than last year. We are not sure going to press whether the Fun Run will also be taking place.

Nonetheless, this is a lovely site if you haven't been before, and the Park Rangers allow the exhibiting kite fliers access to the back of the Park via a gate off Asher Lane out of Ruddington. This means you can tie your kite to your bumper bar! Last year there was no roping off done due to a bit of a mix up, but everything went so well that it probably won't happen this year either, so you will have to take your chances with all of those 'seaside' kites that everyone has been complaining about in the Kiteflier and the kites from the kite workshop.

The club kites will be flying at the event so please come along and have a fly. The organizers also want a display of Buggyng. It is hoped that with the availability of a P.A. System a convenient point in the proceedings will be found to clear the field for a short demonstration.

I am not sure how this will work, but with everyone's co-operation I think it is possible. If you would like to demonstrate your prowess on a buggy please contact Tim Curwood, who is coordinating this bit. The only proviso is that you must use a soft kite for safety reasons.

As there will be a P.A. system, if you have a really interesting kite you would like to fly, let us have a brief note on the day and we will tell everyone about it. As well as the super children's playground, next door is the Nottingham Heritage Centre, which will have steam trains and other events happening too. Admission to the Centre is charged..

For more information call 0115 9405705.

To get to the Park follow the Nottingham Ring Road south out of the centre for about three miles. The A52/A614 is the Clifton Boulevard. At the Nottingham Night roundabout (junction with the A60) turn right along Loughborough Road towards Ruddington. For the Asher Lane entrance for fliers turn right at the cross roads into the village, turn left onto High St. and the road bears right (The Green) and then bears left onto Asher Lane. The main park entrance is straight on at the cross roads and a right turn at the next small roundabout into a new business park.

Alan Poxon



4th Ashfield Kite Festival, 27th September

Steward: Alan Poxon Tel: 01773 716047

Ashfield District Council now enjoy a really successful kite day at The Lawn Park, Sutton-in-Ashfield. They always lay on a great number of attractions including fun fairs, Punch and Judy, a brass band, kite retailers, kite workshop, and weather permitting hot-air balloons.

There will be roped-off areas for kite fliers, a marquee for you to display a kite or two in (or shelter if it gets wet), and free parking.

To get there from Junction 28 of the M1, follow the A38 towards Mansfield. After approximately 5 miles turn left onto Station Road (Sutton town centre), drive past Wickes DIY on the left, and turn right into the Lawn Park. There should be local council signs for the festival anyway.
Alan Poxon.

October 4th Stafford Castle Autumn Kite Flying Day, Newport road Stafford.

Stewards Fred Broadhead Tel: 01952 581106

Ken and Dorothy Campbell. Tel: 01782 535186

Our Second visit of the year to the ramparts of Stafford Castle. Flying on the Castle hill overlooking the countryside. Skybums kite stall children's kite workshop and Quiz competition. Due to the lack of space most people fly single line kites at this venue. The site is usually well attended by the public. All cars must be parked at the bottom of the castle hill. Car parking charges are waived for kite fliers.

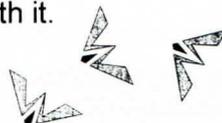
11th October One Sky One World Day.

MKF members will be flying kites for world peace Local meets at Sundorne playing fields Shrewsbury Contact Tony Slater Tel: 01743 235068, at Warwick Race Course Contact Terry Cresswell, 0121 6240656, Lincoln and Birmingham.

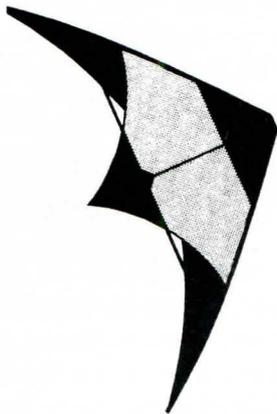
18th October Family Fun Day Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Edgbaston, Birmingham

Steward Alan Bill Tel: 0121 360 1955

Plenty to do and see on our Annual visit to the atmospheric hot house plants, gardens and birds. Fliers get in Free. Please be aware there isn't much space to fly in (so single line kites preferred) but the effort is worth it.



MKF Club Kites
B.B.C. Buggy Displays
Children's Kite Workshop
Indian Fighter Kite Displays
Quad Line Kite Displays
Sport Kite Displays
Teddy Bear Dropping
Rokkaku Fight
Kite Traders
Side Shows



The well known international Indian kite flyer Stafford Wallace will be flying with new games

Camping over the week-end

This year also sees the added bonus of a new kind of entertainment. "Salarieya" dance duo will be  delighting the crowds with authentic Folk & Baladi style Egyptian Dance in original costumes - danced by the Urban & Nomadic Wolzen of Egypt through the centuries.



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E-mail: mkf@nexus1.demon.co.uk

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CHILDREN OF THE WIND MY FIRST KITE FESTIVAL

Waiting, waiting, we were waiting for a breath of wind to lift the kites into the sky at Windy Point, Alberta. People had gathered on this hot July Sunday to see Ray Bethell, the Canadian/World record holder and World Champion in Multiple Sport kite flying - 1991 through 1997 - cast his magic in the sky. The Children of the Wind were hosting their 6th annual kite festival at Windy Point, a park outside Pincher Creek, and Ray was the star performer on the programme.

The wind was not co-operating that day. Ray was flying three of his strawberry ice cream coloured Pro Dancer kites, but as soon as he got them up into the air the wind would die. Everyone looked on in awe as the three kites soared overhead while Ray checked his kites out in flight. The audience could not help applauding when Ray brought the three kites, one after the other, to rest on the ground; wings spread wide, nose pointed up ready to take flight again at the shortest notice.

The day before, Saturday, in the blistering heat, the great white fleecy clouds were idly floating across the blue sky as the multi-coloured flags and banners were waving "hello" in the gentle breeze. The roped off area was ideal for kite flying. The grassy field over-looking the Old Man river dam, was surrounded by a rolling knoll and a pebbled road with ample parking area. There were no electrical wires, no tall vehicles or tall trees on the site. It was a safe area, with nothing to snare the kites. Even Charlie Brown could have flown his kite at Windy Point that Saturday. Many kite fliers were out checking the wind and preparing for their performances.

