

THE KITEFLIER

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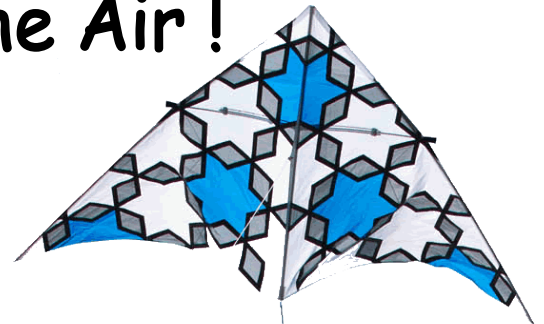
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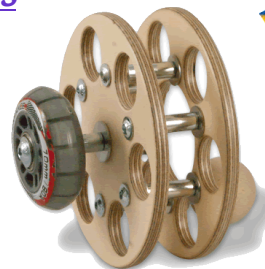
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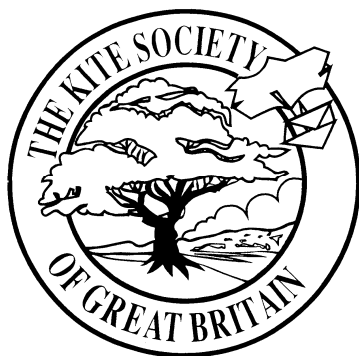


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Editorial

Front Cover
Our intrepid reporters
Hugh and Lyn Blowers
using Steve Brocket's
Strange Fruits as a
sunshade at Bristol.

Photo: Gill Bloom

Happy New Year—2016 will be a good kite flying year and people will be showing off their new toys at all the events they attend.

In many conversations we have on the flying field is the lack of new blood coming into kite flying. There are many apparent reasons for this—distraction from more 'exciting' toys like Games consoles and the fear of the great outdoors ☺. Kite flying is seen—with some exceptions—as an older person's activity. So discussions revolve around how to change this. One option is to support your local kite club and encourage younger people to go along and be introduced to the hobby. Maybe get in touch with your local scout group or school and offer to lead a kite session with them (it is both a badge in the scout movement and part of the school curriculum).

Here are the local groups that we are aware of—there may be more. If there are please let us know.

Brighton Kite Flyers, Essex Kite Group, Midland Kite Fliers, North East Kite Fliers, Northern Kite Group, White Horse Kite Fliers (Swindon), Kite Club of Scotland, East Anglian Kite Fliers, Suffolk Kite Flyers, Thorpe Kite Flyers (Norwich), Avon Kite Flyers, Golden Valley Kite Fliers (Gloucester), Kent Kite Flyers, Poole Kite Fliers and Solent Kite Flyers.

Plus a number of local power kite groups. There is also STACK UK for sports kites nationally. You can find links to all of these on our web site or use a search engine.

Just in as we go to press—Allan Pothercary has passed on the sad news that Peter Powell passed away this morning 3rd January 2016. His contribution to kite flying is immeasurable and our thoughts are with his family.

Gill and Jon

Membership Type	Fee
Electronic Subscription (Individual or Family)	£5.00
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Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

I suppose that in 24 years of more serious kiting we are still, pretty much, novices compared to some of you guys out there. We came in right at the heyday of this sport/hobby/passion/obsession and, unlike so many - stayed.

During that time I cannot remember such a long period of inclement weather making kite flying so difficult, if not, impossible! I don't mean to be dispassionate as there are some areas of the country that have more to worry about than flying the odd kite and my heart goes out to them.

I have often wondered what I would do with my time if I didn't fly kites and, since returning from our holiday and writing the last article, I have found out. Never-the-less those kites that wanted fixing on rainy, too windy or no wind days are still waiting for me in the shed.

Friends make it worse

I have been lucky to have built up a circle of kite buddies all over the planet including several in America and Europe as well as those in China, New Zealand and here in the UK and we all communicate regularly on kites old and new through the media of emails and videos.



It is all very interesting and great fun but, seeing how the rest of the world is enjoying so much good flying weather, only serves to add to the frustration of not getting out there with Marilyn and just flying.

Several times we have checked a list of weather stations and got in the car only to sit there all day in rain or still conditions waiting for the wind and sun that was forecast. I don't believe it's just me - I know my friend Yorick agrees!

White Elephant?

You'll be seeing pink elephants next! A long while back Chalkie White had picked up some promotional pink elephants and was selling

them off. Marilyn wanted one but we were too late and we were unable to track down the source. Long story short, I was talking to Jessica, the sales manager at Weifang Kaixuang Kite Manufacturing Co Ltd when I asked if they could make one.

MD, Tan Xinbo took the basic ideas that I had emailed (especially including the size we wanted) and came up with a prototype that was not far short of excellent and just what we had in mind. There followed a couple of changes that I asked for and voilà there it was - the whole thing done in under four weeks - amazing!



One is not enough

I decided that I should have one in the natural colour of grey too and delivery of the samples wasn't that long after. What *did* take the time was waiting for some decent weather to fly them. Of course we had to take videos for both the website and Youtube so we wanted good light as well.



At the second attempt and the second long trip down to the field at Stokes Bay near Gosport we managed to get some footage of both elephants but a little bit of careful editing was required due to the poor light - I nearly said dull day but it was far from that as you'll see if you

Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

take a trip to the Close Encounters web-site and watch the video.

Standards

These excellent pieces of line laundry (it's easier to call them kites) are very well made - the Kaixuan kite factory have built a reputation for good quality - they are proud of that achievement and are keen to maintain it.

As with most inflatables, you need to get the air into the back end of the kite before the pressure builds up and the head, ears, trunk and tusks become fully inflated and the whole thing holds its shape very well. The first day out (in good light for filming), we found them to behave up to about 15/17mph after which they start to stand with the rear end skywards and, over that, sometimes give a few worrying, violent shakes that make you want to get them down and preserve them for another day - we didn't want to test these to destruction although I am fairly confident that they would have taken a lot more punishment.

Let down

I am known to be a bit fussy when deflating and bagging up. I don't like to force the air out through the seams because that is bound to affect how the kite holds the air during future outings and I much prefer to *roll up* rather than *ram pack*.

However, I did find that squeezing the air toward the zipper and the vent where the elephant fills with air more difficult than with some kites, partly due to the size and shape and partly because it does refill with air so easily. This is NOT a complaint though - just me saying what its like in case you see us struggling somewhen and offer to help.

The elephants met our every expectation - and then some! Everyone who saw them seemed to like them and cars were stopping by the roadside with occupants decanting for the photo opportunities. I think these kites are probably correctly aligned with other, similar sized inflatables in the \$500 price bracket - I get zero commission for my part - it's not worth the hassle with international laws and the tax man.

These are not going to be white elephants (although we may well get one) and they will be on all our trips out next year!

Mr Tan

Unfortunately we could not attend the 2015 Portsmouth kite festival due to a last minute, booking in Wales that, in the event, we wish we hadn't taken but those of you that did go, may have seen Tan Xinbo in and around the single line arena.

Known locally and amongst his work force as Mr Tan, he is extensively travelled and has won, literally hundreds of accolades at festivals and events in China and internationally, flying his many creations such as motorcycles, hornbills, scorpions and the transformer. He is also the acclaimed innovator of LED kites.

Tan completed his apprenticeship of kite design and flying under his father with the more traditional Chinese kites before starting up his own factory which is now the largest kite factory in Weifang employing around a



h u n d r e d workers. The factory has applied for and won certifications of quality control and licenses to trade internationally. The company makes kites, under license, for many well known names including Peter Lynn. So, even though your kite may have a brand name on it or you bought something on Ali Bongo or Ali Express or even another Chinese kite company, chances are that it could have originated from the laser cutting machines and sewing rooms of Kaixuan Kites.

As reported in earlier articles, there are still a lot of cheap rubbish kites coming out of China which look good in the sky but never last very long (and I have a few of those too) but I seriously doubt they were the product of Mr Tan's company.

Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

Sparkling or not?

How would I mark the new **Hoffmann's "Sparkling Triangle"** kite from HQ Invento? Sparkling in performance 9 out of 10, sparkling in sparkles 5 out of 10 but hopefully more in better light and different angles.

Assembly

My advice would be to assemble this kite out of the wind the first time and then, once having seen how it works, the next time will be a lot smoother.

The kite comes mostly already fully assembled with just three spars to insert through the sails in to a central hub and velcroed at the tip. I have had questions doubting the strength of the hub from a flyer (Jim) who has previously had a similar one break in another kite (he didn't say which) but the centre part of the triangle is not under extreme pressures as the spars that connect from it to the Velcro operated wing tips are there to hold the kite's shape.

We first tried this kite that very windy, very gusty day when we took the Elephant to Stokes Bay and it did not cope well at all as it zoomed about in the sky, stalling, accelerating in a manner similar to a stunt kite - although worrying, I admit that it did look spectacular especially when it stalled and tumbled before picking up and shooting off again.



But this was quite dangerous behaviour especially if there was another kite or line nearby or if a spectator wandered within the 180° radius of the payed out line. The

inevitable eventually happened and it piled in to the ground where, as on a sport kite, the velcro fastening thankfully, opened, saving the kite from damage.

Better wind

The second day that we travelled to Stokes Bay the wind was not gusty and the kite behaved completely differently.

The green we were on has a bank all the way round it and this does affect the wind low down but, because of the volatile nature of this triangle box, it was fairly easy to pull and pump the kite high enough to catch the wind where it settled nicely without further dressing required. It seems to be one of those kites that loves to sit among the higher kites at any festival and will still be noticed.

For those of you that like to adorn your kites with tails I didn't notice any loops. It doesn't need tails to aid stability and their addition might upset the balance and angle of attack.

I have still yet to fly it in strong sun against a blue sky and I can hope that it will sparkle more than I saw as the light shines through the tough, flexible, clear plastic panels on each side. As with the Xelon, designed by the same guy, light shining *through* will not 'sparkle' as much as light *reflected off*.

Maybe future planning and research of materials should be channeled toward surfaces of reflection and diffraction rather than merely passing through. However, this critique does not **reflect** (sorry about that) my opinion of the kite. It is easy to carry around, quick to assemble, large enough to be noticed and flies well (keep away from gusty weather). As usual, there is a video of it flying on our website.

Thank you

Although slightly embarrassed, I would like to thank Lex from "Flying Fish" (I still wish they had called themselves something else) for his acknowledgement to Marilyn and myself in the previous issue of this magazine.

It was a great pleasure to work with Lex and Irma, mainly because they were so keen - they really *wanted* to fly properly as a pair and later, as a team with their friends from L-Kats. We are always ready to coach anyone in flying kites and have taken on many students over the years.

We enjoy watching the buzz they get as their skills improve and, all of a sudden, they can easily do something well that was so difficult a

Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

short while before - we get a buzz from them too! Unfortunately, there have been so many others that have fallen by the wayside and don't improve much at all.

I tell everyone that if you want to fly sport kites well, you really have to want to do it and you must put in the hours of effort to achieve it - but then it should not be an effort it should be fun too - if you are one of those people that truly like to challenge yourself then you'll do it.

In the words of many times, multi disciplined, world champion Carl Robertshaw, you have to practice, practice, practice; and then when you have finished you go practice some more. FF have done that and have moved up through the ranks to become accomplished flyers and, I am pleased to note, are using the very same techniques I used to coach them, to go on and teach others - a fact that pleases me more than anything.

Back in the day I argued with Lex that competition is the best way to focus your mind and hone your skills. Lex said that they didn't want to be serious about it - for them it just had to be about having fun, but somewhere along the line they both realised that competition can be fun too!



I mentioned in the previous issue that our house manager on holiday, Jane, was one of our successes and I am in the process of editing a video of what she achieved going from not being able to fly a sport kite at all to flying with tails and flying in pairs.

The offer of help is open to anyone whether you can fly but would like to go on and fly pairs or team or you are a novice or absolute beginner and want to fly with purpose. I may not do fiddly knots and things but I do have loads of patience as long as you keep trying. Just visit our website to contact us.

Penguin an Enemy?

Only if you were a fish (or, perhaps a Flying Fish) should you keep clear of this otherwise it is a great easy flyer, very steady single line kite that is suitable for young and old alike.



Known as the HQ Parafoil Sleddy there are others in the range including the Chevron and Flame kites and this one - The Penguin. (penguins eat fish if you haven't got it by now). The range is even bigger but these three have been adapted to take a single 'Fuzzy Tail' which, I have on good authority, improves the stability of the kite over the looped tail its predecessors.

Completely soft, the kite comes in its own, colourful bag with toggle tie and a line on a reel. I much prefer a line on a reel rather than a winder because the juddering action of the winder when paying out the line is a feeling that youngsters or novice flyers do not like and are wary of.

I intend to have a small flock (is that the right word?) of these parafoils flying in the new year - should look good!

Maestro III

One of the longest running favourites amongst HQ sport kites, the Maestro, has now evolved to the Maestro 3. This has always been a brightly coloured, I hesitate to use the term, eye catching (well you know what I mean) sport kite.

I found the first of these to be a bit heavy and unforgiving of any less than perfect attempts at the simple tricks in my repertoire. The Maestro 2 was a vast improvement not as heavy and slow enough to use as a team kite pulling our brightly coloured tails.

The tricks were easier and I thought this was as far as they would go with this particular kite. However, a delayed 2015 launch brought forward this model - and what an improvement all round. First time out I made the mistake of fly-

Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

ing this on long lines and a long line kite it definitely is not!

Not small

This 87 inch wide kite is constructed from 6mm carbon rod and tapered, wrapped, Dynamic T15, the proven competitor of Skyshark. To aid with both weight reduction and strength in the sail the designer has incorporated the use of Mylar which also helps to give the kite a more appealing, professional appearance.

I found that you have to be able to feel the wind on your back for successful flight (i.e. 5 or 6mph minimum) but the makers claim is that the kite is good right up to 25mph.



There are weights supplied to aid tricks in higher winds but to be honest it will only be the top flyers doing roll-ups and comets at that sort of speed - I think the top end is more to say that the kite would still be OK if you got hit with an unexpected gust. However, it is a kite aimed at all skill levels and strong enough to take a bit of punishment whilst perfecting new moves and, excelling particularly at the roll-up, it is capable of performing all the tricks in the book. It is not just a minor re-hash of the older version but a completely redesigned model retaining a similar look - like they do just after you buy a new car.

I particularly like the way the panels change colour right across the kite thus enabling quick recognition of which way the kite is facing during some of the tricks. If you are not fully in to tricks yet then it is a great kite to just fly around whilst you gradually get to learn a few extra control essentials. This is definitely the stand out kite to be seen flying with on the beach or at a festival.

Bob Dylan

Up until a few years back the only Zimmerman I had heard of was Robert Allen Zimmerman who is, of course, Bob Dylan!

