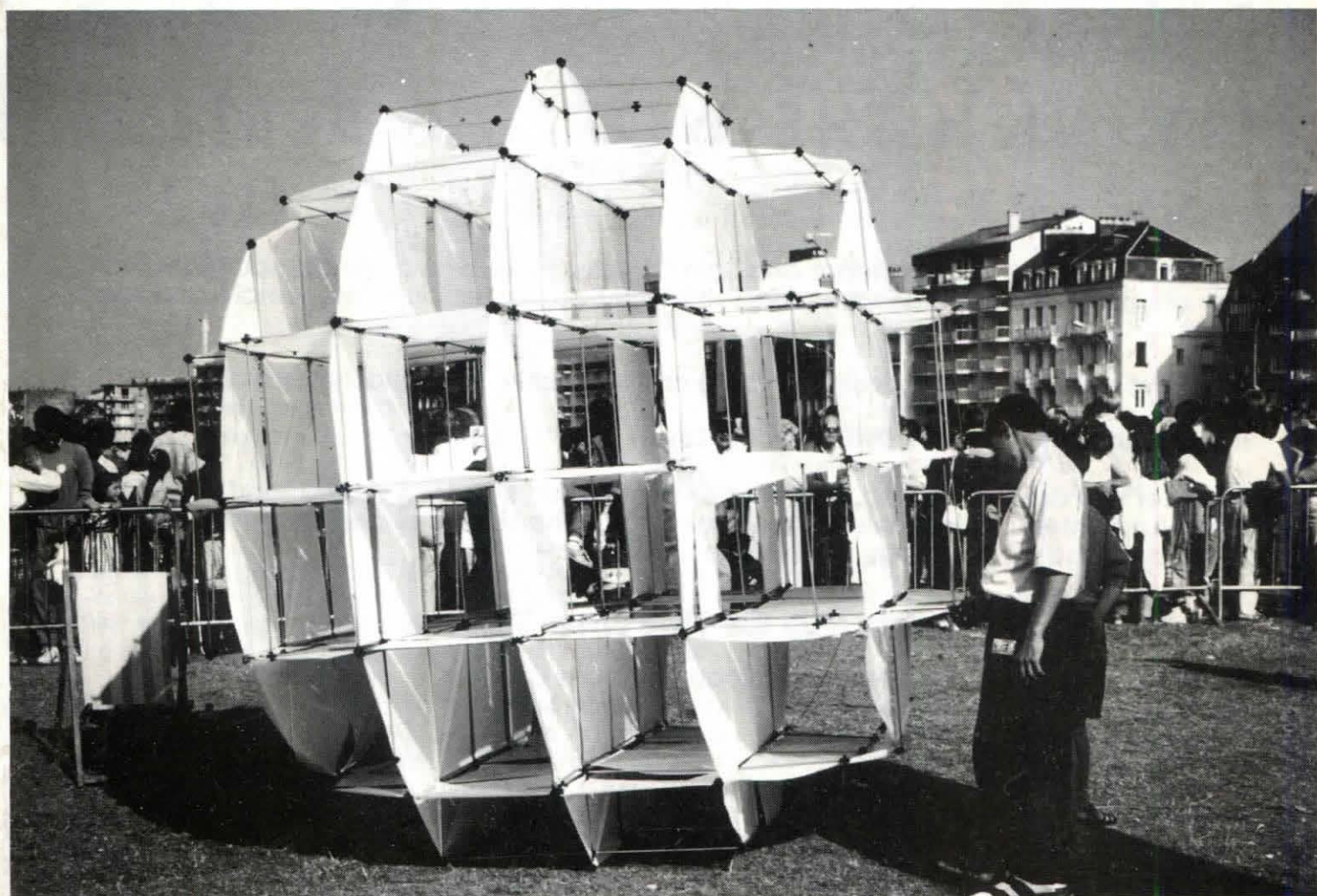


THE KITEFLIER

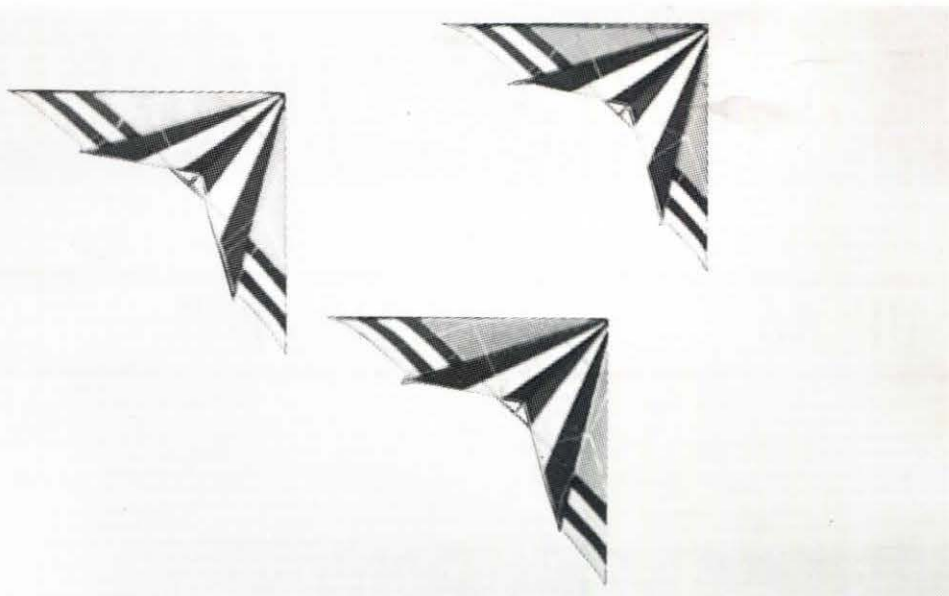
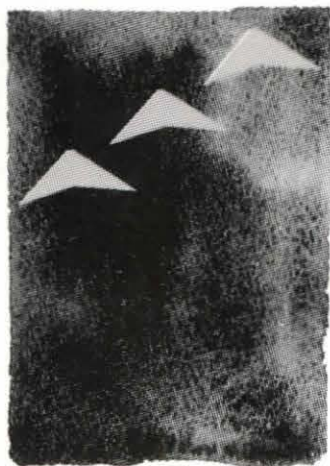
ISSUE 46

- JANUARY 1991 -

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NEWSLETTER
OF
THE KITE SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN



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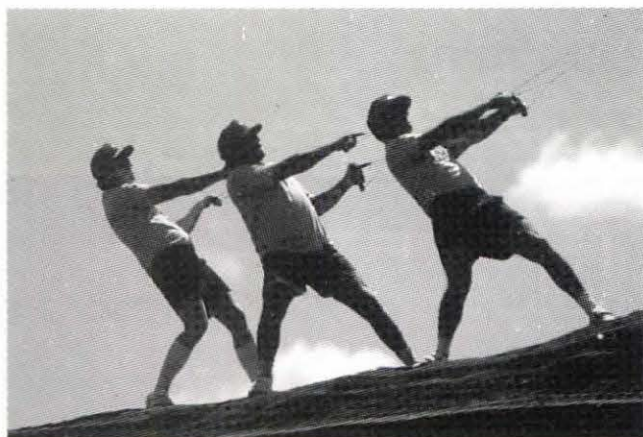
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The front cover shows one of the larger kites on show during the Dieppe kite festival. Maker unknown. Photo. Gill Bloom.

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EDITORIAL

THE KITE SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN, 31 GRANGE ROAD, ILFORD, ESSEX, IG1 1EU

Dear Reader,

This year the kite flying season starts with the Easter Blackheath and is followed by 1991 Kite Society Convention which is being held in Weymouth Dorset. Full details can be found on pages 18 to 21. This event promises to be an exciting international event with many international kitefliers attending from America and Europe. Remember to return the form as soon as possible to register.

This year Ron and Pat Dell of Kiteability are again awarding trophies to the winners of each round of the U.K. Rokkaku Challenge - however this year the trophies are going to the team event and not the individual. Our thanks to Ron and Pat for their support.

Remember that both the individual and the team challenges are open to all kitefliers. There are no limits to who can enter. Entry to all rounds is on the day of the event - listen out for the start time of the bouts.

The Kite Society single line championships will be held in conjunction with the Birmingham International Kite Festival at Cofton Park. Full details will be in the April issue but the classes are Cellular, Flat, Soft and Peoples Choice so start preparing for the event.

Finally, the Kite Society of Great Britain National Stunt Kite Championships are to be held on the 28th and 29th June prior to the Blackheath Summer Event. The two teams who finish 1st and 2nd will qualify for the World Cup being held in Bristol in September. For further information you should contact STACK.

Gill and Jon Bloom

LETTERS

IN RESPONSE TO JIM ROWLANDS LETTER

FROM BILL FARRINGTON

I very much welcomed Jim Rowlands letter in the October issue appealing to festival fliers common sense and social conscience to minimise accidental damage and injury.

Festival organisers who offer their time and energy voluntarily, don't want to become heavy handed bureaucrats, if they did then festivals would cease to be fun. Also punitive threats to cut the lines of the unthinking smacks of being heavy handed. All that can be done is to make a clear statement in the festival programme that flying is prohibited in the car parks and main spectator areas and that any claim for damage/injury will be directed at the individual concerned. This would need to be reinforced by regular announcements over the P.A. system highlighting the stupidity of such activity.

The other point in Jim's letter concerning "illicit" traders is less clear cut in my opinion. It asks the interesting question -do festivals exist for the traders or vice-versa.

Certainly festivals - especially those attracting overseas participants - need to generate revenue in many ways - advertising fees, sponsorship, entry fees (for spectators and participants), trading charges, etc. However, if organisers choose to go along this path then they have to decide on levels of fees and charges. Jim uses the phrase "appropriate fees" and refers to "open and fair trading". What then is an appropriate fee and what is meant by fair trading? £50 - £75 per day may be arguably appropriate for a full time retailer who makes a living out of kites, but it is hardly an appropriate fee for someone who makes a few kites for sale in his/her spare time, or makes reels and things or who, as a one-off, buys a job lot of kites hoping to sell them to fellow enthusiasts.

Such people bring variety and added interest to festivals. Their ingenuity and enterprise ought to be encouraged rather than discouraged, They are not a serious threat to bona fide retailers who often all have a perfect right to buy items from these small fry competitors and sell them at whatever price they choose from their own stands.

To end on a more positive note. How about setting aside a small area - a kind of kites flea market - at festivals for such amateur entrepreneurs, charging them a more modest fee (say 1/4 of the normal retailers fee) or inviting a donation from the days takings to offset organisers costs? This is what happens at Old Warden and seemed to work reasonably well without spoiling anybody's fun.

ON THE SAME SUBJECT

FROM LES SYMONS

LETTERS

What did you think of Jim Rolands letter in the October newsletter. I fully agree with him because I have experienced the selling of kites, wind socks and spinners from the boots of cars personally. In fact it even went further than this when some Devon Kitefliers used our club name to gain access to a country show on the pretext of doing a display when all they were intent on was personal gain (grabbing a quick buck) not only are they parasites to our hobby but are sticking a dagger in the backs of kite manufacturers and kite shops who are struggling to earn their living. This has hurt me deeply in as much as I've decided to stand down as secretary of Devon Kitefliers and will be flying solo on my own patch of Exmoor where, hopefully, I will once again find the pleasure and satisfaction of flying kites.

P.S. They also had free access to the show, free luncheon vouchers and expenses paid.

STILL ON THE SAME SUBJECT

FROM ROGER LAWTON (This appeared in the Chiltern Kite News)

Well Jim, if you put your letter in just to get a bit of reaction, here is my two pennies worth.

Social conscience and the lack of it indeed! I would ask you to consider that traders turn out at these festivals for hard commercial reasons, and they are traders first and kitefliers second. They have to be it's their livelihood.

The commercial threat you talk of is laughable when a kite enthusiast makes available to others goods or ideas at little or no profit. Please remember it's the enthusiast that makes these festivals, festivals rather than just demonstrations by brought-in specialists.

If, as you say, traders are required at festivals, why then are prohibitive costs attached to small traders attending, if in fact they allowed in at all? Our local shop was denied access to trade at Bristol. All traders should be welcomed with open arms. What is open and fair about being excluded? Why not just ask for a percentage of takings, a much fairer way, and you might even show a greater income.

Regarding your comment on Kevlar; my experience over three years using various types of Kevlar prove your contention to be erroneous. I have yet to understand why one material, just because it has a higher melting point than others, is considered more dangerous. Any line under tension may, under certain circumstances, be hazardous. Kevlar has many advantages, longevity and price being two, and it seems to be quite acceptable in Holland. I do not understand the paranoia associated with in the U.K. Perhaps it is the vastly increased profitability on alternatives.

I would say that more and more of my time at these larger gatherings is spent encouraging newcomers with their brand new Peter Powell or whatever,

LETTERS

to relocate from among the single-liners and crowds and find a bit of space so that they won't be such a nuisance to others. They honestly had not thought of this with the excitement of a new acquisition and the desire to get it airborne. Messages must be broadcast regularly directing people to those areas designated for their kites. Kites are purchased throughout the meeting and the message must be put across continually. I consider it reasonable to have marshals assisting new fliers and directing them to safe areas. I wonder if that may happen in a co-ordinated fashion, surely the local group could assist.

FROM GARY CLARKE

Stunt Kites vs Single Line Kites.

This 'debate' is really starting to cheese me off in a big way. One of the things that drew me into kite flying was the friendly and positive attitude of everybody that Lynn and I met at the festivals we've attended, it's one of the main reasons that we travel so far each time. But things are starting to get a little stupid and immature. If I'm flying a single line kite and somebody starts flying their stunt kite dangerously close to me it's not the fault of the stunt kite, its the prat at the other end of the lines. Conversely if I'm flying a stunt kite and somebody walks right in front of me and starts flying his kite it's that person who is at fault, not me because I'm flying a stunt kite.

At Bristol this year it was very easy to witness examples of stupidity by single and dual line flyers. people were flying kites in the car park for heavens sake!! - I saw a mega delta that was tied to a dog stake and just left. Others were buying stunt kites from the traders on the site and testing them out for the first time over other peoples head!

