

Here is a letter from one of our readers that starts as follows :-

From a new member of the Kite Society, also an old member of the B.K.F.A. and the A.K.A., my name is not that important, I do have a degree of B.A.

Reading the October issue 1984. In the newsletter, I was very interested in the article that Gill Bloom wrote about her little past history and life, but what interested me most was her fantastic dreams on kite designs, but which she never got round making.

I also have fantastic thoughts of designing kites, but then I do put them on paper and then make and fly them. I would say some of them are out of this world. To look at them you would not think they will fly.

I have been designing kites, and making them, for the past 40 years. I do go to work full time, that is my occupation is that of an Armourer at H.M. Tower of London for the past 20 years. I restore and repair old pistols and suits of armour.

I became interested in kites when I was 8 years of age. In a park I saw a man trying to fly his kite for about an hour, but he could not get it in the air. So he gave it to me, since then I have been interested in flying and making kites.

I still have this kite, it was called, at the time, a War Kite, but today it is called a conyne.

My best kites are my bird ones which range from 4ft - 16ft. Sometimes I fly them singly and, when the wind is right, I fly them in formation - three at the same time on one line.

Just before the last kite festival I went to in October on Blackheath, I was working on a kite which I was designing - quite a fantastic fun one. It is now made and it flies well.

The shape of it is a pair of (lady's) lips 9ft x 3ft 6" with teeth showing. It flies with a tail so I use 4 large drogues with a 12" diameter opening and 16" long, 8ft apart. The kite flies well at 800 ft. It gives a lot of people enjoyment when they see it flying and I do get a lot of people around me.

You could not buy any of the kites I make in a shop. If you could it would cost pounds. To make one today it would cost me around £6 and you could not buy one at a cost of £60 or £80.

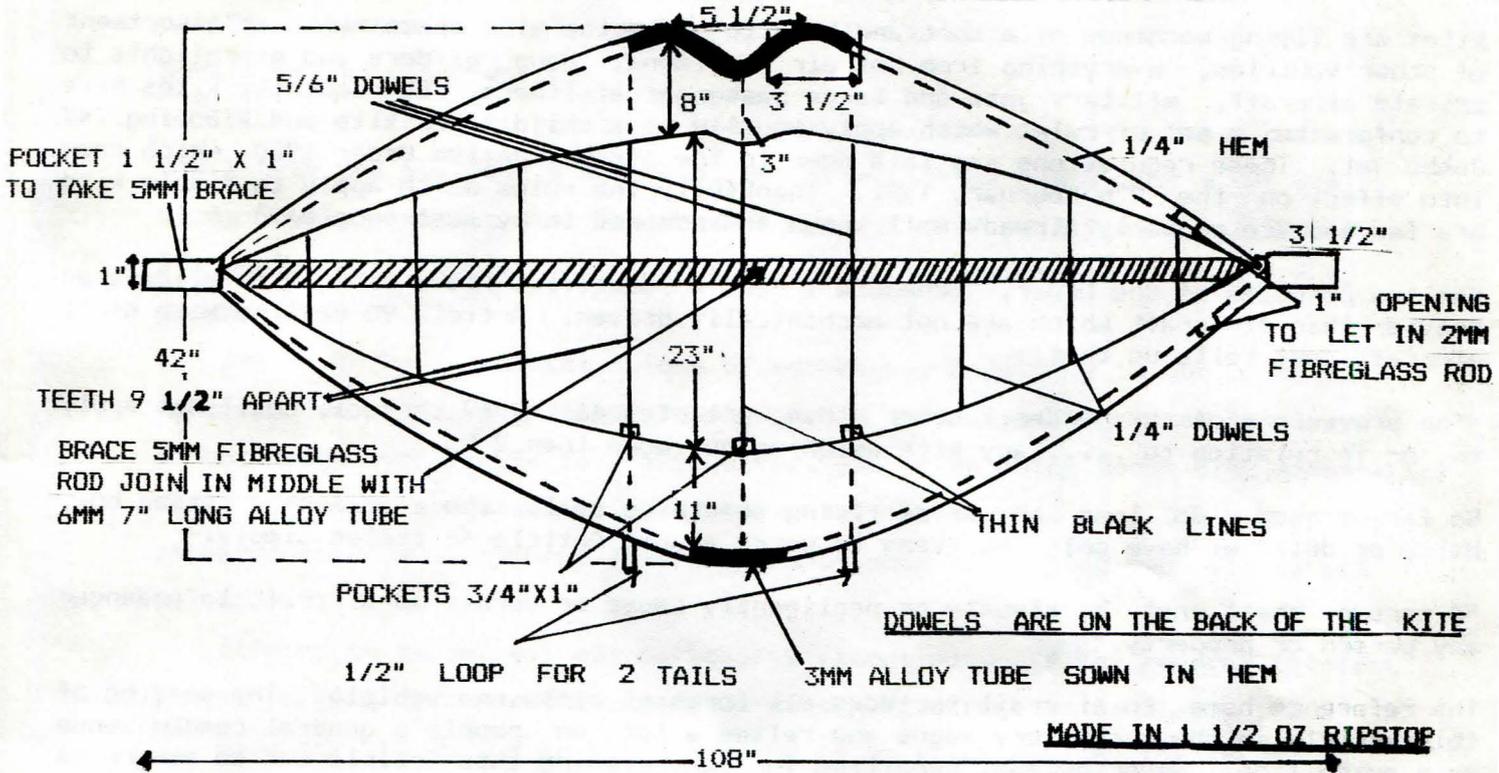
I am working on another design. It is a in the shape of a lady's bra round about 14ft by 3ft 10". This will be fun in the summer-time when I will be flying it. For the tail I thought I would make a pair of blown up legs 4ft long.