But now we have Rolf Zimmerman of RZ-Kites. I was chatting to one of the American kite buddies of whom I mentioned earlier when he told me about the Owl and the Mouse he has on order. I was amazed at the photos he had and contacted Rolf for permission to use them and share with the readers of this magazine.

What an interesting bloke is Rolf who told me of his beginnings back in 1992 when he quickly moved from making sport kites to single line kites. At first he made a few copies for his own pleasure and learned some of the techniques before making his first really successful venture in to the commercial world with a lobster which won him the German Mastership Award.

Since then he has gone on to produce many more varied and interesting kites with a new design coming out visually every year - kites such (in his own words) "*Several other designs followed, like the Starfish, Seahorse, Teddybear, Snail, Owl, Hedgehog, Dragon (Wyverex), Pterodactylus, Android, second Dragon (Tabrix), Mouse and the Scorpion, oh also some Yellow birds (Like Tweety) also a Devil version of that one*".



Rolf tells me that the scorpion is a development of his original lobster.

Licensed

There are three companies around the world that have a license to make some of the kites in some of the sizes but I get the feeling that Rolf would prefer to make them all himself. RZ-Kites have a great website showing all the kites in most of the various colour schemes that the many buyers have so far requested.

I am looking forward to the video from the USA of the owl and the mouse which will be featured on our web-site and YouTube Channels.

What a Witch!

We got this kite from Jessica at Weifang Kaixuan Kites - the contact details are on the video or through me if you are interested in getting one. Mention us when contacting them and they will have a better idea of what you are after - the English comprehension is not always great!

One of two witches on broomsticks we have now acquired was filmed the same day as the elephant videos with an HQ LBat buzzing around it - I am quite pleased with the effects I achieved playing around with the software but will be making another video with both witches and more bats.

You will probably have seen these first at Portsmouth and may have a better idea than me at the time of writing who to credit for their design. I had a tough time tracking them down and have had quite a few people ask me about them and where to purchase since our video was posted on YouTube.

I will warn again that our videos (and photos) will always show the kites at their best. Whilst some kites, such as the elephants, always look great from any angle and fly well not all of them fly well for long periods.



We had no problem flying the witch on a broomstick once we got it inflated - the bridling is tricky and easy to get tangled due to its shape and Lex made a small adjustment to the broomstick part of the bridle to get it to stay straight.

Viewed from the front you can't see what the kite is about and, because it flaps around a bit, the silhouetted shape is not always fully ex-

Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

tended but that is part of the fascination of watching.

If there is more than one witch the eye quickly picks out the one fully out - and they are amazing! In the words of the song of the film - "Every which way but loose!" Sorry about that, I'll just get my coat.

Models Wanted

...and finally! Having probably, waffled on for long enough now, I would like to add my piece to a comment received about one of our videos that would also apply to the photos you see in here.

"Nice size comparison by including Marilyn in the video next to the kite" - well, perhaps a bit slow to realise the obvious but it is something we have always tried to do.

We are not trying to get ourselves in to the frame all the time, it is just for comparison. How else could you judge the enormity of the wondrous RZ Owl without this comparison...

Now as much as I realise how it may affect female readership if my photo is not in the magazine, we do welcome anyone to come along and stand in on our photo and video shoots. The pay is poor (nothing) and you have no say in the final edit so just remember that the definition of a volunteer is... 'Someone who didn't understand the question'.

May we wish everyone a great year of flying in 2016 and look forward to seeing you on a flying field somewhere - come and say hello!

Allan and Marilyn Pothecary
www.closeencounterskites.co.uk



Steerable Kites—George Webster

Steerable kites in the UK up to (about) 1990

1 Introduction

'Regular Readers' will know that whenever I write about kites, I have specifically excluded those with more than one line or, at most, only mentioned really important landmarks. However, recently (e.g. in Issue 142) Alex Kraaijeveld has written about 'early' two-line kites in the UK. Some of his emphasis is, I feel, wrong but rather than be negative—I'm all for encouraging the good guys who fly old as well as new two-liners—I thought that I could at least give my view of what happened.

Although I was around in the period 1975-90 I flew very few steerable kites, so writing this has involved Tony Cartwright and, especially, Andy King helping me to describe the evolution of what happened in kiting during this period rather than my usual focus on kites themselves. Some of the background is given in my *Kites On a Line* (<http://www.johndobson.info/John's%20Kite%20Site/George/writings.html>). Ron Moulton's two books [1,2] have details of the kites. But still nothing from me on power kites.

2 Definitions

The general term is dirigible kites, i.e. kites which are steerable left/right and capable of looping when required. Those interested could enter an argument as to how much movement and how precise must it be to count as steerable. Rokakkus are a case in point. They can be moved; but a team rokakuu ballet? On the other hand, nothing could be more dirigible than an Indian fighter kite; but they can't do ballet either.

I've split dirigible kites into 3 sections:

- 1) Single line
- 2) Three and Four line
- 3) Two line.

3 Single line

The first attempt at steering a kite probably followed soon after the first flight as the flier sought the best place for fishing. I suspect that the Indian fighter type was the first to have steerability comparable with 2-liners (*Kites on a Line*, p. 139 (Chapter 6)). I don't know of a claimed first date but since paper was necessary for the cover it cannot be before about 500 AD. Indian fighters were known in England by 1909 being sold under the name Vakata in Gamages (a London department store). Sets were made up in two colours, red and blue, the game being teams of boys competing in cutting down the opposing team's kites.

In 1969 Dinesh Bahadur introduced Indian fighters to New York when he made them part of the range in his kite store, and they were quickly on sale at Come Fly a Kite in San Francisco. As a result they were "Americanised" during the 1970's by patented versions such as the Vic Fighter and the Grandmaster. These used more modern, more durable, and more expensive materials so that the rules of fighting took account of the value of the kites — as opposed to the highly expendable originals. The Kite Store stocked Vic Fighters and Indian Fighters in the late 1970s, and also Viv Comma's KisKeeDee (see *Kites on a Line* p.157 (Chapter 6)) which was designed to dance not fight.

Many other Asian countries have single line fighters but in the 1970's I remember seeing only Korean and Japanese ones in the UK. In the 1980's I bought a Brazilian cotton/wood Papagaio which we were told was the kite to be seen on Copacabana beach. Some time later Brazilians didn't seem to have heard of them and used Pipas which are essentially lightweight modified Rokakkus.

Although in the 1970's and 80's there were some Indian fighter competitions held at UK festivals it was noticeable that they didn't usually involve Asians. For years there was an all-Asian competition held at Blackheath — I remember someone who was a specialist in bridling them sitting down with a used



KisKeeDee

Steerable Kites—George Webster

matchstick making holes in the paper cover. It was there that I learned a way of modifying them for high winds by burning a series of holes in the wings using a cigarette.

4 Three and Four line kites

This category comprises specialist kites developed in the West. Not my concern are some 19th century kites which required multiple lines to fly at all.

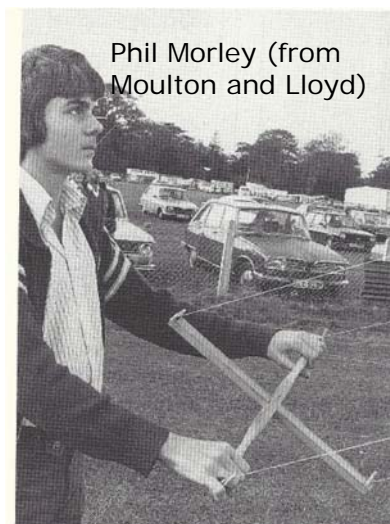
The first specialist 4-line kite was developed by George Pocock whose patent was granted in 1829 (*Kites on a Line* p. 24 (Chapter 2)). Pocock used archtop kites and early on felt that they were reliable enough to lift his daughter on a swing seat. However, his kites needed to be large, 12 feet by 15 feet, and transportable. As a result, development was hampered until he designed a system of pushing out the supports for the arch head by a two-dimensional version of an umbrella's system. He used a top and a bottom line for fore/aft control of rise and fall and reaction to wind changes. A line to each corner changed the angle of the kite to the wind. Together these controls allowed passenger vehicles to travel on roads sometimes at record speeds. For me his greatest exploit was to beat the stagecoach from Hounslow to the White Bear Inn on Piccadilly Circus. He was not the only person to use the system — it was also used to drive boats. The Duke of Cambridge had a set of silk kites and used to drive up and down the Harrow Road. (Has Peter Lynn ever provided a traction system to a member of the Royal Family?)

The next use of a four-line kite was by the Wright Brothers who, in 1898, flew what was to become a biplane glider as kite rigged so that the wing-tips could be twisted. Known as 'wing warping' this was the test bed for their method of trimming and turning their first man-carrying aircraft.

I don't remember any 4-line flying for most of the 1980's except at one or two festivals someone used to fly a Malay with a line to each corner controlled by a wooden cross (as used with puppets). It would hover while inverted. His name was Phil Morley (see Moulton and Lloyd [2] p. 168).

In 1981 Richard and Kathy Davey in Australia produced the Playsail.

Essentially a sheet flown from two loops, one fixed bottom/top left and ditto right, it was introduced into the UK by George Peters.



Phil Morley (from Moulton and Lloyd)



Playsail

Then in 1988 right at the end of my time slot the Hadzicki brothers developed the Revolution, the first production model arriving in January 1989. The design has remained essentially unchanged with its use of 4 lines to twist the kite, linking back to the Wright brothers wing-warping. Designers may have thought that something more symmetrical would be more accurately manoeuvrable, but still the Rev is

supreme.

The only other 4-line kite which I have seen regularly—but rarely—at festivals is David Davies' Skydancer with a curved leading edge which changes shape in the wind — again a 1990's development.

One or two 3-line kites have appeared, for example the Synergy 333 in the early 2000's, which has three separate lines connected to a tetrahedral frame held in



Skydancer

Steerable Kites—George Webster

one hand, and an Eolo-Gayla Joystick kite in 1996, which has two handles, one with two lines for controlling its flying and one with a single line which controls the angle of attack, and so requires two hands to fly.



5 Two-line kites

Back in 1894 J. Woodbridge Davies in New York designed an octagonal rescue kite for getting a line on to a wrecked ship. By using two lines he could fly 'off the wind' covering an angle of 270°. Varney [3] mentions Potter flying a cellular kite to a thousand feet and using a 'supplementary cord' by which the kite could be controlled to an angle of 60° on either side of the wind.

It is said that photos of the boat and kite rig which Cody used to cross the Channel in 1903 show a second line which provided him with additional control.

In 1914 Miller [4] wrote 'a double bridle with a kite line to each makes a dirigible kite possible ... which can give much amusement in kite antics'. There is also a simple plan in his book (page 17) showing each bridle attached to a wing tip and the rear of the spine of a Malay-type kite. This was of course at a time when stability of flight was a highly desirable quality in a kite. Are there any references out there to it being done?

However, the most important 2-line development prior to the 1970's was in 1942 with Paul Garber's Target Kite.

This was a system to help train gunners of small arms to be effective against enemy aircraft. It used a 5-foot Malay kite with a Japanese or German aircraft printed on it manoeuvred by two lines. A control bar was held by the flier and pulling on one side pulled that wing of the kite forward and also turned a rudder under the tail by using a spreader bar on the kite. This was heavily made with a plasticated cover and a cross spar of 45 x 10mm, but in a strong wind or being flown from a moving ship could be moved quickly on 80-metre lines.

Paul Garber was an aeronautics expert, a great populariser of kite flying who held a senior position in the Smithsonian Museum in Washington. So I have often wondered why he used two techniques to cause the kite to turn—pulling forward one wing as used by almost all 2-line kites since, and a rudder. I have heard him defended by the argument that a rudder is better for low wind speeds and a kite flying flat on the wind. I've never seen a complete real Garber kite, still less seen one fly, but I have to say that a kite of that wing loading needs a strong wind and all the operating instructions and still photos I've seen show it at a steep rather than shallow flying attitude — which I would think fits with the requirements for target practice.

Steerable Kites—George Webster



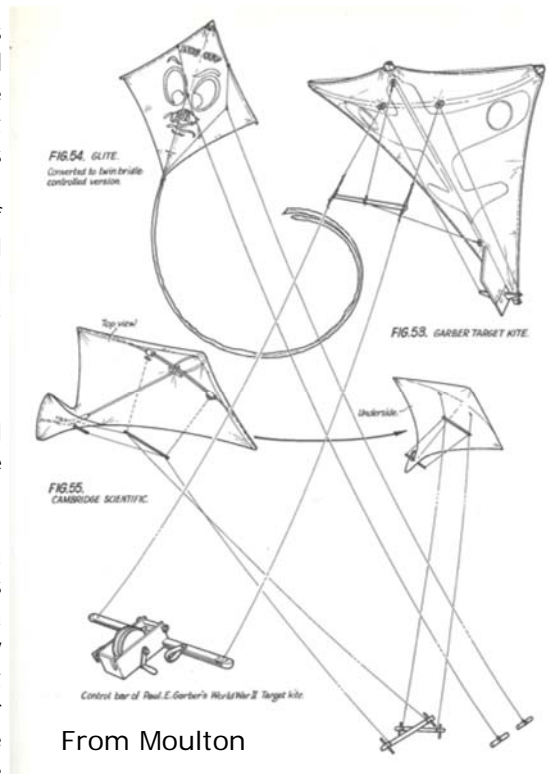
Target Kite

The system was successful and 125,000 were made. The closest descendant of this kite is the Cambridge Combat of 1976 which used a shift in the tail as well as tilting a wing. Alex Kraaijeveld has written about them in Kiteflier 142, and thanks to him I've had a close look.



Cambridge Combat

The plastic cover is formed in to a vertical pocket at the tail and this can be moved as a rudder by a small cross spar. It looks unlikely that the system would exert enough force to make the rudder effective and he agrees. Unlike Moulton's judgment he is sure that movement comes from advancing a wing tip. But it is an interesting kite.



From Moulton

Perhaps another Garber feature used later was the control bar as originally supplied with the Flexifoil rather than the two handles which were a later standard.

I don't know of any recorded 2-line flying demonstrations, still less any such kites being made in the next 20 years. Kites were sometimes flown on two lines while being developed to check their trim. So Rogallo's Flexikite (Pelham[5] p. 80) is shown as being flown on two lines but was produced as a single liner.