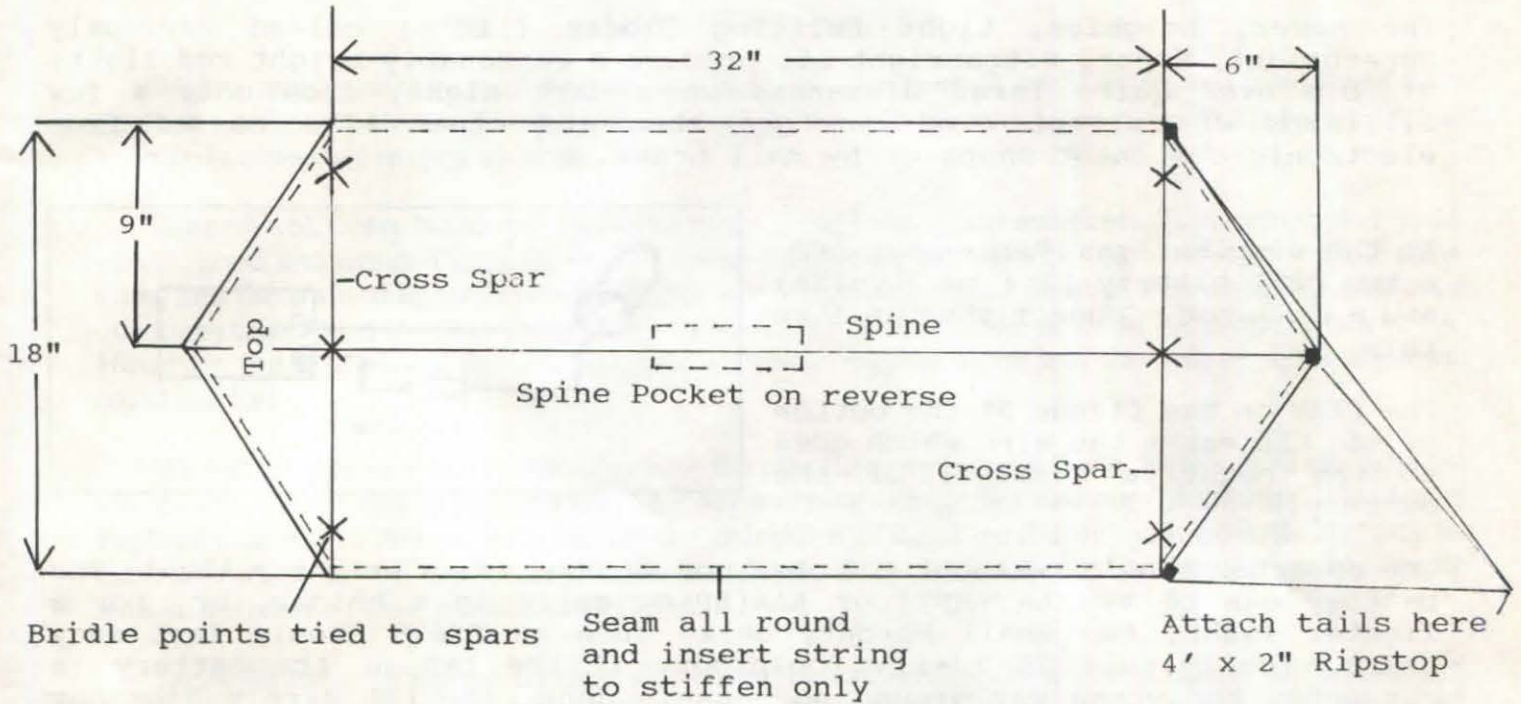
All it takes is a little thought and consideration about what and where you're flying. At a festival space is limited for everyone and nobody should hog the sky or endanger others. The whole ideas of going to a festival is to interact with other people, whether you want to show off your latest creation, team stunt fly, fight rokkakus, drop teddies or just keep an eye on what other people are up to. If you want to go somewhere to fly kites all day and are not really interested in anything else why bother going to a festival in the first place?

What I would like to see is less bickering and a bit more fun brought back into my favourite hobby. It's becoming a little dishearting that people are starting to take sides and discriminate against others purely because of the kite that they fly. I'd hate to be classed as a 'Stunt kite flyer' or as only interested in 'single line kites'. I enjoy flying kites, all kites, any kites, it's meant to be fun - you all remember fun don't you?

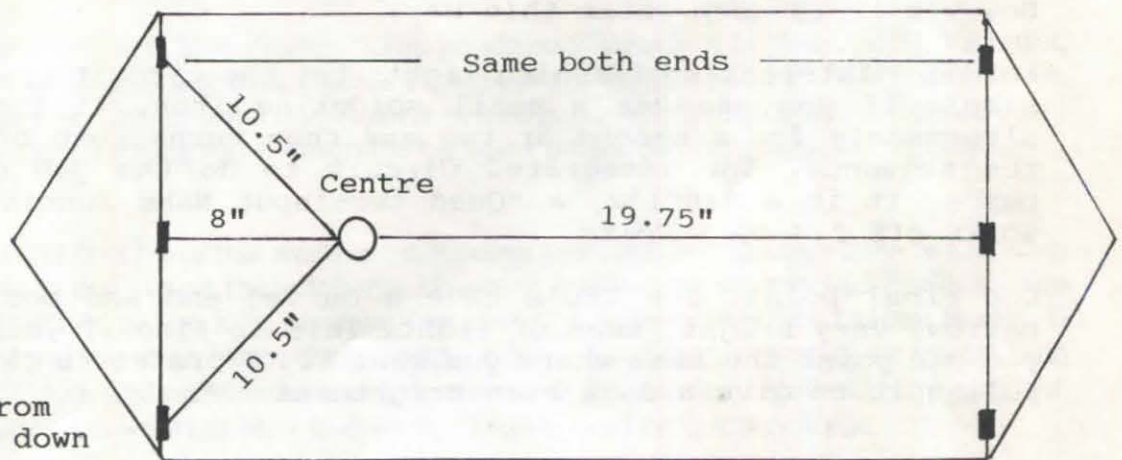
(If anyone wants to respond to the above letters, or have something they want to say to the kite fliers in general then write to us at the address shown on the editorial page).

THE WOTSIT KITE by BOBCAT WIMBORNE

A two string controllable kite that flies up and down as well as a conventional kite (Great Fun). Make from paper or ripstop and will fly in any wind.



Two outside bridles to a ring (Larks Head) adjustable left or right. Centre string to ring and onto centre other end.



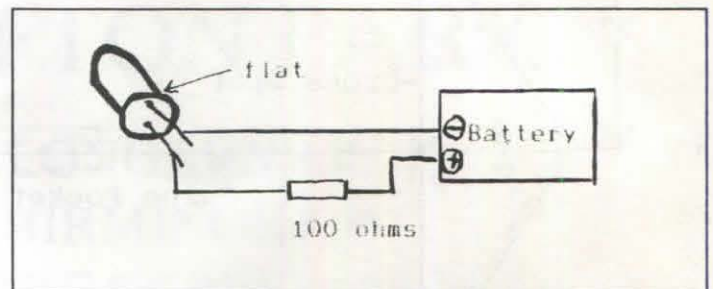
KITE LIGHTS FOR BRIGHT NIGHTS

Kite lights are becoming more popular. They brighten up the night sky. They need not be expensive or heavy. Here are a few suggestions for keen "Do-It-Yourself" enthusiasts to keep them occupied until spring comes and then to brighten up the summer evenings!

The newer, brighter, Light Emitting Diodes (LED's) called variously Superbright, Super, Ultrabright etc produce a reasonably bright red light, visible over quite large distances on a dark night, from only a few milliamps of current. You can get them and other bits needed from electronic component shops or by mail order.

At the simplest you just use a LED, a two cell battery (2.4 to 3 Volts) and a resistor. Connect them up like this.

The flat on the flange at the bottom of the LED marks the wire which goes to the negative terminal of the battery.



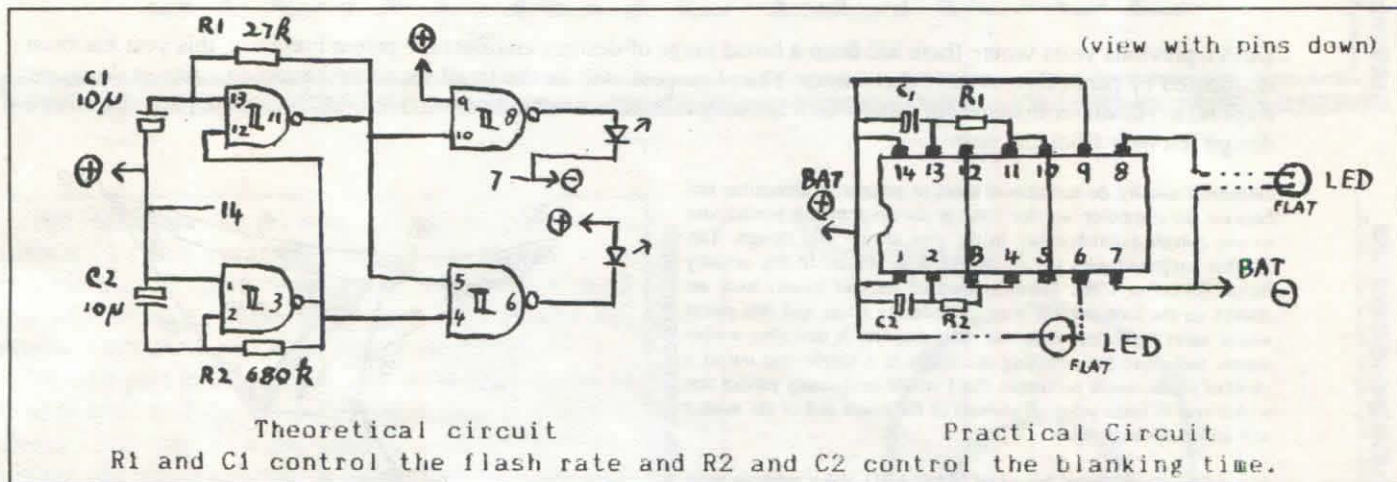
The resistor should be about 100 ohms, or 47 ohms for a brighter light. The battery can be two AA (HP7) or AAA(HP16) cells in a holder, or, for a lighter light, two small Mercury cells such as PX675 should last many hours. The circuit is fairly foolproof. If the LED or the battery is connected the wrong way around no harm is done, the LED merely does not light.

To get a flashing light the easiest thing to do is to buy a flashing LED! This looks like an ordinary LED but has a flasher circuit built in. You just connect it directly to a battery and off it goes. The snags are that it needs 6 to 9 Volts to work well (use a PP3 battery) and it dies if the battery is connected the wrong way round. Of course you could connect a protection diode in series to prevent catastrophes, but that complicates things again and you have to get the diode the right way round as well. However it is much safer this way.

For more interesting flashing lights try the circuit opposite. It is fairly simple if you can use a small soldering iron. It flashes two LED's on alternately for a second or two and then turns both off before repeating the sequence. The Integrated Circuit to do the job costs less than 50 pence. It is a 74HC132, a "Quad two-input Nand Schmit". The whole thing works off 2.4 to 3 Volts.

One Final point. The LED's have a curved end and most produce a fairly narrow, very bright, beam of light. This is fine if your kite is so stable you can point the beam where you want it. I prefer to file the end flat and polish it to give a more even brightness

KITE LIGHTS FOR BRIGHT NIGHTS



Nicolas Wadsworth

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Patent Review 1990

Jim Rowlands

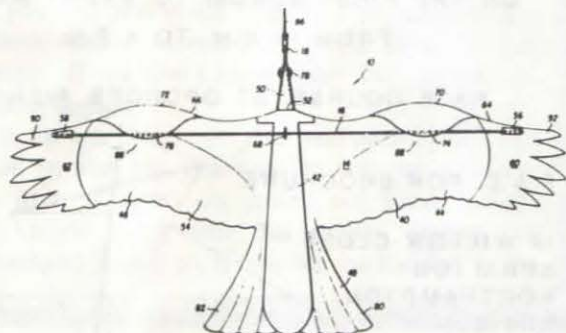
Unlike previous years where there has been a broad range of designs amongst the patent literature, this year has been dominated by parafoils and their derivatives. This, I suspect, will be the trend for several years to come as designers respond to consumer demand for kites which are easy assemble, are fun to fly and with no breakable parts. But first a design left over from last year.

Because I usually do my annual trawl of patents in December and because the computer service I use is always a month behind, one or two patents published late in the year always slip through. This is what happened with US 4,878,636 from Robert Mileti, actually dated November 1989. Manufacturers of cheaper stunter kites are always on the look out for ways of reducing costs, and this patent would seem to be an answer to their prayers. It describes a very simple technique for punching the bridle as a single unit out of a sheet of plastic sheet, so simple that I would confidently predict that within two to three years all stunters at the lower end of the market will utilise this technique.

Lloyd Elson's invention described in US 4,911,383 is perhaps more amusing than novel and will no doubt be of great interest to all BMISS fans. Not so much a kite, it is perhaps more a method of launching parachuting teddy bears and consists of really no more than a delta kite with a balloon keel. On launching, the teddy bear, harnessed to the parachute, sits inside the keel and is held there by the line tension. As the kite rises to the azimuth position the line is assumed to slacken allowing the teddy to fall out and parachute to the ground. Simple and fun!

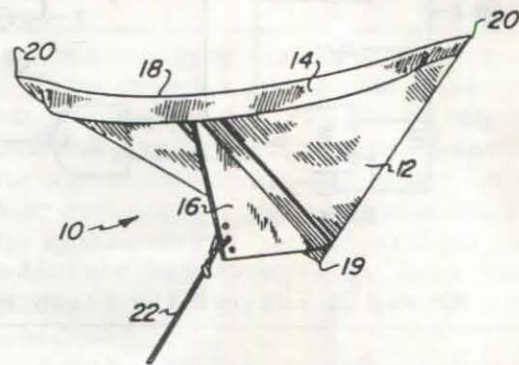
Possibly also of interest to BMISS followers is US 4,705,239 by Eric Baird which describes a rather novel type of traveller mechanism, here used in respect of a toy parachute. The traveller has a split sleeve, with a slot throughout its length to allow easy hooking and unhooking. As the traveller moves along the line it hits a control stop, releasing the parachute allowing it to fall to the ground.

Some years ago I was accosted by an elderly gent who insisted on telling me how on the estate where he lived as a child, kites in the shape of eagles and other birds of prey were used to keep game birds on the ground until the beaters and guns were in position and the shoot underway. The bird kite by Marguerite Stankus, US 4,911,384 might well have been designed with such an application in mind. The wing shape seems fairly standard but the body section which provides a keel/rudder function is much larger than usual and the tail is flared outwards. The inventor claims that the kite will fly in a wide range of wind conditions and does not need clean air, or high altitude to fly stable.



Wing form from Marguerite Stankus' Bird kite

What could actually be made into an interesting paperfold is described in US 4,927,100 by Eugene Provenzo and Peter Zorn of Florida. The wing is basically triangular, point downwards with a triangular keel. The leading edge is however folded forward and fixed at either end to create a 'spoiler' which the authors claim will assist to prevent stall. The patent also includes details of some variations using a tunnel keel and butterfly style wing.