I know very little about aerodynamics but then my kites do fly well, more than I can say about some kites you buy in shops. Many a time I have flown them at festivals on Blackheath. I do fly them away from everybody. I have a lovely Cody - 10ft extended wing which was made about 5 years ago - also I like stunt flying.

ALFRED BARRATT

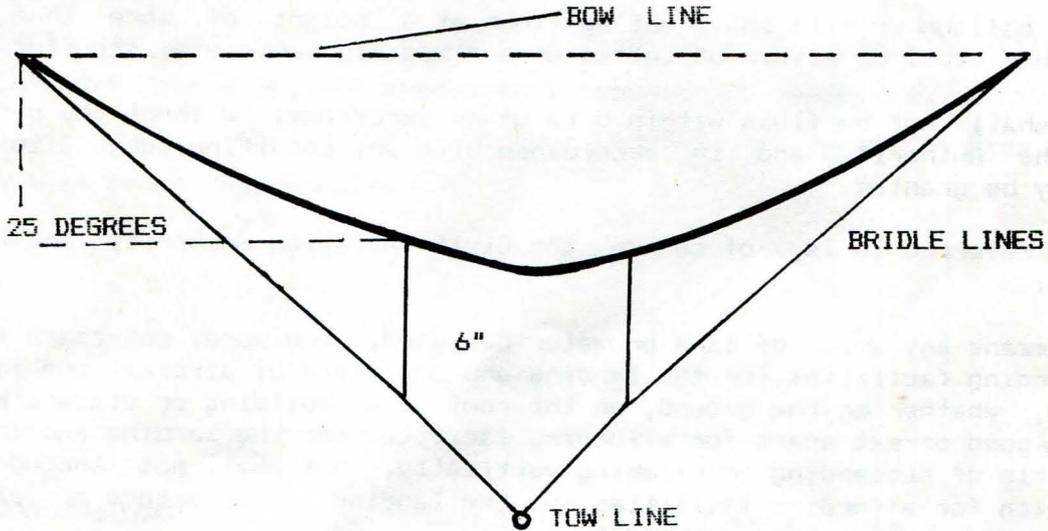
PLAN

3MM ALLOY TUBE BENT TO SHAPE AND SOWN INTO HEM



TWO TAILS AT EACH END OF TAIL PUT DROGUES AS STATED IN LETTER.

TOPVIEW



LIGHT TO GENTLE WINDS MAKE THE BOW AT 20 DEGREES
MODERATE WINDS BOW AT 25 DEGREES