Rogallo and Flexikite



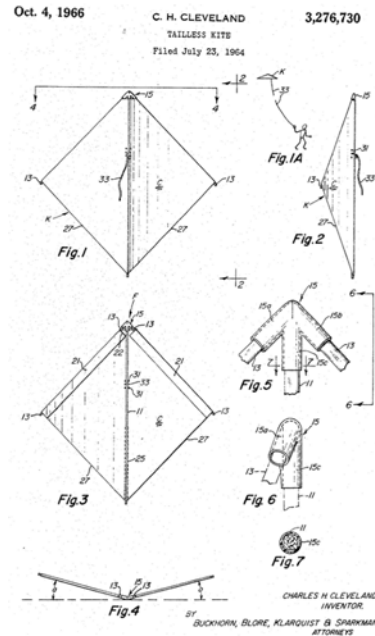
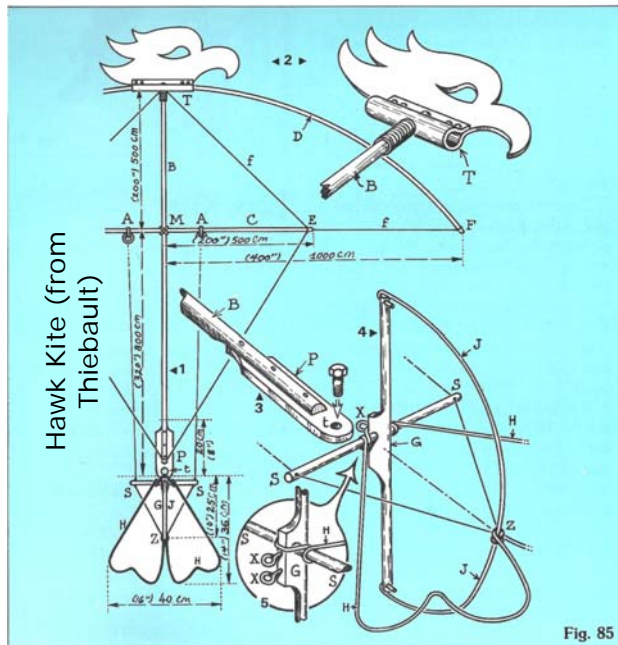
In Pelham (published 1976) the Peter Powell stunter is the only dirigible kite which receives a mention and a plan. I don't know—and would be most interested to find out—if any other 2-line flying was seen. I've come across an extraordinary plan (in Thiebault[6] p. 73) for a Hawk kite similar to those used in shooting in the UK, but with two lines side by

side on the flying reel which are used to turn a rudder on the kite. The lines were so close together that for most purposes they must have acted as one.

In 1964 in the USA the patented Cleveland Glite was first produced — in many ways a cross between a Rogallo Flexikite and a delta. The plastic cover was printed with the points needed to rebridle it as a 2-line dirigible — single line flying was straightforward from the line to a designated point on the keel. In 1972 there was an article in the AKA magazine praising its 2-line performance. North Pacific Glites were

Steerable Kites—George Webster

sold in the UK but I don't remember ever seeing one on two lines. For a lightweight toyshop kite they were great fliers.



Cleveland Glite patent

At this point, before we delve into a quickly-changing timeline of 2-line kites it might help to give a general overview.

1. We have the development of Malay/Diamond kites e.g. Peter Powell, Ace, Barnstormer.
2. Deltas had minor development e.g. the Glite and then on to slow-moving Vertical Visuals Gryphons. However, the most fruitful source of most innovation was that which led to the Top of The Line Hawaiian Team Kite. A family of rigid deltas with three cross spars, this was the basis for most of today's delta wing stunters.
3. Soft framed kites, starting with Keith Stewart's deltas with inflated spars in 1977, were developed to allow power kiting and, later on, kitesurfing, e.g. the Wipica around 2000. Not covered here.
4. The advances in soft (frameless) kites, both 2-line (e.g. the Peel Wing of 1987) and 4-line (e.g. the Quadrifoil of 1990) enabled increased power to be available for buggies, all-terrain boards and to some extent kite surfing. Not covered here either.
5. We have the unique sparred and inflatable Flexifoil. Development started in 1971 but the kite design which first flew in 1976 remains basically unchanged. Despite first appearances the Flexifoil is not a development of the parafoil. Its inventors, Merry and Jones, were able to show that they had not infringed the parafoil patents. Surprisingly for a kite noted for its speed and ability to fly in train, it was also the first 2-liner which I saw demonstrated indoors — Isle of Wight 1994.
6. As usual we have a rich vein of exceptions — these range from the Dunford Flying Machine to the Cambridge and to Joel Schultz's F16.

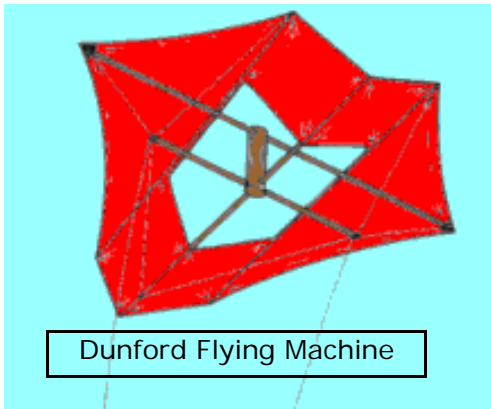


6 A timeline of 2-line kites

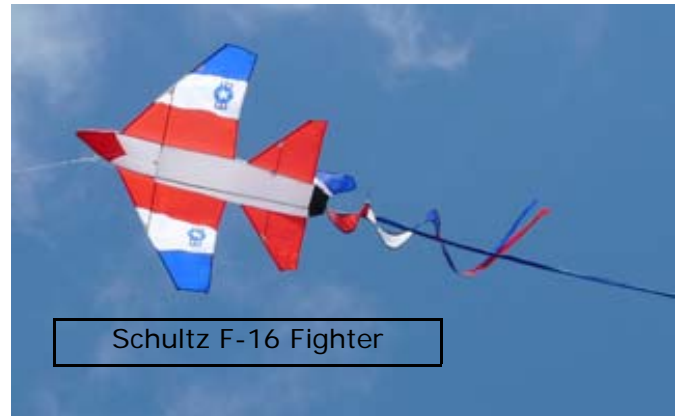
1964 - US Glite marketed with instructions on how to convert to 2 lines. Three types were sold: the standard, a larger size, and a tandem formed by large before standard on a common keel.

1972 (patented 1970) - The Dunford Flying Machine (see Kiteflier 142 and Moulton) was the first and most successful of 2-line kites designed by Donald Dunford. It most resembles a Conyne with no upper surface to the central V cells – but the subtle cut of the material and sparred shape produced something much more complex aerodynamically. A heavily wing-loaded kite with wooden spars, plastic tube to form the 90° fitting at the centre and using cotton cloth, it needed a fairly heavy wind to fly. But in expert hands it was capable of precise manoeuvres well ahead of its time. It was marketed as a tool for

Steerable Kites—George Webster



Dunford Flying Machine



Schultz F-16 Fighter

photography and crop spraying. Many found it difficult to fly and that its 90° fitting made it fairly fragile in a crash. It was also slower than the Powell stunter, having been developed for precise placing in the sky as opposed to the Powell's strength of exciting speed. Dunford's later 2-line developments were lighter, quicker kites but not so commercially successful.

1972 was the year the Peter Powell stunter was introduced. It sold well even before becoming Toy of the Year 1976 and had a greater impact on kite flying in the UK than any other single kite (probably by a factor of x10). The original kite had wooden spars (later replaced by aluminium ones) and a blue plastic cover.



Peter Powell Stunter

The leading edge spars met in a 3-way joint with the keel spar (compare the Glite). The spreader was sprung metal and alloy tube and the whole thing nearly indestructible. For 2 or three years no open space seemed to be free either from father learning quickly or his family learning even more quickly. The press coverage was exceptional and the marketing was brilliant e.g. the story of Peter demonstrating the kite from a bridge over Tokyo Harbour and the groan from watchers as it hit the water followed by gasps as it was relaunched. Peter at a kite festival flying from a car as it drove around. Usually, of course, the kite had the magical touch of a tubular tail which enabled the flier to see the memory of the kite's path in the sky. Supreme for several years throughout the period to 1990 the kite remained a good choice as the basic serious piece of kit. Called the Peter Powell Stunter, it gave its name to a whole class of 2-line dirigible kites and became the generic name for such kites. In the later models fibreglass replaced aluminium tubing and ripstop was introduced in 1984.

The obvious public demand led to a rush to meet the market. Some were sort-lived rip-offs (the Aero-bat), others such as the Wembley Barnstormer (made by the UK's largest toy maker) were more lightly built with a dramatic image on the clear plastic cover. The Ace was smaller, very nimble and popular with those wishing to fly a train.

1976 The Flexifoil's first public flight. Still flown today, it became during the 1980's the kite for speed records and for big kite trains.

1977 In the USA 'homegrown' stunters were being developed, e.g. Sky Tiger, Windjammer and Sky Cat. In the UK. Mark Cottrell became the first UK stunt kite champion at the Japanese Airlines Kite Festival on Parliament Hill. Steerable kites were used to cross the Channel.

1978 The range of stunters was growing in both the UK and the USA. In the US Red Braswell suggested compulsory figures for controlled flying competitors (as with ice skating, for example).

Steerable Kites—George Webster

1982 saw the next great technical development with Don Tabor's Hawaiian kites. These were essentially high aspect ratio kites in plan but with rigid frames and three cross spars. Collectively they could be termed 'Big Wing 8' Deltas'. Don was originally with Action Kites, who produced the Phoenix and the long-lived SkyDart, and left for Top Of The Line in 1985.

1983 An Aerobatic Kite (as they were called by the Kite Store) appeared for the first time on the front cover of the Kiteflier. It was the Go(o)se.

1984 The AKA National Convention featured 'stunters'. There were now over 20 types on the US Market including the Rainbow and the Skynasaur.



Skynasaur Aerobatic



Sky Cat

1985 Tony Cyphert's Avenger (4 foot wing span).

1986 Hawaiian Team, Action Kites Sky Dart, Super Sky Dart, Phoenix.

1987 Joel Schultz produced the F16; a stunter shaped like the outline of an aeroplane. Tony Cartwright and Andy King went to the AKA Convention and filmed stunters in competition. T.C. informed me, and others, that we were flying static kites — they were the past and this was the future.

1988 By now the Kite Store stocked 36 aerobatic kites. In addition to those already mentioned there were Avenger, Revenger, Trlby, Hyperkite, No-name, Spinoff.

Other US kites were the FireDart, SpectrumDart, SkyDart. Felix Mottram won the single line fighting competition at the Brighton Festival. This was the year of the formation of Stunt Team and Competitive Kiting (STACK). STACK was started by Tony Cartwright, Paul Jobin and Mike Ward with a prime aim of developing and enforcing a set of competitive rules. Competitions were held at York (May), where there were two UK pairs (called teams), Fear & Loathing and Battle Star, and Bristol (September). This was the time when competitions grew to include individuals, pairs and teams.



Super Skydart

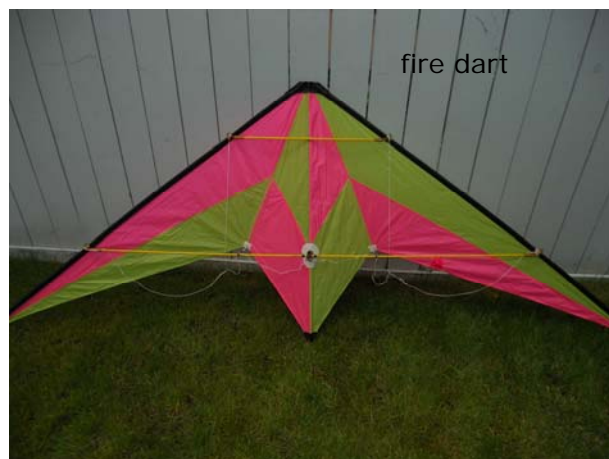


trlby



Avenger

Steerable Kites—George Webster



The famous Blitz team was formed comprising at various times Tony Cartwright, Andy King, Paul Jobin, Mike Ward and Neil Wills plus occasionally Mark Cottrell and Martin Lester. Why the name? It would seem that at a practice on Parliament Hill the American Team Chicago Fire's name was mentioned and looking south over London someone said that London's equivalent was the Blitz; this is also a move in American football. Anyway, Blitz was aerial combat. They gave a demo at the Washington (Sunderland) Festival and subsequently went to Chicago. However, the stars at Sunderland in 1989 were the US teams.

1989 The Blitz, flying Spin Offs, went to Wildwood USA and came 6/6 but they were the only 5-person team and the first 5-man team to fly in competition (T.C. and Andy ask me to mention).

In the USA stunt kites had taken off over 5 years resulting in the development of skills virtually unknown here.

Ron Reich flew three kites at once. Two were Hawaiian Team kites linked by a 150-foot tail where the inner line for each was attached to his hip and the outer to his hand. The third kite, a Spin Off was controlled by a line to the ground and one to his hips. Robbie Sugarman flew a train of Peter Powells through a dog stake so that he was just behind the kites. Eric Wolff, Sue Taft and Lee Sedgwick were all flying through dog stakes at about the same time. Records were made, *e.g.* a train of 253 Hyperkites: Using Rainbows, 2911 figures of eight were achieved in one hour (!?!).

There were five British teams: Blitz (flying Spinoffs, LiteFlites, Hawaiian Teams); Decorators (formed 1988, originally flying Indian fighters, later one of the world's outstanding 4-line demonstration teams) flying Spinoffs, Phantoms, North Shore Radicals, Rare Air Flashangels; Wicked Allsorts flying Spinoffs; Double Trouble flying Speedwings; Organised Chaos flying Phantoms.

Top of the Line were still the winners in everything in which they competed in Europe and the US.

1990 The term Sport Kites (previously stunters) started to be used.

New kites appeared: Jester, Rare Air, Phantom, North Shore Radical. Mark Cottrell's LiteFlite was the first commercially available carbon-framed kite.

Whereas Robert Brasington moved from his 2-line Jester to become one of the world's outstanding single line sparred kite designers, Tim Benson produced his first kites (single line deltas, rollers, multi-boxes etc.) before becoming an outstanding stunt kite designer of which the Phantom was the first.

There were at least half a dozen flyins/festivals which had stunt kite demonstrations.

I'd like to leave the timeline here.

See also <http://flyingfishkites.blogspot.co.uk/2012/12/evolution-of-dual-line-kites.html>

But other developments were still to come in the 90's and beyond, for example:

Steerable Kites—George Webster

US domination overthrown (1995)
 Decorators and Blitz in rivalry
 First European Cup, Blackheath, July 1990
 Truly international World Cups (1990 Seaside, Oregon) where Blitz flew a six-person ballet;
 1991 Second World Cup (at Bristol)
 Aircraft start and then become world champions in 1995
 The development of air brakes, standoffs, whiskers etc.
 Tricking

May 1991 The Kiteflier. Announcement by the Kite Society of a new festival at Weymouth 'to overcome the apparent dominance of stunt kites in major events'.



North Shore Radical



LiteFlite



Jester

7 Some Thoughts

Why was there such a strong upsurge in dirigible kite flying 1975-90? There was a good basis with kite flying having grown due to advances in single line design plus the 1960's increased leisure and interest in ecologically friendly activities. Think of all those kites with rainbow designs.

