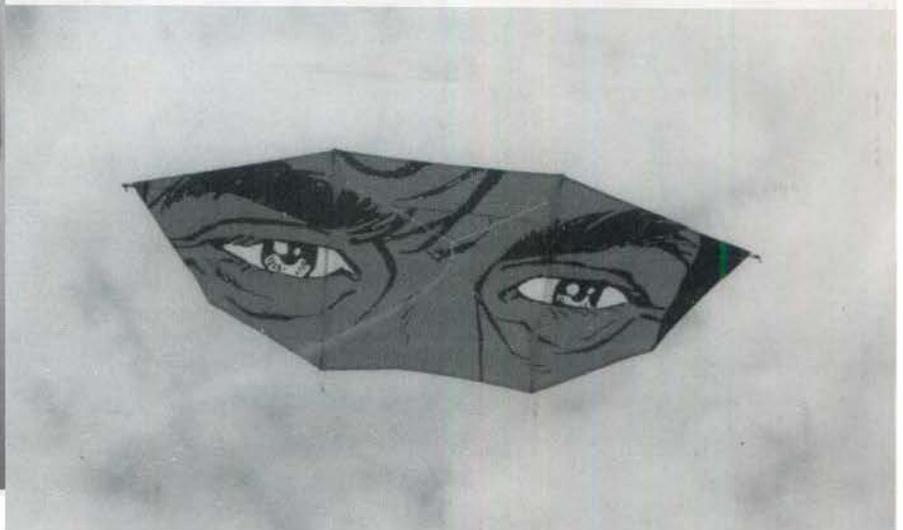
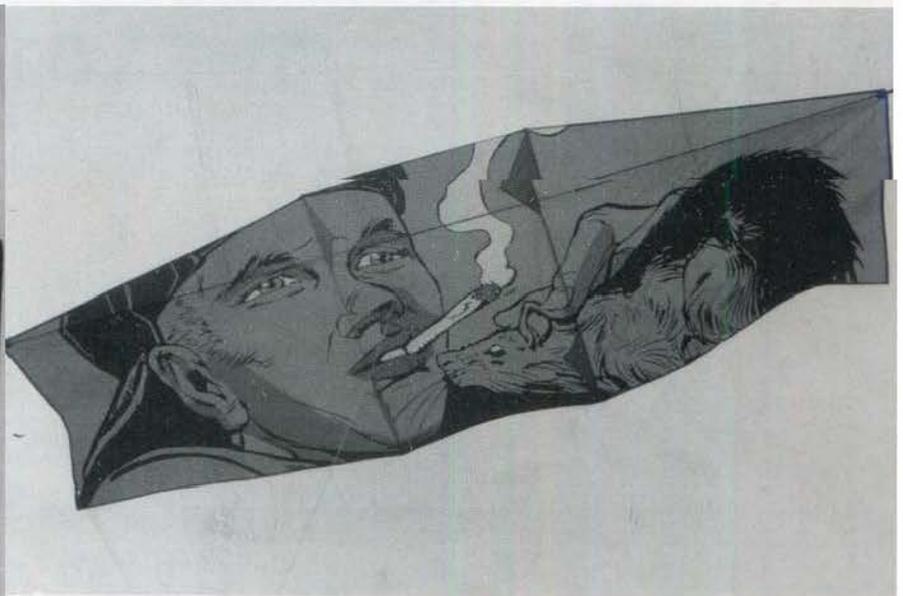


# THE KITEFLIER

Issue 86

January 2001

Price £1.90



NEWSLETTER  
OF  
THE KITE SOCIETY OF GREAT  
BRITAIN

DUNSTABLE KITES  
2000

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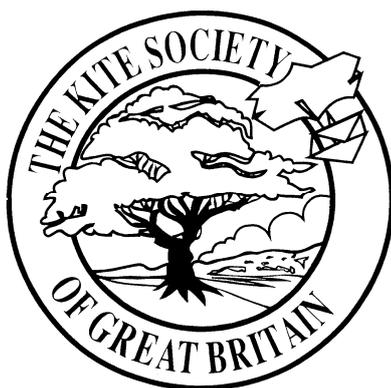
DUNSTABLE KITES  
2000

**The Kiteflier, Issue 86**  
**January 2001**

In this issue:

- Convention News
- News about the Kenny Knight Fund
- Joseph LeCornu Life and Kites
- Two Kite Plans!!!

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## Editorial

Dear Readers

This time of year is very quiet with few events to go to, and even fewer if you want to stay warm and dry. It is the time of year where you start thinking about which events to attend. Trying to second guess whether the weather will be good enough to warrant the trip - especially with the fuel costing so much!

One place you may like to add to your list is Weymouth. Not so much for the festival, which is on again, but for the Kite Society Convention. Full detail can be found on pages 14 and 15 but we feel that we have an excellent cross section of expert kite makers and fliers who will discuss all aspects of kite flying. Sports Kites, Buggy and other Traction, history of kites, kite workshops and so on. Plus it is inside—so the weather doesn't matter!

There is no need to register for the convention, just turn up on the day, unless you want the convention lunch or wish to partake in the limited space workshops - again details are on the convention pages.

We hope to see many of you at the convention - and bring your kite flying friends - you do not have to be members to attend.

Wishing you all a prosperous New Year and we will see you on the kite field somewhere.

Gill and Jon Bloom

**Copy date for the next issue is March 15th for the April 2001 issue. We welcome any kite related material in any format. Especially kite designs.**

### Front Cover

Three appliquéd kites by Olivier Reymond who will be presenting a talk at the Kite Society Convention in May.

*Whilst every effort 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 George Webster

Congratulations on the new format and also on the contents of issue 85.

I was particularly interested in Richard Synergy having broken the kite altitude record. Although, as you say, the old record was 'dodgy' as it may have been for a train it had stood for 100 years. I read his book 'Kiting to Record Altitudes' and kept wondering whether he ever found the kite that broke away. When you think that the delta he designed was the first single line kite that he had flown and it only flew stably when he forgot to clip in the stand-offs! The 1993 delta had 10 sq ft of sail so all was lightweight compared to the 270 sq ft 1999 monster. I'm sure he'll produce a book giving more detail - perhaps after he has beaten the 8 kite 31,995 record of 1919. The whole thing seems very 'hi-tec' compared to 78 year old Stormy Weathers using his \$2 foot powered winch in 1999 who got to 12,340ft before the line broke (Kitelines Winter 1999 - 2000).

Did others find it remarkable that the wind speeds on the day of his record did not simply get stronger with altitude but were lower at 9,000ft than at 6,000ft. Was this a problem with KARA in 1980? Incidentally I worked out from the tables in his book that 26 knots at 12,000ft is the equivalent of 21mph at ground level - still a fair wind for a delta.

Do you have information on recent attempts on the train record in Holland and France? In both cases I understand the line failed.

A convention sounds a good idea. I'd be happy to give a 'talk' (illustrated) on the origins of kites. Provisional title 'What was the name of that guy who invented the kite?' I would be interested in sessions on : Victorian kites (Paul Chapman?), Miniature kites, the kites of Phillippe Cotteceau, small soft kites.

For me the best never fail section of The Kiteflier is Roman Candle

### From Trevor Bottrell

I thought I would share my experience on holiday with everyone. (See the Poem on page 7) The kite in question was a NASA Wing. I have purchased a Flexifoil 4.9 (not for the fainthearted) but a kite that my wife loves to

fly. She is "useless" (her words) with a two line kite but has fallen in love with my traction "pull your arms out of their sockets" kite. We fly all different kites from small fighters to deltas and bigger and visit as many festivals as time and petrol will allow. We started in 1976 with a Peter Powell and have not looked back since.

### From Allan Pothecary

The third Sunday in each month is the Kennet Kite Fliers' get together at Newbury showground.

Quite cold and raining and beginning to think about packing up early when Carl Robertshaw turned up.

Apparently he was fed up with standing in a field on his own and fancied a bit of a change so our club chairman suggested he come down from London to join us - and he did!

He told me he hadn't flown for About 3/4 weeks and was getting very tetchy. I got a few good pointers on quads as I was the only one brave/stupid enough to stand there in the rain with him. Carl took a moment or two to get used to my 1.5 as he usually flies a Rev 1 but then I was treated to a dazzling display of control. The bit I don't like is when he hands you back the kite and stands and watches you - but where else are you going to get help like that? (Yeah OK Ron but it's a long way to San Diego).

When the rain stopped Dave, Glen, the two Duggies and I joined Carl in a team fly - What!? - absobloodylutely superb! Passers by were treated to some excellent moves as we surprised ourselves at what we could do (hope Carl didn't get too bored as it would be great if we could get him to do it again). The kites are drying out in the conservatory now.

NB The showground is a great place to fly and we have permission to use it on the designated days. Anyone is welcome to come along but just in case....please check with Dave at Kreative Kites first. Telephone 01635 528400. Email: kreativ.kites@argonet.co.uk.

## Recollections of the 2000 Season

I went to about a dozen kite festivals during the year, most of them the larger events where often I was involved in the commentary. My general impression was that organisers provided excellent shows both for the fliers and the public (some of them, as we know, become kitefliers).

Two trends which I think have emerged over the last year or so:

- a) Wider participation - particularly by children. I'm thinking of festivals which have a time for children to fly their workshop kites in the arena and, for example, Basingstoke which had children flying large black bats.
- b) 'Theming' kite displays eg Sky Stage at Portsmouth and Hackney and the Festival of the Sea at Bristol.

My only note of caution; at two festivals (neither using the well known and experienced workshop runners) I wasn't at all sure that the kites made would fly. Organisers - or someone - please check.

Best scenes of the season for me - in no particular order except no 1 gave me most buzz as it happened.

- 1 The launch of the Giant ??? kite at Portsmouth. Dodgy wind conditions but it just shook itself, roared up and stayed glued to the sky.

- 2 Tom and Maria Vinken and their paper miniature kites at Cleethorpes and Sunderland.
- 3 'Bristol's Best' - Martin Lester and Nick James at Bristol.
- 4 Rolf Zimmermanns Sea Horse and his other soft kites at Weymouth, Sunderland and Portsmouth.
- 5 The big black bats (Werner Steinmetzer?) being flown by children at Basingstoke.
- 6 The Mayor (of Brighton) totally fascinated by Jerry Swifts bear launching rig and launching Teds in the driving rain to an audience who were on their way home or had found an umbrella.
- 7 The aaaaaah from the crowd at Hackney as Malcolm Goodman's dragon went up in the 'Kites of the World' section
- 8 Anne Harris' Merlin spotlit at the Bristol night flight.
- 9 The Chinese dragons in the air at Sunderland.
- 10 Andrew Beatties Veronica flying off Salisbury Crags at Edinburgh.

Thanks to everyone for hours that were even better than flying my own deltas in a light wind on a sunny day.

**George Webster**

## Private Ads

### For Sale - Kite Collection

- Prism Flashlight inc. CD and lines (new) £60
- HQ Jam Session ventex £60
- HQ Maestrole (new) £50
- Zenith (C Matheson) £45
- Highly Strung 311 Sports 8' £50

- Flexifoil Stranger £50
- Speedwing (pulls hard) £45
- 2 Metre Rokkaku £35
- North Shore Radical VIP (new) £85
- Accro Racer Diamond and lines/WW2 fighter and single line £15

All kites in excellent condition (most as new)  
Contact John on Tel/Fax: 01270

661924

### For Sale:

- Flexifoil Original Buggy V.G.C. New Bearings £175
- Predator I 1m<sup>2</sup> Nylon inc Handles/Bag. Excellent Condition. £60
- Predator I 1.5m<sup>2</sup> Icarex inc Handles/Bag. Excellent Condition £100
- Spider 58 SPECIAL Polyester inc Lines/Handles plus Buggy Pod. 14 kite sizes in 1. £450. Very good beginner kite, excellent condition.

Contact Dave on 0121 429 5156

### For Sale:

- Top of the Line Team Stunt Kite £60.

Telephone Les on 01271 346904

### K.A.P.W.A. News for sale.

A complete set of Kite Aerial Photography Worldwide Association magazines in 'Good' condition and only a little marked with margin notes in a few copies.

Vol 0 No 0, October 1985 to Vol 8 No 4, December 1993 (33 issues), complete with all "Techniques" inserts and with 4 subsequent "Foundation News" - June 1994 to January 1996. Total weight 5.5kg. Price £30. (Collect or use Parcelforce in U.K.).

Telephone Maurice 01494 672947 (Bucks).

**Private ads are free to all our readers. All that is required is for the copy to be with us by the 15th of the month preceding publication.**

## Ken Knight Fire Appeal - Part 2

On Monday the 27th of November a small deputation, consisting of Pat and Ron Dell (appeal fund holders), with Dicky Nourse (appeal helper) and Harry Douglas (Chairman of Poole Kite Fliers) set off on an epic journey into deepest Somerset, in the floods & pouring rain.

We were on a mission - delighted and proud to represent the golden heart of the UK kite community.

We visited Kenny Knight's home just outside Castle Cary, to present him with a handsome cheque, accumulated by your generosity via cash donations and the amazing auction at the Southsea 2000 Festival.

We found him well, and coping with his current situation with a smile, as we would only expect of Kenny. He has now abandoned all thought of reconstructing his workshop, as it is well beyond repair, and would just be a waste of money.

He is now in the process of converting another trailer unit on his site into a workshop - as well as completing his living accommodation.

He was suitably gob smacked when we presented him with a cheque for **£2,435.46p** and said that the first thing he was going to buy was a new mattress for his bed, as we all know a good night's kip works wonders.

On behalf of Kenny we would once again like to thank you all for your generous donations, and for your support at the auction. We would also like to thank John Ogden for initiating the idea of the fund.

To give you some idea of the ferocity of the fire, the photo on the right shows the inside of the shell of his workshop building. The walls and steel ceiling beams look OK, but the asbestos roof needs professional removal (very nasty stuff) and simply **everything** was cremated - every tool in every drawer of every steel cupboard.



And here is one of the happy lad (slightly shocked, methinks) flanked by Pat & Ron Dell outside the door of his new abode.



Words cannot express how happy & proud we were to be there on behalf of all those wonderful, kind & generous people who did not hesitate to give from the heart.

If we were to start naming names and good deeds, we would be here for a VERY long time. You know who you

are and what you did. Golden hearts, the lot of you.

Pat and Ron Dell have a list of names, and a full account of all monies received and spent (mains wiring, switches & sockets had to be bought urgently).

We all hope Kenny will be able to take some time from his difficult and long-term building works, to come to some of next season's kite festivals. If anybody feels like lending a hand, we are sure he will be delighted to see you - just be sure to get good directions first!

God Bless You One And All - See you in the New Year

**Pat & Ron Dell, Dicky & Harry**

## The Lesson

Here I am on Dawlish Beach  
My birthday present under my arm  
I've bought myself a traction kite  
It won't do any harm.

I've flown kites now for many years  
And I still get quite a thrill  
To feel the wind upon my back  
And watch my kite soaring over the hill.

My new kites now got four lines  
A break from my normal two  
And I'm trying it out on an empty beach  
To see what it can do.

I started very careful  
It's only a gentle light breeze  
I assumed that my vast experience  
Would fly the thing with ease.

And then a gust from nowhere  
Hit my back and before I could moan  
This beautiful thing on the end of my line  
Took off with a mind of its own.

It dragged me through the sand  
It dragged me over the shale  
It pulled me towards open sea  
I felt my face go pale.

I've bruised my leg from knee to foot  
My new jeans are tattered and ripped  
I've got no skin on my elbow  
And all because I tripped.

I've learned a valuable lesson  
I won't forget in a hurry  
My kite can't drag me over shale any more  
I've bought myself a buggy!!!

**Trevor Bottrell (Nutter)**

## The Thingy Dome—Will it ever take off?

You know what it's like, the festival season has finished and it's time to get out that winter project, if you have one. Ever decisive, not, it was getting towards the end of November 99 and I still had not got to grips with anything, until one Saturday whilst scrounging coffee at Dave Mullin's store (Mullin Kites). Don't ask me how but I came out of the store, two coffees later, having talked myself into making a Millennium Dome kite.

The next couple of days, after several drawings and a few e-mails to Buro Happold, the Dome's Construction & Consulting Engineers for measurements and information, I then had the basics and some ideas on framework. The idea was to produce a scale model that was manageable (ish), appeal to others and above all, would take off, just like the real thing (Ha!).

Not having a Maths degree, the first problem was calculating the curvature of the roof and the shape of the segments (12 pcs) that made up the roof. Fortunately, a colleague at work relished little teasers like that. At the end of the day, the shape of the roof is a cap from a BIG ball, which has its centre point several hundred metres below the ground. With that thought in mind and the dimensions from the engineers he was soon able to whip up a table that would enable me to produce roof segments to any scale. The scale that I opted for was 100<sup>th</sup>. This would produce a dome that measured 3.6m in diameter with the 12 supporting (yellow) legs measuring 1m high, manageable (?).

So that I had some idea of final construction (frame/assembly) I first built a prototype dome at 500th scale model. Framing wasn't that difficult, being circular with 12 identical points around the perimeter enabled me to spar

the base like a clock face, and more importantly, provide tension points. The only brain storming issue was how to secure the uprights that were inconveniently positioned between the base spars. On the prototype this was achieved (thanks Dave Mullin) using a continuous piece of glass-fibre inserted in a sleeve and then arrow-nooks at the base of the uprights. On the larger scale model this method was not practical because of the requirement to dismantle it.

The answer, 12 pieces of 3mm solid carbon inserted in sleeves around the base and connected together using dihedrals. The outer wall of the real dome is a clear polycarbonate material, which transposed easily to Mylar on both of my constructions. In order to obtain a solid (3D) shape, I placed two vents in the sidewall at, about, the front of the kite, which would enable the kite to inflate. In addition, to avoid too much movement of the roof and assist inflation, I supported the roof with bridling from the uprights and 2mm carbon in sleeves through the roof panels, which were then located in edge-connectors on the base spars at the perimeter.

The prototype was completed in a couple of evenings and looked, amazingly, like a Millennium Dome.

It was at this point, just into December that I should have stopped! Too late, the local papers had got wind of my idea about building a Millennium Dome that, and here's the foolish bit, would be ready for the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2000. The race was on.

Well not so much as a race, just metre after metre and segment after segment of white ripstop. The worst part was space. The back bedroom that I used as a workroom did not lend itself to laying out this white elephant.

## The Thingy Dome—Will it ever take off?

Come to think of it, nowhere in the house did.

Once again, Dave Mullin to the rescue, "use my workshop" he says, brilliant. Having the space to lay out the kite, cutting machine for the spars and endless coffee, marvellous. There after the kite was know as the Mullin-nium Dome.

Being a kite, the next thing was to attach the stringy bits - bridling to the experts. At this point in the proceeding I declare without hesitation, I am no expert - come up with ideas, sew 'em and frame 'em but strings nah! My original thoughts on bridling the thing were to take the stress out of the spars, which would be trying to fold themselves backwards, a la Hexagon style/shaped kite. Having completed the bridling, the next ingredient was a good day to test-fly it. Good day in winter, in England?

Did we meet the New Years Day target, yes (ish) - construction and stringing were completed, however, light winds and drizzle on the day did not encourage one to leave the house. Suffice to say that a fine crisp Sunday arrived early in January so off we went to Dunstable Downs.

Much interest was shown from Joe Public whilst it was being assembled which takes about 45mins. The two-liner 'Dunstable' regulars came and went once I pointed out that it was (hopefully) a single string-er. As is often the case when you are trying your new kite, the winds are never ideal.

From very early on in the day it became apparent that getting this thing airborne, certainly as a single-liner was not going to be easy - for me. Due to its shape - curved top 'n flat bottom (aerofoil-ish) - when it was held in the wind the thing wanted to float. A bit like a circular Flexifoil. This meant, that in that attitude there was no stress on the base spars. Was this the way to go?

After several re-jigs of the bridling, my back was aching and so was my brain so we called it a day. The only amusing sight as when the thing caught the wind; it flipped on its back and did a marvellous impression of a twelve-legged table.

Maybe that's what they should do with the Dome at Greenwich, turn it over and use it as a twelve-legged heli-pad.

Observant people will notice that the kite has gone from a Dome, to a white elephant and now a thingy.