The smell of cooking

aerodyne

July 1998

the newsletter of the brighton kite flyers

sausages greeted my mother and I as we arrived at Windy Point early on Saturday morning. While the pancakes were bubbling beside the sausages on the biggest black grill I had ever seen, coffee was brewing. Breakfast was, for a looney '50p', provided by one of the many sponsors that helped to make this annual kite festival the success it indeed was. After the all you can eat breakfast, washed down by some hot coffee, we wandered around the grounds. Many activities were being offered in the various tents conveniently situated outside of the kite flying area. Some of the tents housed the colourful wind kites, flags and accessories. The Kite Guy, Sandman Kites, The Kite Company, and Willie's Wind Whimsys all had the latest and best wind paraphernalia displays. Any type of wind machine could be found there.

There were other fun things to do. The volunteers in the children's tent had lots of fun activities for the young - face painting, bubble fun, kite making, etc. - while the science club volunteers had the budding scientists 'shaping space' with the materials provided. The

children's laughter ran out as they tried to pat the animals in the petting zoo. Everyone appreciated the educational session on pigeons, their uses and roles throughout history offered by the volunteers in the pigeon tent. The adults could visit the marketplace and for a looney '50p' try their

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Toody Oakhill & Mik Jennison
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Brighton
East Sussex
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Tel/Fax:
01273 243528

ARDINGLY AUTUMN SHOW
SOUTH OF ENGLAND SHOWGROUND / ARDINGLY / WEST SUSSEX

- ◆ **Date:** Sunday 4 October 1998 from 09.00 - 17.00
- ◆ **Map Ref:** 187 TQ 341303
- ◆ **CAA Height Clearance:** 1000ft (applied for)
- ◆ **Contact:** Ray Oakhill Tel/Fax: 01273 306842
e-mail: rao@mistral.co.uk

Once again Brighton Kite Flyers have been invited to demonstrate at this event. Anyone interested in free entrance to the show to demonstrate their kites and kiteflying should contact me before 31 August.

This invite is open to BKF members only - sorry!

RAY OAKHILL (BKF CO-ORDINATOR)

luck at winning one of the many prizes donated by sponsors. Judging by the many people I saw walking around with their prizes, business was brisk. People who did not wish to fly their own kites could check out the drama in the sky through the Bushnell binoculars. There was something for everyone to do besides putting on sun cream for protection from the blazing sun.

With breakfast over, and the masses always needing to eat, the volunteers in the concession tent started cooking hot dogs. The Cowley firemen had fired up their grill and the smell of hamburger filled the air. It was amazing that after such a huge all you can eat breakfast,

people were still ready for more food. The kite flyers were out in the flying area testing the wind and setting up their colourful kites. This involved placing the kites with their wings spread wide, noses pointing up to the sky, and laying the string out in a straight line to where the flyer would stand. The flyers appeared to be untouched by time for their movements were unhurried. The set-up stage is important for the kites to be lifted up, up, up into the sky at a flick of the kite flyer's wrists.

Poetry in motion is the only way I can describe the demonstration by Ray Bethell. The three beautiful coloured Kestrel kites Ray was flying seemed to obey his every command. It was truly awesome to witness the control Ray had over his kites. The kites soared, postured and chased each other, only to split off, with one soaring high in the sky, while the other two were flying close to the ground. These two kites were making wonderful twirls with their long multi-coloured tails glistening, a rainbow of colours in the sun. Ray made those kites dance beautifully and effortlessly for us. He, in a very disciplined fashion, made his kites soar, hover, and at times appear to hang motionlessly in the sky for moments at a time. Ray gently brought the kites, one after the other to rest on the ground. The applause was deafening, as we roared for the master of multiple kite flying, Ray Bethell.

After Ray's solo performance, other kite flyers took to the field to show their stunts before the

next featured event, the Icebirds, started their act. Soon the sky was filled with kites of different shapes and sizes. Most were modified delta kites, steered either with one or two strings. Looking at the kites hovering in the turquoise blue sky like butterflies, I felt my body and soul relax as I immersed myself in the tapestry of tranquillity unfolding in the sky. After a short time, the flying area was cleared for the next demonstration.

The Icebirds - Jim and Karin Venables - gave a

demonstration of synchronized kite flying to the musical accompaniment of The Battle Hymn of the Republic. They were using two Voodoo kites. The Voodoo is a two lined delta kite designed by Jim to handle the sudden lifts and sharp turns, the abrupt checks, and changes of course in their routine. The two kites, under Jim and Karin's guidance, put on a dancing display that was highly ritualised and formalised as they chased each other across the blue sky. The couple made their kites dance in union, posturing as they followed each other, matching the tempo and speed of the music.



ONE SKY ONE WORLD 1998

DEVIL'S DYKE/EAST SUSSEX

◆ **Date:** Sunday 11 October 1998 from 10.00 - 17.00

◆ **Map Ref:** 198 TQ 258 112

◆ **CAA Height Clearance:** 1000ft (applied for)

◆ **Contact:** Ray Oakhill Tel/Fax: 01273 306842
e-mail: rao@mistral.co.uk

This will be the second 'One Sky One World' day organised by the Brighton Kite Flyers. Until last year we've always flown with the White Horse Kite

Flyers at Cowpat Hill. We hope that fliers from other clubs will join us to fly for peace, together with kitefliers across the globe. As last year we will register the total number of kites flown to go towards the world count - which is co-ordinated by Jane Parker-Ambrose at OSOW headquarters in Denver, Colorado, USA.

RAY OAKHILL (BKF CO-ORDINATOR)

STOWE GARDENS KITE FESTIVAL

18 & 19 APRIL 1998

This was the second event organised here by the White Horse Kite Flyers, and this year it took place over two days - so there was an opportunity for free camping for the hardy fliers... of which there were few!

Winds on Saturday were light and clean - so a good collection of deltas were on show. Sunday was heavily overcast after a night of rain and the wind had switched 180 degrees. It was blowing over the trees which made for turbulent flying through frequent showers.