Secondly there were the design breakthroughs originally by Peter Powell. You would still find Dad and children on the beach with unequal tangled sandy lines, but controlled flight could now be an adult interest with a range of American (and later British and European) rigid deltas to look at. It could become a competition activity at individual, pair and team level. There were serious fliers, some of whom in their single line days would have kept up-to-date by making a new design from plans, or from looking at or buying a hand-built kite from the designer. Now competition meant that all kites of a type were similar and so you updated by buying a new commercially produced kite.

Materials changed: spars moved to fibreglass (from the late 1970's) and then carbon (from 1989), rip-stop became better quality and from the late 1980's low-stretch slippery lines were the norms for the competitor. The abilities to fly high, or to fly at all in some conditions were unimportant. Now it was how skillful was the individual or the team in using the qualities of a given model of kite. Precision and teamwork both meant a hitherto unknown time commitment to kite flying. Displays could showcase skills and invention, interest spectators and introduce music to the hitherto silent field.

Undoubtedly there was conflict between single line and 2-line fliers — principally over the space required by the latter. Remember that in 1970's and most of the 1980's it was quite usual at a festival for all space to be open to fliers and the public.

In the end having two or three flying areas divided between single and dual line kites solved most problems, and tolerance the rest. (Acknowledgements: in addition to John Dobson's editorial work and providing the illustrations, Section 6 in particular relies on contributions from Tony Cartwright and especially Andy King.)

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Memories of Phil Scarfe

Before I met Phil he had already had some amazing adventures...

One he would tell me often, involved coming back from a festival in Holland with TC, Gill & Jon. I think this was in the days before "The Kiteflyer" when it was the K.O.N, The Kitefliers Occasional Newsletter. He obviously had very fond memories of these days and flying kites off the back of the ferry! He may have had something to drink!!

Meeting Phil. Back in the late 1980's early 90's I lived in Berkshire close to Reading so when Richard Marsh opened Tradewind Kites I would go there each Saturday to see what the latest kite was that he had got in. I'd stand in the corner and chat with Phil & Richard for hours.

Saturdays, Pizza & Doughnuts I'd spend a lot of Saturday afternoons round his house while he imparted his vast knowledge about all things "kite". More often than not accompanied by Pizza from Libby. It was at the funeral that Libby reminded me that the Pizza was also followed by Doughnuts! Thanks Libby.

He taught me about fighter kites, Indian, Japanese & Korean. Making me a Korean Fighter, which I still have somewhere. He also made me a great Indian reel, which I still use. I was able to repay him in a small way, by giving him an Edo I'd brought back from Japan a few years later.

It wasn't just kites, he was a Cricket Umpire and I was into American Football so we often had long drawn out "discussions" on the rules and merits of each.

Before the Flames... Before Phil got into Flames, he often made dual line kites. Here we have a 5 stack Sunset Rainbow Flexi stack, there was also a Skull Single 8 Foot Flexi. I think he liked the idea of only one spar, before progressing to no Spars & Flames. Pictured with James Made-



lin at Barbury Castle Near Swindon in the early 90's

The Legacy - Damian He often talked about a gifted flyer who lived down the road (from Phil), Damian Quinlivan. Damian I also soon found out was an amazingly skilled flyer. It was to Damian that Phil showed his incredible (unsung) generous nature. He had been making kites and then passing them on to Damian to try or fly (and keep). If Phil could make it Damian could fly it! Phil had a small field behind his house and we would sometimes go there to try out his new designs.

We spent one afternoon flying kites in the park behind Phil's house, with Damian coming up with ideas to improve them. It was at one of these fly's that Phil showed us what would become his flow form, pre Flames. He was a big fan of the Doug Hagerman foil!

In addition to helping Damian with kites, he would also drive Damian to festivals, giving him the chance to compete in competitions around the UK. It was Phil that made the ¾ size Black & White Radical that Damian flew to a UK National championship title.



Left to Right: Yogi, Damian Quinlivan, George Mathieson & Paul Reynolds. STACK UK (Individual) Nationals 25th July 1992

Phil was a positive role model to Damian and I'm sure Damian's life was changed by him. Damian, showing his skills flying a Rev Blindfolded. He went on to finish school and last known was working as a software engineer in a world famous Software Games design company.

Simon Dann

I think the first time I met Phil was at the Shrewsbury Kite Festival. Janet & I had just come

Memories of Phil Scarfe

back from our first trip to an overseas kite festival, we had travelled with Doug Jones & Martin Croxton to the Westport Kite Festival in Washington State USA. Whilst there I had purchased a very small Chinese Dragon Kite, that wouldn't fly! Phil had a look at it and said that he thought it was more of an ornament than a kite but he would see if he could get it to fly, unfortunately he never did. Phil was exceptionally generous, he would make many kites and if somebody admired one of them he would quite often give it to them as a gift!

At this time Janet & I used to attend the Fort Worden USA kite workshops on an annual basis and Phil started making a kite for us to take to donate to their raffle, these kites became so popular that Marla Miller got him to make a kite with each years event theme. Due to Phil's generosity I used to say that he should come over with us one year to donate his kite in person, he always said he couldn't ever go due to the high cost of flights to the west coast of the USA, I used to say to him that if he stopped being so generous in giving so many kites away and started charging for them, he would be able to go, he eventually did start charging and he did go to Fort Worden, several times!

Phil and his wonderful kites will be greatly missed by many on both sides of the pond.

David Robinson, Chairman, WHKF

Phil used to come into our stall and ask us if we had any films or batteries as a joke. We then used to have a beer, drop of whiskey or tea and a biccy whilst putting the world to rights. Great times.

Helene Morgan

Phil was a fount of knowledge, always willing to share. Quiet, not often riled. He would often tell of his trips in the Middle East, Afghanistan and Morocco also his love of Cricket (he umpired many matches). Speedway was another of his interests which he followed avidly. You are sorely missed Phil. It was an honour to have known him as a friend

Alan Outram

I first got introduced to Phil by Pat McCarthy (no longer with us either) and very soon wanted a flame flow form. I was given a swatch of material and told with some advice which colours worked best. I chose red and yellow and was put on a list and told by Pat not ever to enquire on progress of

order as to do so could put me back at the bottom!! Well the kite was duly made and the deal done for Portsmouth. Not only did I get the kite but a reel of line and a pair of gloves. Plus sound advice on flying the creature. We became friends with widely differing political persuasions but a mutual love of cricket and kiting and he is irreplaceable and will be sadly missed by all.

Brian Smith

First time I ever met Phil was at BKF festival and he was explaining to me about making kites and that I should start with a Rok kite. Funny thing was he was wearing them silly glasses he wore and silly shirt and drinking tequila, but he inspired me to have a go at it. The first kite I made was a Rok and I have made a few since and always remember the conversation we had at the festival.

Tony Makepeace

I remember talking to Phil over breakfast in Di-epe in 2012 where he offered all and any, help with kite building. I queried him about giving away all his "secrets". He likened it to chefs telling you all their cookery secrets because it doesn't matter how well you follow the recipe, you'll never make it as well as they could. That wasn't boasting just a statement of fact and he was always very generous with his advice.

David Johnson

I knew Phil for many years and through many stages of friendship – from being just kite flying acquaintance, to a customer for his kites, to a friend, and finally to one who he trusted and would take into his confidence. At this later stage was clearly 'in' for life;

Whenever we met it was a "hello boss" greeting accompanied by his unique hand-to-side-of -face 'salute'.

Phil would take a long time to tell you something - it was sometimes told in separate installments across different festivals. I am sure there were some he never finished telling! In discussion with him I always felt it best to bias your own viewpoints in the direction that you felt he would approve of.

I will always remember him in the days when he was able to have a pint. The Smugglers Inn in Cleethorpes, The Wellington and The Black Dog in Weymouth were always favoured haunts and certainly benefitted when the Kite Festival, and

Memories of Phil Scarfe

Phil were in town.

A favourite memory is from a night in The Wellington. Phil is asleep in the chair, some of his friends (???) are piling table mats on his head – there is photographic evidence of this. At some point in the evening, a drink is accidentally spilt into Phil's lap, by whom I do not remember, but it didn't bother him one iota! In fact, when a visit to the loo was required, and still with a large wet patch over his crotch area, Phil nonchalantly walked through the bar to do his business and duly returned to his seat. There was no evidence of the slightest embarrassment! This was absolutely classic. I think we were all amazed when, for health reasons, he gave up alcohol overnight.

The last time I saw Phil was at the August Jolly Up, we greeting one another with "hello boss" and I felt he was genuinely pleased to see me. We had a nice chat, including about one of his favoured subjects, motor cycle racing. I was never sure just who his 'idol' was, but he certainly appeared not to be fan of the great Italian champion Giacomo Agostini.

I think that kite flying at the Jolly Up in Cliddesden will forever hold a certain poignancy, especially when flying a 'Scarfoil' or a 'Scarfgenki'. The flames will add to that poignancy considering where Phil's ashes are! Let's hope that when we are flying his kites there, or indeed any other kites, that he is looking down on us with a pint in his hand.

Chris Mabon

Once upon a time there was a little girl that never thought that she would go anywhere in her life...then along came kiting into her adult life. In 1995 as an adult, she was able to go to England. She met lots of different people that have become long time friends. One of the people she first met was Phil Scarfe. He gave me a kite and I was wondering why, when I hardly knew him. Over time I grew to know that this was the generosity of Phil.

Over the years he always made me the logo kite for Fort Worden kite makers conference. This raised many a dollar for the conference. Phil also taught at the Oregon Kitemakers Retreat. He was known by many kite makers all over the world. I loved to hear him talk about his kites. I can not tell you how many kites he made for Ron and myself.

Besides kites, Phil was our good friend. He had stayed with us several times and we had many a

great time. The last time he came with Mr. Box-all. We had a blast the entire time they were here.

When I would travel to the UK for kite festivals, like Weymouth and the White Horse, what fun we all had. One of my favourite memories was at the Black Dog Pub with the group and they were talking about, pulling a pint. I asked Phil what that meant, so we walk up to the bar and the next thing you know I was behind the counter learning how to "pull a pint". Oh the things Phil taught me. I was amazed at all the interest he had.

Not only kites, but the joy of knowing his family. Libby always referred to me as the other woman. When I would call Phil, Libby and I would try to have a conversation and Phil would jump in. End of the conversation with Libby.



So the only good thing about Phil being gone is I can have a full conversation with Libby or Lucy. The bad thing is, the hole in hearts. The other good thing he left us with the most wonderful memories.

We will always miss you. Rest in peace my friend.

Marla Miller

As both a fell-walker and a kiter, I would like to share these thoughts.

Haystacks is a relatively small fell in Western Lakeland, Cumbria. It is popular with fell-walkers and was a particular favourite of Alfred Wainwright, affectionately known as 'AW'. AW was well known for his series of definitive guide books to the Cumbrian fells and, before he died in 1991, expressed a wish for his ashes to be spread at the

Memories of Phil Scarfe

top of Haystacks saying *".... should (you) get a bit of grit in your boot as you are crossing Haystacks in the years to come, please treat it with respect. It might be me."*

A field in the small Hampshire village of Cliddesden hosts the twice-yearly 'Jolly Up', a popular gathering for our kiting fraternity. A regular visitor to the gathering was always Phil Scarfe, affectionately known as 'Scarfy'.

Back in October, and with the consent of his family, Scarfy's ashes were spread over this field.

So, as with being on Haystacks, there will forever be pleasant memories and thoughts when on that field. And to fly a Scarfy kite with its trademark flames will be particularly poignant!

I trust that the theme of this article is obvious, but I will say just one more thing.

A popular traverse of Haystacks is from east to west, descending via a pass known as Scarth Gap. Ironically, at one time the more popular name for this pass was Scarf Gap.....

Chris Mabon

Phil Scarfe who died in September was one of the characters of British kiting, both making and flying kites. The kites he made varied from flow-form to various types of Japanese designs. Before he died he was very keen on kite trains which he both bought and made.

Probably his greatest inspiration in kite making was Stretch Tucker, who lived in Florida. Phil was often talking to Stretch on the phone and I believe he was responsible for teaching Phil the techniques of sewing and putting together. As an aside I should explain that Stretch Tucker was a sail maker by profession and at one time a very good kite maker.

Phil came from Plumstead in south east London and moved to Reading when his father changed jobs. He was apprenticed at the Atomic Weapons Establishment, Harwell. Phil moved on to work for Reading University and then for John Crane as a fitter turner. After being made redundant he worked locally in a small two man outfit, doing general metal machining.

I first met Phil at Maidensgrove and Pinkneys Green, when he was a member of the Chiltern Kite Group. As the group generally collapsed he came over to the White Horse Kite Flyers. Martin Croxton and I used to pick him up at Tilehurst on our way to Barbury Castle, once a month.

He used to like the Weymouth Kite festival where he used to hire a holiday flat with Libby, his wife and his daughter Lucy. When Stretch Tucker came to Weymouth, Phil was in seventh heaven. At other times in Weymouth Libby and Lucy could be found on the beach while Phil had retreated to the Black Dog with Patrick McCarthy after their quick early morning kite fly.

In 1998 along with Andrew Ruming and myself we went to the American Kite Fliers Association convention at Ocean Shores, Washington State. It was there that Andrew and I learned of Phil's snoring problem when we stayed at Sam and Ann Houston's beach house. Though Phil was in a room on the top floor and we were on the ground floor, we were still woken up with Phil snoring his head off. Phil did get treatment for his snoring and when I shared a room again with him and Andrew at Dieppe it was quite peaceful.

In 2001 Martin Croxton, Phil and myself visited Marla Miller. I think we may have been lucky to come back alive, when at Westport, he kept referring to the newly elected George W Bush, as, "The Toxic Texan". He had to be reminded that angry people were likely to carry and use guns. On that trip we went up to see Dan Kurihachi in Vancouver. Phil was really fascinated by Dan and his kite philosophy.

In 2005 he went to the AKA convention at Ocean City, Maryland with Martin Croxton and myself. It was unfortunate that Phil's holiday only allowed a week over in USA. Phil was sought out by quite a few American kite fliers and so was plied with plenty of beer for information on everything kiting. Phil used to say that it was no good keeping techniques a secret, because nobody would learn and there would be no improvement in kiting standards.

Phil continued to make parafoils and flow-form kites, usually with a flames motif on them, but occasionally with an Alien motif. I am lucky enough to own three of Phil's kites, two parafoils and a Japanese type kite complete with flames. One of the parafoils is a miniature Doug Hagaman type and the other is a 35 square footer with a white horse on it.

Phil used to enjoy his visits to Basingstoke, or Amasingstoke as he called it. He was well in with Keith Boxall and the Grumpy Old Gits and would spend hours with them. I believe that Basingstoke was one of his favourite kite venues, he certainly preferred going there than to the White Horse venues if both were on at the same time.

In 2014 he went to Broad Haven and was able to book Martin and I in at a decent hotel, where he used to stay when he was younger. The hotel was

Memories of Phil Scarfe

almost opposite the steps to the beach, I did criticise it for it being diagonally and not straight across the road, this highly amused him and he made a complaint to the landlady when we were at breakfast.