Further frigging of the rigging was not having results. May 2000 - Weymouth festival

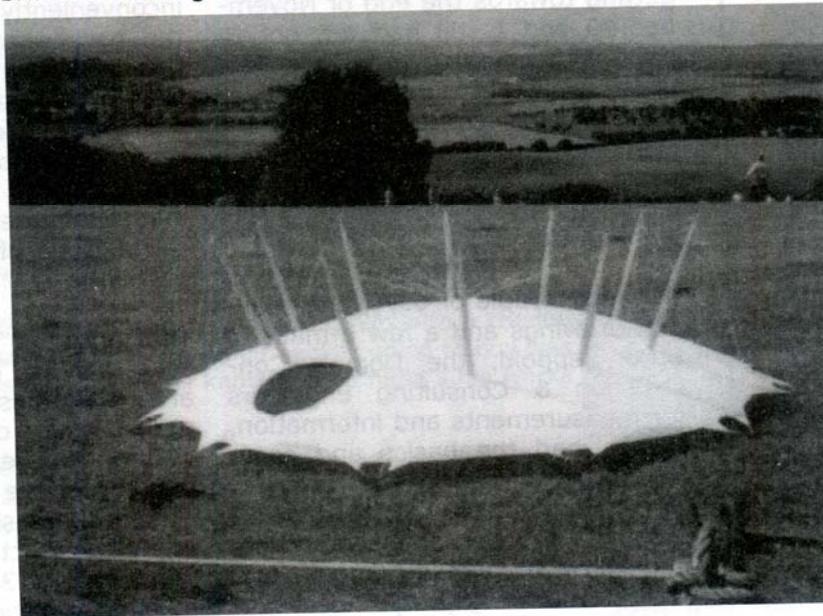
was upon us so even if the thing wouldn't fly it should attract some interest. Besides, 'Mad' John Eaton was going to be there and having just published an article in the Kiteflier in which he stated "bridled correctly anything will fly", what better opportunity would I have to get it up!

Well interest, certainly - fly, "would you like to phone a friend or ask the audience" nah!! That said, I must thank John E because he persevered for several hours. However, not to be outwitted, John later sent me a bridling diagram with the theory on his conclusions. That is this winters project.

The closest its been to flying was at Bristol. Peter Davies (WHKF) provided a sky-hook (mega delta) from which I attached a line to the top of the roof and then two lines were secured to the front to stabilise the thing.

Apart from that the thing has been a ground ornament at several festival. Watch out at Weymouth 2001, the bl...y thing will be airborne if I have to throw it like a Frisbee. Any thoughts on the thing would be welcome (bobc@hikites.freemove.co.uk), any thoughts on the Dome send to No. 10 or Peter Meddlesome.

**Bob Cruikshanks**



## Taiwan Fighter Kite Competition—Manjha Club

On the 19th August this year I accepted an invitation, along with Nicholas Tirard, to the first International Taipei Kite Festival on the 23rd and 24th September. I was then asked to put together a team of three more people. This was not easy, as there are some of you, whom I'm sure, would have liked to have taken part in this. My first choice was Ron Moody, who else, this man has done more for fighter kites than anybody, and this was his moment of glory. When I phoned to ask him if he would like to go I don't think he quite believed me. The other two guys I chose were Mike Harrison and Graham Jackson, both of whom do a great deal to promote fighter kite flying at all the festivals we attend.

For those of you who can remember, the petrol problem was at its height the very week we were due to leave for Taipei, and I was completely out of petrol, and becoming very worried I would not get to Heathrow to catch the plane, but I need not have worried, everything turned out just fine. In due course everybody arrived, except Mike, who had been held up in traffic. It was necessary to leave his ticket at the departure desk, but Mike being a seasoned traveller we had no worries on his behalf. In fact when we boarded the plane we found Mike already in his seat so the panic was over. The plane was to take us to Amsterdam, (as it was not possible to fly directly from London to Taipei,) Amsterdam to Bangkok and Bangkok to Taiwan. The flight arrangements were made by Lynne Jackson, and a grand job she made of it. I believe it took best part of a day on the Internet to arrange the tickets, as everyone knows making arrangements for this type of trip incorporates a lot of hard work.

The time schedule for the outward journey was approximately 16 hours. As you can imagine on our arrival we were all shattered, but nevertheless on our arrival at the hotel, after a quick wash and brush up, we went for a brief walk around the shops, mainly to find the local brew, and very good it was too. With our arms full of beer it was back to the hotel to meet all our old and new friends, which was quite a gathering. We spent the 20th and 21st in the hotel at Taipei as we felt we should acclimatise ourselves before the competition, which was to take place at Shiman, a small port on the south eastern coast of Taipei.

On the morning of the 22nd we were all gathered together and taken by coach to Shiman which is about an hour's drive from the hotel in Taipei, and there was to be three demonstration areas along the white sandy beach. We were then taken to where we were to stay, which was, much to our surprise a monastery high up in the mountains. The view from this point was spectacular, you could almost see half the island. The monastery was absolutely spotless, but sleeping on bare boards was not what we were used to so in the morning arrangements were made for us to stay at the hotel on the beach.

On the Saturday the 21st the competitions started in earnest, the weather was good and it was very hot. The host had gone to great lengths to make sure that we were comfortable as possible, awnings had been erected and a position was made for each team throughout the competitions. Fresh water was readily available, and meals were delivered as the competitions took place. The organisers must be congratulated for the first class job they made of organising the competition, and their care and consideration they gave us.

On the evening of the 23rd, after the competitions had been going all day, we were treated to a festival of food, a banquet in fact. A large area had been cordoned off and I think it must have been the most food I had ever seen in one place. The evening was very warm but there was always a cool wind blowing, without which the heat would have been unbearable. Ron took it into his head to go walkabouts, and it took us a little while to find him, but a good evening was had by all. Sunday the 24th was the final day, the British team were no longer in the running for the championship of the world, but there was still a chance for us to make our mark, and this exactly what we did, we came third in one of the tournaments.

I did not contribute to the winning of this competition, but left it to the others (I was having a few problems with my feet) and they did a very good job. The results of the whole competitions are set out below:

- 1) Single competition (60 participants from 10 countries) Champion Mr. So Chi Chia (Hong Kong), Second Mr Dodi (Indonesia), Third Mr. H Hok Subrata (Indonesia).
- 2) Tournament (3 to 5 people on one team for 5 kites total 12 teams). Champions Hong Kong, Second Singapore, Third UK.
- 3) Triple (gang fights, two groups fly 3 kites each to fight). Champions Hong Kong. Second Singapore. Third France.

On Monday 25th it was time to say goodbye to our old and new friends, as some of them were leaving directly from the hotel in Shiman that very evening, and some of us were going back to downtown Taipei for one more night. Throughout the following day the different teams departed. It was a time of constant goodbyes, until, sadly, it was our turn. It was a kite festival to remember, and we now had the long 17 hour journey home. I have been told by the organizers that the Taipei International Kite Festival will be held again next year, and we shall look forward to taking part - until we meet again Taipei.

**Mac Macleod**

## Trade News

**Vertical Visuals (Jilly Pelham)** has moved to Studio E, 1st Floor, 61 High Street, Hythe, Kent CT21 5AJ. Tel/Fax: 01303 266328.

**Windseekers** is a new shop recently opened at Staith Street, Wells-Next-the-Sea, Norfolk NR23 1AN. Tel: 01328 710718.  
www.windseekers.co.uk

**Powerkiteshop.** Recently launched their website at: www.powerkiteshop.com. Powerkiteshop intend to provide high quality innovative products with prompt delivery.

It is committed to providing the best in power kite equipment providing try-outs where possible plus training and advice for the first time and experienced flyer.

In addition to Kites, Buggies and Surfboards, new products are available including Street Flyers, Kheo Mountainboards, also the Nexus and the new loose unit kiteboard from Flexifoil.

The site will be constantly updated and has e-mail and a messageboard provided for viewer and customer needs and input. Powerkiteshop also provides power kite and buggy training.

Powerkiteshop,  
mJohn AKA John Eaton  
51 Longacres  
Hednesford  
Cannock  
Staffs  
WS12 5HT  
Tel. 01543 87 87 09  
Flying Site 07968 499578  
info@powerkiteshop.com

## Inflight - Press Release

Following two very successful years, Inflight is able to expand its activities and range of products. and we have invested in new CAD software, drawing and cutting equipment. Using these new facilities and our design and manufacturing skills, honed over the past ten years, we are able to offer a wider range of outdoor display products.

Many of you will have already seen our large inflatable kites - clowns, whales and frogs at festivals across Britain and Europe, and possibly our fan inflated sculptures - Jester, Eskimo & Frankenstein - adding colour, enjoyment and interest to many events. More designs will be available for purchase or hire in the coming year.

Additionally our manufacture now includes a new type of display - sculptured sky tubes. Sky tubes are long sculptured windsocks, mounted vertically on a very powerful

fan, but open at the top - regularly seen at football matches and rock music festivals. As they fill with air, they dance and move in the wind, adding an exciting dynamic to otherwise static displays. We are able to offer custom manufacture and fan hire.

By adding sky tubes to our range of display kites, banners, flags, windsocks and large inflatables, Inflight is able to provide almost all your outdoor display needs. If you are involved in presenting a kite or other outdoor festival this year and are looking for new, colourful and crowd pleasing attractions, we are sure we can help.

Fuller information of all our products - styles, manufacture and hire charges is available on our two websites - www.inflightkites.co.uk and www.skynoasoars.co.uk or you can telephone us on 01724-280307

**Jim Rowlands**

## Dunstable Kites - A Reply

Well, well here we go again kite traders bitching about each other. What's new? It happens all the time. No doubt we have been got at on more than one occasion in the past ten years, so what - whilst they are talking about us they are leaving someone else alone. We have broad shoulders, we can take it. I always say if you can't take the heat get out of the kitchen. There are many kite festivals we do not get invited to, perhaps its because the festival organisers don't like us or the festival is too small to support many traders or they have a set number of traders who attend that are local to the event, good luck to them, it is the festival organisers who choose the traders no one has a divine right to attend. As a kite trader we are in a very enviable position of doing a job that we enjoy, all right you kite flyers drive a hard bargain sometimes, we have learnt to accept this, anyway you kite flyers would not be happy if you didn't have a haggle it's all part of the fun.

Now its my turn to have a whinge. Has anybody out there in trader land heard of customer service? It means stand by the products you sell, if little Johnny says his kite won't fly then show him how to fly it, don't send him over to us because you're too busy, carry spares for the range of kites you sell. Don't get me wrong we don't mind you sending them over to us, we never turn anybody away & we will help if we can, but remember, if Johnny wants to buy his next kite who's he going to buy it from? Certainly not from "I'm too busy or can't be bothered" - think about it.

Well that's my two pennies for what it's worth. No doubt I've upset someone & won't get invited to any more festivals next year. Best wishes from a happy kite trader who likes what he does.

**Chris Woods (Dunstable Kites)**

### Hunstanton Kite and Country Fair - September 10th

Held at the Smithdon School Fields. Kites and classic cars drew huge crowds at the Hunstanton 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Kite and Country Fair on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September.

Perfect weather kept all the kitefliers and an estimated 3000 visitors happy with wall to wall sunshine and plenty of breeze.

Sky Divers and Team Spectrum introduced the spectators to formation flying to music while Nigel with his large stack of Flexis was dragged across the arena in spectacular style. Team Adrenalize lifted their man 30' into the air with a huge stack of Flexifoils, followed by Stafford Wallace who gave a great display of fighting kites with pinpoint accuracy, capturing balloons in flight and bringing them down to ground. John Arnott flew a Revolution to music and a three kite display by myself with my own designed kites in a six minute display, with three refuels and star bursts during the sequence. Parachuting Teds continued all day in the breeze by the Thorpe Kite Fliers, and a very colourful display of two stacks of Peter Powell type stunters with streamer tails and a sweet drop courtesy of the Great Ouse Kite Fliers.

Our thanks to all the kitefliers, teams, the Great Ouse and Thorpe kitefliers for their support and to Geoff Oval our P.A. for what was a 'PERFECT DAY'.

**Bryan Cantle**

### Edinburgh Kite Carnival—30th September & 1st October

This was the third Edinburgh Kite Festival organised by Miles Ford of Wind Things (the local kite store) and sponsored by Edinburgh Council as part of its Festival of the Environment.

The site is as spectacular as any I've ever seen. It is in the valley between Holyrood Palace (200m away) and Arthurs Seat (250m high) with the Salisbury Crags nearest and with the Royal Mile and Edinburgh Castle as one horizon.

There is plenty of space. However, since the site is owned by Historic Scotland (it is in Holyrood Park) there is an embargo on anything being sold. Not only does this cramp the style of Wind Things, it means that you cannot buy a hot drink, cold drink, hot dog, cold dog or anything at all - this doesn't discourage families making a day of it.

The hardworking kite fliers included my old friend Kay Coss (a.k.a. Kite Club of Scotland), the Robertshaw brothers, a strong contingent from the North East Kite Fliers, the Swifts, several West Coast Fliers and Andrew Beattie.

As a result there were some great kites on display:-

- Veronica the giant Peter Lynn Octopus
- Carl Robertshaws big red foil
- MKF's George Peters kites shown by the Swifts
- Jock Walkers Paintbrush and Paintcan together with the Canadian who designed the originals and bought them over last year
- Some of Martin Lester's 'big and soft'
- Two great Genkis by the Dutch guy in KCOS (sorry I don't know your name)
- Pauline Taylor's unique 'Stone Painted' deltas and her starbirds
- John Dobson's collection of contemporary kites

However, I've written 'hardworking' kitefliers and 'on display' because this was the festival which had everything except the wind. On Saturday we managed the sprint up into the mists and then basically no real wind until 5pm. On Sunday very

similar but sunny.

The only demos which worked were by Stafford Wallace (must be the name) who got what wind there was on both days and duly retrieved balloons and kites to the amazement of a small group of bystanders on Saturday and a fair crowd on Sunday. The Robertshaws bravely completed an Evolver demo only by stepping through the arena tapes and travelling another 150m in the direction of Portobello.

I've never seen such a hardworking group of kitefliers and by dint of running the kites they managed to keep some sort of show going for most of Sunday afternoon. But, however hard KCOS tried they couldn't get enough lift for teddy-bear dropping and one of my memories is looking at a crowd where 1 in 4 seemed to be holding a ted (having been promised a drop by Saturdays roadshow).

Some noteworthy performances were:-

- Womens 400m pursued by George Peters kite: Carolyn Swift (with special mention to Hilary Wallace)
- Synchronised backward walking: Robertshaw brothers
- Tug of war team: Andrew Beattie and helpers vs Veronica
- Patience and good humour: Malcolm Goodman - who having tried twice to pull up his 150 cell dragon into the wind realised he'd have to turn 180 degrees to pull it towards the crowd
- Wing Walking: Miles Ford

We gave up at 4:30 and were just packing up when we looked up to see Andrew Beatties Veronica flying off the top of Salisbury Crags. I don't know how many had helped him and I know that 20 minutes later the kite was in the heather - but it was a great ending.

**George Webster**

# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The Kite Society of Great Britain was founded in 1979 and, since then, has grown to be recognised as the leading organisation for kite flying in Great Britain with over 3500 members worldwide.

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

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

More information about The Kite Society, U.K. based kite groups, kite traders and kite events is available via the internet at <http://www.thekitesociety.org.uk>

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

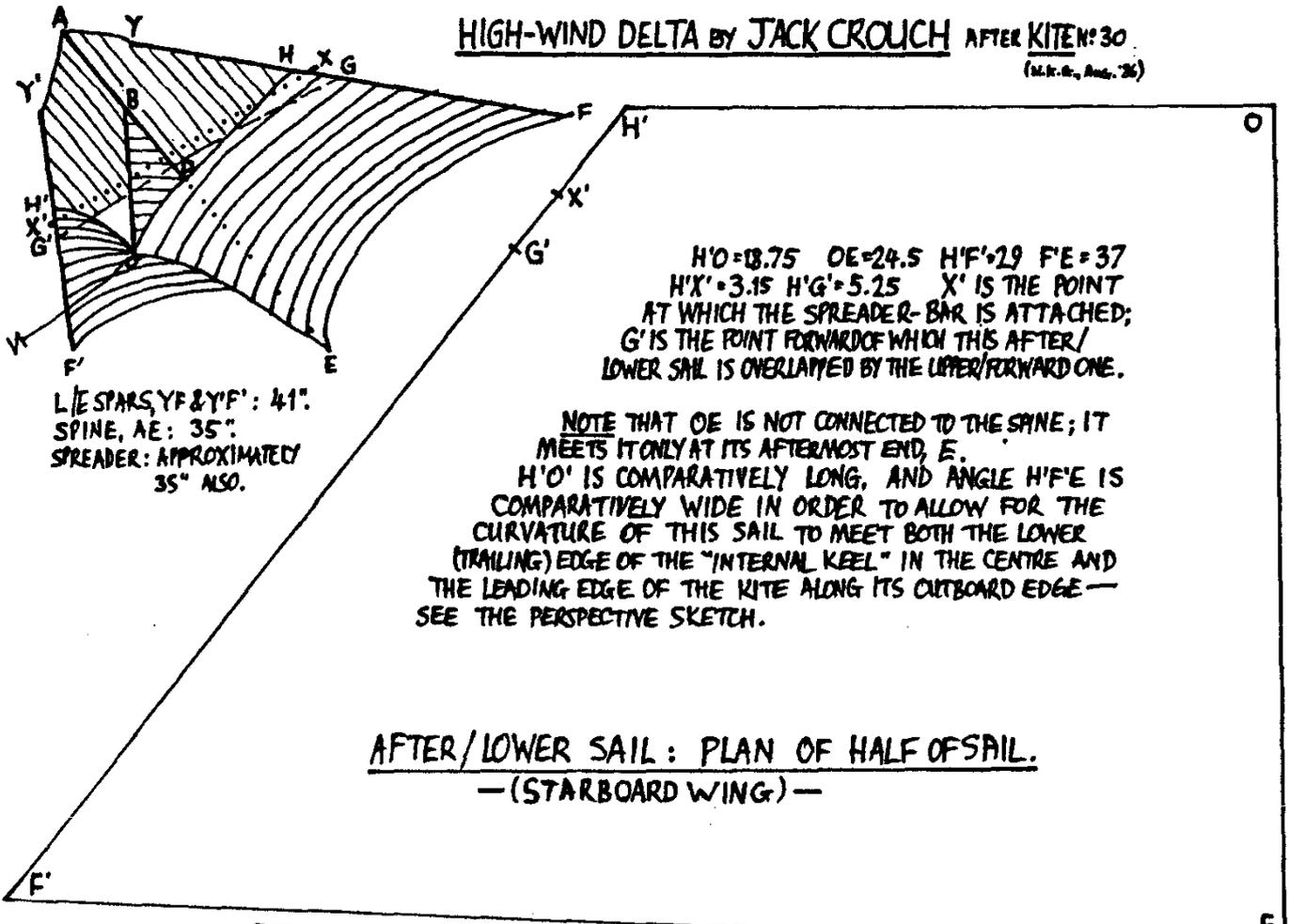
If you wish to join The Kite Society please fill in the form below and send it, with your payment, to the address shown. All cheques, postal orders and money orders should be made payable to '**The Kite Society**' and, for overseas members, should be drawable in the U.K. and be in sterling.

Membership Type	Fee
Individual	£10.00
Family - all members in the same household.	£11.00
O.A.P.	£8.00
O.A.P. - Family (Husband & Wife)	£9.00
Overseas - Europe and Surface Mail	£12.00
Overseas - Airmail	£16.00

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

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

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



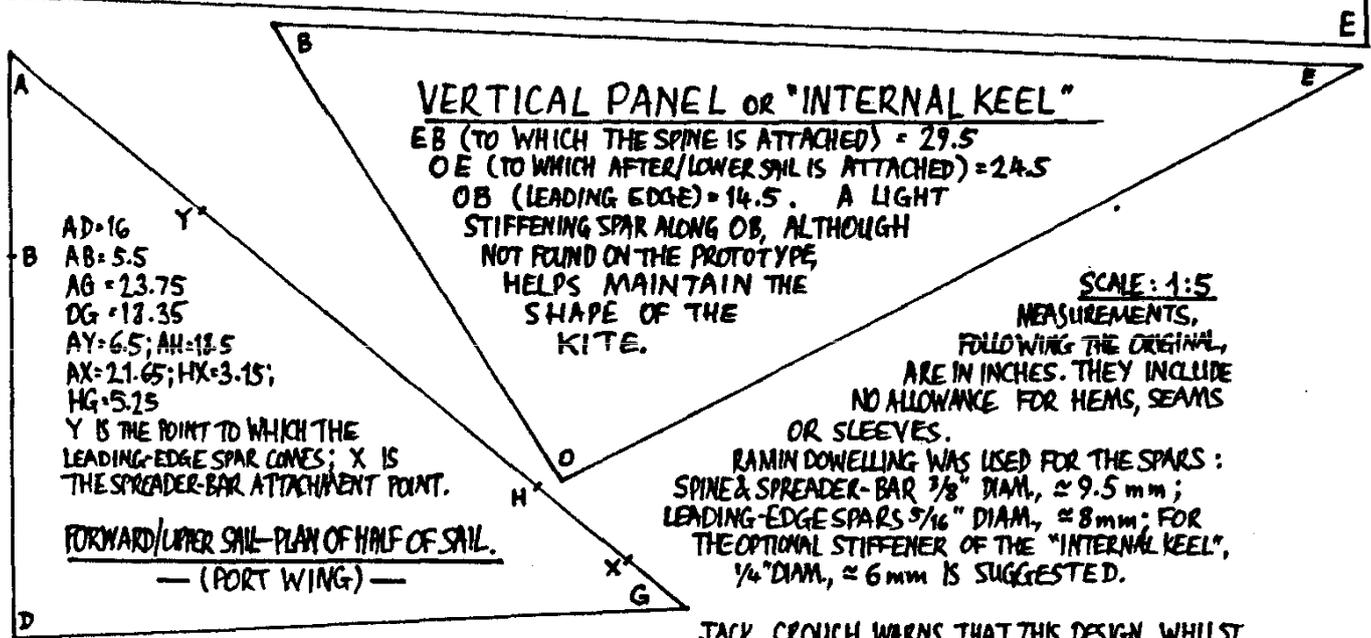
HIGH-WIND DELTA BY JACK CROUCH AFTER KITE#30  
(N.Z. A., Aug. '86)

L/E SPARS, YF & Y'F': 41"  
SPINE, AE: 35"  
SPREADER: APPROXIMATED  
35" ALSO.