Bazzer was the invited kiteflier - showing his appliquéd kites. He did manage to keep his big Pooh in the air for most of the weekend (*I'll have to ask Bazzer about this one!* - Ed) - and there was a steady flow of spectators to appreciate it.

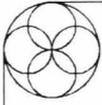
This is a small kite festival, with about half a dozen traders, that is well worth a visit.

RAY OAKHILL (BKF CO-ORDINATOR)

The kites sped through their organized pattern with the energy being supplied by the wind and guided by the steady hands of Jim and Karin. The kites moved freely in any direction always in synchronism. The rhythm was fast paced. The duet made their kites quiver, roll, and do various acrobatic stunts as they expressed their feelings through rhythmic

movement. As if in a ceremonial dance, the kites postured and flirted with each other. The song finished as the kites came to rest side by side on the field. The crowd was appreciative and was hoping for an encore, but it was not to happen. They had to return on Sunday if they wanted to witness Jim and Karin, the Icebirds, perform again.

The kite competition was another fun event on Saturday's program. Many of the first time kite owners entered the novice event. The judges were very official in



explaining the compulsory routine and rules to contestants and spectators. The camaraderie of the kite flyers shone as some children lent their kites to others so they could compete. Each contestant flew solo. Mistakes were made, but the courage and determination of the children to perform was evident. The final category was for the experienced kite flyers to strut their stuff. The wind co-operated and provided the energy under the kite wings for balancing and turning as the flyers performed their routine. Prizes, ribbons, and pins were awarded to the deserving contestants. The Rokkaku challenge was the only team event scheduled. In the Rokkaku challenge teams fought using huge hexagonal kites. These kites were at least four feet high by three feet wide, and needed teams of two or more people to get them into the air. One person to launch the kite firmly, while the other was in control of the string. Once airborne, the kites were turned against each other in battle. The Rokkaku challenge rules were simple - keep your kite flying, and try to send your competitor's kites crashing down to earth. Points were awarded for wing tips, downed kites, and for keeping your kite in the air. The strategy of each team was similar - show no mercy. There were many broken kites at the end of the challenge as the kites fell to the ground with a thump. These nose dives resulted in kites fluttering on the ground as wounded swans. After the challenge teams were busy repairing their kites to enter the challenge on the Sunday, and discussing new strategies they would try to get their opponents kites down.

The citizens of Pincher Creek and surrounding areas enjoyed the evening entertainment. The setting sun's rays turned the colour of the sky tangerine as a backdrop for the local musicians and singers. The oldies tunes filled the air as we relaxed after the energetic kite flying day. At eleven o'clock fireworks burst into the starry sky. The oohs and aahs from the audience showing appreciation for the end of a complete and well spent perfect Saturday, were music to the organisers ears. The day was the biggest and best of all the festivals and there was still tomorrow when Ray was expected to perform a new and unique demonstration for us. Expectancy could be felt in the air as we arrived for the Sunday looney pancake breakfast. The warming sun was spinning gold on the water in the Old Man river dam and the sky was clear. No clouds were hanging in the pale blue

sky. It was a perfect canvas for the kite flyers to paint with their brightly coloured kites. It was a lazy Sunday - everyone appeared to be moving slower. The air was hot and dry. Shimmering heat valours could be seen rising to the sky. The vendors were busy selling their wares. Some spectators were sitting around recapping tales of Saturday's programme. Anxiously, the kite flyers started to prepare for Sunday's programme. Anxiously, as the wind was not co-operative. Where did it go? It certainly was teasing us. There was not even a breath of wind as we waited. Suddenly, the wind started to blow ever so slightly. The flags and banners started to sway, then the wind stopped blowing again. It was still teasing us. Finally the wind started blowing once more, but this time from a different direction. The kite flyers had to rearrange their kites to take advantage of this new direction. The wind continued to blow and many of the flyers managed a few practice flights. The audience killed the time waiting for the programme to start by visiting the various vendors. Bud, The Kite Guy; Keith, Sandman Kites; Dallas, The Kite Company, and Willie of Willie's Wind Whimsy's were kept busy selling kites and other wind machines as well as giving explanations of the various old and new kite technologies. New vendors were also present with various wares to tempt the audience and the smell of hamburger barbecuing by the Cowley firemen filled the air. At the children's tent the bubble machine was working full-time as the children enjoyed themselves blowing bubbles while queuing for the petting zoo. Others were inside the blue tent

**CAERNAFON KITE FESTIVAL
25 & 26 APRIL 1998**

To me, Wales is associated with rain, and this small festival at Clynnog-fawr, near Caernafon, confirmed my fears!

There is no doubt that the Lleyn Peninsula is a beautiful place in which to fly kites, and it was very convenient to be able to stay or camp at the Coach Inn. The flying site is about 400 yards from the pub, so you could walk or drive, but the field was very wet and soggy under foot. I chose to stay outside the gate which proved wise judging by the wheel spinning demonstrations that took place at the end of the weekend.

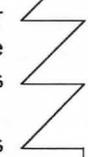
It was good to see Martyn Lawrence again after so many years off the kite scene - we last met at Weymouth about six years ago!

Winds were south westerly and a large mountain caused severe turbulence on Saturday. However, it veered more westerly on Sunday and flying improved a little - although running to the nearest stall for cover from the heavy showers became the order of the day. Sheltering from the rain with other kitefliers is always a good way to make friends and pick up a few tips. My thanks to Steven Williams of the Coach Inn for organising the festival.

RAY OAKHILL (BKF CO-ORDINATOR)

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

- ◆ **Mr J Lancaster**
Dorking/Surrey
- ◆ **Neil Ford & Nalalie Fricker**
Billingshurst/West Sussex



making kites, 'shaping spaces' - the Science fair theme, taking advantage of the many activities the volunteers had arranged for the children.

Our prayers were answered, the wind came back and stayed with us. The Sunday kite flying programme started on "kite time" with Ray Bethell's demonstration. Ray was flying his Kestrel kites each with yards of multicoloured patchwork tail. This demonstration was choreographed to 'Wind Beneath My Wings'. Ray set the tone and mood for the day as we left our worries behind and focused on the kites posturing and chasing each other with the wind beneath their wings.