Unfortunately Phil fell ill and was unable to go to Broad Haven in 2015, little did we know that he would never go again. The landlady was genuinely worried about him.

The last time I saw Phil was at the Portsmouth kite festival. He had just been on holiday to Sussex and looked rather weak, but said that the oncologist had said he was on the mend and would see him in 6 months. Phil said, "that's good I've at least got that long." Unfortunately he went home and the next day took a turn for the worse and died three days later.

Douglas Jones

Phil, the flames, Scarfe was an example to us all, Generous of his time, his knowledge and his humanity.

Don't get me wrong, he didn't suffer fools and I was many a time at the sharp end of his quick wit, as were many.

Phil was a complex Character, but a simple man, his passion for Cricket, Speedway, Kites and Politics always meant there was robust discussions, with in depth analyse of the subject at hand, much of the time Phil doing the analysing. I'm going to miss those discussions, Phil and I did not always see eye to eye, but I like to feel that we both learnt a little from each other.

Phil was unique, he loved his risqué T shirts, always pushing the boundary of decency and propriety, he would not comply. He had a knack for finding unusual Sun Glasses, flashing toys that made noises, flashing glittery hair band and T shirts with LED displays, that always bought a smile and made you laugh, it was all part of what made Phil, Phil.

I'm not sure how our friendship came about, whether from kites, kite festivals and workshop, our engineering backgrounds or our love of a good beer, but I for one am very glad we had that friendship, it has been an honour to know a man of such generosity, he was always ready to help, if you were prepared to listen.

Phil would often phone and say you need to have a look at this website, instead of sending me a link, Phil didn't do Copy & Paste, he would read out the website address, which usually involved a lot of forward slashes, dashes and finally a .html.

It would be worth the effort, as he would have found another kite related site with plans and instruction for a new design of kite. I have kites in my van that I wouldn't have known about , if it hadn't been for Phil's dogged determination. If you ever needed a kite plan, Phil always knew where to find it or who to ask for it. He was a kite oracle.

Phil has left an awesome legacy, of kites and wonderful memories, that have touched many people all over the world and most of all a generosity of spirit that will live on in all of us.

The Grumpy Old Gits were greatly honoured, when Libby and Lucy, both arriving at the same thought independently of each other, that thought being that Phil's ashes should be scattered in True Git Style, all over the Jolly Up field.

It was heart warming to see all those friends, kite flyers and family that came to see Phil on his last flight. It didn't all go to plan, but I think Phil would have been smiling at our efforts. So every time you fly a kite at the Jolly Up field, just remember Phil will be there watching over you, his spirit and generosity will fill your hearts.

Just one final thought, The Grumpy Old Git have always loved their Full English and we will be eternally grateful to Phil for introducing us to the Wetherspoons breakfast. We've had a few since that day and will raise our glasses of orange juice in tribute to a wonderful man each time we meet.

Keith Boxall



OKHI—Jan van Leeuwen (Translated by Jolanda Van Leeuwen)

OKHI

This model is of Korean origin. The OKHI is a combination of the Edo (former name of Tokyo) and the Sanjo Rokkaku.

This kite has the characteristics of both ancestors, namely "majestic and stable". The flight range is between 2—25 mph. This is remarkable, because at 25mph it's not easy for a slightly curved kite, to fly stably (without a tail).

For this model we use a central spine of 2 metres long. You can vary this standard length. We do not recommend shorter but longer makes the kite more impressive (so more fun to make and to fly), but for now we choose a nice entry level.

MATERIAL

± 1.6 m 36 grams spinnaker nylon
 1 rod Reinforced Carbon Fibre (RCF) Ø 8 mm for the central spine 2 m
 6 rods RCF Ø 3 mm 60 cm long
 12 soft nylon endcaps Ø 3mm
 1 soft nylon endcap Ø 8 mm
 1 split cap / tensioning cap Ø 8 mm (arrow nock)
 5m spinnaker edging tape
 25 m bridle line 1 mm
 3 bridle rings
 Dacron for reinforcements and pockets
 60 cm tape for ties
 6 wooden beads ± 1.8 cm

SAIL

Our choice for the composition is separate panels (pay attention to the grain) at the top and bottom. Be very accurate cutting the five panels, take care of the seams and make neat square corners.

For the triangles at the top and bottom, it is best to make a template. In this model we assume that the kite is made in one colour.

1. Sew the two triangles together along the short sides.
2. Sew the seam flat.
3. Sew this panel to the middle panel sewing the seam flat.
4. Do the same on the other end.
5. Now place the edging tape around the kite.
6. Once this is done mark the positions of the six horizontal spars on the edge. The spars are put in Dacron pockets.
7. Now make the pockets.
8. Take the Dacron 2.5 cm wide and 7 cm long and fold it, one side has to be ± 1 cm longer (see detail drawing). By making the pockets first they can easily be sewn onto the kite in the right place just next to the edge of the kite (± 2 mm) on the rear.
9. Make the pockets quite big because a line is used for bowing the spar. We put the bowing lines through the pockets on both sides of the spar. So enough space is needed to burn/

pierce two holes in the pockets, without damaging the stitching (see detail drawing).

10. Then sew the reinforcements at the crossings of the central spine and the horizontal spars and at the bridle points.
11. At every cross point put a tie, so the frame can be secured at that point. The horizontal spars can't flip away and the central spine stays right in the middle when tension is placed on it.
12. Finally put the Dacron pocket on the top and a reinforcement piece on the bottom corner and put a tension line at the bottom.

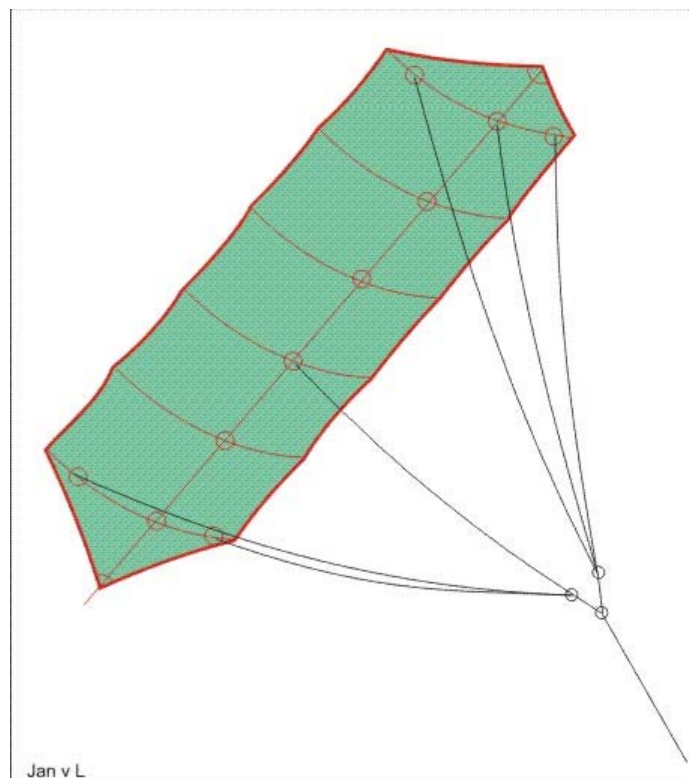
FRAME

Put the end cap at the top of the central spine, at the bottom put the arrow nock. Put the central spine into the Dacron pocket at the top and tie the tension line loosely at the bottom arrow nock.

Now measure the horizontal spars and cut them a bit bigger. Put the nylon end caps on the spars and put them into place. If the fabric wrinkles at right angles to the central spine, try to put more tension on the line at the bottom or maybe the horizontal spars are a bit too long. Try to make your sail without wrinkles because the smoother the better.

TENSION HORIZONTAL SPAR

Through the pockets of the horizontal spars, put a line (±15 cm), which is tied together at the back of the kite. So every pocket has a loop. At one side of the kite tie the bow line (± 60 cm) on the loop. On this line put one of the beads. The bead has to be tied at a certain place in the line (look at it when the kite is complete and adjust). So the bead can be hooked behind the loop at the other side, by bending



OKHI—Jan van Leeuwen (Translated by Jolanda Van Leeuwen)

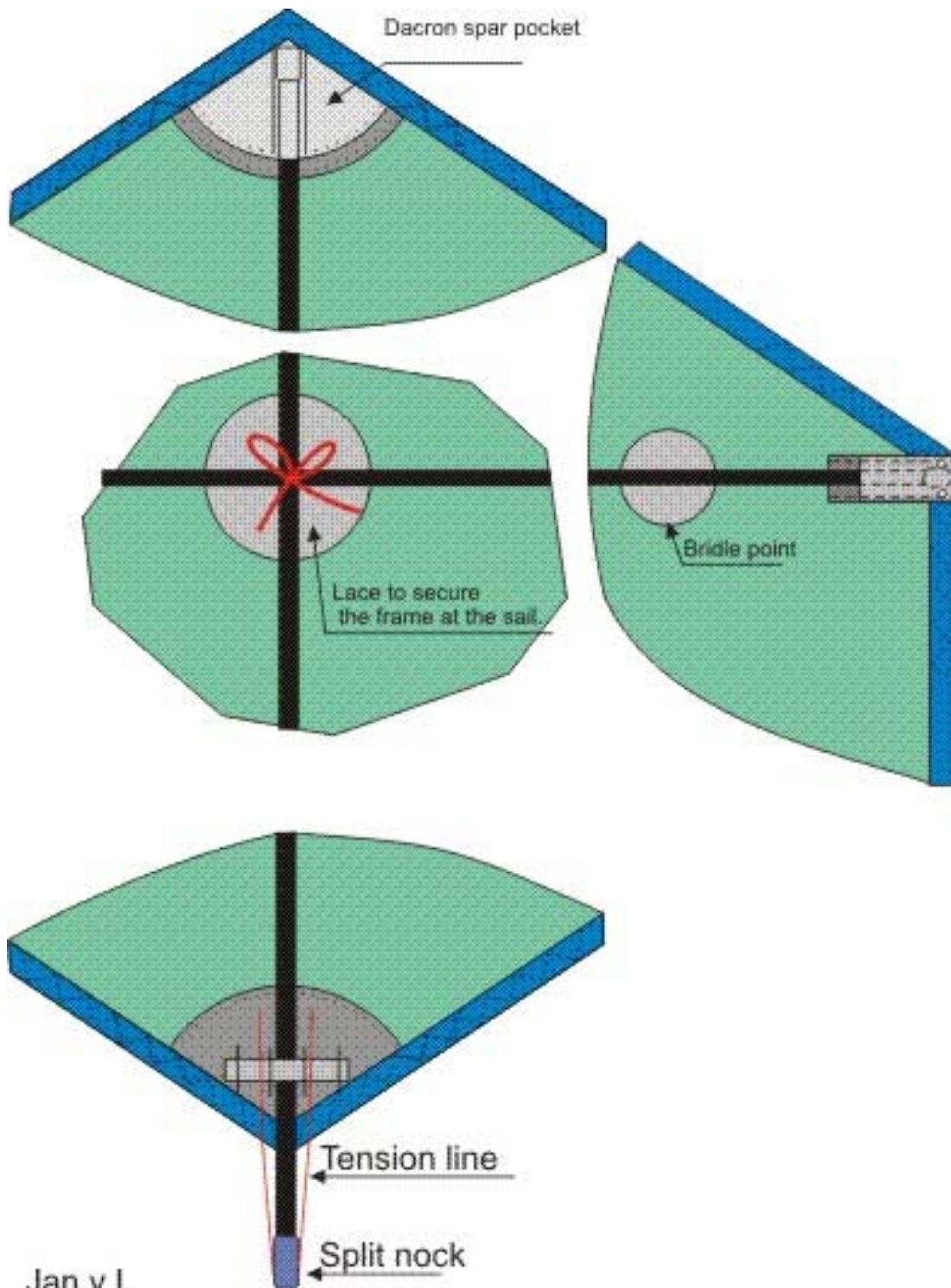
the spar. The V shape of the loop will hold the bead in its place and the spar will stay bowed. This adjusting takes a while, but when you fly the kite, it will be very fast and accurate. The bow has to be 9cm for every spar.

BRIDLE

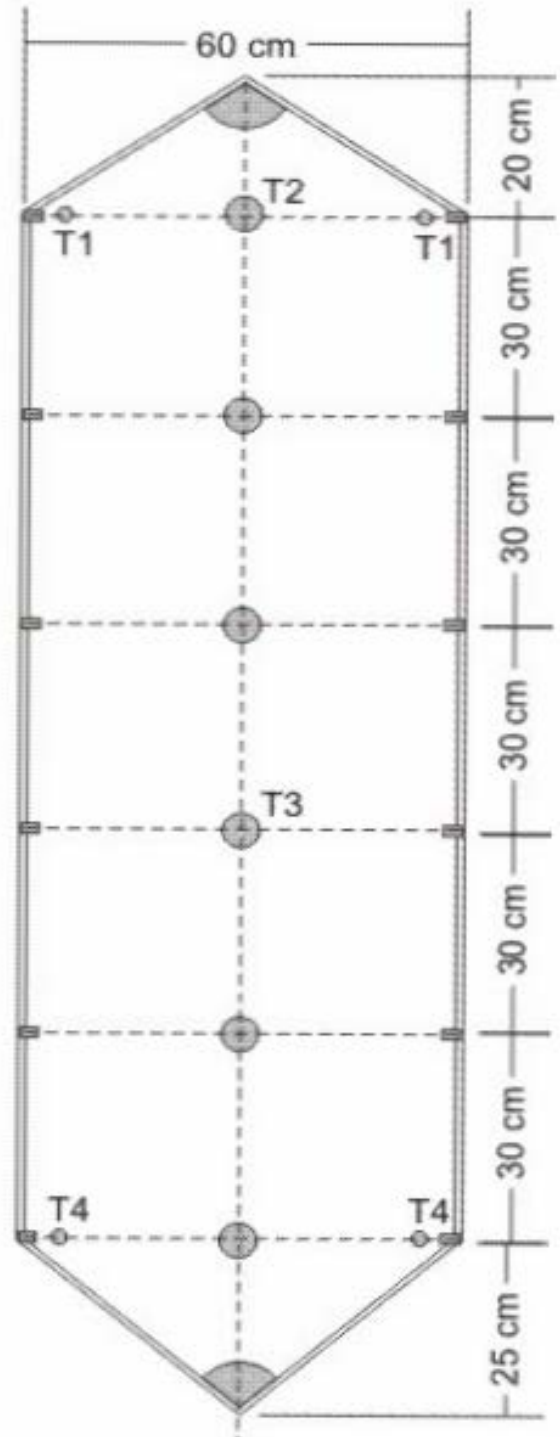
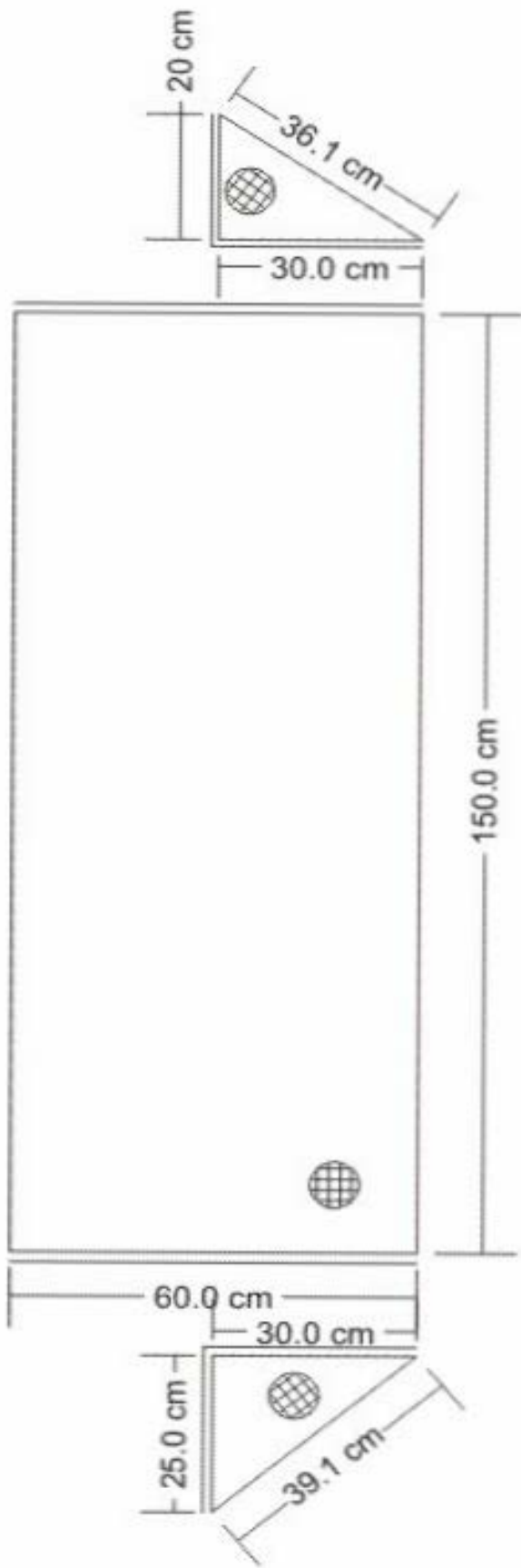
To make the bridle points burn a little hole in the Dacron and spinnaker. Tie the bridle around the horizontal spars with a clove hitch.

