

TROUBLE WITH THE LAW

On a sunny breezy Sunday at the end of September, I was flying twin line in Stoke Park in Guildford. I was approached by the Park Wardens and asked to stop flying. Amazed at such a request I asked the reason. The Wardens said they had a number of complaints about the behaviour of a group of young men who were flying, or more to the point, being flown by traction kites at the other end of the park. They were using very long lines (of course) and arrogantly disregarding the safety of other people in the Park. They had been rude and impossible to reason with and so the Wardens had threatened Police action and decided to stop all kite flying that day.

A few days after that I was back in the park enjoying a bit of practice, when a voice behind me said, "If you don't stop flying that kite I will have to arrest you." It was the Police Officer whose beat included the park. She had been approached by the Wardens after the last incident, had looked into local byelaws and found a paragraph banning kite flying in the park. I explained that I was a member of a recognised club and had public liability insurance. I said that what she was proposing would be impossible to enforce and did she really want to arrest children flying their little sled kites. I told her I was a witness on the previous occasion and asked her to consider tackling the real problem, which in my opinion was the use of equipment unsuitable for that site. We parted on good terms and she was going to e-mail the text of the law concerned. I have not received that e-mail and have been to the Police Station to contact the officer but at present I have been unsuccessful. I am still flying in the park and will await further developments with interest.

It would be interesting to hear other flyers views on the subject of power kites being used in unsuitable locations by inexperienced flyers.

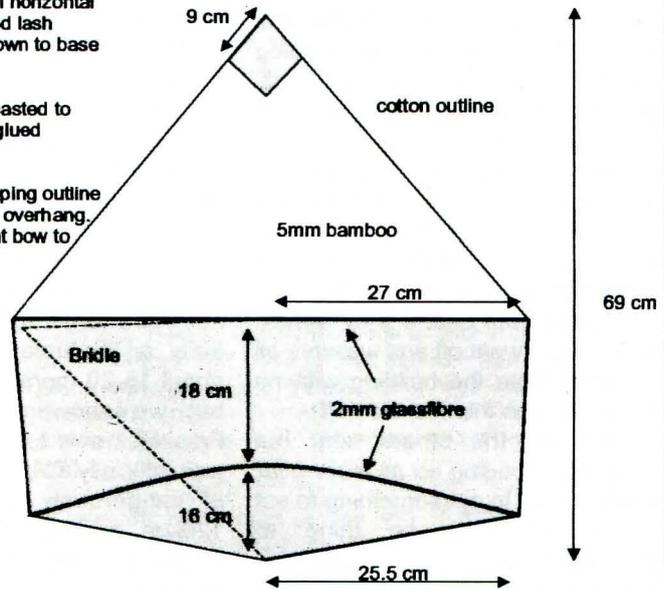
Dave McArthur

Brazilian Pipa Fighter - not to scale

To set spars tie thread to head, spiral down and lash horizontal spar, spiral down and lash curved spar, then down to base of stick and tie-off.

Skin is hard tissue pasted to outline. Skin is also glued (evostick) to sticks.

Kite is bowed by looping outline over horizontal spar overhang. This also gives slight bow to spine.



Hastily drawn by Paul Chapman October 2002

DO YOU KNOW KYOKO

The Smallest Kite ever flown according to the Guinness book of records was a kite built by Nobuhito Yoshizumi of Kyoto, Japan, which measured 10 x 8 mm (0.04 x 0.03 in), and was flown at the Seattle Cherry Blossom

and Japanese Cultural Festival, in Washington, USA, on April 18, 1986. Nobuhito Yoshizumi has been building and designing kites throughout his life and is world-renowned master kite-maker. He is a member of the Kyoto Kite Association and of the International Friends of Small Kites organization.

FENCING THE TYE

We enclose part of letter sent to the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, regarding the above.

3. The vehicle entry/exit at the junction of the A259 is unsafe for general use as this is an accident black spot. We feel that a vehicle entry/exit point somewhere towards the lower part of Gorham Way would be much safer. This could be a locked field gate with keys made available only to authorised people. There is a need for a small number of vehicles to access the Tye for events, such as the annual Telscombe Cliffs Kite Flying Festival, to carry equipment etc. We are aware that there are some councillors who are opposed to the Kite Festival and others opposed to any vehicles being on the Tye, but this is a genuine recreational use of the Tye, enjoyed by dozens of local people. Without proper access, the Kite Festival will

disappear, so this objection still stands.

4. We believe that most local people think that the fencing of the Tye is to exclude motor cycle scrambling, racehorse training, and travellers camping. However, it is now clear that none of this will be stopped by the fencing, but merely somewhat deterred. Anyone determined will still be able to make unauthorised use and abuse of the Tye. We are fundamentally opposed to the fencing of common land, but understood the needs as outlined above. Clearly those needs will not be met by this fencing, so we would therefore also wish to oppose the fencing of common land as a matter of principle.

Long live Kite Flying!

Pat & Chris Bowman