With strong steady hands, Jim and Karin Venables, 'The Icebirds' once again showed us how synchronized flying should be done. They worked their magic with the two Voodoos, modified delta kites, each kite encouraged by the other to dance in the sky. The Icebirds flew together combining speed with great manoeuvrability and dexterity. The appreciative audience was in for a treat today as Jim and Karin decided to give an encore, choreographed to 'All I Ask Of You'.

Other kite flyers also demonstrated their skills to this most supportive and knowledgeable audience. Some

kite flyers were flying extremely fast kites reaching great heights, while others flew a variety of differently shaped kites. The simple flat paper kite with it's tail made from rags that I flew as a child was the only type of kite not flown.

Ray Bethell was back on the field with two delta kites. These kites were royal blue and white with yards of matching striped tails. Is he

preparing for the new demonstration? No, the two kites glided into the sky as the haunting tune of the 'Hawaiian Love Song' filled the air. Ray dedicated this performance to one of the directors of the Children of the Wind festival committee. The pair of lovebird kites flew together, wings flapping in the wind. Alternately being elegant and graceful, sometimes soaring or hovering, and hanging motionless as they depicted many years of marriage. It was a breathtaking tribute that brought tears to our eyes as we sat stunned, remembering our own romantic visions. Gently, Ray brought the kites to rest to a hushed crowd. Then the applause started and grew as the audience gave Ray a standing ovation.

The Rokkaku challenge today was lots of fun as ten kites

were ready to go to war. The huge kites were all painted, some were flying commercials, depicting various

company logos, while other designs represented popular children's stories. Ten energetic teams were formed - most of the teams had three or more fighter flyers who had to dance their way out of tricky situations as the kite lines would also weave around the flyers. They appeared to be

plaiting a Maypole as the contestants bobbed and wove on the field. The wind was steady, pushing the kites higher and higher. The winner was declared as the kite that flew the highest. The winning team members were nimble enough to untangle themselves from their opponent's strings. It was a fun time for all. Novice and professional enjoyed themselves and came out of the flying area laughing and wiping the sweat that poured down their faces.

aerodyne
July 1998
the newsletter of the brighton kite flyers

WEYMOUTH KITE FESTIVAL 3 & 4 MAY 1998

Having searched around various Weymouth farms for a decent campsite, which we eventually found at Bagwell Farm, we forayed around Weymouth's shops on Saturday and I didn't end up flying on the beach. This turned out to be a big mistake as the following day was cloudy with a cold force 5 onshore wind. Few events took place due to the wind strength, although there were three entries for the Altitude Sprint. Art of Air also gave a fine team display - despite having their nappies on (the kites - not the fliers!).

DEAR BKF...

A thank you to all members has been received from the British Heart Foundation - for the club's bereavement donation in memory of Sid Horton.

Monday was a fine sunny day with an offshore wind that brought its own problems with turbulence as it rolled over the buildings and onto the beach. The mass Rokkaku launch turned into a battle and ended up with yours truly being pulled down by Pete Dolphin.

Another Rok fight in the afternoon ended with the same two opponents battling it out until Andy King declared that the first one to touch the wall at the back of the arena was the winner... luckily I was just a few feet away! So both Pete and I won a fight and a trophy.

RAY OAKHILL (BKF Co-ORDINATOR)

With personal satisfaction and merriment, the team members were declaring loudly that their team was the rightful winner.

The rumour persisted that Ray Bethell would give a new kite flying demonstration at the festival. All eyes were on Ray as he walked onto the flying area. He had six delta kites on the field, three with multicoloured tails at least ten yards long. Will Ray be demonstrating with six kites? He usually uses three kites in his routine. Could this be the new stunt? The rumour occupied our thoughts so we did not notice the time we spent waiting for the wind which had died down after the Rokkaku Challenge. Finally the wind started to blow and a sigh of relief could be heard.

After demonstrating a flawless three kite routine, performing the difficult manoeuvres with grace

BKF FLY-IN REMINDERS

1ST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH (THROUGHOUT THE YEAR)

- ◆ **Venue:** Ladies Mile Rd/Patcham
- ◆ **Map Ref:** 198 TQ 317 092
- ◆ **Height Clearance:** 1500ft
- ◆ **By Bus:** 26/5/5A from Brighton
- ◆ **Site:** Top/North end of the road
- ◆ **Time:** From 11.00 onwards
- ◆ **Parking:** On site (with key only)

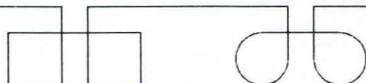
General fly-in day.

2ND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH (FROM APRIL TO SEPTEMBER INCLUSIVE)

- ◆ **Venue:** Stanmer Park/Lewes Rd
- ◆ **Map Ref:** 198 TQ 342 088
- ◆ **Height Clearance:** 200ft
- ◆ **By Bus:** 25/25A from Brighton
- ◆ **Site:** Next to Sussex University
- ◆ **Time:** From 18.00 onwards
- ◆ **Parking:** On road through site
- ◆ **By Train:** Falmer Station

Flying evening with social bash afterwards at the Swan pub at Falmer.

SWINDON KITE FESTIVAL 9 & 10 MAY 1998



It was good to see smiles on the faces of White Horse Kite Flyers during a weekend of clean winds and sunshine, after the force 8 and hail of last year. As is now tradition, Friday evening was devoted to the social scene in the White Hart, which is always a good start to any kite festival! Saturday began with an overcast sky and good winds and the sun even appeared. An excellent display of Japanese fish windsocks was given by The Beccles Bunch during the day and the WHKF scuba diver's legs kept its own area clear of any other kites. The 'buggy mob' appeared to be having a good day on the runway, at about 40mph each way.