H'O = 18.75 OE = 24.5 H'F' = 29 F'E = 37  
H'X' = 3.15 H'G' = 5.25 X' IS THE POINT  
AT WHICH THE SPREADER-BAR IS ATTACHED;  
G' IS THE POINT FORWARD OF WHICH THIS AFTER/  
LOWER SAIL IS OVERLAPPED BY THE UPPER/FORWARD ONE.

NOTE THAT OE IS NOT CONNECTED TO THE SPINE; IT  
MEETS IT ONLY AT ITS AFTERMOST END, E.  
H'O IS COMPARATIVELY LONG, AND ANGLE H'F'E IS  
COMPARATIVELY WIDE IN ORDER TO ALLOW FOR THE  
CURVATURE OF THIS SAIL TO MEET BOTH THE LOWER  
(TRAILING) EDGE OF THE "INTERNAL KEEL" IN THE CENTRE AND  
THE LEADING EDGE OF THE KITE ALONG ITS OUTBOARD EDGE —  
SEE THE PERSPECTIVE SKETCH.

AFTER/LOWER SAIL: PLAN OF HALF OF SAIL.  
— (STARBOARD WING) —



VERTICAL PANEL OR "INTERNAL KEEL"

EB (TO WHICH THE SPINE IS ATTACHED) = 29.5  
OE (TO WHICH AFTER/LOWER SAIL IS ATTACHED) = 24.5  
OB (LEADING EDGE) = 14.5. A LIGHT  
STIFFENING SPAR ALONG OB, ALTHOUGH  
NOT FOUND ON THE PROTOTYPE,  
HELPS MAINTAIN THE  
SHAPE OF THE  
KITE.

AD = 16  
AB = 5.5  
AG = 23.75  
DG = 18.35  
AY = 6.5; AH = 13.5  
AX = 21.65; HX = 3.15;  
HG = 5.25

Y IS THE POINT TO WHICH THE  
LEADING-EDGE SPAR COMES; X IS  
THE SPREADER-BAR ATTACHMENT POINT.

FORWARD/UPPER SAIL-PLAN OF HALF OF SAIL.  
— (PORT WING) —

SCALE: 1:5

MEASUREMENTS,  
FOLLOWING THE ORIGINAL,  
ARE IN INCHES. THEY INCLUDE  
NO ALLOWANCE FOR HEMS, SEAMS  
OR SLEEVES.

RAMIN DOWELLING WAS USED FOR THE SPARS:  
SPINE & SPREADER-BAR 3/8" DIAM., ≈ 9.5 mm;  
LEADING-EDGE SPARS 5/16" DIAM., ≈ 8 mm; FOR  
THE OPTIONAL STIFFENER OF THE "INTERNAL KEEL",  
1/4" DIAM., ≈ 6 mm IS SUGGESTED.

JACK CROUCH WARNS THAT THIS DESIGN, WHILST  
STABLE IN THE STEADIER WIND FOUND AT A REASONABLE ALTITUDE,  
IS PARTICULARLY LIKELY TO BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY GROUND  
TURBULENCE, SO A HIGH-START LAUNCH IS ADVISED.

## The Kite Society Convention, Weymouth - 5th May

The Kite Society will be holding a convention at Weymouth in conjunction with the International Beach Kite Festival. The convention is taking place on Saturday 5th of May with the Kite Festival taking place on 6th and 7th of May. There will be a number of international kitefliers at Weymouth attending both the convention and the festival.

The convention will be held at the Pavilion complex which is located at one end of the beach at Weymouth. We will be using a number of the rooms together with the theatre for both workshops and talks.

The convention is **free** and open to anyone who wishes to attend. Pre-registration is NOT required unless you require lunch or wish to attend the limited number workshops. A buffet lunch of sandwiches, sausage rolls, vol-au-vents etc is available for £6.00 per person (£4.00 for children under 12) but this must be pre-booked and fully paid before 14th April using the form below.

The day will start at 10:00am and be split into a number of workshops and talks as at previous conventions. We have the following presentations/workshops.

**George Webster**, well known kite commentator and collector of kites: **"The Origins of Kites or What was the name of the guy who invented kites?"** A brief history of the origin of kites.

**Dan Leigh**, famed for his Delta kite designs: **"Design Considerations"**. Dan will discuss such items as his re-design of the Richard Synergy Delta wings.

**Paul Chapman**, particularly known for his expertise in historic kites: **"Dipping Into Kite Literature"**. Highlights from his private collection of 650 plus kite related books dating back to 1799.

**Nicolas Wadsworth**, miniature kite expert and kite designer: **"Why won't it Fly? The stability of single line kites"**.

**Janneke Groen**, famous for her Sode kites Janneke is a well known kitemaker from Holland. **"Fun with colour and a mini-kite as dessert"**. This two hour workshop will take place in the afternoon and participants will make a miniature kite and investigate playing with colour design. There is a maximum of 20

people and pre-booking is essential using the form below. There will be a charge of approximately £5 for the materials payable on the day. Participants should bring - pencil, ruler, scissors, knife, cutting mat or a piece of thick cardboard, craft knife, pva-glue and gluestick.

**Olivier Reymond**, from Switzerland is known for his appliquéd kites decorated with human faces inspired by Lichtenstein and Nagel. His kites have been exhibited in many parts of Europe. **"Eyes, faces, comics and kites: why and how to mix them"**. Olivier will describe his techniques with examples of his kites.

**The Drachen Foundation**, based in America the Foundation is a non profit organisation aimed at increasing the knowledge of kites worldwide. It has an extensive archive of information particularly the Cody and Jalbert collection. This is the first time that the Drachen Foundation has presented this material in the U.K. **Ali Fujino** (Drachen Foundation Administrator) will be giving a short presentation of the aims and works of the Foundation and will preside over a **"Cody Open House"** with **Jean Roberts** (expert on Cody and his life) and others. This will take the form of posters, exhibition panels, photos, books slides etc. and provide the opportunity to discuss and ask questions about Cody and his life.

There will also be a **"Paper Wings"** kite making workshop in the morning with **Martin Lester** using paper and wood/bamboo as materials for building kites. The object of the workshop is to get people creating in a different materials. Numbers are limited so pre-booking is required. See the form below.

**Francesca Caton**, for several years, Francesca worked professionally for a UK promotional company designing and making giant advertising inflatables. She helped them to become one of the market leaders in Europe and the Middle East. For the last few years she has been adapting her skills to the design of wind inflatables: **"Inflated Aspirations - Getting Started with Inflatables"** In her lecture, Francesca will explain her methods of translating any (well, almost any!) three dimensional object into an inflatable. In particular, she will describe the techniques for creating pattern pieces and ensuring that the inflated shape is a faithful reproduction of the

## The Kite Society Convention, Weymouth - 5th May

original object. At the end of the lecture, you will be armed with the basic knowledge to enable you to make your own inflatable objects.

**The British Buggy Club** and **S.T.A.C.K. (UK)** will give talks on various aspects of their respective areas of kiteflying. We are still awaiting full details of the subjects.

The timetable and final list of presentations is not yet finalised but as you can see we have a wide range of talks and workshops for you to attend. The full timetable will be published in the April issue and will also be available on the web site when finalised.

Space is available for any individual who wishes to display kite related articles for sale or swap. This is available to members only and NOT registered traders. There is no charge for this, however, an item for the auction would be appreciated. No booking is necessary for this - just turn up. Space is also available to any clubs and groups who wish to display information about themselves. Again this is free of charge.

The talks and workshops will end at around

5:00pm in time for the evening events.

As part of the kite festival events there will be a civic reception on the Saturday evening. This will be followed by the Kite Society Convention Auction to which everyone is invited to attend - you don't have to register or attend the convention just come along around 9:00pm. Of course we can't have an auction without items to sell - so this is the point where we ask for donations. All monies raised will be used for this and future conventions. The auctioneers this year will be both Andy King and George Webster.

For further information or questions—or even to volunteer to help please either write to the address below or email [convention@thekitesociety.org.uk](mailto:convention@thekitesociety.org.uk).

See you there.

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

Tel/Fax: 01206 271489

---

### Booking Form (use if lunch or pre-booked workshop required)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

If you require lunch then please fill in the details below indicating the number of adult and children lunches and return this form to the address above with cheques made payable to The Kite Society Convention.

**Lunch** Adult@£6 No: \_\_\_\_\_ Children@£4 No: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

To pre-book the limited space workshops please indicate below the number of people who wish to actively participate in the workshop.

#### Workshops

Janneke Groen Number Required: \_\_\_\_\_

Martin Lester Number Required: \_\_\_\_\_

## Weymouth International Beach Kite Festival - 6th & 7th May

The 11th Weymouth International Beach Kite Festival will this year be held on Sunday 6th and Monday 7th May. Saturday 5th May is reserved as a free flying day with no organised events taking place but the beach is free to be used for flying. Saturday is also the Kite Society Convention day - see elsewhere for details. As usual a number of overseas visitors will be there flying their kites as well as many UK based kitefliers.

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

Saturday evening has the usual Civic Reception with the Mayor plus, as the convention is being held, an auction to raise funds. There will be basket meals and light snacks available for those who want to eat and a pay bar. Everyone is welcome to come along to chat and to attend the auction - entry is free! The Weymouth Pavilion from 7:30pm. The bar will be open until 11:00pm.

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

There have been a number of complaints in the past about the restricted space available to fly. To help maximise the space please do not set up your "camp" in the middle of the marked arenas as you will only be in the way - use the perimeter. Please also remember that the tide goes out—so you may end up in the middle if you start on the edge of the water!

Also, if you find non-kitefliers in the marked arenas or the wrong type of kite and they are causing an obstruction politely ask them to move. If this does not succeed then please inform us at the control bus as we can have Beach Control move them. Stewarding is provided by the council but it is necessary to point out infringements as they are not an

unlimited resource. Don't leave it until after the event to complain as it is a bit late to do anything!

### Accommodation

Accommodation can be booked via one of the following routes: Accommodation Line on 01305 785747. The Weymouth web site at <http://www.weymouth.gov.uk>.

Email: [tourism@wpbc.weymouth.gov.uk](mailto:tourism@wpbc.weymouth.gov.uk). Reservations can be made for all classes of accommodation including caravan and camping.

### Car Parking

Once again there is free parking available but space is limited. Once the tickets have gone we cannot get any more. Tickets are valid for three days, Saturday, Sunday and Monday. One ticket per car for all days.

The car park situated behind the Pavilion. Please send your request to the address below and remember to enclose a stamped addressed envelope as passes will NOT be sent without one.

### Traders

Kite traders are very welcome to attend and ply their wares. The charge structure has changed this year.

Up to 15ft (4.5m) frontage 3 days £150, 1 or 2 days £125.

Over 15ft (4.5m) frontage 3 days £180, 1 or 2 days £155.

Payment and booking must be advance and should be sent to the address below. Please make all cheques payable to the Kite Society. Note that only 15 sites are available so book early.

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

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

**BEFORE the 14th April. Please remember to enclose a Stamped addressed envelope.**

## One Sky One World—Results 2000

Correlated by **Jim Cronin**. Visit his web site for more information about One Sky One World [www.jims-place.org.uk](http://www.jims-place.org.uk).

Flying Site	Organised By:	No of Kites	No of People
North Beach, Lowestoft, Suffolk	Peter Lang	1	1
Rougham Airfield, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk	Suffolk Kite Flyers / Thorpe Kite Club	68	41
Evesham Country Park, Evesham, Worcs	Philip Roberts	73	22
Sundorne Playing Fields, Shrewsbury	Tony Slater	904	32
Kite Workshop, Arboretum Park, Rosehill, Derby	Julie White	19	19
Baiter Park, Poole, Dorset	Poole Kite Flyers	48	27
Hengistbury Head nr Bournemouth	n/a	4	4
Winborne St Giles, Dorset	n/a	2	2
Barbury Castle	White Horse Kite Fliers	>200	400
Devil's Dyke	Brighton Kite Fliers	106	35
Ashton Court, Bristol	Avon Kite Flyers	n/a	42
Minchinhampton Common	Golden Valley Kitefliers	24	30
Hertford Station Sports Pitch - that's in Germany, but those attending were basically British, mostly children of British Forces personnel - so it counts as a "UK" event on my site!	Roger Sewell	287	n/a

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**Email: [gill@skyblooms.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:gill@skyblooms.freeserve.co.uk)**  
**Http://www.skyblooms.**



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[www.macfighterkites.co.uk](http://www.macfighterkites.co.uk)

## Kite Records

With reference to my letter published in the July issue. Kites are now back in favour with the Guinness Book of Records 2001. The following information is shown:

**Fastest Kite Speed.** On 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1989 Peter Di Giacomo flew a kite at a record speed of 193Km/H (120 mph) at Ocean City, Maryland, U.S.A.

**Longest Kite Flight.** From 21<sup>st</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> August 1982 a team from Edmunds Community College (USA) led by Harry Osborne flew a kite for a record time of 180 hours 17 minutes at Long Beach, Washington State, U.S.A.

**Longest Kite Flown.** On 18<sup>th</sup> November 1990 Michel Trouillet flew a 1,034.5 m (3,394 feet) kite at Nines, France.

**David Webster**

## Brighton Kite Festival

Please note that the dates have to the 21st and 22nd July (previously 7th and 8th July).

Thought you might like to take a look at the revised Brighton Kite Festival website at: <http://www.whizzieworld.free-online.co.uk> ~ which has just been updated with info re the 2001 Fest plus those long awaited 'Photo Galleries' pages... you may even be in there somewhere!

## Kite Collection - Part 2

Further to the article on page 12 of the October issue of The Kiteflier, I am very pleased to tell you all that Avon Kite Flyers are now the proud owners of Les Symons' kite collection.

We hope to make these kites available for all to fly at our Club Fly-Ins, which are held on the first Sunday of every month at Ashton Court in Bristol, (the Bristol Kite Festival site - everyone welcome!) and at whichever Festivals we manage to carry them all to.

There are loads of kites, so we

do need you all to come along and fly them!

Les has asked me to thank everyone who "applied" for his kite collection, I think he was rather pleased by all the interest shown!

So a great big "Thank You" to Les for donating the kites to the kiting community (please do feel free to come and help us fly them all) and also to the Kite Society for facilitating the whole deal.

David Johnson, Avon Kite Flyers

## Group News

**Northern Kite Group.** Will you please note and circulate, a change of secretary at the NKG. New Sec; Carole Foreshaw. Hallgarth, Airton, Nr. Skipton. N.Yorks BQ23 4AQ. Phone 01729 -830171 - Email; paul-forshaw@talk21.com

**Midlands Kite Fliers.** These new officers were voted in at our recent AGM.

Email address for MKF stays the same: [mkf@mkf.org.uk](mailto:mkf@mkf.org.uk)  
website: [www.mkf.org.uk](http://www.mkf.org.uk)

Main contact addresses are:

**GENERAL SECRETARY:** Jerry Swift  
Howardian View, Great Barugh, Malton, North Yorks, YO17 6UZ.  
Tel: 01653 668 157  
E-mail: [Jerry@mkf.org.uk](mailto:Jerry@mkf.org.uk)

**CHAIRMAN.** Jim Cronin, 72 Addison Road, Radford, Coventry, West Midlands, CV6 2JN.  
Tel: 02476 335 872  
Email: [jim@mkf.org.uk](mailto:jim@mkf.org.uk)

**MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY.** John Larson, 227 Albert Road, Sheffield, S8 9QY  
Tel: 0114 255 3410

E-mail: [John@mkf.org.uk](mailto:John@mkf.org.uk)

**TREASURER.** Carolyn Swift, Howardian View, Great Barugh, Malton, North Yorks, YO17 6UZ.  
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E-mail: [Carolyn@mkf.org.uk](mailto:Carolyn@mkf.org.uk)

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**EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR.** Alan Bill 90 Weybourne Road, Great Barr, Birmingham, West Midlands B44 9DE  
Tel: 0121 360 1955

**WEBSITE MANAGER.** Julie White, 4 Hermitage Court, Oakwood, Derby, DE21 2LG.  
Tel: 01332 669203  
E-mail: [julie@mkf.org.uk](mailto:julie@mkf.org.uk)

**North West Sports and Power Kite Group.** Just a note to inform you of a new group in the NW of UK. See website for more info.

<http://www.ste-aspey.freemove.co.uk/northwes.htm> Please join if it sounds like your "cup of tea".

## A Little Heralded French Kite Pioneer

*This article first appeared in The Drachen Foundation Kite Journal No 5, Summer 2000 and reproduced here with permission of both the Drachen Foundation and the author Jean Le Cornu.*

*Editors Note: Joseph LeCornu was among the leading pioneers of flight in France at the turn of the 19th century. The following is a brief biography of him by a Great-Grand Nephew, who used the memoirs of three members of his family as well as his own extensive research to put together this study. Note that while the family spelled its name Le Cornu (with a space between the words) from the 17th century on, a registration error at his birth gave Joseph LeCornu a one word name. A relative changed the family name back to the tradition two word Le Cornu in 1910, but since this was at the close of Joseph LeCornu's kiting career it seems appropriate to use the spelling LeCornu himself used in his lifetime.*

Joseph Louis LeCornu was born in Caen, Normandy, on March 1864, the seventh of eight children. His father was a lace maker by trade. Following the father's death in 1878 when LeCornu was 14, he and his seven siblings were raised by their mother.

An early achiever, LeCornu received a prize in philosophy from his Lycee in Caen at age 9 and four years later was included in a delegation from his school sent to Paris to attend the burial of writer Victor Hugo. The following year he was admitted to L'Ecole Centrales des Arts et Manufactures.

A good student if a bit unruly, LeCornu was disciplined once for causing a disturbance in the dining hall, a second time "for having taken part in a noisy demonstration against freshmen."

During a seaside holiday at St. Aubin sur Mer, he helped organize torchlight tattoos and, aided by a brother, rescued a drowning swimmer. The brothers were awarded a medal by the French navy.

LeCornu did a great deal of writing as a student, good preparation for the long, excellent aeronautical research reports he would duly pen.

Graduating from university in 1888 at age 24 with a degree in civil engineering, LeCornu did mandatory military service in Paris and then

joined the National Electricity Company, of which he eventually became a significant official.

He married MarieTherese Hattersley in 1891 after she converted from Protestantism to his Catholicism. They were never to have children.

After a training period, LeCornu was assigned by the electrical monopoly to his home town, Caen, where he organized a regional electric firm, the soon to be powerful Electricity Company of Caen. Creating the firm and then building its first factory overlooking the city's fort, LeCornu became known as city's "father of electricity." Because of endemic French Conservatism, the work was initially difficult. Citizens were unhappy with the new and revolutionary source of power. They objected to overhead wiring and to unsightly electric poles, clinging to tried and true gas for their power needs

Little by little, though, electricity made headway in Caen and by 1895 there were 3,000 lights in the city; four years later there were 13,000.

After a good period of development, the electric firm eventually ran into trouble when construction debts and operating costs combined to preclude payment of dividends to bond holders. A revolt followed, with complicated political overtones, and LeCornu was fired in 1904 from the firm he had organized and overseen with such apparent success. His investment in a brother's hotel was wiped out at the same time and LeCornu for the moment faced a bleak financial future.