Attach the top set of bridle lines together with a bridle ring. On another ring put the lower three bridle lines. By connecting the both rings with an additional line (length $\pm 1\text{m}$), you can adjust the bridles. Put another ring in this line (larks head), attach the kite line on this ring.

Go fly the kite :-)



OKHI—Jan van Leeuwen (Translated by Jolanda Van Leeuwen)



Bridle	Length
T1	3160
T2	3070
T3	2990
T4	3520

Jan v L

Kite City

The All Pakistan Kite Flying Association (AKFA) has appealed to the Chief Minister of Punjab to make fresh rules for kite flying and issue orders for the establishment of a Kite City well outside the urban areas. It would not only bring huge foreign currency to the province of Punjab but would also supplement the government efforts aimed at promotion of tourism industry.

Chairman of All Pakistan Kite Flying Association (AKFA) Khawaja Nadeem Wayeen was addressing a meeting attended by a large number of people attached with Kite Flying Industry, from Lahore, Kasur, Gujranwala, Okara, Sheikhpura, Faisalabad and other areas of the provinces.

He said that the Kite Flying Industry has attached high hopes with the Chief Minister as he had already taken a number of historical decisions in the larger interest of the masses.

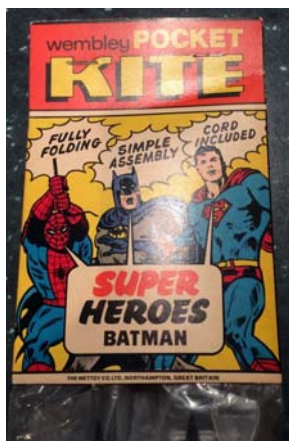
He said that thousands women were earning income by making kites at their homes but now sitting idle because of a complete ban on the Kite Flying Festival.

He also said that kite making had attained the status of cottage industry and provided employment to thousands of women who were earning handsome money by making kites at their homes. He said that these women and their families are heading for starvation due to the Kite Festival ban.

He said that around 150,000 people in Lahore, 100,000 people in Gujranwala and 80,000 people in Kasur, affiliated with Kite Flying industry, have lost their employment and are facing hunger.

Seen on Ebay

Vintage Batman Mettoy Wembley Pocket Kite



A rare original Vintage Batman Wembley pocket kite made by The Mettoy toy company in 1975, still sealed in the packet. Only one listed!

Features great graphics of Batman on the kite and on the Header card is pictured Spider-Man, Batman and Superman.

An official product of Marvel comics and National Periodical Publications Inc.

Good colours and never been opened. No damage to the poly bag! Length is 43cm and 9 1/2cm wide.

Listing price was £105. There is another one listed as we write at €89 plus postage (from France).

Original Vintage Travel Poster Autumn in Germany 1950s



A wonderful 1950s poster produced for the English-speaking market to encourage travel to Germany. The image is of two large white kites above a colourful patchwork of villages, fields, woods and hills, with a range of snow-topped mountains in the background. Simple yet very attractive.

Condition: B+/A-; Very Good - No folds, a little edge wear and nicks top right. Size: 101 x 63.5 cm. Listed price £99.

Kite Blind

From www.blinds4sale.co.uk this kite patterned design. Available in roller blind format there are a few options about where the cord is placed etc.



A 1000mm x 800mm roller blind came out at just over £45.00 plus shipping.

May be worth a look.

Bits & Pieces

Urban Ninja



The plan for the Urban Ninja is available from www.horvath.ch/en/ and follow the link near the bottom of the page.

To quote from the web site “build your own light wind kite and fly with it in horizontal gliding, flat spin or diving mode. this kite is designed for active flights in the most gentle of breezes or without any wind in confined urban areas like parking lots, courtyards, parks and indoor. in normal to stronger winds it just hangs up there, cool for kids too.”

Obviously for private non-commercial use.

There are comprehensive making instructions, materials list, templates to use and assembly details.

What is nice about this kite is that it will not only fly in zero to gentle winds but also fly in stronger winds.

Of course, if you want to buy one instead they are available from the same web site—CHF320—approximately £220.

Tethered Quad Copter.

Fotokite Phi is a consumer version of the Pro version of this tethered drone.

Unlike other drones, but just like the Fotokite Pro, the Phi is tethered to the operator. With so many new laws and regulations being implemented to control the use of drones, they are becoming increasingly harder to use. As they are tethered the Fotokite drones fall under different regulations. Broadcaster CNN has already

pre-ordered large numbers of the Phi and has filed for a 333 exemption with the FAA. This allows for legal commercial flights in airspace in the US. Fotokite has already got exemptions in other countries including France and Switzerland.

The Phi doesn't feature a gimbal like the more expensive pro version and the height you can fly it will be limited to around 16 meters (52ft). This height will be more than enough to get a nice aerial perspective of whatever you are shooting.



The Phi's technology allows it to fly itself without any control from the operator, so you don't need to be a skilled pilot to use one. It has the added advantage of being able to

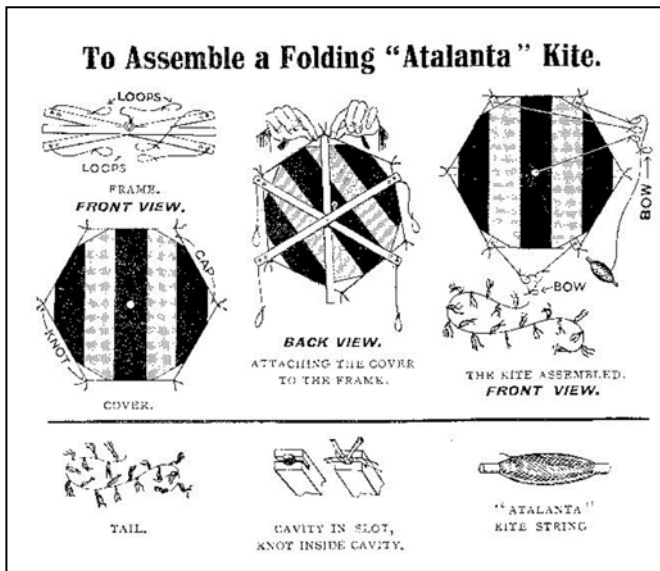
be deployed immediately without waiting for a GPS lock or having to do calibrations. Once in the air, the Phi is controlled via a smart leash that lets the operator use gestures to adjust orientation and position.



See fotokite.com for more details.

Flying the Atalanta Kite—George Webster

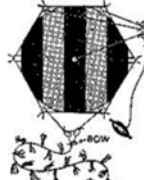




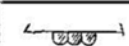

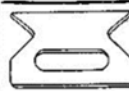

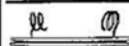
The Atalanta Kite is mentioned in Ron Moulton's 'Kites' (1978 edition, p. 79). Marketed as "the kite that flies", it is described as being "a famously high quality toy". The 'classic' Atalanta was a folding hexagonal sold in 30" and 36" sizes. The measurement being the length of one of the three spars which rotate around a central pin to produce the frame. The cover and the tail are made from glassine paper (still available from internet suppliers), i.e. thin translucent paper with one shiny surface — it resembles the material used for stamp hinges in my youth. I'd never seen one until I inherited a collection of parts from the Kite Store (thanks again to Mark Cottrell) and a couple of years ago acquired a boxed set. The 1921 patent is quite often reproduced but extracts from the leaflet in the box are more illuminating. The three spars are held in place by the cord which edges the cover having a knot at the centre point of the outside edge of the frame — the end is not only slotted to take the cord but also has a cavity to locate the knot. Frames come supplied with five equal length lines. The centre and two adjacent are bridled together and the other two are the attachment for the tail.



As can be seen in the illustration below a range of spars and accessories was on offer. Sadly all I have is several sets of spars and tails (these are much fluffier than in the illustration above) plus an adjustable buzzer for the 30" model price 3d — this runs along the leading edge not the middle as in the patent drawing. I have an invisible repair kit. I'd like to own a Winder, Best Quality String and most of all a Parachute and Release ('shows how an airman descends in an emergency') — no mention of bears.

RETAIL PRICES

SUITED TO ALL PURSES.

Folding Kites in Coloured Box Complete with Buzzer, Patent Tail, Best Quality Flying String and Illustrated Instructions		Not-Folding Kites Complete with Patent Tail and Best Quality Flying String.	
	18", 30", 36".		B—11".
	A—11".		
KITES.			
A—11" KITE, complete	...	Price.	Postage U.K.
B—11" KITE, complete	...	1/1½	6d.
18" KITE, complete (in coloured Box)	...	1/4½	6d.
30" KITE, complete (in coloured Box)	...	2/6	3d.
36" KITE, complete (in coloured Box)	...	5/0	9d.
Parts and Accessories are all Standard.			
Any Part can be bought Separately. When ordering please mention size.			
		Price	Postage U.K.
Best Quality String on Winder.			
For A—11 in. or B—11 in. KITE		4½d.	2d.
For 18 in. KITE		4½d.	2d.
For 18 in. KITE, large size		9d.	2d.
For 30 in. or 36 in. KITE		1/3	3d.
		Price.	Postage U.K.
Graceful Patent Tails.			
For A—11 in. or B—11 in. KITE		3½d.	2d.
For 18 in. KITE		4½d.	2d.
For 30 in. KITE		1/0	3d.
For 36 in. KITE		1/3	3d.
		Price.	Postage U.K.
Attractive and Entertaining.			
For 18 in. KITE		3d.	2d.
For 30 in. KITE		3d.	2d.
For 36 in. KITE		3d.	2d.
		Price.	Postage U.K.
Made in many beautiful colours.			
For 18 in. KITE		6d.	2d.
For 30 in. KITE		1/-	2d.
For 36 in. KITE		1/3	2d.
Cover. REPAIRS for Kite Covers		1d.	2d.
		Price.	Postage U.K.
Practical and Compact.			
For A—11 in. or B—11 in. KITE		4½d.	2d.
For 18 in. KITE		6d.	2d.
For 30 in. or 36 in. KITE		9d.	2d.
		Price.	Postage U.K.
Shows how an airman descends in an emergency.			
Each Parachute packed in an envelope.		1d.	2d.
Parachute For any Kite.			
		Price.	Postage U.K.
Complete with illustrated instructions in coloured box.			
Parachute Releaser. For any Kite.		6d.	2d.

On Sale at all Best Toy Shops, Stores, Sports Dealers and Stationers.

ASK FOR AN "ATALANTA" KITE

BEWARE OF SUBSTITUTES.

SEE our Registered Trade Mark "ATALANTA" on every Kite, Part and Accessory.

So how do they fly? During several weeks this summer John Dobson and I have had appointments to meet and fly on the moors round here and on 20th September there was a light wind (<10 mph) and dry grass (paper covers!). The 36" had been set up for a long time and the

Flying the Atalanta Kite—George Webster

paper and the cover split if you just looked at it. Repaired with sellotape, using a 15' length of tail and following the instructions it flew perfectly first time (see photo).



There was no noticeable dihedral on the spars. The 30" seemed to have a different proportion between frame and bridle but with a single adjustment to the central bridle and using the same tail again we had excellent flight — by which I mean a good angle and steady position.



My mental comparison is between the 36" Atalanta and a Brookite — say a 3' cutter made of cotton with square wood spars.

In a standard 12–16 mph wind I think the Cutter would just fly, but I'm sure the Atalanta would be in its element eating up string. However, in heavier winds the Brookite would score and of course Brookites also made strong wind kites such as boxes. But the Atalanta is ingenious, simple and so long as you don't smoke, fairly durable.

The strong colours in a translucent material must have been a real contrast to cotton kites. Indeed, one interesting suggestion in the accompanying text to the patent is the passage dealing with the kite's purpose as a medical appliance whereby it would 'strengthen and cure eyes weakened by too constant use on near objects, a cure which would be greatly aided by the combination of colours on the translucent covering of the kite and the consequent transmission of different coloured rays of the spectrum'.

Sophocles Xenophon Pantcheff describes himself as a Greek-born Bulgarian living in Buckhurst Hill Essex when he applied for a Patent — but the return address for spares is in Redland, Bristol. The hexagon is well known to be the national kite type of Greece; or perhaps the Ottoman Empire (according to Ernest Barton).