In the evening Marla Miller, from the US, conducted the raffle in her characteristic pose of humour and control of the hecklers. Prizes varied from a Fritz Jansma appliquéd kite to a bag of trout, with considerable variations in between. Unfortunately, Marla's kite tattoos were not on offer for a viewing this time! Sunday brought with it similar weather to the previous day, but the wind had veered 180 degrees. The kites that I had left up overnight were soaking wet on the ground - but they soon dried off in the wind and sun that appeared later. Unfortunately it was all too soon time to pack up and say goodbyes as we were off to France the following day and our motor-home (christened 'Oakie's Mobile Mansion' at Swindon!) had to be unloaded and reloaded. I've thought of airbrushing the outside with kites, but would it will affect the resale value?... it may well improve it if I sell it to a kiteflier!

RAY OAKHILL (BKF CO-ORDINATOR)

FURTHER BKF INFO...

- ◆ **Web Page Address:**
<http://www3.mistral.co.uk/prchitty>
- ◆ **Co-ordinator & Membership Secretary:**
Ray Oakhill: Tel/Fax: 01273 306842 e-mail: rao@mistral.co.uk
- ◆ **Merchandise:**
Pins/Patches: Ray Oakhill
(Contact details as above)
Tee/Sweatshirts:
Simon Hennessey: 01273 582309
- ◆ **Library:**
Pete Linnell: 01273 683082
- ◆ **Brighton Kite Festival:**
Information Line: 01273 300106
Tourist Information/Visitor's
Accommodation: 01273 292599

USE THIS SPACE...

Thanks to all of this issue's contributors. Anything sent to the Editor will be considered for print unless marked otherwise... yes, I'm that desperate for material! Please send something for the October 1998 issue - by 1 September 1998 to...

Toody Oakhill
BKF Editor
Lower Ground Floor Flat
43 Grand Parade
Brighton
East Sussex
BN2 2QA

(Tel/Fax: 01273 243528)

aerodyne
July 1998
the newsletter of the brighton kite flyers

realized how privileged we were to witness such a feat.

After a weekend of watching the kites dance at will for the kite flyers, we were treated to the last performance of the 6th Annual Kite Festival by Ray Bethell. The crowd watched spellbound as he once again cast his magic on the sky. The three kites danced flawlessly to the tune of 'Flying On My Own'. It was worth waiting for the wind to see Ray and his kites twirling to and fro powered by the breath of the wind.

My mother and I left Windy Point feeling brighter, our spirits flying high; our hearts were light as the kites with the wind under their wings. Next year you will find us at Windy Point spending an idyllic weekend in the blazing sun waiting for the wind.

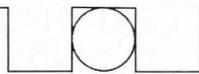
DOROTHY JONES (USA)

CURRENT CLUB COMMITTEE

- ◆ **Chairperson:** Ray Oakhill
- ◆ **Secretary:** Simon Hennessey
- ◆ **Treasurer:** Gill Pitman
- ◆ **Committee Members:**
Alan Outram, Toody Oakhill,
Paul Thody & Norma House

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.

brighton
Kite
flyers



and style, choreographed again to 'Wind Beneath My Wings', a very proud Ray confirmed that he would perform a unique demonstration for us.

The demonstration had never been

performed before.

We would be the first to see it. There would not be a practice period. Ray Bethell, the oldest flyer with the Calgary Kite Club,

was teaming up with

the youngest kite flyer, six and a

half year old Dustin Taylor, to

perform a difficult stunt.

Ray would fly his Kestrel kites with

the ten-yard multicoloured

patchwork tails while carrying

Dustin on his shoulders. Dustin

would be flying a Hard Corps by

Diggles Kites. It looked like a red,

white and blue framed delta kite

with two strings. Dustin required

both hands to fly the Hard Corps

kite, leaving no hands to hold on

to Ray.

Have you ever flown a kite?

Then you know the

concentration needed to keep

the kite in the sky. You also know the

pull of the kite and how to counterbalance it.

Yes, you lean backwards for support, the stronger

the wind, the further one leans backwards.

This demonstration required balance, endurance,

flexibility strength and timing to succeed.

and style, choreographed again to 'Wind Beneath My Wings', a very proud Ray confirmed that he would perform a unique demonstration for us.

Dustin climbed onto Ray's bare tanned shoulders. He sat with his legs wrapped under Ray's arms. With a flick of his wrists, Dustin jerked his striped red, white and blue kite into the air. The wind picked the kite up, wings open for balancing as it turned



FAMILY KITE FLYING DAY

TELSCOMBE TYE/EAST SUSSEX

◆ **Date:** Sunday 20 September 1998 from 10.00 - 17.00

◆ **Map Ref:** 198 TQ 392 017

◆ **CAA Height Clearance:** 1000ft (applied for)

◆ **Contact:** Ray Oakhill Tel/Fax: 01273 306842
e-mail: rao@mistral.co.uk

After the success of last year's event - Telscombe Town Council have asked the Brighton Kite Flyers (and BMISS) for its support once again. It would be nice to see some fliers from further afield too - as everyone is welcome... the more the merrier!

Telscombe Tye is a vast stretch of common downland between Saltdean and Telscombe Cliffs on the coast road (A259) running east from Brighton. Winds are clean from all directions - it was the site for the first ever Brighton Kite Festival in August 1979.

The Scouts will be running a food stall as last year and the 'Badger's Rest' pub is just across the road - serving food all day.

As last year no car passes are required and there is strictly no camping on site. Vehicles are prohibited from Telscombe Tye, so cars should be parked in nearby roads east of the flying site.

Alternatively there is some parking space in the lay-by on the A259 at the south end of the site. Parking didn't cause any problems last year. Hope to see you there.

RAY OAKHILL (BKF Co-ORDINATOR)

1998 AGM REPORT

26 MARCH 1998

Thanks to all who made it to the AGM this year, held once again at the Downs Hotel, Woodingdean.

The quorum of 10% of members was only just reached - which made for a short meeting.

Members were elected to the club committee as follows:

Chairperson: Ray Oakhill

Secretary: Simon Hennessey

Treasurer: Gill Pitman

Committee Members:

Alan Outram, Toody Oakhill, Paul Thody & Norma House

Thanks to Jerry Swift and Paul Fellingham for their work over the past year as Secretary and Committee Member, and to Simon and Norma for taking over the posts.

TOODY OAKHILL (BKF EDITOR)

and soared. Whoomp, Whoomp, the kite sang out as Dustin put it through a couple of loops.