Having become deeply involved in city politics during his battles on behalf of the power firm, LeCornu took the job of secretary-general of the Caen town council and applied his organizing skills and intelligence to this administrative post. LeCornu held the job for four years until ousted by rival politicians. He lost not only the post but also his lovely government lodging within the town hall, having then to settle in a single room in Caen. His work did not go unheralded, however, since he was awarded a medal for his services

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to the city.

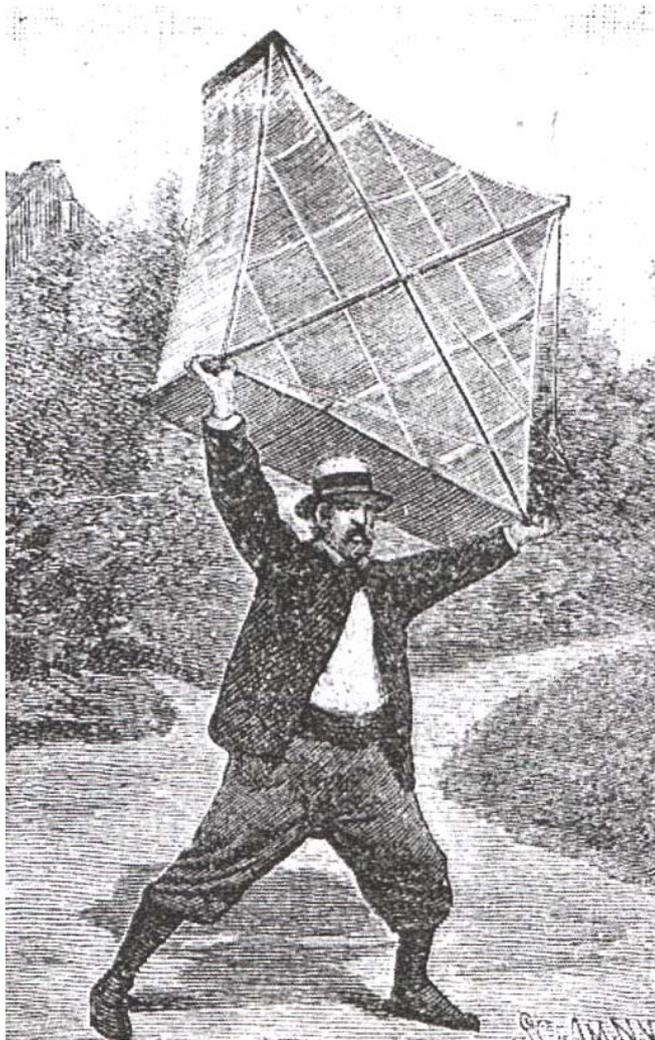
That same year LeCornu assumed the mayor ship of the nearby town of Cambes, a largely ceremonial post, and held it until his death. LeCornu maintained a country home near Cambes. Using political connections, he soon obtained an excellent job in the coal industry.

The extensive travel required by the work did not faze LeCornu because, starting around 1900, he had begun driving his own car. His first was a Bollee, which broke down often. LeCornu found his engineering skills invaluable in keeping his mobile. LeCornu's autos over the years ran to a Dion, Zebra, Amilcar, Peugeot and finally a Rosengaert. He and his wife were also pioneers with the new two-wheeled bicycles, going out for long rides together.

LeCornu had a pioneering spirit from the beginning. In 1887 while still at school, he attended a balloon launch in Caen. When a prospective passenger fainted at the last minute, LeCornu replaced him and sailed away on Captain Mangin's Siege de Paris, beaming with joy and shouting to one of his brothers: "Tell Mum I'm leaving." He subsequently published a magazine account on this joyful trip.

That same year, LeCornu joined the French Aerial Navigation Society and attended meetings of the group for many years, eventually becoming president of the organization that grew out of this society, the French League of Kites, a federal association that supported experimental studies.

In 1907, LeCornu had another opportunity to



*Joseph LeCornu lofts his 'Waffle' Kite*

fly in a balloon in Caen. His wife permitted him to make the trip only if she were taken along. She was.

Having been intrigued by aeronautics, and particularly kites, since childhood, LeCornu by 1897 had invented a "shelf" or "ladder" kite, composed of three rectangular cells placed one above the other. His materials were basic: light wood for the frames, light cotton or silk cloth for the sails, glue, ties made of waxed string. But his construction technique was ingenious.

In 1900, LeCornu won a first prize at the Worlds Fair in Paris with an multi-cellular oblique kite, the famous Gauffre de LeCornu (The LeCornu Waffle). He used the kite to tow himself in a boat and marketed it

widely. Public recognition of the device's efficiency led LeCornu to advertise the kite in specialized journals. Always abreast of the times, LeCornu marketed a suspension rig for cameras so his kite could be used to make aerial photographs, a new craze begun by the Frenchman Batut.

Using his writing skills to advantage, LeCornu published the important, widely used reference book *Les Cerfs Volants* (Kites) in 1902. Although it contained inaccuracies, this book was the first comprehensive effort anywhere in the world to document the contemporary state of the art of kites. A volume on aerial navigation soon followed. From 1904 on, he contributed to the journal *Les Cerfs Volants* and served as one of its editors. Among the other writers were men whose names were to become hallowed in the field of flight-Saconney, Hargrave, Houard,

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Puyo, Roch-Donzella. In 1912 he issued *Manual du Cerf-voliste* (Handbook for Kitefliers). During World War I he published brochures on sea surveillance and on the use of manned kites from the decks of submarines to increase range of vision. (Disregarded by the French military, this idea of using kites from the decks of subs was taken up much later by the rival Germans who flew spotter Focke-Achgelis gyroplane kites from submarines during World War II.)

The fertile LeCornu not only wrote about kites, but also about many other subjects that interested him—electricity, aviation, mathematics. He wrote short novels with a scientific turn to them and most of these were published. He also wrote satirical songs and monologues, as well as articles on freemasonry.

Joseph LeCornu was not the only theoretician in his family. His eldest brother Leon did much scientific research and wrote many books. He became a member of the prestigious French Academy of Science and in 1910 was elected its chairman.

Although a reserve officer, Joseph LeCornu was declared too old at age 50 for active duty when World War I broke out in 1914. With his usual energy, however, he took to writing letters to soldiers to dispense news and to express his unshakeable optimism in the French cause. He wrote many hundreds, perhaps thousands, of these missives.

Having used his political connections to get a good job in the coal industry after losing his Caen council post in 1908, LeCornu by World War I found himself idle as the war brought his business to a standstill. LeCornu then involved himself in something quite new to him – cider making and the distillation of cider into the high proof brandy Marc.

By 1923 he retired with his wife to their country home at Le Bijude, near Caen and Cambes, where he busied himself with a big garden and raising bees. A gracious host to his many friends, he became something of a legend to his visiting nieces and nephews for the ingenious toys he built for them.

The still energetic LeCornu continued as mayor to run the nearby village of Cambes with wisdom and rectitude. He maintained

roads, had water service installed, saw to road mending, supported the church, advised former school friends, served on a variety of local and national boards. Not surprisingly, he saw to the electrification of the town of Cambes and surrounding countryside. It was one of his major achievements.

In the summer of 1931, LeCornu drove to the town hall in Cambes for a meeting, where he appeared in obvious ill health to friends. He asked his secretary for papers which he ordinarily signed at the end of the meeting. He explained this request: "No, immediately, while I can do it." Returning home LeCornu died in his bed on the morning of August 9, apparently from a heart ailment. The death was mourned in the church at Cambes, which proved to be too small for the number of people attending. LeCornu was buried in the churchyard in the city of his birth, Caen. He was 67.

### *A Personal Summing Up*

*As his biographer and admiring Great-Grand Nephew, I am prepared to sum up Joseph LeCornu this way: A good and faithful man. Active, passionate, kind hearted and very sensitive. He stayed young and joyful, was open minded, honest, deeply religious. He had wonderful gifts for music, drawing, photography, poetry, writing. He was an expert craftsman - blacksmith, mason, housepainter, modeller, electrician, cook, tailor, gardener. He was noted for his ability to tame birds. His dogs Taupette and Zezette remained legendary in my family collective memory. All together, a renaissance man.*

*Jean Le Cornu*

*The next pages contain a plan to make one of LeCornu's Waffle kites which first appeared in Le Nouveau Cervoliste Belge magazine January/February 1984.*

*Translation by us (with a bit of computer help) - photos of one made by us.*

*Gill and Jon Bloom*

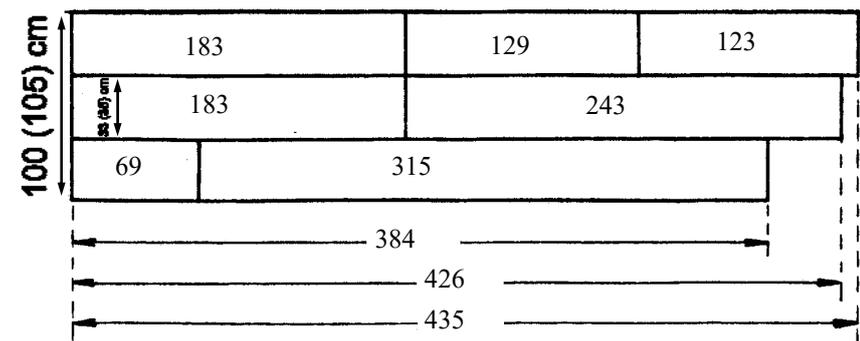
## The Gaufre (Waffle) Kite by Joseph LeCornu

About 1898, Joseph Lecornu, French engineer, created several types of multi-cellular kites known as "Ladder Kites". The kite shown here, is known as the "Waffle" Kite. It is fairly easy to build. It is made primarily of 16 cubic cells created by assembling seven rectangular fabric spinnaker strips. All the seams are simple and easy to sew and all the same for each cube as long as you follow the sewing order shown on the plan. Flying on the corner point, this kite has an surface area of 2.5m<sup>2</sup> and a weight of 560g/m<sup>2</sup>. It is designed to fly in a wind of 4 to 5 Beaufort.

To begin, allow 6cm of fabric for each pocket and 1.5cm for each seam. Mark and cut lengths of material as below. The first column of numbers refers to the numbers on the sewing plan, the length is derived from a 30cm cell size, the number of seams and the number of pockets required.

- 2-1-3 = 2 X 30 + 2 X 1.5 + 6 = 69cm
- 5-2-4-3-6 = 4 X 30 + 2 X 1.5 = 123cm
- 9-5-7-4-8-6-10 = 6 X 30 + 2 X 1.5 = 183cm
- 18-11-9-14-7-13-8-15-10-12-19 = 10 X 30 + 2 X 1.5 + 2 X 6 = 315cm
- 21-18-14-16-13-17-15-19-22 = 8 X 30 + 2 X 1.5 = 243cm
- 23-21-16-20-17-22-24 = 6 X 30 + 2 X 1.5 = 183cm
- 25-23-20-24-25 = 4 X 30 + 2 X 1.5 + 6 = 129cm

By dividing the width of the fabric into 3 equal parts, you obtain strips of 33cm or 35cm depending on whether it is 1m or 1.05m wide. If you use only one colour, and if you cut the 7 pieces as shown



below, you will need 4.35m of material.

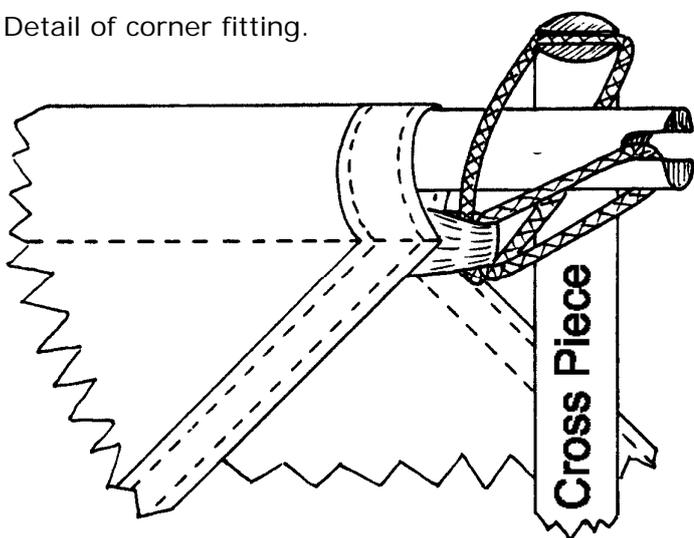
Start by hemming all the rectangular pieces over their lengths. Then take segment 2-1-3 make the pocket as shown not forgetting to sew in a loop at each end of the pocket as indicated on the drawing. 10 centimetres of ribbon are enough for each loop and leave about a centimetre showing of loop. These loops will be used to attach cords - again see

the diagram.

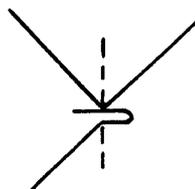
On the next piece, 5-2-4-3-6, mark the position of the seams 2, 4 and 3, and join to the previous piece along seams 2 and 3. Proceed in the same way for the remaining pieces without forgetting to

sew the pocket and loops at positions 11, 12 and 26. In addition also add loops at point 13 to be able to attach the cross spars.

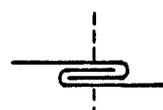
Detail of corner fitting.



Seam Assembly



Seam 25 and 26  
Last seam of Kite



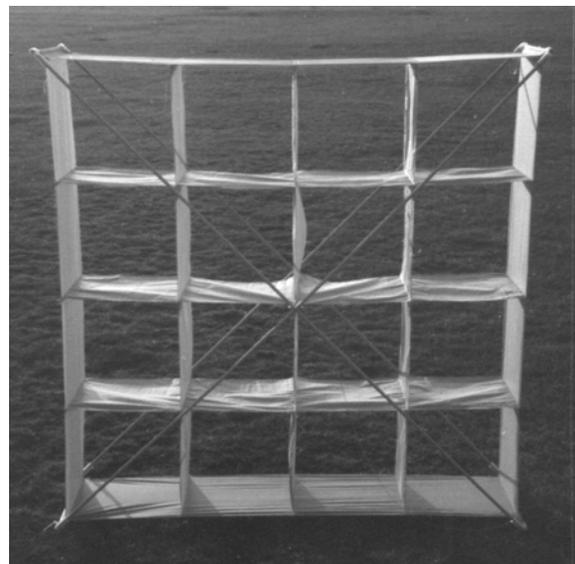
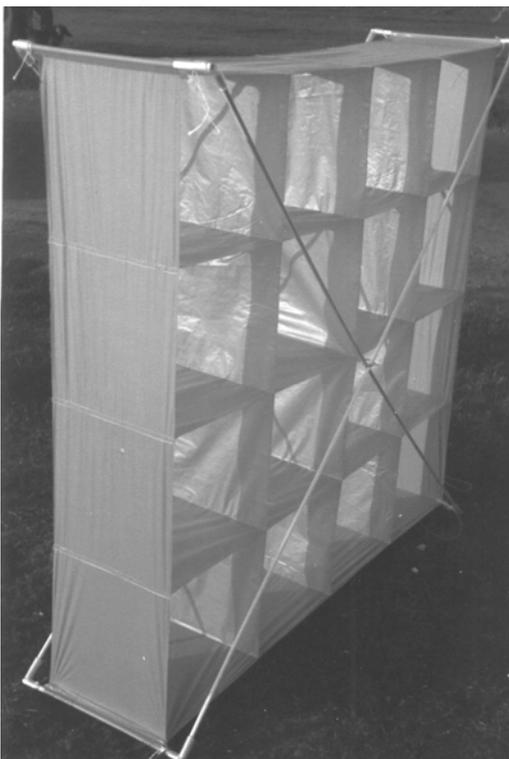
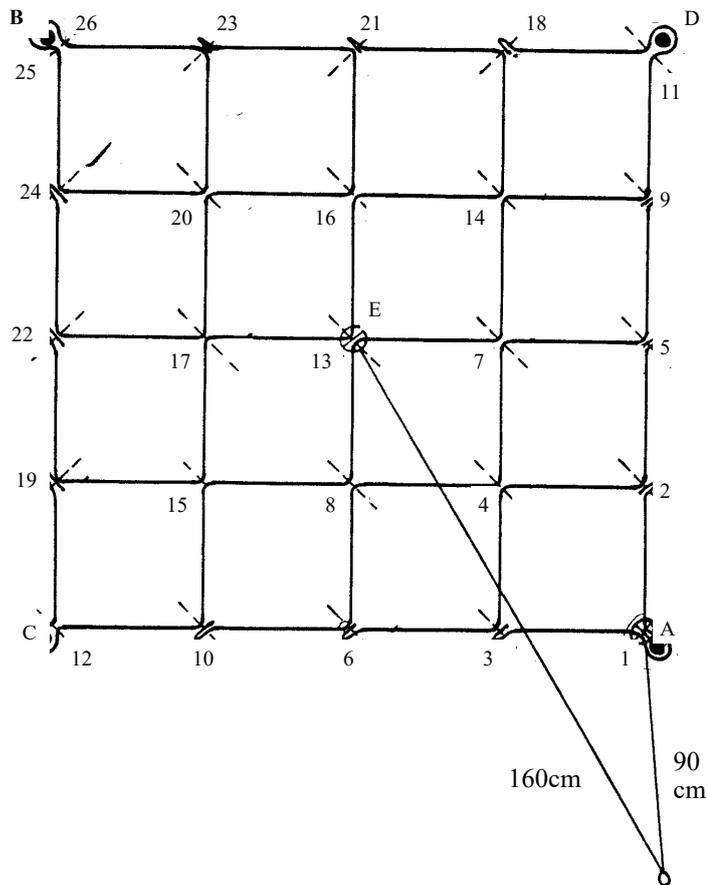
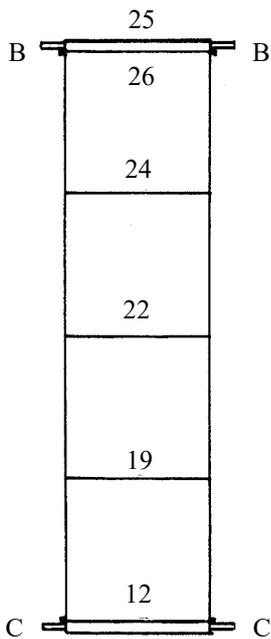
The spars of the kite are made of 4 small lengths of ramin 12mm diameter by 40cm length and 4 cross spars in ramin 15mm diameter by 1.90m. The spars will go into the pockets A, B, C and D; the cross spars are used to tighten the kite across diagonals AB and CD, two on the front and two on the back. All

the cells must be tight.

To finish add cords to the ribbon loops and make slots in the spars as shown in the diagram.

The bridle, total length 2.5m is attached at points A and E. (Top 160cm, bottom 90cm). At E, the bridle is attached to the loop of cord which passes through the ribbon which is holding the cross spars.

This kite can exert a pull of 15kg. Use a flying line of at least 60kg.



## Wellington Park Kite Day - April 1st

Kite Day, Sunday April 1<sup>st</sup>  
(honest!)

Come along and join in the fun at Wellington Country Park, off the A33 Basingstoke to Reading road, for a Kite Flying Day.

The entrance fee to the Park is £4, although it will be discounted to £2.50 on production of a Kite Society Membership card. The Park is scenic with flying spaces, picnic sites, a restaurant and disabled access.

Camping is available, please contact 01189 326444 for more details. For any further details, please contact:

Roy at Kites Up, 01256 812487

roy@kitesup.co.uk

## Tewkesbury Kite Fun Weekend—26, 27, 28 May.

Tewkesbury School, Ashchurch road Tewkesbury Glos. Camping at this very popular event is available, on site, from 4 pm. on the 25th to midday on the 29th at £2,00- per night toilets and showers are on hand. The indoor swimming pool will be open for an hour on Sat. and Sun evening, there should also be a few fireworks and a B-B -Q one evening, bring your own drink.

The site is easy to find adjacent to the M 5, J 9 and will be signed on the weekend, all kite fliers are welcome.

Any more information ,please contact Neville Wing 9 Howard Rd TEWKESBURY Glos. Tel 01684 295132 e-mail: neville@nwing.fsnet.co.uk

## Middle Wallop Kite Festival—August 4th & 5th

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

The Year 2001 Middle Wallop Kite Festival is in full swing again, thanks to all of you who helped make it successful last year!

We have managed to keep the entrance fee of £2 a person (children under 16 get in for free, and the money goes to the upkeep of the Flying Museum-the same as in previous years). Camping is available on the Friday and Saturday evenings for a small fee, in the designated area, 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, one of which stays open for as long as needed-for those of you who have been before, you know who I mean!

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 bugging (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, parachuting teddy bears, a round of the STACK League, tandem buggy rides, and a general fly for all, no arenas, just lots of space.