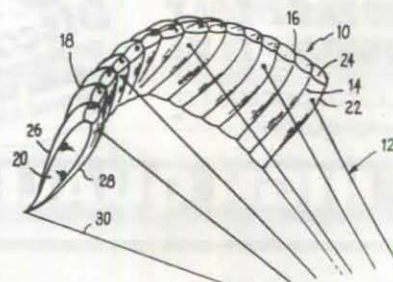


'Airfoil Configuration' by Eugene Provenzo and Peter Zorn

Now copied several times over Joe Hadzicki's 'Revolution' is described in US 4,892,272. For those who have not come across this kite before it was the first kite to use four control lines, bringing a new dimension to stunter flying. I remember hearing one particular enthusiast describe flying a Revolution as similar to patting your head and rubbing your tummy while standing on one leg; you can manage for a few seconds but then your coordination goes to pot.

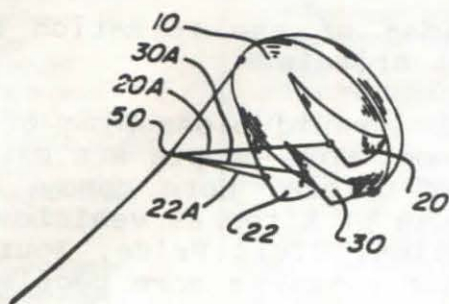
On the subject of stunt kites the 'Paraflex' by Wolfgang Schimmelpfennig, EP 0,358,000 is one of two new 'soft' designs patented this year. Again for those unfamiliar with this kite, it is a high aspect-ratio rectangular parafoil, designed to be flown on two lines, but without the forward spar as with the Flexifoil. From the little I've seen it doesn't appear to be as manoeuvrable as the standard (framed) stunters, nor as exciting as the Flexifoil but there can be little doubt that for non competitive flying the Paraflex and its derivatives will become the standard.

On the other hand, a design which just might be able to match framed stunters for manoeuvrability has been developed by Sylvain Berthomme of France described in WO 90/05665. Again this is a high aspect ratio rectangular parafoil but with an open trailing edge. One set of the rigging lines is connected to points near the leading edge, and a second is threaded through the lower surface, through a hole in the rib and connected to the trailing edge. The control mechanism so achieved is therefore very similar to that on ram-air parachutes in which the pilot manoeuvres by opening and closing flaps (described as ailerons in the patent) at the trailing edge. The author claims the kite has good inflation, will fly in a good range of winds and achieves both good stability and control. And I for one would be most interested in seeing it.



Sylvain Berthomme's Control line parafoil

Those kitefliers interested in signalling and rescue kites will want to see US 4,919,365 from Arthur Mears. More of a balloon than a kite, the aerofoil can be inflated by bottled gas - helium for example, or by mouth, and has a circular planform with three rudders/keels/ailerons on the lower surface. The author claims that this kite - or marker balloon- as he described it will fly in a wider range of weather conditions than previous designs.



Detail from Arthur Mears' 'Airfoil'

Amongst this year's less interesting patents is an inflatable micro-light wing by Alexander Kack and described in DE 3,903,779. The aerofoil shape is created not so much by inflation of the whole canopy, but of two flexible cylinders placed transversely at the leading edge and at the position of maximum thickness.

Another development which just might possibly be of interest comes from Mark Flory of Texas. His patent US 4,942,506 describes a system of mounting and controlling pretty lights on the lower surface of a kite.

A more interesting type of micro-light wing is however described in DE 4,002,341 by German designer Hansuli Zuberbiller. The standard rectangular ram-air wing is fitted with a row of valved vents in the rear surface, just behind the point of maximum thickness which the author claims increase the air flow over the rear surface and thereby delay boundary layer separation and stall. The principle described in the patent is actually quite well known and is already used on slotted and blown aerofoils of modern aircraft wings. I also have a feeling that I saw an illustration of a similar wing design some years ago, which would make this patent invalid.

And finally a puzzle. A very strange Brazilian patent BR 8804726 has come to my attention ; strange because all the indexing would indicate that it is a kite or aerial device of some sort, but the abstract describes it as a play toy for parrots. Am I right to think someone has made a mistake or do Brazilian parrots really go in for hang gliding ?

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A NATIONAL COMMITTEE?

The following letter is from Adam Sutherland. We would like to thank Adam for his initiative in putting forward his ideas and thoughts. Let us hope something can come of it.

I would formally like to put forward the idea of the formation of a National Committee to the kite fliers of Great Britain.

During the past couple of years we have seen a rapid blossoming of our pastime, not least helped by the stunt kite boom. More people are making, flying and buying kites in Britain than ever before. More money, both public and private, is being invested in the use of kites as vehicles for promoting particular interests, e.g. Celebration, Civic Pride, Tourism, Product Services etc etc etc. and as the market develops more people are moving into the commercial side of kiting as the possibility of profits emerges.

This rapid growth in kiting has created many changes and developments and the world of kiting is rapidly changing. This has quite naturally created a certain polarisation of interest. As kiting grows it becomes more difficult for any one person to keep track of events, developments, kites, kite makers etc that are all happening now. Consequently you end up specialising and not necessarily consciously.

Following on from this growth more and more demands are being made on those rare breed of people who always emerge to organise kite activities for us and try to provide the things we moan about not having, but don't do anything about ourselves. Jon and Gill Bloom have done this with the Kite Society of Great Britain. They have kept British kiting together with the Kite Society magazine giving a crucial and basic medium for communication between us, although many times we have been found wanting with contributions. They also recognised the growth of kiting and the need for a national focus. Out of this need they created the Annual Convention which has been growing in stature and success every year.

One of the things that the convention does is create a fertile breeding ground for good ideas. I have been in many conversations not only at conventions but at festivals, workshops and bars where great ideas have been born and thrashed around, and then forgotten as people dispersed to their various regions. Naturally people look to the Kite Society for the organisation and provision of these things, however Jon and Gill are not quite superhuman and can't begin to respond to realising all the ideas generated, and in some instances they would not necessarily be the best people to do it anyway.

In thinking through these things I have come to the conclusion, as I am sure many of you out there have, that if amateur kiting is to grow and develop and we are to have a chance of having a fair and equitable slice of the resources both available and potential, that exists for kiting, then we need to embark down the path of organising ourselves so that good ideas can be brought to fruition and opportunities need not be missed. Ways need

A NATIONAL COMMITTEE?

to be constructed so that we have a chance of assessing the feelings of kilters nationally, even if only to establish that there is no consensus, and give individuals a democratic forum to air their views and at least be listened to.

Heavy stuff, well it doesn't have to be. So long as we remember that any organisation, structure, body we choose to establish is only a tool to help us pursue and enjoy kiting more and should never become an end in itself. Then we will have an instrument that will be flexible enough to respond as needed, to grow and diminish as required, and be there only when needed.

Like any organisation it will only ever be as good as the sum of its parts. In the case of the Kite Society of Great Britain that's us. I'm sure we shall not be found wanting.

Well that's the easy bit, pontificating at great length, but where do we go from here. My suggestion is that we establish a data and venue for a meeting to debate this idea. So that as many people as possible can have an opportunity to participate in this debate it will have to be located in the centre of the country so that travel costs for any one region is not prohibitive, this rules out the 1991 convention. If the idea is found sound then a committee can be elected and begin to develop procedures and practices.

To start the debate rolling now I would like to outline a possible and imperfect structure for a National Committee. As a great believer in grass roots kiting "it's the sum of all the unseen kite makers and fliers that actually create the dynamic that is kiting" not the relatively high profile ones, that are visible on the tip of the kiteberg. Therefore I would like to see the encouragement and development of local groups run by local people responding directly to local needs. From the local groups we could form a National Federation with each group having a representation on the National Committee.

To ensure fair representation to Kite Society members who perhaps live in an area where there is no group a number of committee places could be allocated for representatives of individual members.

There are many issues to be discussed, membership fees, procedures, constitution, the list is endless, therefore more contributions and opinions expressed in the beginning, the more chance we have of getting it right from the start.

Therefore let us have your views on the subject. Without your will, help, support and effort nothing will happen.

ADAM SUTHERLAND

A NATIONAL COMMITTEE?

To reply to Adam there are a number of points that we would like to make that should be considered at the same time.

For as long as The Kite Society has existed there has always been the problem of local groups and kite festival organisers not communicating their activities. We can only presume that this is because they were not interested in telling other kite flyers what they were up to. Perhaps they just did not think it was necessary. We have had cases of groups not even replying to a written request for membership details! So anything that can be done to try to rectify the situation must be welcome.

It is clear, however, that we have a different concept of the term federation/committee. To our mind the best way to replying would be for all interested local groups to provide one representative who would attend the meetings of a "Local Group Committee" comprising of all such representatives. This committee would then discuss the various topics raised and then present the agreed suggestions or comments to the national group, that is The Kite Society of Great Britain to act upon where possible. In this way we would avoid any such problems with membership fees. Although there may be some cost implications in implementing such suggestions.

As far as the other concept of "National Committee" goes there are a lot of dangers that can occur - all you need to do is look to France and the formation of the Federation of French Kite Clubs. Ever since it was formed there has been very little information coming from France. The national group, Cerf Volant Club de France, has all but disappeared as a effective group whereas prior to the federations formation it was a very strong and representative group. In addition a number of new groups have been created which have not joined the federation. All of this meant a split within kiting in that country.

As regard to setting up a first meeting contrary to Adam's belief we would suggest the Weymouth Convention, as Adam himself says the convention is the national focus of kiting in Great Britain - so surely all committed kitefliers should be attending!

What we really need is some feedback for both individual kitefliers and group representatives. If we do not hear from a majority of kite groups we will presume that people are happy with the current situation and abandon the idea.

All thoughts and ideas on this topics should be sent to The Kite Society, 31 Grange Road, Ilford, Essex, IG1 1EU

We await your letters with interest.

Jon and Gill Bloom

GENERAL INTEREST

BITS AND PIECES

Spotted in The Sunday Telegraph - Diminutive wooden kites, delightful little badges hand-made by Paul Bartlett. Measuring 2 1/2" long from top to tail, they come individually boxed and cost £3.50 each (inc p&p) from 34 Marlow Close, Netherton, Dudley, West Midlands DY2 9LX.

If you are interested in china Royal Doulton do a variety of plates, jugs and bowls as part of the Bunnykins range with a colourful scene of rabbits flying various kites. Most good china shops and departmental stores should stock them.

How about some bookends for all those kite books. Delightful bookends featuring a teddy flying a Peg Top kite are produced by Robert Longstaff Workshops, Appleton Road, Longworth, Oxon OX13 5EF. Tel 0865 820206.

One final item is a clear plastic pen case (complete with pens) featuring a kite motif. This can be brought at Woolworth.

We have recently been sent a book from Italy which is a kite related art limited edition book (1,000) copies only. It has been written by Marcello Diotallevi, an active member of A.I.A., the Italian Kite Association. Printed in both Italian and English it is an interesting book to add to a collection - but note that there are no plans.

Cost 18,000 L plus 3,000 L for postage. This covers production and distribution costs only. If you are

interested then write to A.I.A., Via Dandolo 19, 00153 Roma, Italy.

KITE GROUPS

More details on the Poole Kitefliers. Their club secretary writes:-

We have formed a new group and have meetings once a month in a small, but select local hostelry where we spend a pleasant hour or two quaffing ale and talking kites and also have fly-ins at either Hengistbury Head or Baiter Park in Poole. The fly-ins take place once a fortnight on a Sunday. The club has at present about 30 paid up members. Subscriptions are £5.00 per year for individuals and £7.00 for family membership.

Although the club only came into being a short time ago we have achieved a great deal in a short time. We are currently involved in staging an exhibition of kites and kiting activities at our local civic centre and we are also in the throes of organising the Poole Kite Festival to be held at Baiter Park, Poole on 22nd and 23rd June. In conjunction with the local Arts Council and Local Traders Association we hope to hold a series of 'Open flying' competitions with trophies and prizes and, hopefully, a guest speaker/workshop organiser.

Contact Andy Nunn, 30 Kinson Avenue, Poole, Dorset, BH15 3PH. Tel 0202 721150.

We have had a letter from a new group secretary, twelve year old Vanessa Hanks who wrote to inform us

GENERAL INTEREST

that her father has started a kite flying club in the Black Country called The Black Country Kitefliers. She says that her father was a member of the Midland Kitefliers but with too many stunters at the flyins he felt that stunt kites were taking over the club. So he formed his own for single line kites.

Contact The Black Country Kite Fliers, 26 Springfield Road, Brierly Hill, West Midlands, DY5 3RD.

More details regarding the Thorpe Kite Flyers have been sent by Kevin Appleton who writes:-

We are a rapidly expanding group of friendly kitefliers. We fly every Sunday morning on Thorpe Recreation Ground, Laundry Lane, Thorpe, Norwich between 9.30am and 12.30pm. Members fly a large assortment of single line kites and formation flying is now being organised with Speedwings and Flexifoils. Any K.S.G.B. member is welcome to join us at any time, being located in the heart of the Norfolk Broads and only 20 miles from the east coast holiday resorts - why not pay us a visit if you are on holiday in this area.

Contact Kevin Appleton, 37 Eastern Avenue, Thorpe-St-Andrew, Norwich, NR7 0UQ.

We have recently received a newsletter produced by a new kite group based in Vienna, Austria. This first issue is full of festival reports but it also contains some good plans. Included amongst these plans is the Mushroom Kite featured in The Kiteflier last October.

Contact Fly High, Argentnierstrasse 16, A-1040 Wien, Austria.

KITE SHOPS & MANUFACTURERS

In the last issue we run a list of kite shops and manufacturers. We asked at the end of the article that if we had missed any shop could they let us know, we have had two replies and here they are.

The Plymouth Kite Company run by Peter Martin. His lines include kites, windsocks and accessories. Contact The Kite Shop, Q.A.B. Marina, Coxside, Plymouth, Devon, PL4 0LP. Tel 0752 670156.

Flight Fantastic - Kitemakers. A small company run by Alan Wenham and Chris Murray. They specialise in individual applique designs, or limited runs of original applique designs. They mainly sell at Craft fairs, festivals and through mail order. They have connections with Kites of Exmouth and have a selection of kites at Cirencester Workshops, Cirencester. Their catalogue covers the usual range of single line kites such as Deltas and Boxes, but also includes such items as Bat, Gull, Buzzard, Dragon and Cody Kites. Prices range from £14.50 to £85.00. They also sell the Emperor Stunt Kite (a swept wing design) for £45.00.