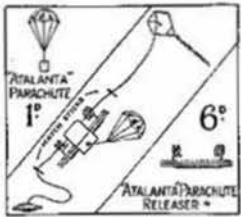
Pantcheff certainly developed a great kite for its time particularly given the absence of plastic or nylon for covers, though perhaps the judgement of the Faraday House Journal that it was 'as great an improvement on the box kite as that was on the old fashioned tail kite' is excessive.

But read below: Inventor, Sole Manufacturer and Patentee Sophocles Xenophon Pantcheff D.F.H. The Leading and Largest Kite Manufacturer in the Empire.

They don't make them like that any more.

Thanks to John Dobson for his editorial work and assembling the photographs and illustrations.

Flying the Atalanta Kite—George Webster



Releasing a Parachute at any Height from any Kite.

For your Holidays take a Folding "Atalanta."

For those an indoor life who lead,
For those who write, and think, and read,
Your "ATALANTA" in the sky
Will soothe your mind and charm your eye.

The Colours of the 18 in., 30 in. and 36 in. Kites can be changed by the user in one minute by detaching the Cover of the Kite and attaching another Cover of different colours.

Pictures, Words, etc., painted or printed by the user on plain white or yellow covers (18 in., 30 in., 36 in.) can be changed in the same way in one minute.

MADE IN ENGLAND.

Patented in the U.K. and Foreign Countries.

British Patents:—
No. 156600. | No. 199051.
No. 156502. | No. 304599.
No. 158162. | No. 306261.
Reg. Designs 734430, 778754, 780669.

Will interest Boys and Girls and all concerned with Aeronautics, Signalling, Wireless, Fishing, Shooting and Advertising.

"ATALANTA" in the Greek story was a maiden fleet of foot who travelled like the wind and left not a footprint behind her. To get rid of her suitors she ran a race with the swiftest runners of her time, who were given the alternative of either marrying her if they won the race or being put to death if they lost. "Atalanta" outstripped them all until Hippomenes the judge entered the lists, and he only won by distracting the maiden's attention by flinging golden apples about which he had been given by the goddess Venus.

We do not suppose that Mr. Pantcheff desires any rival kites in the trade to be destroyed if they lose a race with the "Atalanta," but we should imagine that if they were confronted with that alternative the rivals would be chary of entering their kites to compete with the "Atalanta."—From Games and Toys, Feb., 1931.

The Kite with Amazing Lifting Power.

OPINION OF SCIENTISTS.

The new "Atalanta" is a Kite which is as great an improvement on the box kite as that was on the old-fashioned tail kite.

From the Faraday House Journal, Vol. 10. No. 3.

SUPREMACY IN FLYING. THE "ATALANTA" KITE EXCELLENT SPORT FOR BOYS, GIRLS AND GROWN-UPS.

<p>FOLDING KITES, WITH BUZZER.</p> <p>18" 30" 36"</p> <p>THE KITE THAT FLIES.</p>	<p>NOT-FOLDING KITES.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>ATALANTA KITE B-II"</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>ATALANTA KITE A-II"</p> </div> </div>		<p>Parachute.</p>	<p>"Atalanta" Kite String.</p>	<p>Winder.</p>
	<p>Parachute Releaser.</p>	<p>Buzzer.</p>			

GREAT BRITAIN PRODUCES THE BEST KITE IN THE WORLD.

Amazing superiority in Flight and Performance over all other Kites. Flies with the Slightest Breeze to very High Altitudes, Loops the Loop, and Describes Wonderful Evolutions.

The Colours of the 18", 30" and 36" Kites can be changed by the user in one minute. The Buzzer produces a pleasant humming sound at the will of the Flyer.

Inventor, Sole Manufacturer and Patentee:
S. X. PANTCHEFF, D.F.H.,
 152/154, Queen's Rd., Buckhurst Hill, Essex.
 The Leading and Largest Kite Manufacturer in the Empire.
 Telephone: BUCKHURST 2012.

MEMBER
 TOY

 ASSOCIATION

SEE OUR Hög. Trade Mark "ATALANTA" on every Kite and Accessory.



Event News

Basingstoke Kite Festival, 4th & 5th June 2016

At Down Grange Sports Complex, Pack Lane, Basingstoke. From 10am to 5 pm (both days).

Come along and help us to celebrate our 24th Festival and join in the fun! Guests from Home and Abroad will be joining in, and as well as things going on in the display arena, there will be the usual array of activities, along with various Kite & Food traders.

A raffle is held over the weekend with lots of donated kite related prizes, donations gratefully received!

On Saturday evening we will have our usual Social Get Together in the marquee, and all are welcome (There is a small fee if you would like to join in with the Buffet, please pre-book and pay on the Saturday morning, from the Raffle Team as available numbers are very limited!)

Camping is available on the Friday and Saturday evenings only, for £10.00 (payable on the weekend) and you will be able to get onsite from 1pm onwards on the Friday, no earlier please! (**Council stipulation**) There are Showers and Toilet facilities on site.

Come along and join in, and we look forward to seeing you there!!!

Contact: Alan Cosgrove (Main festival Organiser) 01256 421800 or Roy Broadley (Kites Up) 01256 812487.

North Hants Kiter's Jolly Up 18, April 23rd and 24th.

Gate open from 12noon on the Friday

It's nearly that time again to come and join us for another FUN Weekend of Kite Flying for Kite Fliers! The site is located in the village of Cliddesden, just south of Basingstoke (not far from J6 of the M3).

On-site camping is available from Friday midday onwards (£8 per tent/camper for Fri and Sat night).

Fish and chips available on the Friday evening (via the zipwire!) from 6am to 9pm.

The Saturday evening food will be the BBQ, tickets available on the weekend-(£7.00 and please try to bring a plate and cutlery!)

Once again we will be doing Jacket Potatoes for those interested at lunchtimes over the weekend, and Bacon rolls will be available on both mornings.

The Auction will once again be held on the Saturday evening, and any donations gratefully received before or on the week-end (before 4pm please if possible to give us time to set it all up).

We will run the Beer Lift competition, wind permitting, same rules as before.

Roy Martin's Sled competition will take place (to contact him directly please)

Roy's Refreshment Tent will be open for Business, normal rules apply.

For further info, please either contact:

Roy on 07778 352825
Colin on 07770 338419
Or e-mail roy@kitesup.co.uk
For orders: hayley@kitesup.co.uk

You can pre-order your tee-shirt / poloshirt, etc. Please email Hayley if interested in doing so.

(The dates for this same event taking place later this year again are Aug 6th & 7th).

Please Note: this is NOT a Buggy/Boarding weekend, thank-you.

August 13 & 14 August Teston Kiteability Kite weekend

As in previous years this a two day event where kite-flyers meet up socially to fly kites, and interact with the public. It has been named Kiteability Kite Weekend, to continue the tradition and celebrate the contribution to kiting by Pat and Ron Dell over so many years.

Camping will be allowed from the Friday until the following Monday, with a minimum donation of £10 per unit of up to 4 persons. Due to access problems with the public last year, camping passes and/or day car passes will be issued, and the entrance to the flying field will be locked (except for emergencies) from 10am until after the official flying ends

Malcolm Ford
e-mail: - malcolmf@kentkiteflyers.com
mob 07840086770

Dieppe International Kite Festival, 10th—18th September

The dates have been announced as above. For those who want to enter the competition the theme this year is "Primary Arts".

For any request send us an email: infos@dieppe-cerf-volant.org

Registration forms will be downloadable from the web site in the springtime.

Millom Sky 'Painted' - Tribute to the Walkers—Jerry Swift

The 15th and 16th August saw a substantial gathering of mostly northern based kite fliers, principally from the Northern Kite Group, at the rugby field on the outskirts of Millom at Haverigg. A flat open site, bounded by sand dunes on one side and looking across to the hills of the southern lakes, this is very much a fliers' festival with some excellent flying conditions for parts of the weekend. Rain threatened but stayed away as the clouds sank down on Black Combe which towered above the site. Winds were variable but generally off the sea making them straight and clean. Even in the light winds through parts of the weekend, long launches could usually find a breath at height.



There was a really good turnout for the event with lots of fliers camping on site and the use of the rugby club facilities making the event both relaxed and comfortable.

But probably the main part of the event, for fliers at least, was a tribute to Jock Walker and his son Peter who was sadly lost to us early in the year.

Jock is probably the most creative kite maker we have in the UK at present, adapting some classic designs to produce some very distinctive and often quirky kites. Who would have thought of turning a circoflex into a pot of paint and combining it with Mark Groshens' adapted 'paint brush' rokkaku? Or the stacks of yakko's as tributes to North East football teams and our armed forces?

Photo's of Jock's kites probably paint the best picture of this imaginative and generous man, but Malcolm and Jeanette Goodman visited him in his home earlier this year and it's probably

best to let him speak for himself about his kites and kite making. My thanks to Jeanette and Malcolm for the transcription of part of their conversation and Malcolm for the use of his photos.

J&M: *When did you first come into kiting?*

Jock: "I came into kiting by accident. I wanted to know how the sewing machine made a stitch so I went to Shields market and bought an old sewing machine, took it back to the caravan and worked out how a stitch was made. Once I knew how the stitch was made I thought well—I'll buy a better one with a circular sew[ing attachment] to make sure I knew how it worked. Once I knew and I could operate the machine I started sewing bits of rag until I was happy with the way the machine was working and then I thought right what will I make? I'll make some curtains for Maureen, a 'pinny' and then I thought right I'll make a kite!"

J&M: *So why did a kite come in to it?*

Jock: "I've always been interested in kites and that would be about 1983 or 1984."

J&M: *What did you make then?*

Jock: "Mostly I was into - oh what are they called - a 'Peter Powell'. Peter Powell was the instigator and I copied his kites and I made them with ripstop. I started with a stack of three, flew them and then I joined the Northern Kite Group and North East Kite Flyers and it just



Millom Sky 'Painted' - Tribute to the Walkers—Jerry Swift



spread from there.

"I got some knowledge about the yakko kite, I thought now then I can make a footballer. I played around with it and made the first footballer. I made one and when I was sure it was right I made the three - Newcastle, Middlesbrough and Sunderland. In 1996 they were all in the Premier League and I think [it was] in 1996 one of them got kicked out.

"I've always loved the circoflex - a brilliant kite and I started making them as prescribed and I found there was a hell of a lot of things you can do with a circoflex.

J&M: *Did your first one fly straight away?*

Jock: "Yes and it was a 7.5 m circumference and I flew it in the park. My neighbours thought it was the flying saucer - it used to fly like a dream. Then one day someone came along and started talking to me and it ended up in a tree right at the top there was no way I could get it out and thereafter that tree was known as Jock's Christmas tree.

"Later I got a bit braver and started making legs. I got in touch with Martin Lester and any information I needed he would give me - he is a

good buddy.

"The paintbrush kite - there are only three in the world - I made two of them and the other was made by Mark Groshens, the man who designed it.

"Getting ideas in my head - they all start with a simple drawing.

"The first kite I ever made - my friend and I - one of us and I can't remember who - borrowed his mother's table cloth. We managed to scrounge some bamboo and we made a diamond [kite]. It was very big and all we had was twine and bits of string. No one ever told us that line snaps so when the kite took off it flew over the streets in Dundee and the line snapped! We thought oh my god there goes the tablecloth!! We followed the line to a massive mill with a steam cold tank pool and where was the kite - in the pool.

"Luckily the house it went over belonged to one of our teachers who came out and said you had better come round the back. We went round the back of the house and followed the line - kept pulling the line and got the tablecloth back."

Jock's kites have brought pleasure to thousands at festivals across the country. We will continue to watch them, smile and think of their creator and his sadly missed son, Peter.



Bristol 2015—Hugh Blowers (photos: Lyn Blowers)

Who'd be a festival organiser? Bristol 2015

With Portsmouth having had to make significant changes, the theme was continued at Bristol the following weekend. Events conspired to cause the cancellation of the festival last year so it was a relief to see it back in the programme for this season. Avril and her team were faced with even more changes than Portsmouth though. A new venue on Durdham Downs the other side of the Gorge, different accommodation owing to the demise of Redwood Lodge and the change in date, enough to be going on with even before getting down to detailed arrangements.

The new site has a spectacular location and part of a huge open area that means entirely free and easy access to the public, and loads of free parking, which is a distinct disadvantage when the income from the charged parking area is so important to the festival. We will miss the Redwood and the supercilious receptionists who constantly blamed the residents for the fact the key cards seldom worked correctly. The reception rage when irate kite flyers found out their cards weren't working and had to walk all the way back to the desk on numerous occasions. The unwanted 'bed guests' and the bar prices that caused a sharp intake of breath. How it will function as a retirement complex, heaven only knows? Instead, it was student accommodation in Durdham Hall, or for the lucky few, The Holmes, a lovely 19c mansion set in the middle of the Bristol Botanic Gardens that we were free to visit, including sub tropical and tropical greenhouses where bananas and cocoa plants were growing. Breakfast was a gentle stroll away at another student complex, so with a full compliment of International and British based flyers, all was set for a new and different Bristol, or was it?

At the bottom of the brochure and programme was the note 'all timings and displays are subject to weather conditions on the day', words that can only bring fear and trepidation to organisers and flyers alike. The forecast for Friday and Saturday had improved markedly over the week, but for Sunday remained resolutely depressing. No sign of this as we enjoyed a wander round the Botanic gardens before walking down to the site for the media preview in a decent breeze that came up the Gorge and then rolled over the Downs. OK if you got above it, but even then it was a fair old whack when the kite hit the clear air as I found out. With all our

bags back at the halls it was a case of reverting to normal tactics and blagging kites to fly, and I was delighted to have a go with one of Dave Ellison's black and white statements, whilst he flew the white and black version. Bit like left Twix and right Twix? The Mayor made a symbolic visit on his bicycle, complete with his bright red trousers that had inspired the making of a pair of equally red 'Lester's Legs' two years ago and a matching pair of green ones for him to fly this year. Previously the media fly has been held on the Downs, but with the festival now on the same site, there was a goodly turnout of flyers all afternoon as more and more guests turned up. After a wait to see if a live transmission was forthcoming all participants enjoyed a 'ruby murray' on site before heading back to Durdham Hall and the bar where everyone was gathering. It was something of an upset to find that their cellar had gone kerfutt the day before so that there was no draught beer. Plenty of options and opinions with the local Bath Ales in bottle though, and at student (ish) prices.

Sun streaming through the windows on Saturday morning as we trekked down the lane to the designated refectory for breakfast, suitably signposted for those without a sense of direction or sat-nav apps on their phones. The flying site was so easy to get to and was filling with public, even before the flyers meeting, but what was immediately obvious was that the forecast of next to no wind was almost spot on. AWITA had their deltas up in two trains, but these were pointing in all directions and hardly holding, while Andrew Beattie had resorted to a ghenki as a pilot, but that was doing little more than lifting its own line as well as circling on thermals to confuse matters. Inevitably the programme was changed throughout the day, but it was not the weather that caused the first alteration, but the sad death earlier in the week of Phil Scarfe, one of the very earliest members of the Kite Society and a prodigious kite maker. Anyone who had one of Phil's kites or a 'flamed kite', his trademark, was asked to fly in his memory. It was Phil's long held belief that 'it was not a kite unless it had been flamed'.