Then it was Ray's turn to fly his kites. A hush fell over the audience. The tension was building. Dustin's kite continued to soar and hum as it travelled as fast as an eagle across the blue sky. Ray had to time his kites' lift-off perfectly for the stunt to work.

I did not know whether to watch Ray

with Dustin on his

shoulders; the red, white and

blue kite in the sky; or the

multicoloured kites on the

ground waiting to be set

airborne. The tension was

mounting in my stomach, my

throat tightened, I forgot to

breathe as my heart raced. I felt

as though I was a part of the stunt.

Then Ray tugged on the strings and

his Kestrel kites with their

multicoloured tails rose

gracefully into the air. The

audience gasped for air and a spontaneous, thunderous applause

greeted the lift-offs. This was history in the making. Dustin continued to fly

his kite through the novice routine while Ray flew his kites. For two

minutes Ray made his kites twirl their tails, form arches and chase each other in the sky. I could not believe my eyes. Wide-eyed I wondered how can Ray have such control?

Ray continued to fly his kites. The demonstration continued with Dustin illustrating his flying skill while sitting on Ray's shoulders. Finally, it

seemed like the stunt lasted forever, Ray gently brought first one kite then the other to rest on the ground. Then it was Dustin's turn to set his kite

down. The crowd was on its feet as it cheered and clapped. Our senses were transformed by this simple unforgettable experience as we

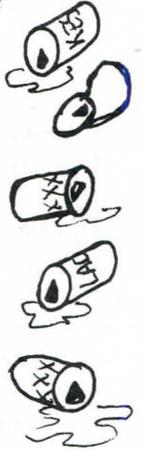


ROMAN SANDLE 49.



THE JOURNAL OF THE BEARLY MADE IT SKYDIVE SQUAD, THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHER AND SISTERHOOD OF PARACHUTING FAUNA AND THE U.K. TED DEVILS. POLITICALLY INCORRECT, BUT THEN YOU KNEW THAT, ARGUABLY THE MOST PHOTOCOPIED PIECE OF CRAP IN KITING TODAY, BUT WE DONT CARE, THERE AGAIN DID WE EVER?

SAD PARTING FOR THE TEDS



Bears pause for a final

farewell before they are sold

QUITE A FEW TEARS WERE SHED RECENTLY AT A SAD BEACH PICNIC HELD IN BRIGHTON TO MARK THE BREAKUP OF A COLLECTION OF MORE THAN A DOZEN RARE TEDDY BEARS. The Bears are to star in a top London auction following

the closure of the Museum of Childhood in the Lanes. The Teddy Bears Picnic was their last visit to Brighton Seafront before being whisked away by Bonhams, the Auctioneers.

Leigh Gotch of Bonhams Toy department, said: "We are here so the Bears can say their farewells to Brighton, but I'm sure they will all find good new homes. Its a real shame that the Museum has had to close. The Bears will be split up. It will be quite a rare and impressive sale, particularly strong on English Bears, because the Bears are so individual"

The Bears are estimated to fetch up to £65,000 at the auction in London later this year. Among the collection is at least one early Steiff Bear, Boris who was made in 1909. He is estimated to sell for at least £4,000, though we guess he would go for a lot more if he was equipped with a genuine 1909 Parachute.

We have heard on the Grapevine, that the South Coast Slapper was set to Gatecrash the Beach Picnic, but due to the shock of hearing that the collection was being broken she went on a huge Bender and completely missed the whole event. Oakie One has his doubts about that as the S.C.S. does'nt need any excuse for hitting the Barley Pop.

Staff at the Museum of Childhood, housed inside Bears and Friends shop in Meeting House Lane claim that Brighton Council sank the museum that attracted more than 1000,000 visitors in less than four years, however a spokesperson said that the Council had advertised the museum for free in various Tourist publications but that they could not spend public monies advertising private business



The bears in blue, a cuddly arm of the law

BIRMINGHAM POLICE HAVE BEEN ISSUED WITH A VERY UNUSUAL PIECE OF NEW EQUIPMENT..... FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF VARIOUS Police Forces around the World, The Salvation Army has presented them with 100 Teddy Bears to comfort children when they pick them up in their cars.

It gives a whole new meaning to Police Panda patrols. These Cuddley Cops will soon star in in two new T.V. series... Ted Cars and Softly Softly.

Police Teddy Bears must meet a minimum height requirement and have an unblemished record. Several famous Bears have failed these tests. Mr Winnie T Pooh was rejected after admitting several youthful thefts of honey from his neighbours. And before becoming a childrens entertainer, Mr Paddington Bear was dismissed from the service for failing to disclose his Peruvian citizenship.

Potential recruits are assessed by their performance in games of Cubs and wait for it Robbears. They are then assigned to a toy Tiger who shows them how to follow a tail, whilst those who fancy becoming Dog Handlers take a short course with Gromit.

Teddies with swivelling head are especially valued for surveillance duties, whilst those with rotating arms are assigned to Traffid duties. Apart from their work on Patrol, Teds are often called upon to make up the standard police interrogation team of Hard Cop and Soft Cop. Moreover as all parents know, Teddy Bears often obtain confessions to misdemeaners when conventional methods fail.

Unfortunately Teddy Bears are of little use in the Fingerprint Division. However new recruits are always needed as many Ted leave for the private sector. where they are highly valued as Bodyguards against things that go Bump in the Night. when the light switch seems impossibly far away, an ex police Teddy Bear is more than a match for any monster lurking under the bed.

Police forces in other areas should follow the example of the Birmingham Bears. They have an obvious and immediate value for child victims of crime in shock or distress. If the idea of child curfews catches on, the police may find themselves picking up, questioning and returning many more young children. Teddy Bears could make these contacts less frightening for the children and less confrontational for the police.

There is, of course, a risk that children would enjoy the Bears so much, that they would stay out late just to get a ride home with their new friend. If that happens, the Bear must be assigned to a new beat. He or she might be replaced with a toy which would embarrass children, such as a long forgotten Ninja Turtle.