Their address is Flight Fantastic, Craft Workshop Association, 1A Hamlin Lane, Polsloe Bridge, Exeter EX1 2SA. Tel 0392 221643. Personal callers are welcome.

READERS REQUESTS

GENERAL INTEREST

Wilf Proctor has written to us regarding the Snoflake kite design found in Wolfgang Schimmelpfennig's book. He has found a number of errors in the instructions and several examples of misleading lack of detail all of which led to wasted time.

If anyone wishes to have details of the corrections and additions to the instructions he would be happy to send them to you upon receipt of a couple of first class stamps to cover photocopying and postage.

If interested then you should write to him at Grange Farm House, Kircudbright, DG6 4XG.

Colin Le Cornu writes:-

I would like to ask whether anyone has any information on the construction of the Lecornu Ladder Kite. Dan Leigh has kindly given me some material but I would be glad to hear from anyone who has actually built and flown one of these kites.

The reason for my interest is obvious! Write to Colin at 153 Bowleaze, Greenmeadow, Cwmbran, Gwent, NP44 4LG.

MATERIALS AND KITES

We have recently heard from a company specialising in Glass fibre rods and tubes. The company - Fibrelon Ltd, Unit 4, Croftwood Square, Martland Mill Industrial Estate, Wigan, WN5 0LG. Telephone 0942 227331 - has rod available from 2mm to 12mm diameter. Prices from 10p to 43p per metre. This price

excludes carriage and V.A.T. and is on orders of less than 1000 metres. All orders are supplied in 6m lengths but can be cut to size for large or regular orders at no extra charge.

If you are interested then you should contact them directly.

We have also heard from a company representing James Mead Limited. James Mead is producing Ram Air Kites from 3'6" to 12' span. We have not yet had a chance to try it out on the field but it looks adequately made - but as we all know the proof is in the flying!

Prices are 3'6" RRP £13.99, Members £10.35, 5' RRP £19.99, Members £14.95, 12' RRP £49.99 Members £40.25. In addition they are prepared to make up kites to the individual designs if required.

Interested - write to Western Marketing Consultants Ltd, 4 Edward Street, Westbury, Wiltshire, BA13 3BA.

EXHIBITION

Ron Moulton has written to us regarding an exhibition of Aeromodelling, Kites and Boomerangs to be held at The Royal Air Force Museum at Hendon from June 19th to September 15th.

Along with model aircraft etc, kites will be suspended over passageways leading to the central exhibition area.

THE WEYMOUTH EVENT

As you are no doubt aware The Kite Society of Great Britain 1991 Convention will be taking place in Weymouth, Dorset on Saturday May 4th prior to the Weymouth International Kite Festival, England's first major beach kite festival, which takes place on Sunday May 5th and Monday May 6th. There will be many International kitefliers at Weymouth attending from Europe, U.S.A. and the U.K. Both prior and after the festival an exhibition of kites will be held in Weymouth giving the public the opportunity to see some of the different kites available.

SATURDAY 4TH MAY - CONVENTION

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

The day will start about 10.00am and be split into a number of workshops and talks as in previous years. The timetable is not yet finalised but we anticipate having a wide range of talks and workshops for you to attend.

Of the lecturers we do know that Doug Hagaman from Washington State, U.S.A. has agreed to do a master class on "Parafoils - The Tuning of Bridles". This will cover both the initial bridling and the adjustment of the bridles for different wind conditions. He will also cover the safe way to launch parafoils.

We have also invited Margaret Greger to do a workshop and await her reply. The full timetable will be sent out in a special update due at the end of February.

Running concurrently with these activities we will also have part of the Ocean Ballroom (within the Pavilion Complex) for use as a kite market. Various kite traders will be selling a wide range of goods. At the same time we are going to have a "swop shop" section for kitefliers to bring along kite related articles for selling or exchanging. There will be no charge for this "swop shop".

Attendees registering in advance will have the benefit of reserved car parking adjacent to The Pavilion Complex, and Kite Society members who have registered by 31st March will be provided with a buffet lunch free of charge. For those who do not register a bar and light refreshments will be available.

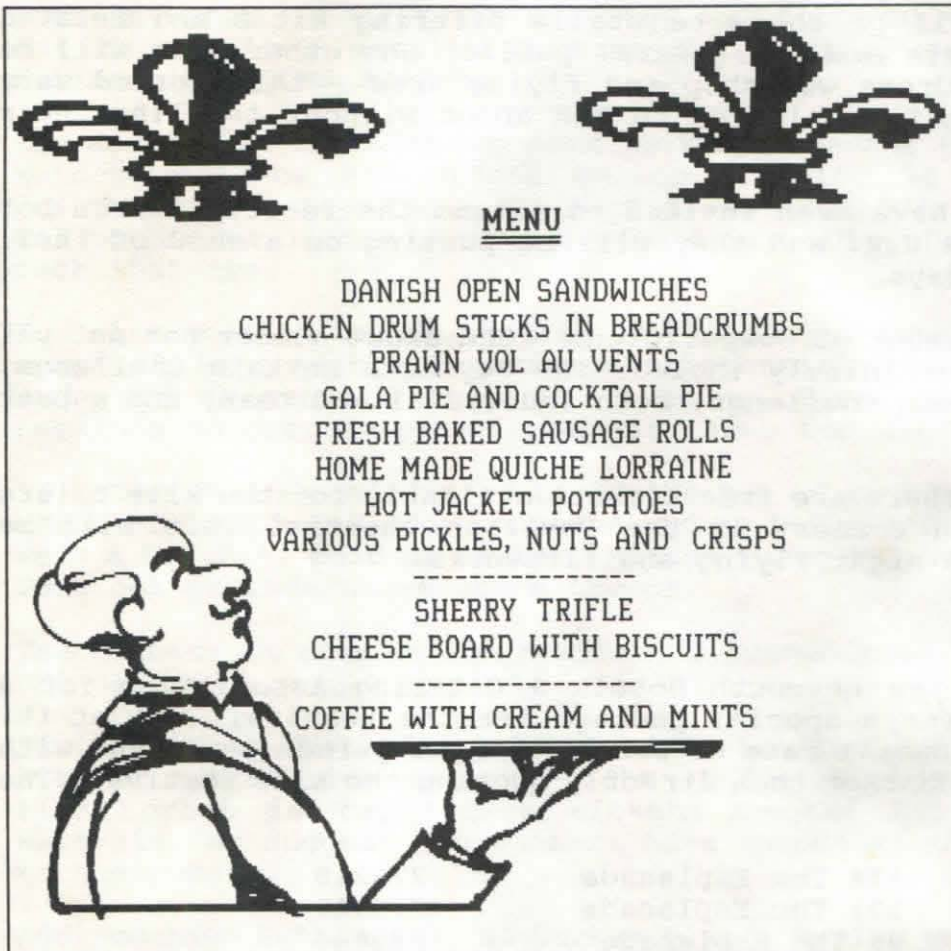
The convention will end around 6.00pm to 7.00pm in time for the evening events.

SATURDAY 4TH MAY - EVENING EVENTS

The evening will start with the Convention Dinner and be followed by the Auction. The dinner will be a civic reception (the mayor is already booked) with other local dignitaries in attendance. The meal itself is a buffet

THE WEYMOUTH EVENT

style and will cost £6.00 per head. This price applies to bookings made before the 31st March 1991 after which the cost will increase to £7.00 per head. For children under 12 the cost is £3.00 and £3.50 respectively. There will be a paying bar available during the evening.



If required a vegetarian alternative to some of the items will be available.

The auction, to which all are invited free of charge, will take place after the dinner, at around 9.30pm. We have taken a close look at last years events and have decided that the format will change so that we do achieve some time for socialising rather than spend the whole evening on the auction.

To achieve this we will have a stall set up at the rear of the hall for the items which you can buy in the shops - the price will obviously be below the list price

by a reasonable percentage. The main auction will be reserved solely for those special items, i.e. one offs, specially made, rare etc. etc. In this way we hope to be able to keep it short.

Which of course naturally leads to the request for auction items to be sent, or notified, to us as soon as possible.

INTERNATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL

The festival is being held on the beach at Weymouth, the two days of the festival have the lowest tides of the year so we have the maximum amount of beach available. Free car parking for registered kite fliers will be available in the Pavilion car park or there is limited car parking available along the Esplanade.

THE WEYMOUTH EVENT

There are two main arenas, one has been set aside for single line kites and the second for stunt kites. In addition, of course, we have the rest of the beach. We will be setting aside areas of the beach for single and multi line kites.

Along the promenade will be the kite stalls offering kites and related items to both kite fliers and the general public. One other area will be set aside for the childrens workshop and flying area - this worked very well in Berlin allowing the children to run about without tangling their lines with others.

A number of kitefliers have been invited to attend the festival, from bot Europe, America and the U.K. and they will be putting on a show of their skills during the two days.

We also hope to run a number of competitions - the exact number has not yet been decided but will definitely include The Weymouth Rokkaku Challenge, A heat of the U.K. Rokkaku Challenge, both individual and team, and a beer lifting competition.

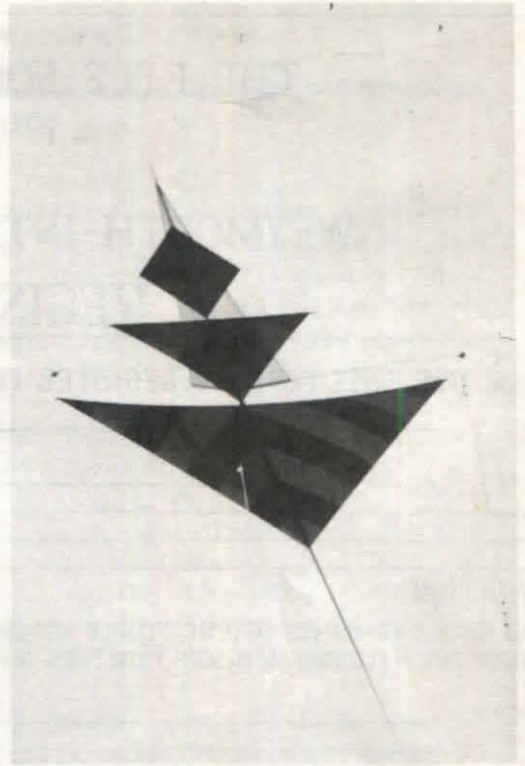
For the Sunday evening there are free tickets available for the kite fliers to hear the Yetties in concert in the Pavilion Theatre. This will be followed by illuminated night flying and fireworks.

ACCOMMODATION

We have arranged with the Weymouth Hotels & Catering Association for a number of hotels to offer a special package for the festival, all of the following list have a special rate of £15.00 B&B per person per night with facilities. You should contact them directly quoting the kite festival. The area code is 0305.

Atlanta Hotel	134 The Esplanade	776215
Concorde Hotel	131 The Esplanade	776900
Cumberland Hotel	95 The Esplanade	785644
Dughill Hotel	55 Dorchester Road	784282
Kimberley Hotel	6 Abbotsbury Road	782881
Kings Acre Hotel	140 The Esplanade	782534
Langham Hotel	130 The Esplanade	782530
New Salusas Hotel	22 Lenox Street	771903
Russell Hotel	135/138 The Esplanade	786059
Southbrook Hotel	13 Preston Road	832208
Sunningdale Hotel	52 Preston Road	832179
Westwey Hotel	62 Abbotsbury Road	784564

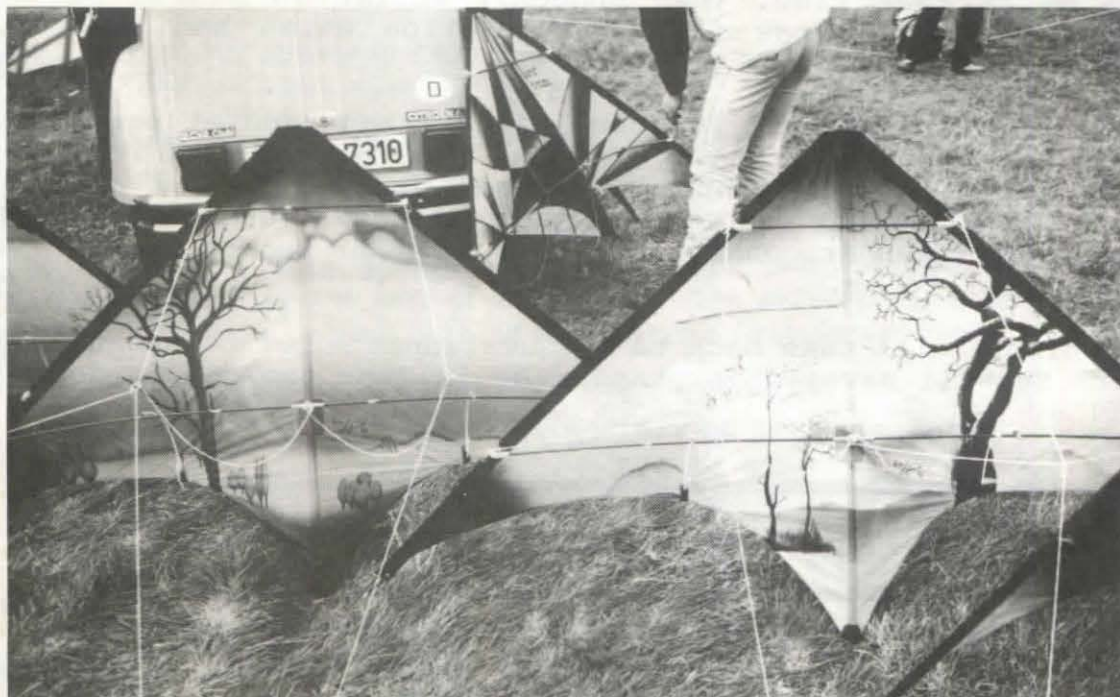
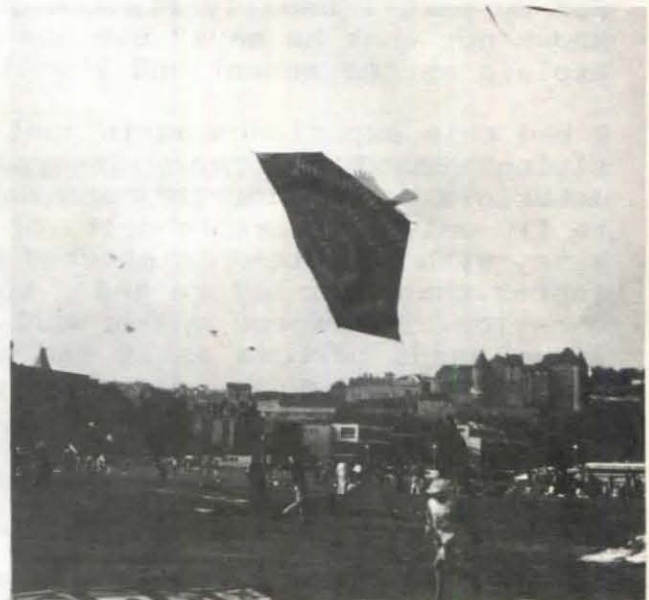
There are also a number of camping sites in the area. For details of these, and alternative hotels, contact the Weymouth Tourist Information Centre, The Pavilion Complex, The Esplanade, Weymouth, Dorset DT4 8ED, Tel. 0305 785747.