For all you single line fliers, bring your kites-large or small-and lets fill the sky with colours! Big Ben made an appearance last year, so who knows what will be there this year!

We want to make this another 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) 07768 765887 for any further details.

## Peterborough Kite Festival - 10th June

Preliminary Announcement.

The arrangements for the 2001 Peterborough Kite Festival are underway. It will, as in previous years, be held at the Ferry Meadows Country Park, which is part of the Nene Park complex situated to the West of Peterborough. The Great Ouse Kite Fliers have, once again, been asked to organise the event.

There will be a full programme of arena events between 10:00am and around 5:00pm on SUNDAY 10<sup>th</sup> June 2001. GOKF members intend to set out the arenas on the previous day, Sat 9<sup>th</sup> June and will have an informal fly-in if the weather is reasonable, but there will be no traders operating on that day.

As in previous festivals, there will be a select group of traders and refreshments are available from a café on site. We intend to have displays by invited fliers and home grown talent. There will be plenty of chances for everyone to take part in mass displays. In addition to familiar events there will be our own

unique brand of fun fighting with pocket sleds. There is plenty of space for flying; there will be arenas for stunt kites, single line fliers and children, as well as the main display arena. That still leaves a lot of space for free flying. Everyone will be sure of a warm welcome.

There is a well-appointed Caravan Club site adjacent to the Park and hotels in the vicinity. Admission to the festival is free but the usual parking charge (around £2.30) will apply.

For further details please contact:

Peter West, GOKF Secretary, 27 Milton Way, Peterborough PE3 9AP. Tel: 01733 269687. Email: [gokf@btinternet.com](mailto:gokf@btinternet.com)

John Slater, GOKF Chairman, Tel/ Fax: 01780 752503

Or visit our web site at: [www.alec43.freeserve.co.uk](http://www.alec43.freeserve.co.uk)

## Portugal 2001 Kite Retreats - 19th April & 20th September

Each lasting a week with Jeremy Boyce.

Come out and fly with one of England's top kite flyers- Jeremy Boyce.

Jeremy will give you some helpful hints and tips on flying. He will be with you every afternoon on the beach giving you advice on PRECISION, FREESTYLE, TRICK, FOUR LINE and POWER KITING

Flying takes place on various glorious beaches in the area during the afternoon from 1.00pm - 5.00pm. As well as the kite flying, there is ample time to get together and exchange ideas, as well as visit the various beautiful beaches, shop or visit the historical sights of the region.

The cost of this week is £150.00 which includes the cost of the tuition and equipment usage. We encourage you to bring your own kites too.

We look forward to meeting and flying with you.

- Flights, accommodation and car hire not included.

Call NATURAL HEIGHTS Tel 020 8675 7878 for a brochure or email on:

[www.travelmatters.co.uk/naturalheights](http://www.travelmatters.co.uk/naturalheights)

Email: [naturalheights@dial.pipex.com](mailto:naturalheights@dial.pipex.com)

Also starting on the same dates Power Kiting weeks with Neil Godbold (formally from the Cunning Stunts Kite Shop). This Power Kite Week, which includes learning to Kite Surf costs just £180 for 6 days tuition and basic equipment usage. As above flights etc are NOT included in this price.

## Swindon Kite Festival - Important Announcement

Swindon Kite Festival, will **not** be held at the Science Museum, Wroughton Nr Swindon, this year! Some of you may be aware that we had use of the site free of charge, and they took all of the entrance fees. They are not prepared to do this in the future! So much so, that they let the site for the weekend of our event, this May, before they informed us that we couldn't have it.

They did say that we could book it next year, for the sum of £4,500! I think we shall decline their kind gesture!!!!

The good news is that the festival will continue, albeit in a much smaller form, at Roves Farm, Visitor Centre. Sevenhampton, a village about 5 miles to the north east of Swindon, a beautiful village that Ian Fleming, the "James Bond" author used to live in before his death, he is buried in the local Church grave yard.

We had a meeting today (3/12/00) with the Farmer and his wife. They have regular open weekends on the farm, so are well used to dealing

with the public as well as animals! Being a Farm visitor centre the Farm is well equipped with a cafe, toilets, children's play-ground, nature trails and lots more. We will have use of the Barn to the rear of the cafe for our evening raffle/social.

We will be having a Lamb roast in the evening, we will be taking bookings for this, closer to the date. The price will be £6.95 each, that will be for a plated meal including salad, there will be a cheaper price for children's meals, however we haven't established a price for those yet.

There will be a campsite adjacent to the flying site, (again no prices at this time)

All of the finer detail will emerge after our second meeting with the farmer later this year.

**Dave Robinson**  
**White Horse Kite Fliers**  
P.O.Box 585  
Swindon  
Wiltshire SN3 4YR  
01793 824208  
Dajjmmj@tesco.net

## New Group

I have been thinking of starting a club of local group flyers in the SE Essex area as an informal affair. I have had a good response from local flyers who all want to learn a bit more like myself. We are mainly trick flyers and I was wondering whether you can offer any tips to help a local group to get going.

It seems that only freestyle flyers are interested in a club in this area, so this could end up a freestyle/trick club!!!

I am working to get something more formal running for the summer, but at present we are now flying regular at Leigh Marshes, Essex, behind Leigh-on-Sea rail station most Sundays with the only exception being the Whaam Kites Fly-in at Galleywood Common, Chelmsford every third Sunday of the month and all are welcome to both venues. *Whaam Kites are giving free instruction, demos and trials of kites to visitors.*

Anyone who may be interested can contact me via email [kites@whisky-bottle.co.uk](mailto:kites@whisky-bottle.co.uk).

Mobile 07970 233145

or post to: Whisky, TE11, PO Box 62, Southend-on-Sea, Essex, SS1 1TE.

### White Horse Kite Fliers

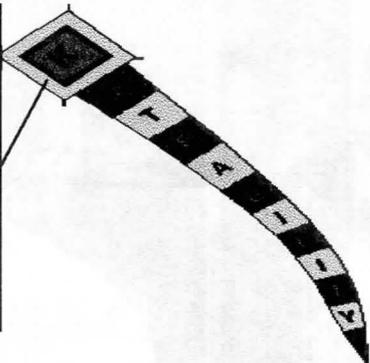
The editorial contact for the WHKF has changed to [cowpat.ed@whkf.org.uk](mailto:cowpat.ed@whkf.org.uk) all other numbers and contacts remain the same.

**Tracy Willis**

<u>March</u>		
31	Berck Sur Mer, Kite Festival, France. Until 8th April	Frédéric Pouillaude
<u>April</u>		
1	Wellington Country Park, off the A33 Basingstoke to Reading Road.	Kites Up
28	Stowe Kite Festival, Stowe Gardens, Bucks.	White Horse Kite Fliers
29	Stowe Kite Festival, Stowe Gardens, Bucks.	White Horse Kite Fliers
<u>May</u>		
5	The Kite Society Convention, Weymouth.	The Kite Society
6	Weymouth International Beach Kite Festival, Weymouth, Dorset.	The Kite Society
7	Weymouth International Beach Kite Festival, Weymouth, Dorset.	The Kite Society
12	Swindon Kite Festival, Roves Farm, Visitor Centre. Sevenhampton. Rougham Kite Festival, Rougham Airfield, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk	White Horse Kite Fliers Martin Corrie
13	Swindon Kite Festival, Roves Farm, Visitor Centre. Sevenhampton. Rougham Kite Festival, Rougham Airfield, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk	White Horse Kite Fliers Martin Corrie
19	Cleethorpes International Beach Kite Festival.	Andrew Pidgen
20	Cleethorpes International Beach Kite Festival. Poole Kite Picnic, Baiter Park, Poole, Dorset	Andrew Pidgen Richard Nourse
26	Tewkesbury Kite Fun Weekend.	Neville Wing
27	Tewkesbury Kite Fun Weekend.	Neville Wing
28	Tewkesbury Kite Fun Weekend.	Neville Wing
<u>June</u>		
9	Margam Park Kite Festival, Margam Park, near Swansea, Wales.	Fred Apperley
10	Peterborough Kite Festival. Margam Park Kite Festival, Margam Park, near Swansea, Wales.	G.O.K.F. Fred Apperley
16	Fylde Kite Festival, Lytham St Annes, near Blackpool, Lancs. Teston Bridge Kite Fly, Maidstone, Kent 6th Fairbourne & Barmouth Railway Kite Festival, Fairbourne, Wales	Phil Womack Kiteability 01562 66102
17	Fylde Kite Festival, Lytham St Annes, near Blackpool, Lancs. Teston Bridge Kite Fly, Maidstone, Kent. 6th Fairbourne & Barmouth Railway Kite Festival, Fairbourne, Wales	Phil Womack Kiteability 01562 66102
23	East Coast Kite Festival, Dovercourt, Essex. Southampton Kite Festival. Includes STACK competition. Shrewsbury Kite Festival, Sundorne Playing Fields.	Force Nine Kites Michael Lowe Skybums
24	East Coast Kite Festival, Dovercourt, Essex. Southampton Kite Festival. Includes STACK competition. Shrewsbury Kite Festival, Sundorne Playing Fields	Force Nine Kites Michael Lowe Skybums
30	5 <sup>th</sup> Canterbury Kite Festival, University of Kent, Canterbury.	Alan Cunningham
<u>July</u>		
1	5 <sup>th</sup> Canterbury Kite Festival, University of Kent, Canterbury.	Alan Cunningham
7	Sunderland Festival of the Air, Washington, Tyne & Wear	Malcolm Goodman
8	Sunderland Festival of the Air, Washington, Tyne & Wear	Malcolm Goodman
14	Silloth Kite Festival, Cumbria. Newbury Kite Festival. Includes STACK competition.	Ian Gilmore Kreative Kites
15	Silloth Kite Festival, Cumbria. Newbury Kite Festival. Includes STACK competition. Petworth Kite Day, Petworth, West Sussex.	Ian Gilmore Kreative Kites Joanna Mersey
21	Tewkesbury International Kite Festival Brighton Kite Festival, Stanmer Park, Brighton.	Neville Wing Simon Hennesey
22	Tewkesbury International Kite Festival Brighton Kite Festival, Stanmer Park, Brighton.	Neville Wing Simon Hennesey
<u>August</u>		
4	Middle Wallop Kite Festival, Andover Hants. Includes STACK competition.	Kites Up.
5	Middle Wallop Kite Festival, Andover Hants. Includes STACK competition.	Kites Up.
11	Teston Bridge Kite Festival, Maidstone, Kent. 8th Coventry Kite Festival.	Kiteability M.K.F.
12	Teston Bridge Kite Festival, Maidstone, Kent 8th Coventry Kite Festival.	Kiteability M.K.F.
25	Portsmouth International Kite Festival, Southsea Common, Hants.	The Kite Society.
26	Portsmouth International Kite Festival, Southsea Common, Hants.	The Kite Society.
27	Portsmouth International Kite Festival, Southsea Common, Hants.	The Kite Society.
<u>September</u>		
1	Bristol International Kite Festival, Ashton Court, Bristol.	Avril Baker
2	Bristol International Kite Festival, Ashton Court, Bristol.	Avril Baker
9	Hunstanton Kite and Classic Car Fair, Norfolk	Bryan Cante

Contact	Address	Telephone	Email
Kites Up	Roy Broadley	01256 812487	kites@kitesup.co.uk
The Kite Society	P.O. Box 2274, Gt Horkesley, Colchester CO6 4AY	01206 271489	Events@thekitesociety.org.uk
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Avril Baker	5 Lilymead Avenue, Wells Road, Totterdown, Bristol BS4 2BY	0117 977 2002	
Martin Corrie		01206 299560	
Simon Hennesey		01273 582309	S_hennesey@bigfoot.com
Joanna Mersey	Bignor Park, Pulborough, Sussex RH20 1HG	01798 869214	
Richard Nourse	85 Bells Orchard Lane, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 4HP	01929 554690	richard.nourse@virgin.net
Andrew Pidgen		024 7232 3004	
Frédéric Pouillaude	2 Place de la Mairie, 62170 Saint Aubin, France.	03.21.89.55.98	cerf.volant@wanadoo.fr
Neville Wing	9 Howard Road, Tewkesbury, Glos GL20 8QX	01684 295132	neville@nwing.fsnet.co.uk
G.O.K.F.	27 Milton Way, Peterborough, Cambs PE3 9AP	01733 269687	Gokf@tinyworld.co.uk
Force Nine Kites	40/42 High Street, Clacton, Essex CO15 1UQ	01255 221059	Sales@fnk.co.uk
Michael Lowe	44 Bellemoor Road, Shirley, Southampton, Hants SO15 7QU	023 8077 0788	
Alan Cunningham		01227 275604	acunni3747@aol.com
Ian Gilmore		01900 881371	
W.H.K.F.	P.O.Box 585, Swindon, Wiltshire SN3 4YR	01793 824208	cowpat.ed@whkf.org.uk
Kreative Kites	4/5 Sadlers Court, The Broadway, Newbury RG14 1AZ	01635 528400	
Bryan Cantle	21 Shepherds Close, Cherry Hinton, Cambridge CB1 4HP.		
Phil Womack		07957 308734	Fylde@fly.to
Kiteability	2 Garfield Road, Ponders End, Enfield EN3 4RP	020 8804 9080	Patnron@kiteability.co.uk
Malcolm Goodman	134 Thames Road, Billingham, Cleveland TS22 5EX	01642 550827	Malcolm.goodman@virgin.net
Skybums	7 Sunnyfields, Bell Lane, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY2 5EW	01743 244677	Kites@skybums.freemove.co.uk
M.K.F.	Alan Bill, 90 Weybourne Road, Great Barr, Birmingham B44 9DE	0121 360 1955	

**KITEABILITY**  
**KITES & MATERIALS**  
**2 GARFIELD ROAD**  
**ENFIELD MIDDLESEX**  
**EN3 4RP U.K.**



The Turkey's gone, decorations down.  
 The festive season is over,  
 A few more months, the rain will stop  
 And kites will be in clover.

Sort them out, your favourite kites,  
 Lots of repairs to be done,  
 Be prepared, like a good boy scout,  
 Then get out there and have some fun.

You know who to call for bits and bobs,  
 We await your valued call,  
**Kiteability** is the name to keep in mind  
 We will serve you one and all.

Best ramin, glass and carbon,  
 But we don't like to boast,  
 Most kiting needs we can supply  
 And send them through the post.

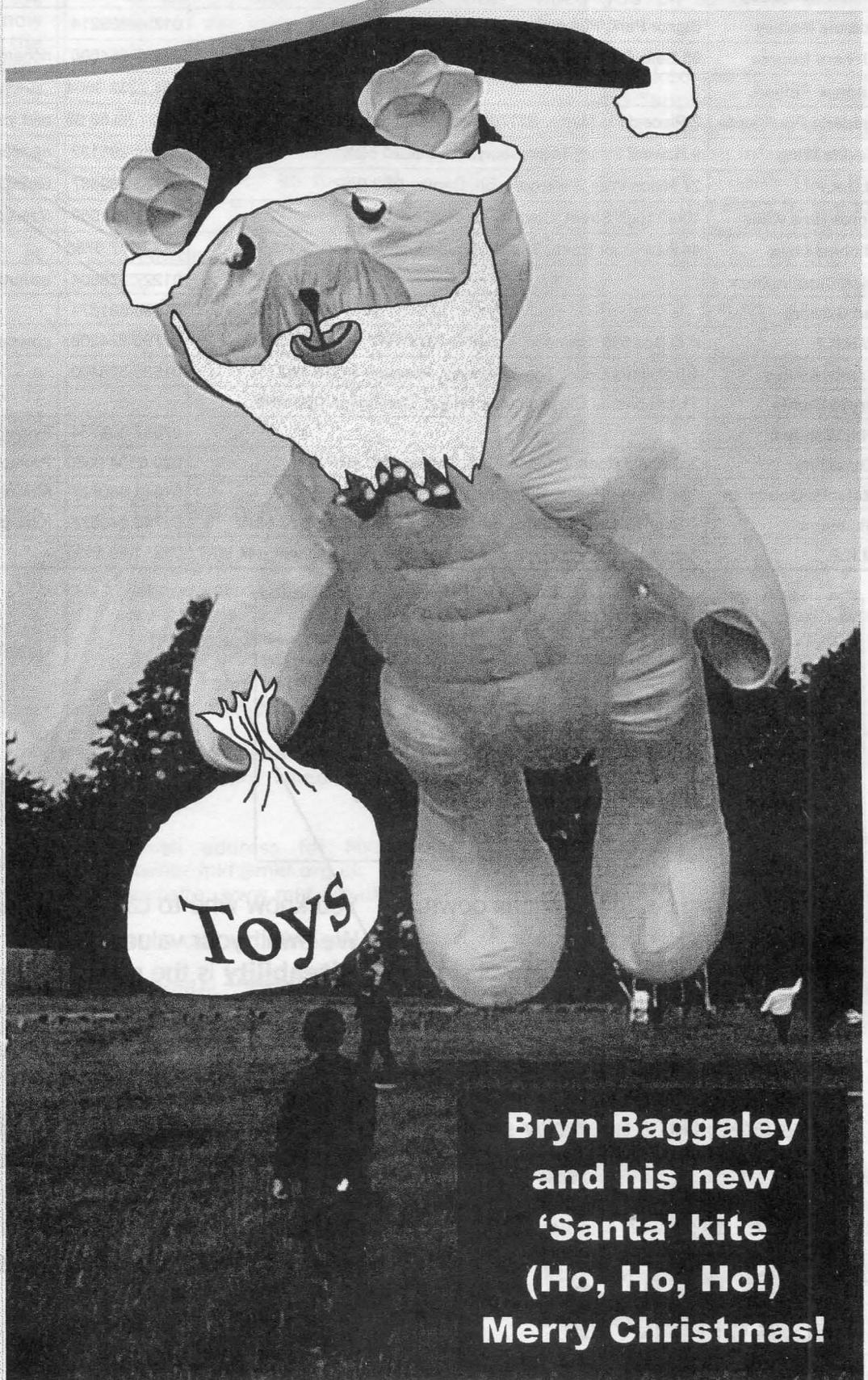


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**Proprietor: Mrs P Dell**

# MKF EXTRA

The Extra Newsletter of The Midlands Kite Fliers

THE MIDLANDS KITE FLIERS



**Bryn Baggaley  
and his new  
'Santa' kite  
(Ho, Ho, Ho!)  
Merry Christmas!**

## Seasons Greetings from our New Chairman

Hi, there. As will be seen in the minutes of the AGM, the vacant posts of Treasurer and General Secretary have been ably filled by Carolyn and Jerry Swift, whilst I've taken on the post of Chairman.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank (I'm sure on behalf of the entire Membership) the retiring Officers - Karl, Doug and Linda, for their sterling work whilst in office.

I must also thank Alan, Alan, John and Julie for all their work on behalf of the Club to date; I look forward to working with them, Carolyn, and Jerry in the future. I sincerely hope that the reconstituted Committee will be a credit to the Club, and will take it onto better things – if that's at all possible. It will probably take us a while to "get into the swing of things" but we'll get there.

Can I just remind you that the Club organises many events throughout the year, which need your support. Whilst the Club is grateful for the attendance and efforts of those "same old faces" let's see if next year, we can have more "new faces" keeping them company...

I think I can guarantee that by attending events, you'll gain new friends, learn as much as your brain can handle about building and flying kites of all kinds, and even, on occasion – consume vast quantities of free trifle and yoghurt... but that's another story.

As you read this, Christmas won't be far away – so I'll send you all the best wishes of the season, and look forward to meeting as many of you as possible on a flying field in the coming year.

Jim Cronin,  
(MKF Chairman)

**Cover Picture: It does belong to Bryn and Lesley Baggaley, but it's not a Santa. (What, you guessed?). Actually it's the Large Blue Teddy made by Peter Lynn, you may have seen flying at Bristol, Dieppe, Newark, and (in the picture) at Hardwick Hall.**

## MKF Committee Members 2001

### Chairman

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### General Secretary

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### Website Manager

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## From Your Events Co-Ordinator

The committee has been elected & we go forward to a new season of events. We now have Julie White on board as our web site manager, a new position for the Club & in fact a major one.

As discussed at the recent A G M, events will be accepted at the discretion of the committee with less paid venues, and providing they don't dash with other clubs or festivals. Stafford Castle will go as it is no longer of interest to the members, The Botanical Gardens whilst not a good site to fly does give local members a pleasant day out for free. Most of the popular events will be booked again if we are asked by the organisers.

Now for the plea for help: after you have planned your own venues for the year please consider offering your

assistance as an events steward, not all day you understand, just erect a few banners, place safety signs and fly Club kites when the mood takes you. It does make a fun day for all.