Police might have a role to play with children accused of crime, especially if the age of criminal responsibility is reduced. Such children may not be interviewed except in the presence of an appropriate adult, It would be simple to add a requirement for an appropriate bear. Just by being there, a Teddy Bear can remind a suspect of the right to silence.....

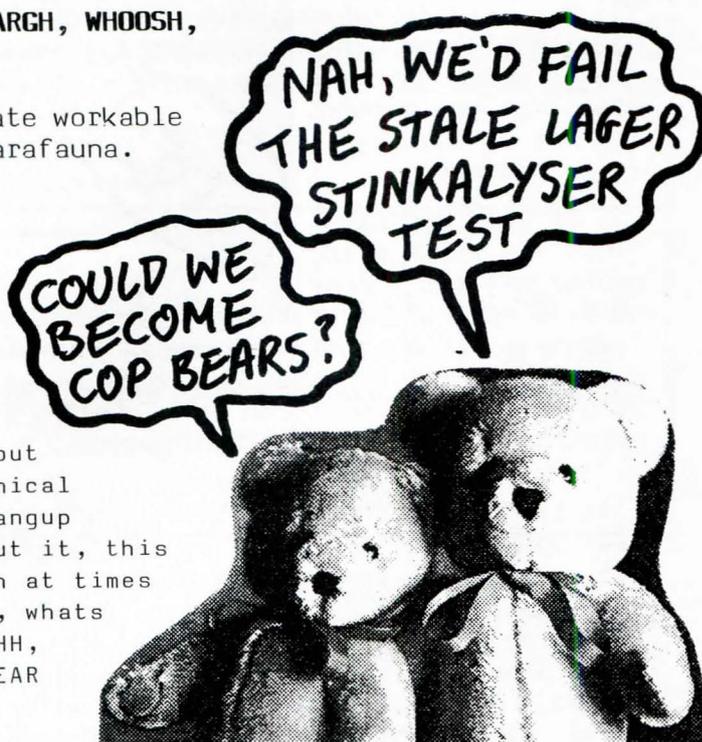
... ..

HI-HO H.A.L.O. A BOMBING WE WILL GO, AARGH, WHOOSH, THUD.....(GHASTLY SILENCE)....GORDON BENNET.

The search continues apace for the ultimate workable HALO(High Altitude,Low Opening) system for Parafauna.

A Front runner in this quest is Dropnik Billings, whose quest has long been punctuated by a seemingly unending litany of the above mentioned screams, whooshes, thuds and ghastly silences.

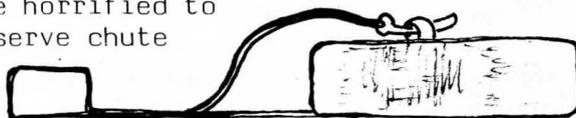
However be that as it may, progress is being somewhat painfully made. At Swindon earlier this year Dropnik Billings got it about 99.9% right, apart that is from a minor technical hitch, whereby one of the Fauna did a HALO hangup and the other one bit the dust. No doubt about it, this is a spectacular way of bombing fauna, though at times rather messy. Right, the fauna are at 450ft, whats the release line length? 451ft.....AAAARGHHHH, WHOOSHHHHH,THUD.....KINAIDA,DONT THAT BEAR BOUNCE WELL.....



Big Fat Repack Mk II

THEODORE EDWARD O'HOWS YER FARVA, THE BROTH OF A BEAR FROM NEW JERSEY SENT US AN ARTICLE, FIRST PUBLISHED IN SKYWINGS THE HANG GLIDING MAGAZINE, ENTITLED AS ABOVE "BIG FAT REPACK II.

'twould seem that Parafauna are not the only things falling from the Sky to suffer numerous cockups or go-wrong with their Parachuting equipment. The Thames Valley Hanggliders were concerned about the levels of efficiency in operations of their members safety equipment, and after the first Big Fat Repack, a Chute repacking seminar, the Thames valley mob were horrified to discover that one in three of every reserve chute systems failed completely.



What was frightening that a large percentage of these failures was due to webbing tape/pin cord incompatible design faults. wow, you expect to have large amounts of operator errors in use of such safety gear, but its alarming to think that due to design faults, your parachute would not deploy at all. Yes, we as Parafauna can laugh as we bounce, then get up and walk away, however, with Humes it does'nt always work like that.

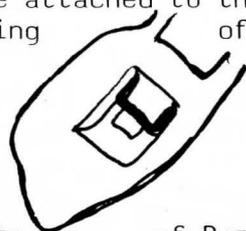
The BFR II, noted amongst a myriad of potential go wrongs, stuffing of the Jolly old Rag. For perfect deployment, the canopy must be carefully inserted into the pack in Concertina fashion with the risers or shrouds neatly folded beneath. Another common fault was to have the tape from the Ripcord or static line in our case, of incorrect lenth in relation to the release handle, or in our case, the suspension strap. in which case, no amount of tugging of the release handle, or in our case, dangling from the dropper will enable the chute to deploy.



end of release pin wrapped with tape

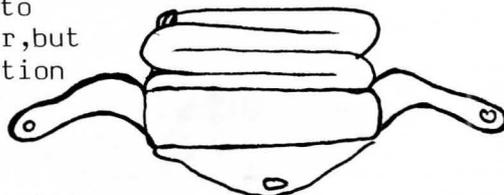
Another thing noted was the overuse of velcro in full size Parachute Pack closures, not a thing common on Parafauna gear, but nethertheless it was noted that velcro after being locked up for some considerable time, shows a marked reluctance to come apart.

The BFR II, noted a wide range of repack errors, including one where the Hume had the release handle attached to the risers or shrouds, another common fault, coming under the heading of inappropriate modifications was the habit of wrapping Tape around Pack release Pin tip (to stop the pin falling out ?) thereby making it very iffy to pull the Pin out in an emergency.



heavy use of velcro can make deployment almost impossible with some packs

As with anything else, its as well to master all the aspects of Parachute packing and repacking over a period of time as the failure to do so can and has led to tradegy in respect of Hume use of Parachute gear, but even in respect of Parafauna Chute usage, attention paid to how you do it can only lead to a higher percentage of successful deployments.