Kites seen at The Dieppe and Berlin Kite Festivals, Clockwise starting from right hand corner, all photographs by Gill Bloom.

1. Painted Edo (Dieppe) 2. One of a series of kites by Pierre Fabre 3. Applied Edo by Michel Cressier (Dieppe) 4. Applied Flower Kite (Berlin) 5. Catman Kite by George Peters (Dieppe)





From Left Hand
Corner, Clockwise

1. Spray painted
stunt kites
(Berlin) 2. Winner
of the most
humorous kite
competition a
f l y i n g
wheelbarrow.
(Dieppe). 3. Two
painted ladies
(Dieppe). 4. A
very large star
(Berlin). 5. Bill
Lockhart quilted
Rokkaku. (Dieppe).

THE UNANSWERABLE QUESTION

Many of our readers will remember an article by Gil Collins which appeared in a recent issue of The Kiteflier, in which he remembered his meetings with many famous turn of the century kitefliers. Regretably, since that article, Gil Collins has died but his widow has sent us an article which Gil intended to send to The Kiteflier which we reproduce below. Our thanks to Mrs Collins for sending it to us.

How many times during your kiting career have you been asked, usually by a questioner whose intention is to take the mickey, and in the presence of an audience who do not know the first thing about the subject anyway, "What pleasure, satisfaction or enjoyment can a man of your age possibly derive from standing in the middle of a field by the hour holding a piece of string in your hand with a child's kite somewhere up in the sky dangling on the other end?" or words to that effect implying the same meaning. I wonder what your reaction is?

For my part I usually fix the questioner with my "God forgive him for he knows not what he says" eye and simply say that it would take too long to explain at the moment and I would discuss it later.

I had this experience again just recently and as I made my way to my usual flying area I felt very annoyed, and to make matters worse the weather deteriorated considerably and on my arrival it was obvious I would be able to fly only a steerable delta of about 36". However as I tussled with this kite, with the elements stacked against me, I made the kite dive and climb faster than ever before and I told myself that this was the answer to the question. To enforce my own will to defy the elements, and to make the kite in my hands perform as it had never performed before because I insisted that it should do so. Eventually I "Made up" or repacked my gear and sat in the car thinking for a few moments.

As I sat gazing into space I thought of the last occasion upon which I flew from that hill on the Downs. I recalled that it was a glorious summer's day, that the sky was blue from horizon to horizon, the sun was warm and the skylarks were entertaining me with their gloriously melodious trilling song. I could hear faintly from the valleys below the rumble of the traffic as the world and its millions rushed about their business, which was all very detached from me at that time. Then suddenly whilst so musing it struck me. There was the real answer to the question which had been niggling all that afternoon.

On that earlier day under those beautiful conditions I had been at peace with myself, my surroundings, the warmth of the sun, the birds which I felt were singing for me alone, the elements in general and my creator and indeed the creator of it all. That was surely the real answer as to why I enjoyed so much flying kites under conditions which to other people seemed "all alone" but indeed not to me.

This is the answer which I will take back to my questioner - but on second thoughts why bother? He will never understand - he is just too dim to do so!

EVENT NEWS

David Robinson of White Horse Kiteflyers has sent us the following:-

To advise of our provisional date for a two day kite festival at Liddiard Country Park, Swindon, Wiltshire on the weekend of 11th and 12th May 1991. This venue has an excellent camping and caravan site, with toilets and running water. The site is situated about 1/2 mile off Junction 16 of the M4. For further details contact Neil Harvey tel 0285 74295 or David Robinson tel 0793 824208.

Ron Moulton of the BKFA has sent us the dates for the spring and autumn Old Warden meetings and Middle Wallop. Camping is possible at all three festivals, water and washing facilities at Middle Wallop are available during Museum hours only. Prior notice requested in each instance.

Ron also goes on to say that if any kiteflier is travelling abroad to kite meets it is possible to arrange substantial discounts on all routes and even for as short a trip as 60 hours. From 20% to 40% reductions are possible on car/van plus passenger fares for kitefliers.

If interested you will need to advise Ron of precisely what you require and when. Send an S.A.E. for response and no telephone enquiries please. If you were a B.K.F.A. paid up member, please quote the number, it will help. This does not exclude non-members though.

The contact address is Ron Moulton, 2 Avenue Rise, Bushey, Watford, Herts. WD2 3AS.

Rumour has it that Adam Sutherland is to organise a Stunt Kite and Indian Fighter competition on April 14th at Seaham - thats up north somewhere. First prize is two return tickets to the Kelantan Kite Festival in Malaysia. We suggest you contact Adam to see if there are any foundations to the rumour.

Address Adam Sutherland, 20 Durham Place, Barley Mow, Birtley, Tyne & Wear, DH3 2AY.

Another rumour has reached us that the Northern Kite Group are proposing to organise another kite festival at Heaton Park, Manchester sometime during the year. We suggest that you contact Ron Ogden if you are seriously interested.

The address is Ron Ogden, 41 Ashfield Drive, Clayton Bridge, Manchester, M10 6WJ.

(If anyone does get information for these events can you let us know - the organisers don't seem to want to tell us!).

EVENTS LIST

MAJOR KITE FESTIVALS

March 31st/ April 1st	Blackheath Easter Kite Festival. <u>Contact</u> Tony Cartwright.
April 21st	Old Warden Aerodrome, Biggleswade. <u>Contact</u> Ron Moulton.
May 4th	Kite Society of Great Britain Annual Convention Weymouth. <u>Contact</u> The Kite Society.
May 5th, 6th	Weymouth International Kite Festival. <u>Contact</u> The Kite Society.
May 11th, 12th	Swindon Kite Festival, Liddiard Country Park. (To be confirmed). <u>Contact</u> Dave Robinson.
May 18th, 19th	Brighton Kite Festival, Waterhall Playing Fields Patcham. <u>Contact</u> Roy Oakhill.
June 1st, 2nd	Birmingham International Kite Festival, Cofton Park, Birmingham. <u>Contact</u> Derek Kuhn.
June 7th, 8th	Edinburgh Kite Festival. (To be confirmed).
June 22nd, 23rd	Poole Kite Festival, Poole, Dorset. <u>Contact</u> Andy Nunn.
June 28th, 29th	The Kite Society National Stunt Kite Championships, Blackheath, London. <u>Contact</u> Tony Cartwright.
June 30th	Blackheath Summer Festival, Blackheath, London. <u>Contact</u> Tony Cartwright.
July 6th, 7th	Washington Festival of the Air, Tyne & Wear. <u>Contact</u> Malcolm Goodman.
July 6th, 7th	Shrewsbury Kite Festival. <u>Contact</u> Tony Slater.
July 14th	Petworth Kite Day, Petworth. <u>Contact</u> Joanna Mersey.
August 3rd, 4th	Glasgow Kite Festival, Glasgow. <u>Contact</u> The Kite Store.
August 4th	Middle Wallop Kite Festival. <u>Contact</u> Ron Moulton.
August 18th	Hengistbury Head, Bournemouth. <u>Contact</u> David Webster.
August 24th - 26th	Chelmsford Spectacular Kite Festival. (To be confirmed).
September 7th, 8th	Bristol International Kite Festival, Ashton Court, Bristol. <u>Contact</u> Avril Baker.
September 14th, 15th	World Cup Sport Kite Championships, Ashton Court, Bristol. <u>Contact</u> Tony Cartwright.
October 13th	Old Warden Aerodrome, Biggleswade. <u>Contact</u> Ron Moulton.

EUROPEAN KITE FESTIVALS

April 27th, 28th	Le Touquet, France.
May 4th, 5th	Ouest Dunkerque Kite Festival, Belgium.
June 15th, 16th	Scheveningen International Kite Festival, Holland.
July 13th, 14th	Ostend Kite Festival, Belgium.
August 9th - 11th	Stolln, near Rhinow, Germany.
August 31st/ September 1st	Montpellier Kite Festival. With the European Stunt Cup.
September 21st, 22nd	Berlin Kite Festival, Germany.
October 11th - 13th	Silvaplana Kite Festival, Switzerland.

EVENTS LIST

LOCAL EVENTS

The White House Kite Fliers have fly-ins on the second Sunday of every month. These are held at Barbury Castle Country Park, Near Wroughton, Swindon. Contact Ron Gunther.

The Great Ouse Kitefliers have a meeting on the following dates:-

February 10th & June 9th	Hinchbrook Country Park.
March 10th & July 14th	Grafham Water South, Cambs.
April 14th & December 8th	Priory Country Park, Bedford.
May 12th & August 11th	Riverside Park, St Neots.
September 8th	Nene Country Park, Peterborough.

Contact Bob Piron.

The Blackheath Kite Association meet on the second Sunday of each month at Blackheath, London. Contact Tony Cartwright.

The Essex Kite Group have meetings throughout the winter months as follows.

January 27th	Galleywood Common, Chelmsford.
February 3rd	Southweald Country Park, Brentwood.
February 17th	Tye Green, Near Cressing, Braintree.
March 3rd	Harlow Common.
March 24th	Southweald Country Park, Brentwood.
April 7th	Great Bentley Green, Colchester.

Contact Kathleen Pike.

The Nomansland Kite Fliers meet on the fourth Sunday of each month at Nomansland Common, Wheathampstead. Contact Carole Peacock.

The Alcester Kite Fliers meet at the Alcester Rugby Ground on the third Sunday of each month. Contact Fred Taplin.

Kite North meet on the 1st Sunday of each month at locations around the North of England. Contact Adam Sutherland for location.

The Devon Kitefliers have meetings at Pork Hill, Mid Devon on the following dates:-

April 1st	April 14th	April 28th	May 6th
May 19th	June 2nd	June 16th	July 7th
July 21st	August 4th	August 18th	August 26th
September 8th	September 22nd	October 13th	

Contact Les Symons.

The Midland Kitefliers have fly-ins on the first Sunday of each month at

EVENTS LIST

Sutton Park. Contact Derek Kuhn.

The Thorpe Kite Flyers meet every Sunday morning on Thorpe Recreation Ground, Laundry Lane, Thorpe, Norwich between 9.30am and 12.30pm. Contact Kevin Appleton.

The Northampton Kite Fliers meet on the first Sunday of every month at The Race Course, St Georges Avenue, Northampton. Between 10.00am and 4.00pm. Contact I.C. Kites.

There are a couple of events being held in Kent:-

August 10th, 11th - Teston Bridge, Maidstone.

August 31st, September 1st - Shorne Park, Gravesend.

Contact Ron Dell.

1991 Rokkaku Challenge Events

The 1991 Rokkaku challenge will take place at the following festivals:

Easter Blackheath
Washington
Weymouth

Summer Blackheath
Glasgow

Shrewsbury
Bristol

CONTACT DETAILS

Tony Cartwright, 78 Dongola Road, London N17 6EE. 081 808 1280.

Avril Baker, 39 Cotham Hill, Bristol, BS6 6JY. 0272 745010.

Les Symons, 'Ju Les Gla', East Waytown, Goodleigh Road, Snapper, Barnstaple, North Devon.

Ron Gunther, 12 Glevum Close, Purton, Swindon SN5 9HA. 0793 770784

Malcolm Goodman, 134 Thames Road, Billingham, Cleveland TS22 5EX.

Kathleen Pike, 34 Mortimer Road, Rayleigh, Essex.

Fred Taplin, 20 Henley Street, Alcester, Warwickshire.

Tony Slater, 128 Meadow Farm Drive, Harlescott, Shrewsbury. SY1 4JY.

The Kite Store, 48 Neal Street, London. 071 836 1666.

Derek Kuhn, 29 Bradbury Road, Solihull, West Midlands, B92 8AE.

Ron Dell, 2 Garfield Road, Enfield, Middlesex 081 804 9080.

Carole Peacock, 61 Windmill Avenue, St Albans, Herts AL4 9SJ.

Bob Piron, 8 Bowhill, Bedford, MK41 8EF. 0234 261835.

Dave Robinson, 61 Bridge End Road, Stratton St Margaret, Swindon SN3 4PD.

Kevin Appleton, 37 Eastern Avenue, Thorpe-St-Andrew, Norwich NR7 0UQ.

Ron Moulton, 2 Avenue Rise, Bushey, Watford, Herts, WD2 3AS.

Roy Oakhill, 6 Hartfield Road, Saltdean, Brighton, BN2 8RE.

Andy Nunn, 30 Kinson Ave, Poole, Dorset, BH15 3PH. 0202 721150.

Joanna Mersey, 1 Rosmead Road, London W11 2JG.

David Webster, 16 Brackley Way, Hammonds Green, Totton SO4 3HN.

I.C. Kites, 12 Willow Close, Spratton, Northampton, NN6 8JH. 0604 843374.

Adam Sutherland, 20 Durham Place, Birtley, Tyne & Wear, DH3 2AY.

THE KITE SOCIETY



OF GREAT BRITAIN

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

**31 GRANGE ROAD,
ILFORD, ESSEX.
IG1 1EU**

Rare Air Kites, Hendra Farm, Steeple Lane, St Ives, Cornwall TR16 2AY.
Tel. 0736 798550.

The Kite Company, 12 Dalston Road, Southville, Bristol BS2 1QQ. Tel 0272
535448.

The Kite Gallery, 53 Norman Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TW1 2RP. Tel.
0892 21042.

The Leading Edge Kite Supply Company, 14 Rose Farm Rise, Altofts,
Normanton, West Yorkshire WF6 2PL. Tel. 0924 897950.

GROUPS

The following is a list of the local groups.

ABERDEEN KITE FLYERS Contact Garry Clarke, 3 Eastside Avenue,
Westhill, Aberdeen AB3 6QQ. Tel 0224 741220.

ALCESTER KITE GROUP Contact Fred Taplin, 20 Henley Street, Alcester,
Warkwickshire B49 5QY. Tel 0789 762350.

AVON KITEFLYERS Contact Roy Wright, 35 Burley Grove, Downend,
Bristol BS16 5QB.

BLACKHEATH KITE ASSOCIATION Secretary, L F Pattern, 303 Lincoln
Road, Enfield, Middx EN1 1SY. 081 804 2089.