May I fly with you all soon.  
Regards, Alan Bill

## Dave Salmon e-mailed with this information and request:

### New Kite Safety Booklet

Some of you may know Pam Coppin from Newcastle Under Lyme from the Apedale Kite Festivals. Well Pam put together a Kite Safety Booklet for the first exKitement Festival in 1998. The booklet covered areas of kite safety such as not flying near powerlines and roads in puzzles, quizzes and colouring pages. The booklet was quite a success with all the children who had one.

The original was about the size and thickness of an exercise book and Pam also managed to get a mini version printed which was about 3 inches square. These little books have been given out at all the kite classes that she has been involved in and that is quite a few.

I have been bullying Pam to print some more of the larger books for next year and this is where you can help us both. We are looking for original puzzles and quizzes based on the MKF's kite safety information.

They don't have to be perfectly drawn or printed but bear in mind the Booklet will be in black and white and designed for Primary School age Children.

The booklets will can be distributed through Club members who run kite classes, Club notice Boards and hopefully also to directly to Schools.

Pam is trying to get Funding to produce 2000 booklets from one of the areas most important power distribution companies. Pam is a fantastic fund raiser for both the kite maths and astronomy groups she runs in Newcastle and if anyone can achieve the publication of these books she can.

If you have anything suitable for this project you can contact you can please post it to:-

D Salmon, Flat 1, 436 Stafford Rd,  
Oxley, Wolverhampton WV10 6AL

or email it to me at [fsk@enta.net](mailto:fsk@enta.net)

and I will pass it on



## Event Reports...

Well, that's another year's "fine weather kiting" about over. Personally, I had a great one! Since acquiring a car that can be trusted for more than a 20-mile trip - I've turned up at quite a few events this year. Took mum to a lot of them, being disabled, and "eighty something" she really enjoyed the days out, thanks people.

Well, here's "Jim's kite diary" as far as I can remember...

**Taunton** - shame about the rain on Sunday, better luck next year.

**Coventry** - wot, no wind? My kite got on the "telly" though!

**Cleethorpes** - still getting the sand out of those important little places!

**Middle Wallop** - still wondering if the name had anything to do with the "wallop" I gave another car on the way down!

**Brighton** - so why exactly, did I put the "EXP" spars on the wrong side and fly in a gale - just about wrecking the sail?

**Menithwood** - finding the place was an adventure in itself!

**Charity Farm, Baxterley** - just up the road, and as usual for Coventry - no wind, splendid day out though.

**Shipley Park festival** - great day, and got some exercise chasing 'escapee roks' across the countryside...

**Warwick Festival** - great first attempt, looking forward to next year!

**Rainbows Summer Spectacular** - OK, so to me, it wasn't perfect (but the yoghurts/trifles were dead nice) "I'll be back". Bought "yet another Rev" from Shirley & Dick.

**Tewkesbury "Kite Fun Weekend"** - excellent, friendly event.

Several trips to **Shipley Park**, one to **Stafford Castle**, one to **Sutton Park**, one to **Calke Abbey**...

Then, of course, there was my "adopted event" - **One Sky One World**. Ended up going to **Evesham Country Park** this year, good day until "rain stopped play" at about 1600hrs L

There were several other events, but for the life of me I can't remember them all. Let it suffice to say that it's been a really enjoyable year, thanks to all those who helped make it so!

Regarding "OSOW" - thanks to those who have helped out by sending UK event details / results for inclusion on my website. I really want to list all UK OSOW venues for next year, so please keep this in mind.

[www.jims-place.net](http://www.jims-place.net) is a shortcut to my OSOW pages and lists my email adds. If you haven't got "net access" you can always fax me on (024) 7633 8979 (fax only) or use my mobile 07831 396141. If you meet anyone over the next year who may be planning a UK OSOW event - please, please, please, either get them to contact me, or give me their contact details. I've put too much work into this project to let it fail now! Received a bit of good news recently - I seem to have started something. A site with the same aims as mine has now been started for Canada - see my site for the URL. I'll list any other national OSOW sites that appear.

Almost forgot - as well as the "Crusaders" workshop at the beginning of the year (story on [www.jims-place.org.uk](http://www.jims-place.org.uk)) - I got talked into doing a "children's kite workshop" at a local fund-raising event (thanks Bill! <G>). Good day on the whole, mum enjoyed it, didn't have a clue what I was doing at the outset! Made 39 kites, and a few quid (most of which went to the charity) and managed to rip both shins to shreds walking backwards into a rose garden (don't ask) but the scars are fading nicely now - they should be gone by the next time I get an urge to wear a pair of shorts in public.....

**Jim Cronin**

### Nottinghamshire Balloon Fest 2000 and Autumn Exhibition - 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> September

Thanks first of all to the few fliers who came to fly kites. Saturday was hard work due to lack of wind, but luckily there were plenty of other things to look at. The balloons did actually fly.

Sunday, woke up early hoping to see the balloons fly off, but it was too

windy; so went back to bed. After breakfasting about 10.00am it was still windy, so we got Aquaman flying, and Bryn & Lesley managed to get their very big teddy bear flying too, but not for long. We were soon relegated to running with the kites again. In the afternoon light wind kites were flown but again, it was hard work. Thanks to all who tried, it was much appreciated by the Showground organisers.

Thanks also to Carolyn & Jerry for dropping teddys later on Sunday when nothing else seemed to work, and to Jim & Julie - people were fascinated how the now well-used Circoflexes of flew.

To Eddie & Ann Megrath (Eddie does fly kites, believe me, we all lost count), thanks for coming, and to the traders, thanks for your support in backing the event.

Doug Richardson.

### 6th Ashfield Kite Festival 24th September 2000

Though late in September, we've had some nice weather for Ashfield, although last year there wasn't much wind, and Vortex (Display team) ended up flying to the Brass Band Music.

This year was quite different; no wind at all, followed in the afternoon by torrential rain!

Well, you win some, you lose some. Not the best festival of the year, but thanks to the large marquee they always provide, a chance to stand around and talk about kites, exchange ideas, plans, and be generally sociable.

I just hope the problems we had this year don't deter the organisers from trying again next year. When the weather is better, this event always draws in the public, some of whom I am sure, don't attend other festivals.

Alan Poxon.



## **MKF Fly-In, Hardwick Hall— 1st October 2000**

Hardwick Hall, 'more glass than wall' is a grand Elizabethan house now owned by The National Trust, perched on a hill near Chesterfield, Derbyshire. If you haven't been to either of the events we've held there this year, try to make a point of visiting if we return next year.

A good turn out really, because the weather hadn't been too good beforehand (I think I could say that about every event this year). There was more wind than our earlier visit of the year, and soon a number of interesting kites were flying. Doug & Linda, Karl & Sara, and Bryn & Lesley took the opportunity to launch all of their 'Big Stuff'; Doug's Manta, Karl's Octopus, and Bryn's Teddy. More impressive kites you will not see.

I will warn prospective fliers that the wind at Hardwick is a little strange. The area used is called the 'Wine Glass' (because of its' shape), once a part of the formal gardens and approaching avenue to the Hall. Being on top of a hill and surrounded by trees causes a lot of turbulent air, which to a single-line flier might not be a problem.

However, to a team of kites like Sky Symphony it becomes demanding in the extreme. The wind at one end of the formation may be fine, but the last kite could be falling out of the sky. Of course if the reverse conditions happen the kites will pile into one-another. Practising at Hardwick was very good discipline. Our usual site at Fradley has brilliant wind, and we've done some of our best flying there, but it doesn't prepare us for difficult conditions. This, on the other hand, did.

we had a good fly at Hardwick; I met a few new people, had a bit of a fly round with the team, rescued a set of spinners out of a very big tree for someone, trudged across a ploughed field, and still got home for tea (just! 'cos the Motorway was snarled up with traffic).

I hope that this venue is open to us again next year.

Alan Poxon.

## **Kite Day at Normanton Park, Derby - 8th October**

First of all, we really want to apologise to anyone who went to Normanton Park for the advertised kite day, but things happened just before the event that were beyond our control.

The event had been advertised to go ahead at Normanton Park, but with four days to go the venue was changed - because the council are digging up/renovating the park.

The new venue, Arboretum Park, was the first arboretum to be opened in England, and this arboretum is not different to any other arboretum - planted with loads of trees - so it is useless for flying kites (also no vehicles are allowed on site).

A small group of us did go and run a kite workshop - and one of the highlights of the day was that one of the local residents, who originally comes from Pakistan, used our materials to make an Indian fighter kite. He said he had never had so much fun with a kite since he was a boy, and it brought back happy memories.

Seeing as it was One Sky One World day the total number of kites flown was added up and given to Jim Cronin, who is gathering in the totals for the UK, to send them to the USA OSOW organisation to be collated.

Julie and Jim White

## **Kite Flying and Making day, Apedale Country Park - 15<sup>th</sup> October 2000**

### **Part One – Bottom End**

This was the third kite day held at the country park but the weather had conspired against Melanie who ran the event. It stopped Pam Coppin and helpers with the kite class and myself from working at the top of the hill with the fliers. This was due to the ground at the top of the hill being too saturated to put up and operate a marquee in safety.

This meant we had to set up at the bottom of the hill next to visitor centre in a freestanding marquee was on tarmac. This gave me a chance to

see how the new work on the park was progressing compared with the two years before when I was running the kite class from the same site. The number of people who came past the centre had clearly increased a great deal since I was last there two years before. The other side of the marquee was a circus skills workshop

The new heritage centre was well on it's way to completion and the Drift mine had closed but reopened as an attraction and was getting a steady stream of visitors. The restaurant in the heritage centre was open and the area inside had been populated with colourful kites by Pam. The kites were part of a quiz, and really brightened the area up. I set up my bit of Sound/Wind garden beside the pretty wildlife pond next to the visitor centre and set up stall. Pam had special carrier bags printed with a kite plan on them, which seemed to turn into excellent flyers under the expert hands of Pam and her helpers. I eyed with envy during the afternoon the fliers on the top of the hill who put on a good show and created a lot of interest despite very changeable winds.

Many thanks to Melanie and Pam for another fun day at Apedale.

Dave Salmon.

### **Part Two – Top End**

Ken and I arrived at Apedale at about ten o'clock, no sign of any kitefliers, the Cafe was all set up, so were the toilets, but where was everyone. The weather the previous week had been terrible, rain, rain and still more rain, this might have put people off, were we going to be on our own? The ground was in a shocking state, but with walking boots on and socks pulled up, we managed to launch the Mega Delta, the wind was quite good the kite flew well. About a quarter of an hour later Dave Salmon arrived, then Alan Bill, he remarked, everything is OK, Linda, Doug and Carl are on their way, things began to look up.

During the morning a few members of MKF arrived, also a few fliers from The Northern Kite Group, very soon there were lots of kites in the sky, Banners were erected and things began to look good. The wind stayed with us most of the day, we did have



about a half hour when everything came down, this was very frustrating for the children who, having made their kites in the workshop just wanted to fly them. Very soon though the little kites were being flown, with children running everywhere, the usual thing, they always think they have to run with the kite, they are amazed when you show them the kite will fly, (if they let out enough line and face the right way).

When the time came to pack the kites away, Ken and I both remarked how much we had enjoyed the day, the rain had kept off and we had even had a little bit of sunshine, (unbelievable). Despite the state of the ground lots of visitors had walked up from the Countryside Center at the bottom of the hill, the Warden said at one time he had counted at least 250 people.

Many thanks for the kitefliers who supported us, both from MKF and The Northern Kite Group.

Dorothy & Ken Campbell.

### **Dodd Gross Flight School**

I am trying to establish if there would be enough interest to run one of Dodds' flight schools here in the UK this year. The course lasts for 5 days and will cost about £35 per person on the assumption that I can get 20 students interested in taking part. This figure may go up or down depending on a) level of interest, and b) if I can get the school subsidised. I would aim to get the school organised sometime around the Shipley Festival i.e. July – venue to be decided. At this time, I am simply trying to establish if there is sufficient interest in such an activity to make it viable, so there are no more details at this point.

Please let me know if you are interested in taking part preferably by e-mail to [mh@mart1n.kitelife.com](mailto:mh@mart1n.kitelife.com) or by phone 01159 454 288 (work).

### **THE FIRST TWELVE MONTHS by Graham Binney**

Sky Symphony was officially created at our first fly-in at Coombe Abbey in January 2000. An article, including photos of 'The Team,' was featured in the Birmingham Post.

During the next three months we practised whenever possible, but the impetus was increased when we obtained our first booking!! We had a real goal to aim for - Newark County Show, Nottinghamshire, in May. We all decided to forge ahead to achieve a level of performance that would do us proud, and from then on a regular practise routine swung into operation.

But where to practise was a problem, and this is where we had a stroke of luck. The midpoint between our homes was a place called Fradley, near Lichfield, Staffs. It had a pub called 'The Fradley Arms' - just the place to meet, so Graham telephoned the landlord and asked if we could use a part of the lounge for 'stick practise.' He agreed, providing 'we weren't too noisy!' (Did he know what he was doing?)

We arrived with a cassette player, tapes, practise sticks and a lot of self-doubt, but within an hour we had most of the pub regulars looking at our antics. The Radetsky March and True Colours were the pieces of music we had chosen to try to choreograph a routine to. Cheers and warm applause greeted us as we ended our practise session - what a lift that gave us all.

#### **A STROKE OF LUCK**

Whilst having a post-practise drink at the bar we met Michael Shea, who is the owner and chief pilot of a microlight training school. His airstrip was only 500yds from the pub. With little or no persuasion he offered us the use of the airstrip for our kite practise every Wednesday evening. This was the biggest factor in improving our team routines. We are deeply indebted to Michael - what a stroke of luck he was in the pub at the same time as us!!

We also needed to choose the kites with which to fly a routine - obviously a big part of the display. One of the team, Dave Salmon, is an accomplished kite maker and he had had an idea. We are all members of

### **Amber Valley Millennium Banners exhibition**

Can anyone remember that cold and windy day at Shipley Country Park Kite Festival in July? As part of the festival

MKF member Jeni Smith of Belper encouraged many kitefliers to add their mark to a Millennium Banner. Well, they are now finished and a grand opening has been arranged to the beginning of December, with a tour around the county.

For more information on where you can see the banners, and times of opening, telephone Amber Valley Borough Council on 01773 841529 or Fleet Arts on 01773 820484

The Midlands Kite Fliers, and a part of their logo are three flying kites. Dave designed kites in the shape, and colour, of the MKF logo - and they flew like a dream!! Things were really coming together now and one more thing was required to complete the display - team clothing and banners.

Throughout April our confidence was increasing at every practise session, and we were often accompanied by another flier who was itching to join in. We put together a display which, lasting 20 minutes, included:

Two separate pairs routines.

Multiple flying by one man.

Modern day sport kite flying, including trick flying.

Final Team routine.

#### **NEWARK COUNTY SHOW - 5 & 6 May 2000**

The Team, with our extra flier, travelled to Newark to do two displays on each of the two days. But our first display was cancelled due to bad weather. Our second display went ahead as planned and we learned a lot about 'kite set-up.' The second day proved very successful, displaying well in the main arena. To finish, we hoisted five kites into the air, successfully executing a dice manoeuvre across the sky - it was absolutely fantastic. The team were



really pleased, and Team Sky Symphony had it's fifth member.

We have come on in leaps and bounds, many laughs have been had, and not too many air crashes have occurred since our inception. We are forever keen to learn and add new manoeuvres to our routine. The Team can now confidently display with three, four or five kites/kitefliers. We have several budding PA announcers in the team, and one of them provides a commentary to the audience throughout the show. We are striving that our programme is as entertaining and crowd pleasing as we can.

#### UPDATE - OCTOBER 2000

On Monday 23rd October, all of our team kites were stolen from Dave's car. Fortunately, with the help of the Express and Star, Ed Doolan on CWR Radio, The Police and Teletext, our lowest point of the year came to an end. They had been found, untouched and unharmed.

To all kitefliers - check and make sure all of your kites/kitebags are marked with your name and phone number, and that they are insured whilst in transit to and from kite festivals.

## New Events ...

### **Beer & Skittles Social Evening, Schofields Public House, Great Barr, Birmingham - Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> February 2001**

Hi, (again) I have arranged another evening of great entertainment for the princely sum of £8.00 (adults) £3.00 (children), including bar meal (as last year!). 1st come, 1st served! 40 tickets only! Don't be disappointed, BOOK EARLY

Charity Raffle (any donations gratefully accepted) Whisky Coin Roll, win this bottle for as little as 20p!  
Contact Graham on 0121 7837078 or e-mail [graham@gbinney.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:graham@gbinney.freeserve.co.uk)

Note, the recipient from the proceeds of the raffle will be The Princes Diana Children's Hospital as requested!

**BOOK THE DATE IN YOUR DIARIES NOW!!!!**

Graham Binney

### **MKF Fly-in, Coombe Abbey Country Park, Brinklow Road, Binley, Warwickshire - 7<sup>th</sup> January 2001**

The now traditional first-of-the-year venue will welcome us again in 2001. If the weather is bad there is the Visitor Centre with pub and Café, disabled parking very close, and free MKF parking if you display your large car pass (Don't forget or risk a fine!).

Always a good venue to see what everyone's had for Christmas, and fly it instead. Bring your wellies too, just in case.

Event Steward: vacant

### **MKF Fly-in, Rushcliffe Country Park, Ruddington, near Nottingham - 4<sup>th</sup> February 2001**

The field at Rushcliffe is much better than the likes of Shipley at this time of year, and although there aren't the home comforts of a café, there are toilets and free parking, if a little way away.

It may be possible to have cars on the field, but cannot be guaranteed (well, it is a Country Park).

The main entrance to the Park is off the A60 (Loughborough Road) about four miles out of Nottingham City Centre. Look for a roundabout into an industrial estate: the park is at the back of the estate.

Alternatively, at the traffic lights at the junction of the A60 with the B680, turn into Ruddington village along Kirk Lane and at the junction with the High Street turn left. The road swings to the right (The Green) and to the left (Asher Lane). Go over the speed ramps and just past the level-crossings is the gate which leads into the Park. Park along Asher Lane.

Event Steward: Alan Poxon

### **MKF Fly-in, Sutton Park, Sutton Coldfield, - 4<sup>th</sup> March 2001**

Using the Streetley Gate entrance to the Park, it should be possible to park right alongside the flying area. A well-drained wide open area to fly. Just watch out for the odd gorse bush!

Event Steward: Alan Bill

### **MKF Fly-in, Charity Farm, Baxterley, near Atherstone, Leics**

**1<sup>st</sup> April 2001 (provisional)**

2 miles from Atherstone, off the A5 (B4116). We flew the first event in June last year as part of a mixed event with planes, paragliders and hot-air balloons. Now we're having a Fly-in (there's lots of space, bring everything). There will be a charge of £1.00 for upkeep of access and toilet facilities (this is a private airfield).

Event Steward: Graham Binney

### **7th Calke Abbey Kite Day, Calke Abbey, near Ticknall, Derbyshire 29<sup>th</sup> April 2001**

Despite the minor problems at the last event when we were limited to 200 feet, the organisers assure us that the event will take place.

A trader, free parking on field, kite workshop, will all be in attendance, as will the sheep.

Event Steward: vacant

**Please note: Any events published in advance is subject to change.**

**All events are liable to alteration or cancellation.**

**It is advisable to check that the event is going ahead before travelling.**

**For up to the minute details, why not try our website calendar at [www.kitefliers.co.uk/](http://www.kitefliers.co.uk/)**

*Thanks to everyone who sent in articles, sorry if you didn't see yours, it will be used later. Sorry too, that there weren't many pictures in this MKF Extra section, but I just wanted to get the relevant stuff in. You could always join the Club, plenty of pics. In the full magazine.*

*Contact information for articles is on MKF-Page2. Alan Poxon, Editor*



## FRANCE ADVENTURE Y2K

NARBONNE BEACH  
INTERNATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL

I know I'm way ahead of myself as I still have more articles to write about my Australian adventure, but I couldn't resist writing about my French trip first! This was my third visit to France but my first to the south and to the beautiful Narbonne Plage on the Mediterranean. With 3,200 hours of sunshine a year it's France's sunniest spot, and only a few cities can boast a heritage going back over 2000 years. Being the first Roman colony in Gaul, history has left its mark in Narbonne, with many museums, monuments and Roman ruins bearing witness to its illustrious past, restoring all the glory of bygone centuries.