At the Big Fat Repack Mk2 seminar held earlier this year, 73 reserve chute systems for hanggliders were examined, here are some of the Stats. Complete failure, 25%, Design fault, 23%, Equipment related problems 33%, velcro problems, 7%, inappropriate Modifications, 8%, Murphys or Sods Law 10%, yes where Humes interfere or insert their sticky fingers, things are bound to go pear

canopy must be concertina folded into pack.....

LOST IN SPACE, OR SHOULD THAT BE TECHNOBABLE?.....

AS WELL AS SENDING US THE INFO ON THE PARACHUTE RE-PACKING SEMINAR, THEODORE EDWARD O'BEAR ALSO INCLUDED AN ADVERT FOR A PARACHUTE FROM TREKKING UK (FOR HANGLIDERS, NATCH) WHICH IS CLAIMED TO BE loades with many features that are completely beyond our ken, or sid or chas for that matter,

This chute, which Trekking UK claims is one of the few chutes on the Market world wide that actually matches the latest BHPA guidelines on chute size. This chute comes in six sizes, each of which it is claimed will give astable descent rate of four metres per second????

Trekking say these figures were confirmed during AFNOR testing at roquebrune whatever that is. The Parachute is made from high quality low porosity nylon for low opening shock, has fully taped seams for strength, and V tabs (whatever they are) to prevent Peel Back (whatever that is) The unique feature of this chute is the AIR POCKET system which is small pockets around the hem which is claimed to decrease the opening time by 30%, wow. talk about gobsmacked, still if anybody understands all this and adapts any of the above to Chutes suitable for Parafauna, our dough is on Arfur.

AYE LAD, TROUBLE AT T'MILL, OR ITS GORN A BIT PEAR SHAPED HARRY...

ITS VERY SAD TO SEE A KITE AND PARAFUNA JUNKIE SUFFERING WITH-DRAWAL SYMPTOMS, ALL TOGETHER NOW, AAHHHH, BUT IT HAS GONE DECIDEDLY pearshaped at BOF Towers of late, so much so that the poor old sod does'nt know whether its Shrove Tuesday or Sheffield Wednesday.

Its all down to the new job, which as you know involves shiftwork the first that the poor old git has ever done. This coupled with the fact that now his weekends can and do occur on every day of the week has led toa severe curtailment of his Kite and Faunabombing activities. The score this year so far is one Kitefest, i.e. severe cold turkey.

Its very sad to see him moping about that is when hes not kipping, hes even half heartedly thrown a couple of us down the stairwell, but its not the same. The sad old fart says Bus driving per se is no problem, even if at times its like the social services, what with carting the sleeping drunks on complete round trips, so that theyend up back where they started, then telling them that yes this was the last bus. Its even very intresting to Fire a CODE RED at 4am so you can watch the boys in blue go into action with their side handle batons on a few more products of the care in the community program. And no, none of them can run faster than a Plaxton Bodied, Dennis Dart, when you see a drunken mob at a Bus stop, and think, sod that for a game of Tin Soldiers, and go howling past.

What with all that and the Hookey Bus Passes and the hoards of TWIRLIES (10 minutes to 9am, Am I too early mate from holders of certain bus passes that are only valid from that time) and not a Teddy Bear, Parachute or kite for that matter in sight, is it any wonder that its a stressfull job. Ah well its regular, theres very little chance of being made redundant, due to the phenominal turnover of staff and it pulls in a few (with the emphasis on few) notes, but somehow we dont think its going to be a long term propsition.....

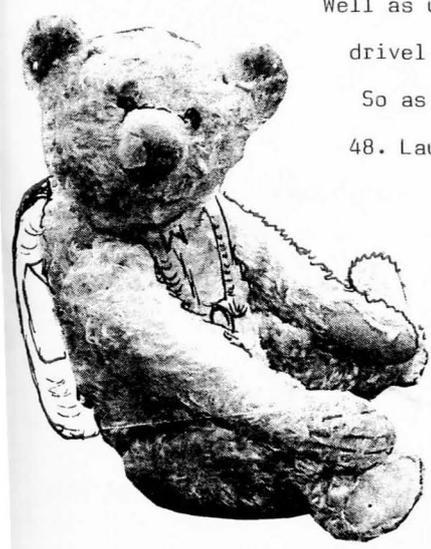
Well as usual we've managed to cobble up another smattering of the usual mindless drivel, thanks to Oakie 1, Julie White, Steve B and others who know who they are.

So as ever, its the usual to the usual, The Teddytorial, c/o the Boring Old Fart 48. Laurel Lane, West Drayton, Middx, UB7. 7TY. U.K.

.....

P.S. Heard the latest ? Teddy Bears to used as part of a new Church of Fengland funeral service for the millenium, which will be put to the general synod later this year.

The new rite is based on advice from bereavement counsellors about how people react to death. It will have more use of symbolism, orreminders of the deceaseds life.....



KITEABILITY

HANDMADE KITES AND KITE MATERIALS

OLD HARRY IS VERY HAPPY
NOW SUMMER HAS BEGUN
CAN'T WAIT TO GET OUT WITH HIS KITES
AND HAVE LOTS AND LOTS OF FUN

NOW HARRY HAS A NEW FRIEND
A LAD CALLED **PERCY P**
HE SHOWED HIM HOW TO MAKE FINE KITES
SO JUST YOU WAIT AND SEE

LOTS OF RIPSTOP HE WILL WANT
BUT HE IS IN GREAT FEAR
'COS NOT FOR MUCH LONGER
WILL **KITEABILITY** BE HERE

SEE US AT A FESTIVAL
OR GET THEM THROUGH THE POST
ALL THE MAKING GOODIES
THAT YOU NEED AND WANT THE MOST

SO STOCK UP WITH THEM GOODIES
GET THEM WHILST YOU CAN
RIPSTOP STICKS AND STRING
MAKE AN OFFER FOR THE VAN???

GET ALONG TO SEE US
ALL BE OF GOOD CHEER
TILL THE END OF THE SEASON
FOR YOU - KITEABILITY WILL BE HERE .



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

Proprietor : Mrs. P. Dell