CHILTERN KITE GROUP Contact George Reed, Dilston, 7 Bellwood Rise,
High Wycombe, Bucks. HP11 1QH.

DEVON KITEFLIERS Contact Les Symons, Ju Les Gla, East Waytown,
Goodleigh Road, Snapper, Barnstaple, North Devon EX32 7JR.

ESSEX KITE GROUP Hon. Secretary, Kathleen W. Pike, 34 Mortimer Road,
Rayleigh, Essex SS6 9NX.

GREAT OUSE KITE FLIERS Contact Ted Fleming, 10 LAXton Close, St
Neots, Huntingdon, Cambs. PE19 3AR.

KITES NORTH Contact Adam Sutherland, 20 Durham Place, Barley Mow,
Chester-le-Street, Co. Durham DH3 2AY.

MIDLAND KITE FLIERS of GREAT BRITAIN Contact Derek Kuhn, 29
Bradbury Road, Solihull, West Midlands.

NOMANSLAND KITE FLYERS Contact Carole Peacock, 61 Windmill Avenue,
St Albans, Herts AL4 9SJ.

SHROPSHIRE KITE GROUP Contact Tony Slater, 128 Meadow Park Drive,
Harlescott, Shrewsbury, SY1 4JY.

THE WHITE HORSE KITEFLIERS Contact Ron Gunther, 12 Glenyum Close,
Purton Swindon, Wilts SN5 9HA. Tel 0793 770784.

YORK KITE FLIERS Contact Anne Hoskins, 2 Dewsburg Terrace, York YO1
1HA.

BOOKS

There are a number of books available which give details of kites and
kite making from the simple kite to the most complex. Some of the
best books are no longer available except through your local library
but you may find them in second hand book shops. In any case always
try your library first.

Penguin Book Of Kites, David Pelham. Penguin Books 1976.

Kites, Ron Moulton. Pelham Books 1978.

Making and Flying Kites, (Hamlyn Creative Crafts), Wolfgang
Schimmelpfennig. Hamlyn 1988.

Kites, to Make and Fly, Jim Rowlands, Batsford 1989.

Making and Flying Modern Kites, Jim Rowlands, Batsford 1988.

MEMBERSHIP DETAILS

Individual membership of The Kite Society of Great Britain is £5.00. This fee covers four issues of The Kiteflier, which contains a kite events calendar, kite designs and members letters, and other occasional mailings. In addition production of the membership card entitles the holder to discount at a number of kite shops. Finally members are permitted into selected kite festivals free of charge.

Family membership is also available for £7.00. This fee covers all members of the family living at the same address. Membership cards are issued to all people listed and entitle the holder to discount and free entry to selected kite festivals.

If you wish to join The Kite Society please fill in the form and send it to the address given. All cheques, postal orders or money orders should be made payable to The Kite Society.

Name. _____

Address. _____

Postcode. _____

Telephone. _____

Family Members _____

Please send this form with payment to The Kite Society, 31 Grange Road, Ilford, Essex IG1 1EU.

The information given above will be held on computerised records. The sole purpose of these records is to send you your magazines and other mailings from The Kite Society.

If you have any objections to this please tick the box.

Below is a list of the shops and retailers in the U.K. The retailers section refers to manufacturers and sellers who do not have a shop as such. We suggest that you always phone them first to make your enquiry.

SHOPS

Highflyers. The Kite Site, Polzeath, Nr Wadebridge, Cornwall PL27 6TE. Tel. 0280886 2567. Monday to Saturday 9am to 5pm.

Look - International Sport Kites Centre. 35 - 37 Sandgate High Street, Folkestone, Kent CT20 3AH. Tel. 0303 220855. Monday to Saturday 9am to 6pm. Friday 9am to 7pm.

Kite Corner (formally Kites of Radlett). 657 Watford Way, Mill Hill, NW7 3JR. Tel. 081 959 0619. Monday to Saturday 10am to 6pm. Sunday 11am to 2pm (but phone first to confirm).

Kites of Exmouth. 6 Little Ham Road, Exmouth, Devon EX8 2QG. Tel. 0395 277917. Monday & Wednesday 8am to 1pm. Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 8am to 5pm. Saturday 8am to 3pm. Sunday open on request phone first.

Malvern Kites. The Warehouse, St Ann's Road, Great Malvern, Worcs WR14 4PZ. Tel. 0684 560100. Monday to Saturday 10am to 5pm.

The Bristol Kite Store. 39 Cotham Hill, Bristol BS6 6JY. Tel. 0272 745010. Monday to Saturday 10am to 6pm.

The Kite and Balloon Company. 613 Garratt Lane, London SW18 4SU. Tel. 081 946 5962. Monday to Saturday 9am to 5.30pm. Sunday 10am to 3pm.

The Kite Loft. 4 School Close, St Columb Minor, Newquay. Tel. 0637 873962. 10am to 6pm seven days a week.

The Kite Store. 48 Neal Street, London WC2H 9PA. Tel. 071 836 1666. Monday to Friday 10am to 6pm. Saturday 10am to 5pm.

Tradewinds Kites. 6 Harris Arcade, Reading, Berkshire RG1 1DN. Tel. 0734 568848. Monday to Friday 9.30am to 12. 12.30pm to 5.30pm. Saturday 9.30am to 5.30pm.

Windthings. 11 Cowgatehead, Grass Market, Edinburgh EH1 1JY. Tel. 031 220 6336. Monday to Saturday 10am to 5pm.

With Flying Colours. 9 Wharf Road, Frimley Green, Camberley, Surrey. Tel. 0252 836241. Monday to Friday 9am to 6pm (closed for lunch 2pm to 3pm). Saturday 9am to 5pm.

RETAILERS

Apex Kites. P.O. Box 188, Crawley, Sussex RH10 1JF. Tel. 081 650 7404 or 0293 32137.

Benson Kites. 8 Moorland Avenue, Baildon, Shipley, West Yorkshire BD17 6RW.

I C Kites. 12 Willow Close, Spratton, Northampton NN6 8JH. Tel. 0604 843374.

Kiteability. 2 Garfield Road, Enfield, Middlesex EN3 4RP. Tel. 081 804 9080.

Kite Work. Unit 2, Woodgate Park, Whiteland Industrial Park, Morecombe, Lancs LA3 3PS. Tel. 0524 844808.

Leeds Kites. 22 Eden Crescent, Leeds LS4 2TW. Tel. 0532 789727.

Mail Order Kite Company. P.O. Box 88, Cosham, Portsmouth PO6 4PR. Tel. 0705 374801.

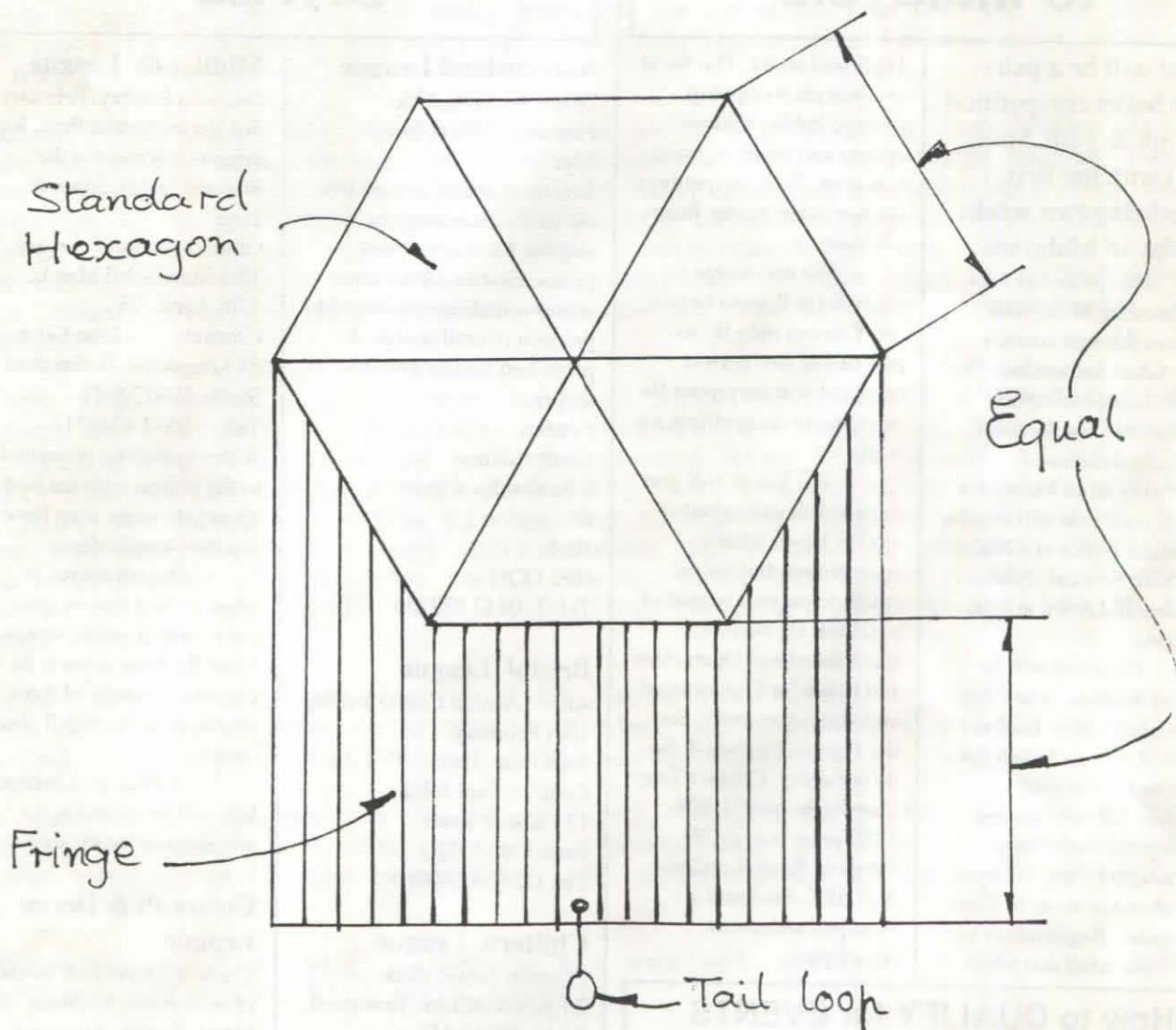
Morgan Kites. 7 Sunnyfields, Bell Lane, Shrewsbury SY2 5EW. Tel. 0743 68516.

Over the Moon Kites. Unit 53, The Business Centre, Bedford Street, Shelton, Stoke on Trent ST1 4PZ. Tel. 0782 273289.

Bearded Hexagon

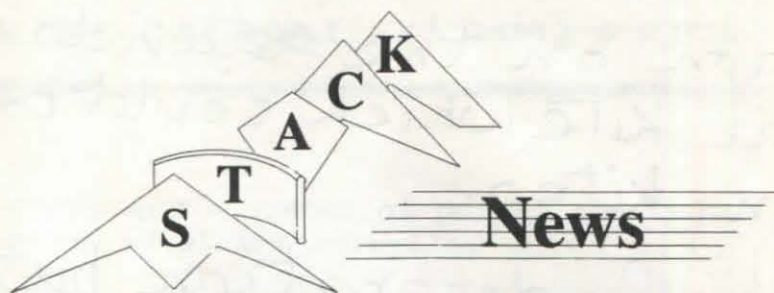
A variation on the standard hexagonal kite which could be attached to existing kites.

It's mainly for decoration but also reduces the length of tail needed.



Also for decoration why not try spots of assorted sizes and colours on your kite.

John Skinner



Stunt Team And Competitive Kiting Newsletter
PRICE 50 pence.

Issue 11, Winter 1991
Free to members

Win a Free Trip to Malaysia

There will be a pairs team ballet competition on 13th & 14th April, 1990 with the first prize being two weeks holiday in Malaysia.

This prize has been presented by Malaysian Airlines through contact with Adam Sutherland. The trip includes two return airfares, two weeks hotel accommodation and hospitality from Malaysian Kite flyers. You will also be honoured guests at a Malaysian Kite Festival (Name and date unknown at time of press).

The event will be held at Seaham, near Sunderland, N.E. England and will also include a three or more person team competition. All entries must pre-register with Tony Cartwright by the 1st April. Just phone or write to Tony to register. Registration fee is £10 per adult and £5

16yrs and under. The fee is to cover photocopying, postage Public Address system and other organisation costs. The competition is open to any teams from any country.

We encourage every team flyer to have a go. You can only fly as part of one two person team but you may enter the larger team competition as well.

The Event will also include full individual as well as larger team competition. Individual competition will consist of precision for Novice, Experienced and Open class and ballet for Experienced and Open class only. See the Figures on page 4. So do not delay. Contact Tony Cartwright on 081-808-1280 or by post at 78 Dongola Road, London N17 6EE. Enclosed a Stamped addressed envelope.

How to QUALIFY for EVENTS

Last year there was a lot of mis-understanding about who qualified for entry to certain events. Exact eligibility rules for the World Cup will be published later on but for British hopefuls. The two teams that finish 1st and 2nd at the British Nationals in June will qualify. The winners being

the team with the highest aggregate score from the both the Precision and Ballet events (50/50).

Remember, If you are a team then get yourselves known by contacting Paul Jobin (0272) 535448 and registering your team on the Team register.

NEW LEAGUE DATES

Nomansland League

Dates: January, 27th, February, 24th & March, 24th

You must attend at least two out of the three dates to be eligible for overall class prizes. Best two from three scores rounds are averaged to produce overall scores. 3 published figures and one surprise.

Contact:
Geoff Adams
6 Pembridge Close
Bovingdon
Herts
HP3 0QH
Tel: 0442 833736

Bristol League

At: Ashton Court, Sunday 10th February.

Start time: 1pm.
Contact: Paul Jobin
12 Dalston Road
Bristol BS3 1QQ
Tel: 0272 535448

Chiltern League

Contact: James Madelin,
2 Lynwood Close, Bracknell,
Berks, RG12 2JT.
Tel: 0344 422740
Dates to be announced.

Hampstead, North London League

Contact: Marek Budzinski
Tel: 071 485 1292 or Johnny
Claffey (See STACK
contacts) Dates to be
announced.

Midllands League

Starts on Sunday, February, 3rd. Venue: Sutton Park, Birmingham (enter via the Streetley gate). Starts at 1pm.

Other dates are: February, 17th March, 3rd March, 17th, April, 7th

Contact: John Eaton
51 Longacres, Hednesford
Staffs WS12 5HT
Tel: 0543 424921

A trophy will be presented to the person with the best aggregate score from three separate league days.

Overall scores is taken as best three scores out of five possible scores. Must fly three dates to be eligible. Average of three scores decides overall class scores.