I'm sure that their 4<sup>th</sup> Narbonne kite festival will also go down in history as being the best ever! I have been going to kite festivals for the last 18 years and this is the first time that everything has turned out perfectly, the sort of festival that every organiser around this planet dreams about... super organised, great weather, awesome 8-10mph winds, a beautiful beach 3 miles long, thousands of spectators and some of the best kite makers, designers and flyers from Switzerland, Spain, Italy, England, Canada, Brazil, Belgium and of course; France. Also great accommodation and food fit for a king, great lunches and 5 course dinners that seemed to go on for hours with wine flowing like water! The festival is organised by the City of Narbonne, and the flying agenda was in the capable hands of Michel and Murielle Trouillet (French Wind Lovers and Master Kite Designers). Michel has designed and achieved over 100 original creations, 3 of which are in the Guinness World Record book. His 'Craken' kite is over 3,000ft and his 'La Fresque 3000' is so big it has to be seen to be believed! I was flying multiple kites in a steady 10mph wind when suddenly my kites fell out of the sky, I thought, "How can the wind cut off that

# adryne

January 2001

**the newsletter of the brighton kite flyers**

fast?!", then I looked behind me to see that Michel's 'La Fresque 3000' had just been launched... taking all the wind away from where I was flying!

I was given my own 200m x 200m flying arena in a prime spot right next to the main demonstration arena. In these conditions I could do no wrong, I was on the beach from 8am until 8pm and the only time I was disappointed was when Michel and Yves Laforest (my friend from Quebec) told me it was time to pack up and come for dinner! I said, "Dinner? We can eat anytime, but we can't waste this awesome wind!" Then they told me what was on the menu; oysters, crab, lobster, prawns - and this was just the first course... I think I made a World Record in packing up 3 sets of lines and 9 kites!! ☺

On the first day I felt kind of like an intruder - I mean here I am having my own arena... as I walked past, I'm sure a lot of these young flyers were thinking, "Who's that old guy from Canada?" I had just finished setting up when Michel asked me to give a demonstration to set things off, I kind of said to myself, "Right Ray, go and introduce yourself." So I set up the kites in the main arena and attached 6 new tails to each kite, crowds of spectators had gathered and the sport kite flyers had stopped whatever they were doing. The wind was a steady 10mph, the sun was burning a hole in my back and everything was ready - the announcer finished announcing me, the music man was ready to push the button to begin my music; 'You Are The Wind Beneath My Wings' and one of the flyers was waiting to tap me on the shoulder at the first note. I love this moment, because for the next 5 minutes I have the world by the bum... literally! I am totally focused, my concentration is 101% and I am in my own world of silence. I gave a nod as a signal to start my music, I felt the tap on my shoulder and I launched the kites and flew like I have never flown before... as if my life depended on this one performance! I could do nothing wrong, every move was right on the money, I added moves that I have only dared to do when I am practicing (and only then if no one is watching!), my refuel, then a break-away into the 'Maple Leaf Split', then into the 'Crucifix' mode - perfect every time. I landed all three kites independently behind each other as the music faded away. The next thing I knew I was lifted shoulder high by the kite flyers that had run into the arena! To see the thousands of spectators waving and jumping up and down was the thrill of a lifetime, this is the greatest award any performer can achieve - recognition and being honoured by one's peers.

The sky over Narbonne beach was filled with kites of every description from the smallest fighter kite to Michel's 'La Fresque 3000' and the brilliant clear blue sky and sunshine showed off all the colours of the rainbow. The French sport kite flyers gave awesome demonstrations to entertain the thousands of spectators, I am not into trick flying, but I was very impressed with some of the things the French flyers were doing which I had never seen done before - especially when they flew as a 6 man team; it was amazing. And talk about being amazed - the 6 man Rev Team were super, I think they have been checking out the infamous UK Team



Decorators - so you'd better watch out guys... "The French are coming!" ☺

And to top this perfect in every way kite festival was the night fly, a beautiful warm night with thousands of spectators and a 12mph steady as a rock wind. Again so much thought went into organising the night fly that it went off like clockwork, first the sport kite team and individuals put on a super show, then I was called in to do my multiple kite ballet again to the song 'You Are The Wind Beneath My Wings'. I launched in complete darkness, then the sky lit up catching my kites in a refuel mode, I broke away to dance among the stars, catching every note of the music. The lighting system was perfect - never losing sight of my 3 kites, they had me locked in. My landing was right on as the music faded away, then the lights were turned on to the spectators and once again I was completely enchanted and thrilled to see thousands of people waving and clapping. I was congratulated again by all the flyers, who also did a fantastic job entertaining the masses. Now it was the single line flyers turn and this was the most magnificent sight I have ever seen, what an awesome climax to end the night fly. The whole thing was a huge success not only due to the weather, steady wind and spectators - but mainly because everyone involved worked as a team: 'All for one and one for all!' I was very proud to be part of this team. The next day was Sunday, the last day of the festival, and it was even better than the previous days. Word must have got around because there were twice as many spectators and they were entertained continuously throughout the day with kite demonstrations from the very best - everyone was still on a high from the night fly. The festival was officially closed at 6pm with a short speech from the Mayor, which was translated into four languages, then I was presented with a beautiful book on the city and history of Narbonne, plus an invitation to return again in 2001. Then, as if by magic, the awesome steady wind that has blown for the last four days stopped dead as if someone had pulled the plug, "Man, talk about well organised! How did they do that?!" ☺

It was great sharing kite arenas with such wonderfully talented people, making new friends and spending prime time with old ones like Pierre Fabre, Zoe Harris, Yves Laforest, Michel Martin, Michel and Murielle Trouillet plus their lovely daughter Fanny (who, with a friend, made a fantastic job of the all day children's workshops) just to name a few. Thank you City of Narbonne for inviting me to your 4<sup>th</sup> International Kite Festival, I was very proud to be part of it and thanks for the great book too. Thanks also to Michel and Murielle Trouillet for your hospitality, transport to and from the airport, but most of all for your friendship. Many thanks to all the kite flyers who treated me as one of their own, with respect and friendship - I look forward to seeing you all again and sharing the flying arena in 2001. Thank you for listening.

**Ray Bethell (BKF/Vancouver/Canada)**

**DAIMON  
K I T E  
FESTIVAL  
2000**

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

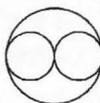
January 2001

**I**n May last year John Ogden and myself were invited to the town of Daimon for the annual kite festival. Daimon is situated on the west coast of Japan not far from Toyama. Mark Bennett (another Boop Troop member) was in Tokyo at the same time on business and flew up to join us in Daimon. Oh Boy! The three Boop Troop lads on their own in Japan. Erm! Time for a party me thinks. Anyway I'm getting too far ahead of myself, this is how it all began...

I picked up John and we headed for Heathrow. "So what shall we do today John?" I enquired, "I know! There's this kite festival in Daimon, fancy going?" "Well it just so happens I've got the kites and me passport!" There are times in life when two thirty-something males can really look about six years old. It looked as if we had both tried to swallow coat hangers! As we approached the airport John told me once more all about the town of Daimon and how they were all obsessed with kites. John had been to Daimon the year before and had the privilege to be asked back for a second year running, a great honour.

So after parking in the second mortgage car park at Heathrow, we caught the bus to the airport. (Bazzer's tip for kite travellers: Get someone to drop you off at the airport or catch a train or bus. OK so I'm stupid! Don't be as naive as me and think that airport parking will be a reasonable price cos' everyone else must do it. £70 for 6 days! I've paid less in rent, it's disgusting!) So we walk up to the check-in desk and get the kite traveller's nerves... How heavy is this little lot on my trolley? Did we remember to pack all the heavy stuff in the carry-on? I'm pretty sure my case and kite tube is underweight! At this point John admits that he doesn't know how much his case full of Boop stuff weighs. I remembered our last Boop Troop trip to Uchinada three years ago, now how much did the kites weigh? Playsail: 6.5k, Legs: 3.5k... oh! How the little Bazzer internal pressure cooker went off the dial! So on goes my case and tube... 19.5k. Now the Ogden portable weights room... 23k... oooooops smile! No comment from the other side of the desk! We WIN! The prize... two tickets to Japan!

At this point the waiting begins. Have a pint and twiddle your thumbs. Isn't it strange how minutes seem like hours when you're waiting for a plane to load? Then before you know it you're sat there reading the in-flight magazines, checking your seatbelt. Then as the plane starts to taxi you stupidly realise that you have just finished the only reading material for the whole flight. Those crash instruction cards have deliberately been printed on separate cards. This is so that you are forced at some point during the flight to read them through boredom. As the plane starts



to trundle down the runway John and I once again take on the look of Cheshire Cats! The JAL flight was excellent. Camera in the nose wheel for take off and an underbelly camera too. Even a Playstation type handset for games, films and stuff, plus a little GPS navigation channel which we're all shown on our personal LCD screen in the headrest in front. Good food and most excellent service over the twelve hour flight.

After immigration we were met by the Nippon Travel Agency reps and put on to a bus to the Ginza Dai ichi Hotel in Tokyo. After a shower, we went for a quick shop in Tokyo and then off to Mr Modegi's for dinner. Now then! Normally when I travel somewhere I don't get lost. But put the combination of me and Ogs in the same town and I become totally disorientated! So we embarked on a simple trip to The Kite Museum. Hop on the underground to Nihon Bashi station and then come up from the subway, across the road and walk down the street and you're there! Erm no! Let's try turning down that street? That one over there looks familiar? I'm sure it's over the bridge! No there it is! Over there, down that street that we first looked down! NO...? Well it's definitely not down that street John!... OK so you're right!... I'll shut up.

We were taken to Mr Modegi, who had already gone for food, and joined him in a traditional Japanese restaurant. A great meal that night, lots of tuna, with a trip to a local hotel for ice cream and then a quick walk back to the hotel... well kinda! Well I have always wanted to see that side of Shimbashi station at eleven o'clock at night! The neon signs did look amazing though. If we hadn't got lost we wouldn't have seen them. The thing is we never miss our destination by very far, just far enough. That takes style and practise!

The next morning we are back on a minibus with Mr and Mrs Modegi to Haneda, Tokyo's second airport for internal flights. Hopped onto the plane for the 45-min internal flight to Toyama. Toyama airport has probably one of the smallest runways ever to receive a Boeing aircraft. As the wheels hit the ground the brakes come on so hard that you rest your head, with some force, onto the headrest of the seat in front of you. It's that short that when the plane stops the ground crew turn the plane around by tractor unit. We grab the bags and meet with Makoto Ohye, the secretary general of the Daimon Kite Association, and make our way by bus to Daimon and lunch.

Now picture John Ogden and your average sized Japanese man. See the size difference. It was so funny! Over the next few days John was nearly force-fed. Big man must need a lot of food, they just didn't ease up on him. (Bazzer tip for Japan trips: Chopstick use is a must. Get used to eating raw fish. It's OK after a while, honest. Remember, always have a drink ready to wash down stubborn sushi in a hurry!)

We meet Mayor's officials at the Town Hall and receive our festival Happi Coats and golf towel (handy for this golfer, by the way John, if you don't want yours?!). We were then shown around the town centre of Daimon by the local politicians. Every shop had a kite outside it. Some wrapped in plastic for protection from the weather but most were covered in Tyvek. Rokkakus, Edos and many other kites lined the streets, filling them with colour. The whole town was like John had told me, absolutely kite crazy, even the cast iron drain covers and the bridges had kite designs on them. It was like walking into a huge Japanese kite shop with streets.

Daimon is situated on the eastern side of the Sho river, on the west bank is the festival site. The riverbed is very wide due to the heavy rains and melt waters in winter, hard packed stretches of gravel and sand run down the festival site. It is reachable from Daimon via a very impressive bridge - the handrails are decorated with the traditional Daimon kite design flying over the river. As we drove down to the festival area we could see the long row of open sided marquees running the whole length of the site, which is so very typical of Japanese kite festivals. Under this 200m cover is where the serious eating and drinking occurs during the weekend.

We were then scheduled to fly kites with the local schools. The school kids had spent the last few weeks making Rokkakus, all decorated with self-portraits. As we start to fly our kites we suddenly become aware of some of the children having bridle problems. So we drop our stuff out of the sky and start re-bridling. There, finished that one! Now, back to... oh yours needs fixing too? Thirty minutes later John and I compare tallies. I just beat him by three. As we stood back we saw close on 200 80cm Roks soaring into the sky. It's a great feeling to watch the children's faces. It doesn't matter what nationality, the look in the eyes and the smile on the face is always the same. Absolute pride and a grin that stretches from ear to ear.

During the afternoon we gave a kite workshop in the local school using the green tadpole kites of the White Horse Kite Flyers. Afterwards we jumped on the school bus and travelled to the festival site where we flew the kites. All perfect, no failures, a great success. The Japanese workshops and schools all fly on soft cotton line which doesn't burn your fingers. Maybe this would be a better idea in the UK rather than our nylon? Many smiling faces of very happy kids. A big thank you to Neil and the WHKF for making this possible.

Then off to the Ryokan. A wonderful Japanese style inn. A courtyard garden with Koi carp, all of the paper screened windows facing into the garden centre. First things first. Hide all the baggage behind the screens to keep the room as empty as possible. Then sit at the low central table on Tatame mats and have some green tea. Secondly, change into a Yukuta (a type of house dressing gown), find the shower and hot tub, get clean and relax. At this Ryokan



the bathroom floor was below the surface of the pond. As you sat relaxing in the hot tub the Koi swam by. Very pleasant indeed. Then time to watch John getting force-fed again and a chance to meet the local heads of the two kite clubs. It turned out that one owned a local bar (what a shame!) and it was in this bar that Mark appeared, hotfoot from Tokyo. He soon caught up with John and my drinking as they poured whiskey into him as we tucked into another small 'snack'. The other club chief owned a Karaoke bar (yeh HA!). After twenty plus Beatles songs and Mr Modegi's favourite after dinner song 'Diana', it was time for bed. We swayed our way back to the Ryokan, arm in arm with our new friends in perfect harmony. Well it sounded that way to us!

Morning. Mark doesn't look too good! John and me are fine (ha ha)! After breakfast it's time to go and fly. We are joined by Bob Harris and Jennifer (Frogger) Schnider from California. They had been travelling through Japan for the last month. I met with them last year in Uchinada and we had great fun together. On the way to the festival site we caught up on each other's news. Basically their trip had taken them to all of the major kite festivals of Japan, after this one they were off to Nagasaki. A brave trip for two vegetarians in a fish obsessed country. You can read more of their trips on their website at: <http://www.bhc.com/Dancingfrog/> (great photos!).

On arriving at the flying site the first order of the day is to get as much built as possible before the politicians arrive. Once they arrive it's official meet and greet and the introductions and speeches to a few thousand people. Before anyone asks I did not tell them I was a Big Onion in Japanese. That came later during Karaoke! So we flew our stuff. I flew my Rabbit and Wave kite amongst the giant Edos, which gradually filled the sky.

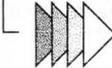
The first day was the big competition day. Each kite was scored on construction and how straight it flies on take off. The final

marks come from stability in flight and how well the flying crew work together. To fly these giant kites takes great skill and timing. Until the bridles have taken tension the kite is very unstable and timing the pulls on the line is crucial. The man at the back of the row holds the kite reel. He is responsible for paying out line and not tangling up the team's feet. The next two forward have a metal bar, around which they wrap the flying line. This enables them to pull together at the same point of the line, exerting more force than just by using their hands. Sometimes several lines are tied onto one point of the line allowing many people to pull from that one point (as seen in Dieppe on the larger O Dako kite). The next people are the more experienced and add more pull to the line. The front flyer is the chief. Whatever he says goes, heaven help anyone who is caught day dreaming! These kites can be very dangerous and must be treated with the respect that they deserve. To watch a good team working together is an absolute joy. Every face a picture of concentration apart from the poor bloke at the reel end, who often looks as if he's been the last man chosen in the school football game, and knows that he is going to end up in goal. Lunchtime provided a good time for walking and talking to the people who have massed in the tented food halls. Every time you stop and talk you were offered drink and food, usually in that order. You soon learn how to say 'no thank you' to the food. The ability to do the same with the drink somehow was beyond my grasp! As the end of the day drew near we headed back to the Ryokan to freshen up and then walked into town to the evening bash. Official ceremonial opening with the Mayor and more speeches. I was tempted this time to say I was a Big Onion but held back. A great night with many reunions with old friends, many of which had travelled long distances to be at the festival. This city has an amazing respect for anything or anyone with a

connection with kites. They all have great pride in their heritage and traditions and will not let the hustle and bustle of modern life push them into the background. At the end of the night the hard core of flyers go a singin'. Oh yes, the Big Onion Singers were in fine voice! I think, however, that my rendition of AC/DC's 'Back In Black' was maybe a little lost on the Japanese culture. At 1.30am we retired to the hot tub and talked to the fishes as they bobbed by.

Next morning... Mark was OK! So were John and I (hurrah)! Breakfast was western style with bread so thick it was nicknamed 'Futon' - 4 or 5 of those and you had a full mattress. Delicious! As we crossed the Daimon bridge there were already large Edos taking the sky. After the usual ceremony we flew once more. A day of perfect wind. At lunch I took another great gastronomic walk. On reaching the end of the field I bump into Mr Modegi and Ogi and we are ushered to a tent for BBQ eel and brown trout. Oh yes... and Sake! Well it would have been rude not to. Just to our right was the O Dako team from Osaka, who attended Dieppe. So off we trot, Sake in hand, and start chatting. Takashi Wakabayashi was about to take an O Dako kite to present to the Mayor, so John and I give them lift over with the kite. Using a whistle to keep us in step we made our way to the stage. I help us stay out of step by blowing on my whizzie whistle between the sharp blasts of Wakabayashi San. It was quite a good tune with almost a Latin beat. At the end of the day it was time for the final ceremony. With Rabbit and Wave flying high we said our goodbyes. A truly great event which I hope to return to another year.

**Bazzer Poulter (BKF/Haywards Heath/UK)**



## MARSEILLE ADVENTURE Y2K

INTERNATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL ENVOL 2000

**A**fter Germany I had the pleasure of being sponsored to the Marseille International Fête du Vent 2000 Kite Festival, this year called Envol 2000. I was met at Marseille airport by a very lovely French girl called Jacky, we had met before at the Narbonne Kite Festival last May and then, as now, she reminded me of one of the James Bond girls! ☺

This was my second fully sponsored trip this season to southern France, this time to the very beautiful and romantic 2,600 year old city of Marseille, its exceptional setting between the mountains and the blue Mediterranean is breath-taking. I was enchanted by its harbour with the little islands dotted around it, and intrigued to see the famous Château d'If where The Man In The Iron Mask and The Count of Monte Cristo were imprisoned (stuff of my boyhood books!). The festival was held at the Plages du Prado which is also the name of the town where we stayed. All the flyers were lodged at the Residence Maeva Hotel, my room-mate was Istvan Bodoczky from Hungary. We are old friends, he is the creator of the asymmetrical kites which are aesthetically pleasing, quite dramatic and very surprising! He has put on exhibitions and flown his creations all over Europe, also in Budapest, Canada and on the Golan Heights in Israel. We are for sure at opposite ends of the kite scale, but we both enjoyed sharing the flying arena and each other's company. There were 75 international kite flyers - from India, Australia, Israel, Chile, Korea, Hungary, Canada, Italy, Spain, just to name a few... plus 270 flyers from all over Europe attending this world class festival. It was superbly organised by Frederique Riquier and her wonderful crew of volunteers. It is, without a doubt in my opinion, on a par with Dieppe... situation, weather and wind-wise. The festival is held on grass running parallel to the beach, it's just as long (maybe longer!) as at Dieppe and wider too, the beach is mixed sand and pea gravel, not pebbles, and the sea is beautifully warm, blue and Mediterranean.

All through the week workshops and kite demonstrations were held at schools by the international kite flyers, who thrilled the hundreds of children of all ages with their talents. To see the children flying their very own works of art in the school playgrounds and on the beach is a wonderful sight - children are all the same all over the world... put a kite in their hands and they are happy!

Saturday, the first day of the festival, arrived with another beautiful day in paradise but very light winds coming from the wrong direction. However, it was early yet, and all the flyers were busy setting up. I looked at Frederique and kind of shrugged my shoulders, she smiled and said, "Ray, don't worry, by 11 o'clock the wind will turn around and come off the ocean at 10 plus mph." And sure enough she was right on! I mean wow... how did she do that?! ☺

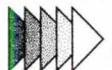
The festival from start to finish was a huge success and

the sky was a maze of colour, showing off kites of every description from around the world. The part I

liked was that the sport kite flyers had their own end of the festival site to give all day demonstrations of individual, pairs and team flying. Once again I was to watch, as I did at the Narbonne Kite Festival just a few months before, the amazing French trick flyers - I think even Brian Champie (the pride of the West Coast) could learn a thing or two from these guys!! I am very sure that he could also show them a thing or two! Like I have mentioned before, I'm not into trick flying, but I must admit 'reluctantly' ☹ that these guys make me stop what I am doing and watch. They had a great sound system, with commentators explaining who was who and what was going down to the thousands of spectators, who were packed around the huge arena. The day went well with everyone doing their thing and thrilling the crowds with their talents. 6pm came all too fast and it was time to pack up and go to the flyers banquet on the beach, where there was plenty of good food and the beer and wine ran like water! Also great entertainment with beautiful Brazilian dancing girls on stage - plus one of the French flyers who dressed up as a girl and did a fine job dancing among the tables looking great in his scanty outfit... in fact, the more we drank, the better he looked!! ☺ It was a wonderful evening and a great finish to an awesome day.