The sports kite section of the programme was a perfect illustration of the old adage 'there is never the wrong wind, just the wrong kite' as they are all able to dig something out of the bag perfectly suited to any prevailing wind, or lack thereof. Good to see Air Heads operating again,

Bristol 2015—Hugh Blowers (photos: Lyn Blowers)

as well as the ever-present Flame, surely the longest established of any two-line team now.

The Decorators always support Bristol en-masse, and still with the original trio as the backbone of the team. Flying Squad must now be the ultimate 'pick up' team as they had added almost the entire Hoath clan as well as co-opting Lisa Willoughby as an honorary Hoath.



All the flyers worked wonders to keep routines together in these conditions, although looking at the mega teams from the side the downwind spacing of kites and flyers was incredible as they tried to keep things going. What was also becoming all too apparent was that a plume of continental hot air was making it all exceedingly hot, especially with all the work required to get heavier kites into the air.

With most of the action taking place in the top arena, we were treated to a master class in trick flying by Chris Goff further down the field. In virtually no wind the kite was performing a bewildering series of movements with continuous horizontal spins, inverted and right way up as well as forwards and backwards with the resultant line wraps, and numerous other sorts of manoeuvres too fierce to mention. Steven Hoath would have been able to identify each of these but I don't have a clue as to the correct names, just know it was mesmerising to watch as someone who spent most of one day trying to do an axel. What has changed over the years is that the kite now never touches the ground, unless it is part of the routine. Chris really is a master of this type of flying as well as the more disciplined team flying. Later in the day he transferred up to the display area to show his talents off to the crowd, along with Carl Robertshaw demonstrating similar mastery with a Rev.

No group were more aware of this than the participants in the rok battle that had an impressive number of entries including the home team from event partners Everyone Active, along with their professional flyer, Dave Johnson. Despite a bit of lurking on the sidelines here and there, a long drawn out fight ensued in the light winds until just three combatants remained and commentator Paul Reynolds invoked a time limit. One suspects that the watch used had an elastic hand to enable Jerry Swift to pull down his two opponents. More Revs while the rok crews retrieved kites and lines as well as their composure in the blistering heat. The second bout proved a victory for the Flying Squad and another of their excellent collaborations with Pedro Gonzalez.

As Paul Reynolds pointed out, it has not been a good time of late, losing far too many kite personalities in short order, so the 'Heaven's Above' item included numerous Didier Ferment butterflies that the late Kelvin Woods had made such an integral part of British festivals. Related in a way is that the festival supports the Great Western air ambulance, which kept getting diverted to incidents whilst on its way to the field.

The lack of wind meant that Jerry and Carolyn Swift could not get a lifter into the air for their bear bunging to support this worthwhile charity and neither could the bol tribute go ahead, but flyers are made of stern stuff. Don't know who first thought of the idea of people towing bols as they run, and probably never expected them to be the size that AWITA produced, but two male v female teams of volunteers were inveigled into racing these across the arena. After a great start, the girls were eventually overtaken, only to see their bol deflate and hand victory to the chaps.

The call of the bar and lunch was now exceedingly strong and Bristol is renowned for its huge variety of concession stands that cater for every taste and style of cuisine from traditional pies to couscous and joy of joys, a bratwurst stall. Mid-way through a reviving pint, the call went out for 'colours in motion' and art kites. We had seen Laetitia and Christophe Beauducel at Portsmouth with some of their superbly appliquéd images, but did not realise that they also had a Bristol connection as they had met there as students some fifteen years before. Michael Goddard produced a pair of smallish kites that really impressed me. They were complimentary

Bristol 2015—Hugh Blowers (photos: Lyn Blowers)

in pattern, although not mirror images either in colour or disposition of the elements. There were painted panels surrounded by intricate shapes, all on truncated Malay plan form with lovely long tails. Could happily have brought one home in the bag.



Gill Bloom was very much in evidence in her own right with a selection of her incredibly detailed dyed and appliquéd images. Still love the sparkly dragon but more impressive from a making perspective were the Birds of Paradise on a delta. Doesn't sound much, but the layering and colouring of the materials in the tails that then trailed from the tail of the kite was remarkable. To have all the work on the kite would have been good enough, but to have the tails flowing behind the kite was inspired. I do feel that Gill undersells herself as her kites and banners rank alongside the very best for the images she produces.



Gill, ably assisted by Jon, added several sets of her themed banners to what was almost a 'banner festival', and all so different. Gill's were themed and appliquéd with various animals and birds, George Peters and Melanie Walker with the 'Flying Colours' range, as well as the black and white. Dave Ellison and his cicada wings vied for space with half of Carl Robertshaw's huge silver lame flags, while at the top of the arena, Nick James had set up an installation with Angels on poles for people to take 'selfies' with, whatever they are? The banners were not finished, as Sara and Karl Longbottom had put up a host of their black and white pennants besides something like a hundred of the incredibly colourful Toucans from Roy and Hayley



Karl Longbottom is renowned for his traditional kites and variations thereof, but recently he has been expanding his repertoire considerably with jellyfish, the spectacular UFO and comet set, but here he came up with a new kite that really impressed me. A customer had been trying to cajole Karl into building this kite for a while, but as a one off it was something of a daunting task, but factor in the desire to create something for the competition at Dieppe (Canada) and there was the motivation for 'Phoenix'. The legend of the Phoenix constantly being reborn from the ashes of its previous incarnation is well know, as is its association with the sun and fire and it is these colours that Karl has used to such great effect. Not only is the construction of this bird like kite complex, but so is the appli-

Bristol 2015—Hugh Blowers (photos: Lyn Blowers)

qué and colouring, right down to the long tails that carry the colours through them. Another kite that I could easily have snaffled, and that does not happen too often nowadays, and would probably surprise Karl as well, but it does go to show that we do have exceptional makers in this country, they just need a nudge sometimes. Did Karl win, well, yes and no as first prize was a trip to Dieppe (France) but the second was far more acceptable to an impecunious kite maker, lovely lolly.

Inspired by the display at Portsmouth from Dave Ellison along with George and Melanie, all those with 'monochrome' kites were asked to put them up in the main arena, which led to a fascinating conversation with Gill Bloom about the many differing shades of black and white and how she seeks them out and uses them in her designs. Carl Robertshaw is also well known for using additional layers of fabric to create shades and single colours with more density. Perhaps that is why Nagel images translate so well to kites as they use basic bold colours with greys and blacks for shading, even I can manage that.

Another new departure as a theme, suggested by one of Avril's daughters, was 'Flight of Fright' for anything scary, including dragons, witches, ghouls, ghosts and spirits. With little wind there was little hope of Tim Rohn getting a Zimmerman dragon inflated, but there was enough for Peter Taylor and the Air Heads to get their albino Chinese dragon up, and the Swifts to fly their two dragons chasing the pearl. I never cease to be amazed at the wind range Chinese dragons will fly in, from almost nothing here to the gale at Berck where Pan Gang tuned ours. Not quite so scary, but more numerous and a crowd spectacle is the mass launch of Carl Robertshaw and other 'serpent kites', it's the tails that do it.

One element of the programme that the lack of wind would have been likely to kybosh was 'Pulling Power', but again it was 'never the wrong wind, only the wrong kite' syndrome as the lads produced some seriously big wings from their packs. We saw the famous 'Peel ballet' at Washington many years ago, so can appreciate just how powerful but majestic these massive kites can be in light winds, so well done to them all for showing what can be done.

From the extreme of power kites to the delicacy

and artistic talent displayed in 'Portraits in the Sky' was quite a leap, but what a wonderful array of kites from the printed 'Big D' that Daniel Hoath was forced to fly, much to his embarrassment through to Jan Van Leeuwen's drum kite painted by Claudio Capelli. Several of Claudio's images are privately owned and were on display including the Goodman's roks and Lynn Blowers' rectangular masterpiece. Add to this a Patrick Nagel image by Randy Tom and finally the large and small versions of Kelvin Woods' interpretation of the iconic Debbie Harry image for the Blondie album along with all the other images in the sky and you have a selection worthy of an exhibition anywhere in the world.



A glaringly obvious omission so far is the lack of anything relating to inflatables. Despite the best efforts of all concerned, it was just not their day. AWITA did manage to get their manta in the air a few times, but like most of the larger kites, it was soon headed back to earth, although it did look spectacular with the backdrop of the Avon Gorge, even if it did give the impression of wanting to dive into the river at times. The inflation of their super sized Peter Lynn whale at ground level gave the crowd a great insight into just how big some of these kites are. Marco Cassadio and Sophie Quesnell worked tirelessly to get the fish skeleton and shark into the air but it was a very frustrating and hot day.

And phew, wasn't it hot? The bar and concession stalls must have done a roaring trade as the crowds were enormous, but in the end the heat proved too much for us temperate East Anglians as the Blooms sought shelter in their cabana, whilst the Blowers' found Steve Brockett's 'Strange Fruits' Edo provided perfect

Bristol 2015—Hugh Blowers (photos: Lyn Blowers)

shade. There was a certain inevitability that the intense heat might create some instability in the weather, and so it proved. Midway through the 'Festival of the Sea' I just happened to glance towards the other side of the Gorge as a bolt of lightning prefaced a huge roll of thunder. Kites and lightning do not mix, so alerting arena marshal TC to what was coming, it was a rapid trot down to where we were camped. Gill and Jon had very kindly rescued Strange Fruits previously so the remaining kites were in the bags and everything back in the car PDQ. We then reciprocated by helping dismantle Gill's banner poles and then moved up the line to where Melanie was in a race against time to get their huge display over to the marquee. The last of their pegs and lines were being rescued as the heavens opened. Many had ignored the warning and paid the price as flyers, public, kites, buggies, banners and anything outside was comprehensively drenched. It was not just a short, sharp shower either but a full-blooded squall that went on and on.

Eventually we made a dash for the car and our previously dry state turned into an exceedingly wet one in a matter of yards. Everyone caught out was now in the drowned rat category, including one lady we saw on the way back who decided to strip off in the road in order to drive home in her underwear. The rain did abate and another advantage of the site became apparent, as it is very free draining allowing the flyers party to go on unhindered.

As soon as the grub had been consumed it was down to the important business of the auction, and it is important, as this is really the only other source of income for the festival. Auctioneering duties were shared by Paul and Barnaby, assisted by Jerry Swift, Malcolm Goodman and a host of spotters, with both auctioneers working the crowd, and at times each other, for every penny. Along with others, I remain amazed at the lack of correlation between the value of an item and what is paid for it at Bristol. It does take on the aura of a charity auction. Star items in terms of cost/benefit were two 'blowpipes' donated by George Peters and introduced with a bit of theatre, courtesy of Carl Robertshaw. At £150 and then £140, this was a sizeable donation from two Decorators who were playing mind games with each other, aided and abetted by Paul. It was a long and financially productive evening before the trek back to Durdham Hall.

If the rain had stayed away for the previous evening, it was back with a vengeance on Sunday morning and a very wet walk to breakfast and a second soaking for George Peters. There seems to be two schools of thought with heavy rain, wear as little as possible and get wet, or the best waterproofs available and stay dry, if a trifle warm.

George was unable to adopt either of these modes so got a third soaking on the way back as well. It was obvious by now that nothing much would be happening, hence the reference in the title, so after Avril and her committee had a conflagration it was decided to abandon the formal programme for the day and reappraise the situation at midday. This had not changed significantly by then, so a further postponement was made until 2pm, with the proviso that those with long journeys or delicate kites could withdraw if they so wished. Some did and some of the guests made their way into town for a bit of sightseeing, while everyone else waited, and their wait was rewarded as the skies began to clear.

By mid afternoon there was bright sunshine and public in significant numbers, inflatables drying out and a short kite festival, which was a far better result than the original forecast had led us to believe. Mind you, it rained all the way home and is still raining two days on and likely to continue to do so for a while. Ah, the British summer, although this did not seem to deter the huge crowds waiting four hours or more to get into Banksy's nearby 'Dismal Land' antithesis of a theme park.

Thanks to Avril, Paul, Bella, Dave and Mike for organising it all and to all those who helped along the way. A very different event again, but no bad thing for that, almost a new festival but with familiar faces, a degree of continuity a great setting, and easy access, what is not to like.

Is it sustainable though or was Sunday's deluge a storm too far, we hope not as Bristol is always a great way to end the domestic festival season, and after the boxes that double as en-suites at Rees Hall, the bathroom at The Holmes would not have been out of place in a 4 star hotel, suits us!

Events List

April		
9-17	Berck sur Mer International Kite Festival, Nord-Pas-De-Calais, France	www.cerf-volant-berck.com
21-1/05	Cervia International Kite Festival, Pinarella, Cervia, Italy	www.festivalinternazionaleaquilone.com/web
23-24	Jolly Up 18, Roy's Field, Cliddesden, Basingstoke	roy@kitesup.co.uk
May		
15	Streatham Common Kite Day, SW16 3EN	www.streathamkiteday.org.uk
June		
4-5	Basingstoke Kite Festival, Down Grange Sports Complex, Basingstoke	Alan Cosgrove 01256 421800
25-26	Barmouth Annual Beach Kite Festival in conjunction with the Mawdach Paddle Reggata, on the beach by the lifeboat station Barmouth	waine@barrikiteflyers.com
July		
	Bognor Regis Kite Festival, West Sussex	dave@kiteweekenders.com
8-9	Brighton Kite Festival, Stanmer Park, Brighton (Provisional)	www.brightonkiteflyers.co.uk
16-17	Leominster & Hereford Kite Festival, Berrington Hall, Herefordshire HR6 0DW	bill.souten@mkf.org.uk
30-31	Dunstable Kite Festival, Dunstable Downs.	www.dunstablekitefestival.co.uk
30-31	St. Annes Kite festival, on the beach, Lytham st Annes, near Blackpool, Lancashire	www.stanneskitefestival.co.uk
August		
6-7	Jolly Up 18, Roy's Field, Cliddesden, Basingstoke	
	roy@kitesup.co.uk	
13-14	Portsmouth International Kite Festival, Southsea Common, Portsmouth	Portsmouth@thekitesociety.org.uk
13-14	Teston Bridge Kiteability Kite Weekend, Teston Bridge Country Park, Teston Lane, nr Maidstone, Kent ME18 5BX	Malcolm@kentkiteflyers.com
13-14	Prudhoe Kite Festival, Highfield Park, Prudhoe, near Newcastle, Northumberland NE42 6EY	john@johndobson.info
27-28	Exmouth Kite Festival, Imperial Recreation Ground, EX8 1DG	ellisondavid@me.com
September		
10-18	Dieppe International Kite Festival, Dieppe, France	infos@dieppe-cerf-volant.org