A High performance kite will be available for any entrants on the day.

Cornwall & Devon League

Contact: David Fox for date of next event. 57 Alma Street, Tauton, Somerset, TA1 3AL.
Tel: 0823 282546

3rd Blackheath League

Contact: Viv Walters, Tel: 071 836 1666 or Jacob Twyfor, Flat 3, 16 Barry Road, London SE22. for date in January.

S.T.A.C.K Contacts

NATIONAL DIRECTORS

Australia Gary Lyons, 51
Glenhantly Rd, Elwood 3184.
Tel: 03-531 3630

Austria Helmut Georgi Fly
High, Argentinierstr. 16, A-
1040 Vienna
Tel: 0222 5050260

Belgium Jean Pierre
Leclercq, KRAEYHOEVE-
LAAN 6, B-2880 BORNEM.
Tel: 03 889 54 59

Canada Don Brownridge
1204 A Yonge St. Toronto,
Ontario

France Maxime Fellion
45/56 Rue Des Orteaux,
75020 Paris

Italy Oliviero Olivien
A.I.A., Via Dandolo 19/A, 1-
00153 Rome
Tel: 06 58 11 474

Japan Masaaki Modegi
No. 12-10 I Chome, Nihon-
bashi, Chu-Ku,
Tokyo Tel: 03-271-2463-5

Netherlands
Nop Veltheusen
Wetering Kade 5A, 2515 AK
Den Haag. Tel: 070 3858586

New Zealand Mark Sommer-
ville 105 Alford Forest Rd,
Ashburton
Tel: 64-053-84-538

Switzerland Rene Kung
Der Spieler, Hampst Strusse
106, 4102 Binningen
Tel: 061 401 5350

U.S.A. Eric Wolf
3530 N.Fremont, Chicago,
IL 60657 Tel: 312-327 6814

W.Germany Karen Zander
Broedermannsweg 85a, 2000
Hamburg 61
Tel: 040 4101352

or Mark Heitmann, Grillostr
3, 1000 Berlin 48
Tel: 030 726903

S.T.A.C.K. COMMITTEE

President Paul Jobin
12 Dalston Road, Bristol BS3
1QQ. Tel: 0272 535448

Chairman Tony Cartwright
78 Dongola Road, London
N17 6EE.
Tel: 081-808 1280

Secretary Romney
Johnstone, 19A Balham High
Rd, London SW12 9AL,
Tel: 081-675 5276

Treasurer Johnny Claffey
7 Bellgate Mews, York Rise,
London NW5
Tel: 071 -267 3489

Event Coordinator
Andy King, 48 Neal St.
London WC2. Tel: 071-836
1666

EVENT NEWS

• Don't miss this year's first British competition, at Blackheath, London on Easter week-end, March 31st and 1st April.

All Teams are welcome. Contact Tony Cartwright for more details.

• The BRITISH NATIONALS will be held at Blackheath on 28 & 29 June. A full individual and Team competition will be run. The two top placed teams will represent Britain in the World Cup. More details later.

• Ostend will be hosting a stunt kite competition under AKA/STACK rules now on July 13 and 14.

• September 22 and 23 are the dates for the Berlin competition. Contact: Mark Heitmann in Berlin.

• This years Bristol event will also hold a team compe-

tion as a prelude to the following weekends World Cup.

More details later.

• The AKA/STACK rule book is available for £2 from STACK. For local dialect versions contact your local director.

• Washington, Tyne & Wear will also hold a team competition this year. This superb venue only had team demos last year and full team competition is glad to be back.

• After the World Cup, Landings will now be a possible element to OPEN Team compulsories. The challenge has been set and we must ensure that the European standard is as demanding as the USA.

GOSSIP

• The BLITZ Team have split up as a competitive stunt team. After there valiant efforts in the World Cup, the team has decided not to compete in stunt events any more. Instead the members are splitting off to form three new teams. The team will still make guest appearances and intends to compete in Rokkaku Battles.

• Team Flashback are rumoured to have also split. This will leave the European Team honours up for grabs. Who will stop the Decorators from winning the European Cup this year?

• Top of the Line Team will not be entering competitive events in the USA, instead they intend to do more demonstrations and exhibitions. They will however compete in the World Cup as current holders.

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

If you feel that you can contribute to STACK but are too far from your nearest current contact, yet you want to organise local competitions, leagues, gatherings then simple write in or phone Tony Cartwright and suggest a new post (i.e West Yorkshire regional director). Anybody who wants to get involved at whatever level, in any country or region is strongly encouraged to get out there and do it.

Without regular competitions, what ever the format, we cannot achieve our objective "The Sport of Stunt Kite Flying".

**WE NEED
YOUR HELP**

S.T.A.C.K. NEWS

• The Annual General Meeting was very well attended and the minutes and voting forms will soon be on there way to members. Remember, MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT and return the voting form at once.

• STACK News is now on sale for 50p. an issue. From the next issue (Copy Deadline 15th March) we shall be taking adverts. The page rates are £50 a full page, £25 for half page and £15 for a quarter page. Copy and artwork must be supplied by 15th March to Paul Jobin. STACK News Editor.

• The petty squabbling between Maxime Fellion and Gerard Clement must stop. STACK is about flyers not personalities and the French members will soon be able to decide for themselves who they want to represent them through voting.

• Anybody got a second-hand Revolution. James Madelin, Rising star with the Chiltern group wants to have one. Contact him at: 2 Lynwood Close, Bracknell, Bucks RG12 2JT. Tel: 0344 422740. James will also be organising a league with the Chiltern group. Contact him for details. (None available at time of press).

• Have you paid your membership. If not, then your days of free membership are drawing to a close. Renewal notes will be with the next issue. Help us to pay for the photocopier, postage and telephone calls

STACK NEWS is edited by Paul Jobin.

If you want to contribute then send your article, photo or results to:

STACK NEWS,
15 DALSTON ROAD
BRISTOL
BS3 1QQ
FAX: 081-332-2567

Second Blackheath League, S.E.London 2nd December, 1990

On a cold Sunday morning in December, participants in the 2nd Blackheath league started to gather, share warming coffee and start organising the mornings competition. It had been previously announced that the day would consist of two rounds. The first at 10 am the second at 2pm. The overall winner of the days competition being the highest score of either session. 13 competitors turned up for the morning round and 19 for the afternoon session. The only criticism of the day was that an experienced class should have been declared. Jacob Twyford and Viv Walters were the league organisers.

Morning Round

13 participants
4 Judges

1st	Paul Jobin	76
2nd	Romney Johnstone	75.8
3rd	Tony Cartwright	73.5
4th	James Madelin	70
5th	Dave Clements	66
5th	Laurie Pagett	66
7th	Simon Nosworthy	62
8th	Martin Kirby	44.5
8th	Kerry Adams	44.5
10th	Marcus Moresby	42.5
11th	John Moresby	41.5
12th	Alex Moresby	35.5
12th	David Kirby	35.5

One must console the Moresby family for a disaster of a day on paper but I know they still enjoyed themselves and hopefully will be returning some of those winning scores we expect from the two brothers.

Afternoon Session

19 participants
4 judges

1st	Romney Johnstone	80.5
2nd	Paul Jobin	76
3rd	Tony Cartwright	75.5
4th	James Madelin	70
5th	Mike Ward	69.5
6th	Kerry Adams	69
6th	Laurie Pagett	69
8th	Dave Clements	68.5
9th	Andy King	67.5
10th	Simon Nosworthy	65
11th	Sarah Kent	64
12th	Lisa O'Carroll	63
12th	Annabel Hands	63
14th	Martin Kirby	62
14th	Marek Budzinski	62
16th	David Kirby	51
17th	Martin Moresby	42.5
18th	John Moresby	41.5
19th	Alex Moresby	35.5

Overall

1st	Romney Johnstone
2nd	Paul Jobin
3rd	Tony Cartwright

Some performances demand some comment. James Madelin, taking 4th place with two very fine performances. James will be organising a league for the Chiltern group in the New Year and took the opportunity to judge as well in the afternoon session. There was just 10 points between 5th and 14th places which just goes to show the high calibre of flyers, unfortunate for one reason or another for not getting into the top ranks.

EVENTS 1991

Easter Blackheath 31 Mar & 1 April

Le Touquet, France 27/28 April

BELGUIM NATIONALS (First Round)

Oostdunkierke, Belgium 4/5 May

Weymouth, England 4/5 May

Swindon, England 11/12 May

Brighton, England 18/19 May

ITALIAN NATIONALS

Castigeoleone, Italy ? May

Birmingham, England 1/2 June

Edinburgh, Scotland 7/8 June

DUTCH NATIONALS

Scheveningen, Holland 15/16 June

Poole, England 22/23 June

BRITISH NATIONALS

Blackheath, England 28/29 June

Summer Blackheath 30 June

Washington, Tyne & Wear 6/7 July

Shrewsbury, England 6/7 July

BELGUIM NATIONALS

(Second Round)

Oestend, Belgium 13/14 July

Petworth, England 14 July

Glasgow, Scotland 3/4 August

Aberdeen, Scotland 10/11 August

Chelmsford, England 24/25/26 August

Damp, Germany ? August

EUROPEAN CUP

Montpelier, France 1/2 Sept

Bristol Kite Festival 7/8 Sept

WORLD CUP

Bristol, England 14/15 Sept

GERMAN NATIONALS

Berlin, Germany 21/22 Sept

SWISS NATIONALS

Silva Plana, Switzerland 11/12/13 Oct

AMERICAN NATIONALS

AKA Convention, Florida ? October

MIDLANDS STUNT KITE LEAGUE

The Midlands Stunt Kite League is pleased to announce its first event. The aim of the League is to promote friendly competition amongst Kite Fliers of all ages and abilities. Other leagues all over Britain are already established, and more will surely follow.

To take part in the League, you must be prepared to fly at at least 3 of the 5 meetings that form this Winter League, and pay a registration fee of £1 to cover postage and photocopying. A trophy will be presented to the person with the best aggregate from three separate league days.

The first meeting will take place in Sutton Park (enter via the Streetley Gate) at 1:00 pm on Sunday 3rd February, 1991. Subsequent dates are :

Sunday, February 17th

Sunday, March 3rd

Sunday, March 17th

Sunday, April 7th

Paul Jobin, (President of S.T.A.C.K.) will be judging with two others who are to be drawn from those registered. Both drawn judges will have a chance to compete as well.

The format of the competition involves flying 4 precision figures. Two of these will be published before the event (see diagrams here), another will be a surprise figure on the day. The fourth figure will be of the Flier's own choice. This may be submitted as a drawing before flying. Pens and paper will be available, and MSKL will be available for people who are inexperienced in drawing figures. (You hold the pen, we'll move the paper!) There will also be a high-performance kite available for anyone to fly.

So, see you on the 3rd of February!!

Figure 1
Circle within a Circle

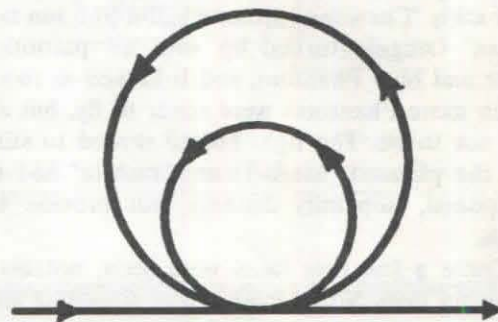
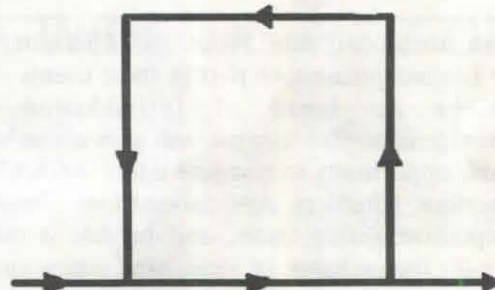


Figure 2.
Square



Meanwhile if you're already fed up with the dark nights, the Great Lakes Stunt Kite Competition video may be just what you're looking for: 90 minutes of Stunt Kite flying with commentary and music, including Open Team Ballet, Individual Ballet, and Innovative. The highlight must be Ron Reich flying 3 kites at the same time! The price is £9.95 from kite shops. A loan copy may be available at fly-ins and League meetings, but let me know first.

Look out also for the forthcoming Bristol Kite Festival video, reportedly 55 minutes long at a similar price, and of special interest to Stunt Kite Fliers.

For further information, contact: John Eaton, 51, Longacres,
Hednesford, Staffs, WS12 5HT. Tel. 0543-424921

Midlands Kite Fliers, 29, Bradbury Road,
Solihull, West Midlands, B92 8AE.

MIDLANDS STUNT KITE LEAGUE

Although the December Fly-In lacked a reasonable breeze, it was certainly made up for by the unexpected turn-out: everyone was keen to fly their early "Christmas presents". Jim "the sun-tanned Italian" Oreggio turned up with his patriotic red white and blue Phantom, and it looked as though a dozen more Phantoms were ready to fly, but alas it was not to be. The light breeze slowed to still air, and the planned "Mega-Team Crash-In" had to be postponed, hopefully January will provide better winds.

Quite a few new faces were seen, notably Lou Atherton from Nottingham. After travelling all that way, it was a shame the wind wasn't better. Anyway, Lou, we look forward to seeing you at the Team Flys and Stunt League meetings.

Incidentally, Lou is hoping to set up a Kite Flying group in Nottingham - any takers?

An additional note about the Midlands Stunt Kite League: please take part in these events - there will be no sense of intimidation, just encouragement. The League will provide us with a regular opportunity to compete under AKA/STACK (American Kitefliers Association/Stunt Team and Competitive Kiting) rules, and provide a meeting place for the exchange of ideas, experiences and tips, etc.

If you feel you could help with judging, or as a Pit Boss, Safety Marshall or Field Director, just volunteer. If you don't know what these people do, volunteer anyway!

Up for grabs will be the Midlands Stunt Kite League trophy, but can only be won by a Novice Class flier, so don't say you're not good enough, **YOU** could easily win this trophy. Please, get involved and have a go, if only for the laughs!

Got a small flying area? Fly in half the space!

Flying through a ground stake sounds difficult, but providing you keep the kite behind you, the controls are just the same as normal flying. Stand on the edge of the "wind window" to start. Things get hairy when you fly the kite in front of you, because the controls are then reversed, so if you, like me, don't have computer-like brain power, swop the handles when the kite is high, and the problem is solved.

A word of warning - a smack in the head with your own kite hurts! (Especially in front of a field full of spectators.)