Sunday and the last day of the festival was another beautiful one with good 15mph winds. The sky was a mass of colour and kite demonstrations were in full swing. By noon there were over 100,000 spectators - what a magnificent sight to see so many people enjoying the kite festival. It is very hard to express my feeling when, after performing a multiple kite ballet in near perfect wind conditions, I turn around and see the tens of thousands of spectators jumping up and down, waving and clapping their hands - then I'm hugged, kissed and my hands are shaken in appreciation of my performance... it is all unbelievable and unforgettable. Thank you, Ville de Marseille for sponsoring me to your Envol 2000 International Kite Festival - you can be very proud of your event, as it is indeed a world class one in every way. Thank you also to Frederique Riquier and your wonderful team of volunteers for not only organising this festival but also, and I know I speak for all the international guests, for your hospitality and friendship. We were all very impressed by the way you took care of each and every one of us throughout this wonderful week. Thank you again and I am looking forward to seeing you and sharing the flying arena with my many friends at the Frejus International Kite Festival near Nice on November 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 2000. Thank you for listening.

**Ray Bethell (BKF/Vancouver/Canada)**



## BKF FLY-IN REMINDERS

1ST SUNDAY MONTHLY  
(THROUGHOUT THE YEAR)

**O**ur monthly general fly-in days - a chance for club members to meet up and fly together. Refreshments are available at 'The Badger's Watch' pub, which is across the coast road opposite the site.

- ◆ **Venue:** Telscombe Tye/Brighton
- ◆ **Site:** Next to the A259 coast road between Saltdean and Peacehaven
- ◆ **Map Ref:** 198 TQ 392 017
- ◆ **Time:** 11am - 5pm
- ◆ **Parking:** On roads next to the site or in A259 lay-by
- ◆ **By Bus:** Nos 14/711/712/713 from Brighton
- ◆ **Height Clearance:** 1500ft

## BKF FLY-IN REMINDERS

2ND THURSDAY MONTHLY  
(APRIL - SEPTEMBER INCLUSIVE)

**S**ix mid-year monthly flying evenings at our festival site - with a get-together afterwards at 'The Swan' pub at nearby Falmer.

- ◆ **Venue:** Stanmer Park/Lewes Road/Brighton
- ◆ **Site:** Next to Sussex University
- ◆ **Map Ref:** 198 TQ 342 088
- ◆ **Time:** From 6pm
- ◆ **Parking:** On road through the site
- ◆ **By Bus:** No 25 from Brighton
- ◆ **By Train:** Falmer Station
- ◆ **Height Clearance:** 200ft

## THIS ISSUE'S BACON SAVERS...

**T**hanks to all of this issue's contributors - whose efforts are much appreciated...

- ☆ Ray Bethell (Canada)
- ☆ Bazzar Poulter (UK)

## FURTHER BKF INFO...

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<http://www3.mistral.co.uk/prchitty>  
Webmaster: Phil Chitty:  
Tel: 01273 305831  
email: prchitty@mistral.co.uk
- ◆ **Brighton Kite Festival 2001:**  
Date: Sat 21 & Sun 22 July 2001  
Venue: Stanmer Park/Lewes Road/Brighton/East Sussex  
Organised by the Brighton Kite Flyers Festival Team  
Joint Festival Coordinators:  
Simon Hennessey/Alan Outram
- Further Festival Information:**  
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- ◆ **Brighton Kite Festival Website:**  
<http://www.whizzieworld.free-online.co.uk>  
Joint Webmasters:  
Mik Jennison & Toody Oakhill  
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## CURRENT COMMITTEE

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- ◆ **Secretary (Officer):**  
Simon Hennessey
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## USE THIS SPACE...

**P**lease contribute to your newsletter - even the smallest of items is welcome. Anything sent to the 'Editor' will be considered for print unless marked otherwise. Please include a stamped sae for return.

### Please send contributions to:

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July issue: 1 June  
October issue: 1 September

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

Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Editor or of the Brighton Kite Flyers.

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**Kite**  
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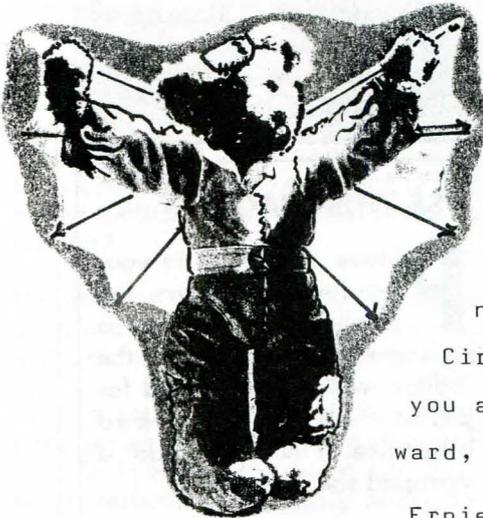
# ROMAN CANDLE 59.



IS THE MILLENNIUM DOME REALLY THE WORLDS BIGGEST CHUTE

The Journal of the Bearly Made It Skydive Squad . The International Brother and Sisterhood of Parachuting Fauna and the U.K. Ted Devils. As ever Mindless Drivel and Politically Incorrect content exceeds 100% But, again as ever, do we give a Toss? not really.....

## GRIZZLY MISHAP, YOO WOT ?



IN THE PANTHEON OF BRAIN DEAD FURRY WOTSITS, ANYONE WHO SCORES MINUS SEVENTEEN ON A SCALE OF ONE TO TEN, MUST BE CLASSIFIED AS JUST A LITTLE BIT SPECIAL.

TA DAAAH!, STEP FORWARD GRIZZLY MISHAP, OR AS HE CALLS HIMSELF "SUPER TED ICARUS, THE BAT WINGED WONDERBEAR"

Unfortunately STI is better known as Mister "I don't need no stinkin' chute" by his colleagues of The Bear Devils Aerial Circus. Ring master Barnaby Wilde puts it this way. Can he fly? you ask, answer, "no", but the thing is, the poor demented Barsteward, in the face of much evidence to the contrary still thinks so.

Ernie Fosselius, Aerial Circus Ground Crew Chief, tells us that it is very sad and so excruciating to watch as every time Grizzly Mishap launches himself from a Kite, he immediately goes into a somewhat graceful plummet or slow motion death dive, culminating without fail in a horrifying Faceplant, accompanied by the usual sickening squelchy thud.

Ernie goes on to say that in spite of undergoing many operations to re-stuff and repair his burst seams and currently sporting an Eyepatch, a metal plate in his Bonce, a leg in plaster and quite a few missing body parts. Super Ted Incarus still persists in his unerring belief that he can actually fly. Ernie even goes to the trouble of laying out a big Pillow, painted with a brightly coloured Target in order to cushion his falls but on every descent STI, who fancies himself as the "Evel Kenievel" of Skydiving lands well wide every time.

Mind you said Ernie, in spite of every mishap, the crowds love it, although small children have to undergo grief therapy afterwards.....

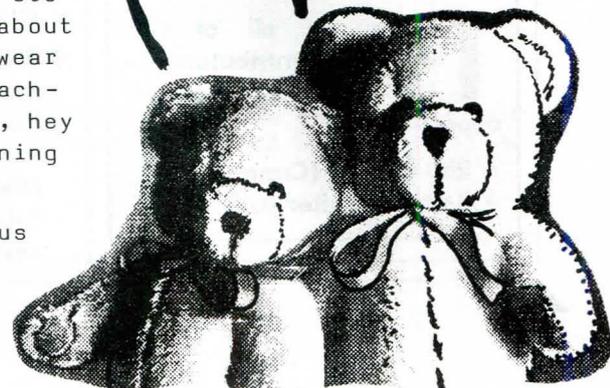
### BEAR DEVILS AERIAL CIRCUS



You know *maybe* this seemingly neverending quest for flight could be milked for even more heart stopping effect. Hey Guys, hows about persuading Grizzly Mishap to wear a chute, but not actually attaching the risers to the harness, hey presto even more stomach churning fun.

Even though Super Ted Icarus Skydives sans a chute, BMISS has no hesitation in awarding him the order of the Brown Skidmark, for devotion above and beyond the call of duty.

RAVING BARMY  
AINT WE ALL?



# Now we are rich:

## Pooh's £124,000 honey pot



**AN OIL PAINTING OF WINNIE THE POOH BECAME THE MOST EXPENSIVE PORTRAYAL OF THE CHILDRENS BOOK CHARACTER WHEN IT WAS SOLD FOR £24,250 AT AN AUCTION IN LONDON RECENTLY.....**

The painting by EH Shepard who illustrated the famous books by AA Milne, was bought by the Canadian City of Winnipeg, which is convinced that it was the inspiration for Winnie the Pooh.

Winnipeg has an annual Winnie the Pooh day to honour the famous bear and the painting will be housed in a purpose built museum just for Milne's character.

A fund raising campaign was launched in the city when became known that the painting was coming up for auction. The federal and provincial governments and local people were involved in fund raising and even children turned up with their piggy banks to contribute.

Winnipeg's belief that it was the inspiration for Winnie the Pooh stems from a decision by Lt Harry Colebourn, a Canadian Army officer to rescue a black bear cub from a trapper shortly before the First World War. Colebourn, who came from Winnipeg named the cub Winnie after the city and brought it to England as a Regimental mascot after outbreak of war in 1914.

As Winnie grew, he proved to be an increasing handful so he was donated to the London Zoo where he became a great favourite with the children. Among the regular visitors were AA Milne and his son Christopher Robin himself, the inspiration for the character in the books. Christopher Robin was even allowed into the cage to feed the bear, can you imagine that today?

So there you have it, no Harry Colebourn, no Winnie the Pooh, although Milne decided on a brown bear, not a black one. EH Shepard produced many drawings of Pooh, though this painting is the only known one done in oils. It is believed that it was painted sometime in the 1930's for a Bristol Teashop.

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### **£91,000 FOR A RARE TITANIC TEDDY.....WHO SAYS THERE AINT MUCH MONEY ABOUT?.**

How many of you knew this?. After the sinking of the Titanic in 1912, the famous German Teddy Bear maker Steiff of Stittgart made a limited edition of Black Mohair Bears, 600 all told. These are now extremely rare, so as you can imagine there was quite a flurry of excitement in the Teddy Bear collector world when it was learned that one in mint condition would shortly be up for auction.

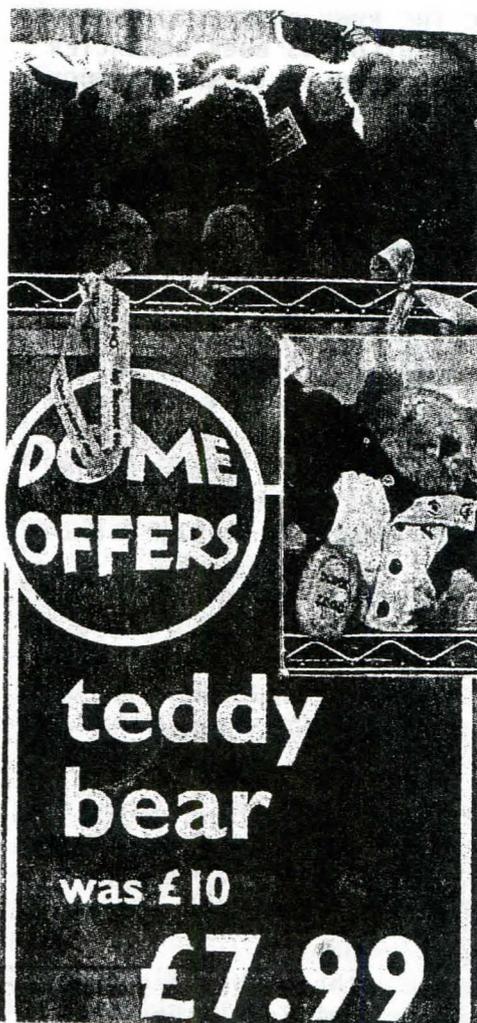
Although it never quite matched or broke the world record price for the legendary bear called Teddy Girl (£100,000+) the £91,000 winning bid for this bear was not to be sniffed at. It was bought by the Puppenhaus Museum in Basle, Switzerland, which has one of the worlds largest collections of Teddy Bears.

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**WE ALWAYS KNEW THAT MEMBERS OF BMISS INCLUDED SOME PARAFUNA OF A SOFT CUDDLY TOY PERSUASION WHO WERE COMPLETELY OUT TO LUNCH, OH, SODDIT, ALL BMISS MEMBERS HAVE A BIT OF THE "MARIE CELESTE" ABOUT THEM, YOU KNOW, ALL LIGHTS BLAZING, NO ONE ON BOARD.....**

AND IF THE MEMBERS ARE ALL TWO BRICKS SHORT OF A LOAD, THEN DONT EVEN THINK ABOUT THOSE CRAZY DROPNIKS. BUT EVEN SO, GRIZZLY MISHAP MUST TAKE THE BISCUIT IN THE NUTTER STAKES.

# Dome wastes no time to start closing-down sale



ITS OCTOBER AND THE MUCH VAUNTED "TOTAL WASTE OF PUBLIC MONEY", THE MILLENNIUM DOME IS QUICK OFF THE STARTING BLOCKS TO DUMP SOUVENIR TAT.....

Also popularly known as the Millenium Tent, this national fiasco had such a shortfall in visitor numbers that some three months before the intended closure, they are resorting to drastic price cuts in order to shift the vast overstock of souvenirs that nobody wants,

Lets face it, this White Elephant which is reputed to have cost around One and a half Billion Sovs, well thats what the Government admits to, and you can bet its nearer twice that sum and which has had vast amounts thrown at it in running costs, has finally admitted defeat when it is reduced to knocking out the souvenirs cut price.

As well as the Teds at £7.99, hows about a "Dome Cube" whatever that is at £15.00 down from £25.00, an umbrella, a snip at £9.99 down from £45.00, or something you cannot live without "The Millenium Dome Book" wow a fistfull off and its yours for £14.99. Pens, Pens, "we dont need stinking Pens, AH! but you do, a mere 49p down from £1.50 and perhaps the piece de resistance "A Millenium Dome Clock " for £9.99 a massive never to be repeated saving of Five whole Pounds you lucky people

However we are obliged to warn you in the name of Her Majestys "COOL BRITANNIA" Government that if you persist in thinking that another amazing price cut could have been acheived if the tent wasnt built, Tony wont like you

## Prince dies in 2,000ft fall

A Roman prince plunged 2,000 feet to his death at the weekend when the parachute shared with his instructor failed to open.

Prince Michele Borghese, 31, was said to have been on his first jump when the accident occurred south of Rome. The instructor was in critical condition.

Maybe Tandem jumping for novice Skydivers is not as safe as it would appear to be. Quite a few incidents have occurred around the world, which leads one to beleive that novice jumping on your Jack Jones is somewhat safer.

## Parachutist survives as roof breaks 2,000ft fall

By MAURICE WEAVER

A PARACHUTIST whose canopy tangled during a demonstration jump survived because he landed on the corrugated iron roof of an airport hangar which cushioned the impact.

David Clements, 46, was lifted down by firemen after breaking an arm and several ribs and was airlifted to Birmingham's Selly Oak Hospital.

After his release yesterday he said: "I simply cannot believe I am alive."

The accident happened during a Remembrance Weekend poppy drop after which Mr Clements, a mechanic from Devon, parachuted from a Dakota DC3

flying at 2,000ft over Coventry airport at Baginton.

On the descent he lost control and was unable to open his chute until close to the ground. Even then, it only partially opened but enough to slow his fall and save his life.

He said: "It was like being spun round in a tumble-drier — I was completely disorientated. I thought, 'This is it, the end'. I had absolutely no control. I lost vital seconds trying to straighten my fall.

"I feared that if I opened the chute it would tangle but in the end I realised I had no choice.

"If I had delayed pulling the cord for another two seconds I don't think I would

have survived." Observers watched as Mr Clements's parachute opened seconds before he landed on the hangar, the roof of which buckled under his weight.

Mr Clements, who has made 2,700 jumps over 20 years, recalled lying on the corrugated iron. "I checked my head and limbs to see if I could still move them.

"I just can't understand how I survived."

Fire Officer Peter Fox of Warwickshire Fire Service said: "He is so lucky. If he had landed on the concrete runway I dread to think what would have happened."

The Civil Aviation Authority and the Health and Safety Executive have started investigations.

# RETURN FIRE



Dear Fred,

I was just wiping up a spill with Issue No 38 of R/C (We get 'em late cos we're in the US of A and you know who only sends them to us after wrapping his fish) and I read with great horror and deep nausea the piece you reprinted by the very delicate soul named Worthington J. Bear, or should I say Winnie the Poofter. Gaaag! what a fraud! Retired RAF my arse. The only jump that fraudulent poser ever made was when one of his fruity restaurant going pals goosed him.

He gives us American Teds a bad name. Its a good thing pretty boy shelf sitters like him stay inside all the time (Oooh its breezy out!, I'll catch my death!) and guys like me are outside most of the time, because if ever honey-tube sucking Worthington and his little "tender dark brown pads" should ever wander into a Bear Devils drop zone (Barnstormin' Bear Devils Masters of the Sky! Yeee Haww!) some of whom have jumped in the snow and love it and resent being called Morons, we'd grab him, strap him into a harness, shove a forbidden lollipop in his mouth to muffle the screams, yank him skywards and drop his sorry Mohair arse from a homemade Kite at 200ft just for Yuks. Be interesting to see how well his sensitivity training serves him then. Of course because we're extremely nice guys, we'd pour a couple of Bear Ales down his yarnhole to neutralise the toxic adrenalin level.

Unfortunately we see a lot of those sensitive new-age type Teds because we live in California. But we have been known to gate crash official Teddy Bear Shows and convince some of those dressed up mincing wuffos to tear of their prissy handmade duds and go outside for their first exposure to falling to earth from a great height on purpose whilst their owners are screaming "But Popsie Pie is not that kind of Bear!" Wannabet? One jump and they're hooked.

Cheers, Bear up, Barnaby Wilde, per pro Wilbur Norville, Hugh Jaire  
Ted -X and of course "'Ere, my things bent" the  
one and only Grizzly Mishap.

---

Dear "Bottle Job", whoops a daisy, Dear Fred.

What is it with you lot? are you really losing the plot or for that matter your bottle? I've scoured the recent issues of mindless drivel in vain for any semblance of haveing a pop at the PO Faced. Gordon Bennett, are you going soft in your old age or what. Time was we were happy at you winding up those miserable sods who were weaned on prunes and Vinegar, but now it seems you've gone all touchy feely, not to mention happy clappy, either shape up or ship out, otherwise I will have to take out a subscription to R.C. just so's I can cancel it.

yours, disgusted, Tunbridge Wells.

---

Dear Fred,

Why does the Boring Old Fart conclude every issue of R.C. with reference to the wonderful politicians in our present Government, by inferring that they are nothing but a load of Traitors. Far from it, these enlightened souls are leading us to where the majority of the population wish to be, i.e. in Europe where we will be governed by the people who truly have our best intrests at heart. Surely this is all it is about, no less.

Yours, name and address withheld.....

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## THE BEAR DEVILS AERIAL CIRCUS

C an be contacted at PO Box  
2203 Sebastopol, CA 95473-2203  
And no, for all you hignorant  
sods out there CA aint an ab-  
reviation for the Crimea, no  
yoo dozy sods, this CA is the  
one and only California, USA.



**JUST TO SHOW THAT WE INCLUDE OPPOSITE  
VIEWPOINTS, EVEN MISGUIDED ONES, LIKE  
THE ONE ABOVE, NO MATTER, AS USUAL ITS  
THE USUAL TO THE USUAL C/O THE BORING  
OLD FART 48. LAUREL LANE, WEST DRAYTON  
MIDD, UB7.7TY. IN WHAT WILL FOREVER  
BE ENGLAND NO MATTER WHAT THE RUNNING,  
DOGS, FELLOW TRAVELLERS AND TRAITORS  
HAVE PLANNED.....**

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