CALENDAR 1991

Sunday 6th January	Sutton Park	MKF Fly-In
Sunday 3rd February	Sutton Park	MKF Fly-In & MSKL event
Sunday 17th February	Sutton Park	MSKL event
Sunday 3rd March	Sutton Park	MKF Fly-In & MSKL event
Sunday 17th March	Sutton Park	MSKL event
Sunday 31st March	Blackheath	Easter Festival
Monday 1st April	Blackheath	Easter Festival
Sunday 7th April	Sutton Park	MKF Fly-In & MSKL event
Saturday 27th April	Le Touquet	Stunt Comp.
Sunday 28th April	Le Touquet	Stunt Comp.

I intend to set up a register of interested Stunt Kite fliers. This will enable us to arrange "instant fly-ins" when the weather is favourable. Get in touch, and be in touch!

For further information, contact: John Eaton, 51, Longacres,
Hednesford, Staffs, WS12 5HT. Tel. 0543-424921

Midlands Kite Fliers, 29, Bradbury Road,
Solihull, West Midlands, B92 8AE.



MKEXTRA

MIDLANDS KITE FLIERS NEWS

29 BRADBURY ROAD, SOLIHULL, WEST MIDLANDS, B92 8AE.



M.K.F. EURO KITE TREK

(14th - 24th September, 1990)

What a terrific start we had! The sky was blue - no clouds at all, and Dieppe sea front flying area beneath our hotel balcony. The patron saint of kite fliers (if any one knows who this is please let me know) was obviously smiling upon us.

Dieppe was every bit as good as expected - good food, good weather, good company, and of course, good kite flying. The night flying I found particularly exiting with the "rocket propelled" stunt kites, and the train of lights climbing into the sky. It was with mixed feelings that we said goodbye to our many friends on the Sunday evening, as we would not see some of them for another two years. However, the prospect of flying in ten countries before going home was the best compensation we could ask for!

We left Dieppe mid-day on Monday with the objective of reaching Basle, Switzerland via Belgium and Luxembourg - this to be achieved Tuesday morning - early! We had our "phantoms" and Indian Fighter kite out in Arlon, Belgium, and a selection of kites on display just outside the city of Luxembourg. And yes! We made it to Basle at 5 a.m. At this point we had an interesting encounter with an automatic petrol pump . . . ask Derek!

Later we enjoyed a good fly over Zurich-see before finding a superb campsite on the edge of Walen-see . . . picture postcard Switzerland! We managed to fly here despite the very light wind, and John survived a dawn swim in the lake. Time was pressing so we had to leave this idyllic spot Wednesday p.m.

Liechtenstein may be small but it is certainly beautiful, we had a terrific kick flying beside the palace with the town of Balzers spread below.

The next stop was at the top of FluelaPass on our way out to Italy. Derek flew a Peter Lynn "Manta", John - his own "Peter Lynn Box" creation, and me, I flew a bird kite.

The trip "down" into Italy was hair-raising, thank goodness it was dark by then. At St. Valentin, Italy, I videoed Derek and John doing their "Indian Fighter Team Stunt Routine" - this must be seen to be believed!! Thursday we flew at Scharnitz, Austria before going to Ingolstadt, West Germany and onto Leipzig, East Germany. Leipzig was memorable for many things, but especially the nightflying . . . But that's another story.

Friday saw us meet our first bit of bad weather - a howling gale and driving rain - John was driving, or should I say wrestling to keep us on the autobahn. However, by the time we reached Berlin the sun was shining again. We called at the Kite Shop before going on to Hoppegarten in East Berlin. If anything, the Berlin festival was even better than Dieppe. After a lazy Sunday evening we set off from the Hoppegarten at 8:30 p.m. and on Monday morning arrived at The Hook of Holland ferry terminal. A pleasant few hours later and we were back in dear old "Blighty" and on our way home.

The whole thing was a very memorable trip for Derek Kuhn, John Eaton and myself, but some things were more memorable than others . . . The midnight meals; the East German Autobahns(!); the East German "Hotel"; the Harwich encounter with Customs; to name but a few, but you need to hear about these first-hand . . .

Don Eccleston
Chairman, Midlands Kite Fliers

December, 1990.



Midlands Kite Fliers
**International
Festival of Kites 1991**

Saturday, 1st June, 1991

Sunday, 2nd June, 1991

COFTON PARK

LONGBRIDGE
BIRMINGHAM
GREAT BRITAIN

Night Flying - bring braziers, torches and illuminated kites

Free On-Site Camping - Probably

All Tastes Catered For, except those who have no interest in kites.

Anoraks welcome - Bring your own arenas

Famous Kite Personalities: be there!

Large Public Car Park for Serious Kite Flying - only a short bus ride away!

Single line/Twin line conflicts arranged by appointment only.

This year's C.A.A. clearance applied for.

Unofficial car boot traders permits available-8 months qualification period

All the usual boring old competitions, plus one or two never seen before....

.....but seriously folks, one thing's for certain. This Festival is organised by Kitefliers for Kitefliers, and we aim to provide an event where all Kitefliers will be considered. (This includes those who have not yet found the joys of kite flying - we hope that this event will be fun for them also.)

Information available from January 1991:

The Secretary,
Midlands Kite Fliers,
29, Bradbury Road,
Solihull,
West Midlands,
B92 8AE,
Great Britain.



MFEXTRA

MIDLANDS KITE FLIERS NEWS

29 BRADBURY ROAD, SOLIHULL, WEST MIDLANDS, B92 8AE.



Flights of Fancy

Computers and kites have been an integral part of my life over the last few years. How, I wondered, could I use my computer to control my new high precision manoeuvrable swept wing wind toy? It was a few years later before this seed of thought became fully germinated... Aeroplanes have been remotely controlled for a number of years... so why not kites or even a team of kites!!!!!!

The drag co-efficient of today's modern kite has been greatly reduced over the last few years, therefore it is perfectly reasonable to expect the current aeroplane servo-motors to be able to cope with the strain generated by today's kite. A Maplin 357422A/5 servo would adequately cope with the job. Two servo's are required and one low pass Futaba radio control unit (Maplin Number 1432343C/S).

The two servo's need to be securely anchored to the floor of the flying area, a 16" extension needs to be fitted to each servo arm as to generate a great enough pull on each individual kite line. The kite must be hand launched to ensure that it climbs rapidly. Once the kite has attained its highest point you can switch on your radio apparatus, the control is absolutely amazing, complicated stunts become as easy as pie and even a complete novice should have no problems in achieving what has taken some fliers years to achieve!!!!

Taking this a stage further I realised my ambition. Using a Compaq SLT 2400 computer, I replaced the variable potentiometers of the futaba controller with a Digital to Analogue converter linked to the RS232 port. To ensure that the D.C. blocking at the output is at the correct level I used a 0.5 microfarad capacitor, and the supply decoupling is generated by a 14 Farad capacitor. A simple single pole single throw switch must be inserted within the circuitry to allow a simple on/off switching. The quiescent current consumption of the circuit is only about 6 or 7 milli-amps, but this increases substantially if a high level reverberation occurs (kite being buffeted at a high altitude, typically 600 ft). This can lead to an average current drain of 50 milli-amps or more. It is therefore advisable to power the circuit from a fairly large 9 volt battery, such as the Eveready PP7 or PP9 type.

A simple communications programme can be used (in local mode) to 'instruct' the kite, or if preferred a simple control script can be pre-written and ran at the time of launch.

So far I have tried it with two kites and the results are pretty impressive. Split turns, three sixties and even the plum can be executed with optimum precision.

Anyone interested who would like the circuit diagrams and samples of a script to perform the above moves, please contact :-

Robert A. Spragg,
Rubery Hall,
Rubery,
Birmingham. B82 9HC.

Aerodyne

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BRIGHTON KITE FLYERS

"I don't believe it" I hear you all cry, "a letter from The Brighton Kiteflyers". Yes folks it's true. We still survive down here on the South Coast, albeit in small numbers. Here is the first gripe - where are you paid up members who never come to fly-ins? We sure would love to see you and your families on the South Downs. Pick a good weather fly-in day, pack up a picnic and join us. There are four stalwarts who fly on a regular basis, Ray Oakhill (thats me), Mik Jennison (designer and builder of the Cobra and other stunt kites), Peter Jones (confirmed single line kite builder) and David White (famous for his three stack of stunters with the RAF roundels)

It certainly has been an eventful year for BKF, starting with a very successful kite festival at Waterhall playing fields in May when we tried to relieve Greg Locke of some of the load. How did he manage it before? Some new competitions were introduced with the accent on fun, cheating and enjoyment. This appears to be what a lot of kiteflyers enjoy at Brighton. The night flying events went very well, terminating with the usual tako kichi nutters flying stunt kites along 1000 watt beams of light towards the clubhouse roof. Next years festival will be held at the same place on 18th and 19th May 1991. We hope to see you there. Any members who would like to volunteer to help in any way, however limited, please let me know on 0273 306842 or contact Greg Locke.

As Fly-in Co-ordinator it is my job to arrange flying sites and dates, and to obtain Civil Aviation Authority permission to fly above 200ft. Normally this means applying for a NOTAM from the CAA, but things have changed! Under the 1989 Air Navigation Order the CAA request that we must ask police permission first, before applying to CAA; but the police say that we do not need their permission catch 22! Anyway the problem has been resolved, hopefully, by a sergeant at the Sussex Police Helicopter Unit who was willing to stick his neck out and give his permission for all fly-ins this year.

While on the subject of fly-ins, it has been a memorable year for stunt kites here in Brighton. The above mentioned Mik Jennison has spent a great deal of his time designing and flying new kites.

Brighton Kite Flyers events for 1991 are as follows:-

10th Feb	Beachy Head	24th Feb	Telscombe Tye	10th March	Rottingdean
24th March	Woodingdean	7th April	Ditchling Beacon	21st April	Hollingbury
5th May	Brighton Race Hill	18th/19th May	Waterhall Playing Fields	2nd June	Beachy Head
16th June	Telscombe Tye	30th June	Littlehampton	14th July	Woodingdean
28th July	Ditchling Beacon	11th August	Hollingbury	25th August	Brighton Race
8th Sept	Beachy Head	22nd Sept	Telscombe Tye	6th October	Red Hill Brighton
20th October	Woodingdean	3rd November	Hollingbury	17th November	Ditchling Beacon
1st December	Beachy Head	15th December	Cissbury Ring	29th December	Red Hill Brighton

AERODYNE - BRIGHTON KITE FLYERS

Also living in Brighton are Ric and Suzy Pattison, designers of the Asilomar stunt kite, which they put into production this year and have sold about 100 kites at festivals and on Hove seafront, where they fly regularly on 90ft. lines (that is the distance across the lawns from railings to pavement). We did try flying six Asilomars in team on one Sunday afternoon, much to the admiration of the crowd, but we think we need some more practice! Ric and Suzy intend moving to America this year and opening a kite store in Florida; we will miss them, but we also wish them luck in their new venture.

I had the holiday of a lifetime this year when my wife and I flew to Australia to visit our youngest daughter in Sydney. Of course I took some kites! The two stunters, mentioned above, caused suspicious looks at several airport customs points. However no one asked to look inside the bag. When we arrived in Sydney the first port of call was the Eeze and Breeze kite shop at Darling Harbour, where I was advised on all the local flying sites around the city. The display was extremely impressive (as it was in all the other kite stores that I visited), with stunt kites in flying formation and kites suspended from floor to ceiling so that you had to walk around them. The only familiar kite was a Phantom, but the price was very high. It seems that any imported goods are charged 20% import tax and another 20% sales tax, so there is not much hope of selling your kites to the Ozzies! I bought my daughter Sally a Skysailer stunter that is locally manufactured and is similar to a Skynasaur. She now flies it on Bondi Beach while her boyfriend is surfing. On the following day we visited Marks Park on a headland to meet local flyers, but room was very limited, so we went down to Bondi and flew on the beach, much to the entertainment of the Sunday afternoon promenaders, who applauded the antics of a border collie who chased the kite until exhausted. I also met a fellow kiteflyer called Chris, who was flying a Buzz stunter kite, but I found it very heavy and slow to manoeuvre. All the spars were of GRP tube, as were those in most of the locally made stunters. After a week in Sydney seeing the sights, we travelled up the East Coast in a camper van. The beaches are really magnificent for flying; they are so long and flat and at that time of the year (August) most people are at work and children are in school, so the beach was totally mine for flying on most days. There are three kite stores in Surfer's Paradise, all called Skytes. Kiting must be popular to enable all three stores to make a profit in such a small area. Unfortunately I did not meet Laughlan Gifford, the owner, but Toni at Marina Mirage was very well informed and helpful. We travelled further north to Mooloolaba (pronounce that if you can) to meet Andrew Marnie, who runs the Windworks Kite Co. on The Wharf, where he makes and repairs kites within the shop. He drew out a splendid tour map of the area for us and advised on local flying sites. Our last port of call for kite shops was another Breeze and Eeze store in McWhirters Market in Brisbane. The wife of the owner was very helpful and interested in the kite scene at home. What an amazing trip.

Don't forget some kites if you go!

Ray Oakhill.

ROMAN CANDLE 19.



The Journal Of The Bearly Made It Skydive Squad, The International Brotherhood of Parachuting Fauna and the U.K. Ted Devils. Ozone, Cabbage and Stuntkite Friendly, Ho, Ho !

As its Seemingly impossible for an Edition of R.C. to be written without having a go at someone or other, and as the Cardboard Cutout/Boring Old Fart is getting a bit nervous as to who or what we Fauna of a soft cuddley toy persuasion, are going to insult next, we of the BMISS H.Q. Mob, in consultation with the Ayatollah Cabbage, and in view of the fact that we hate to see a Grown Man covering in the Cupboard under the Stairs, wearing a Tin Helmet and a Flak Jacket. (Who, me ? BOF) Are From now on, embarking on a protracted period of Sweetness and Enlightenment as befits Soft Cuddley Toys. (Oi, Bof, git yer arris out of that Cupboard, or you'll git a Furry Knuckle Sarnie.)

Right, thats enough sweetness and enlightenment, Lets git it on. Hey, did you think that you were a Fan of Parachuting Fauna in a big way? Yes? have we got News for you.

Although BMISS has many, many Members all around the World, there is one Country in particular that is by far and away the Leader when it comes to being BMISS Barmy. We wont give you Three Guesses as to which Country it is, as its Holland or the Netherlands.

We did have an Inkling via correspondence with Dutch Dropniks, but what really brought it Home to us was at Dieppe 90. When the BOF perambulated around the Flying Field his Flabber was well and truly Gasted when he saw the Dutch Fauna on Parade. You dear Dropnik may have a Mob of Fauna that owns you, but the average Dutch Dropnik is owned by at least a Regiment of Fauna of all Shaapes, Sizes and Species.

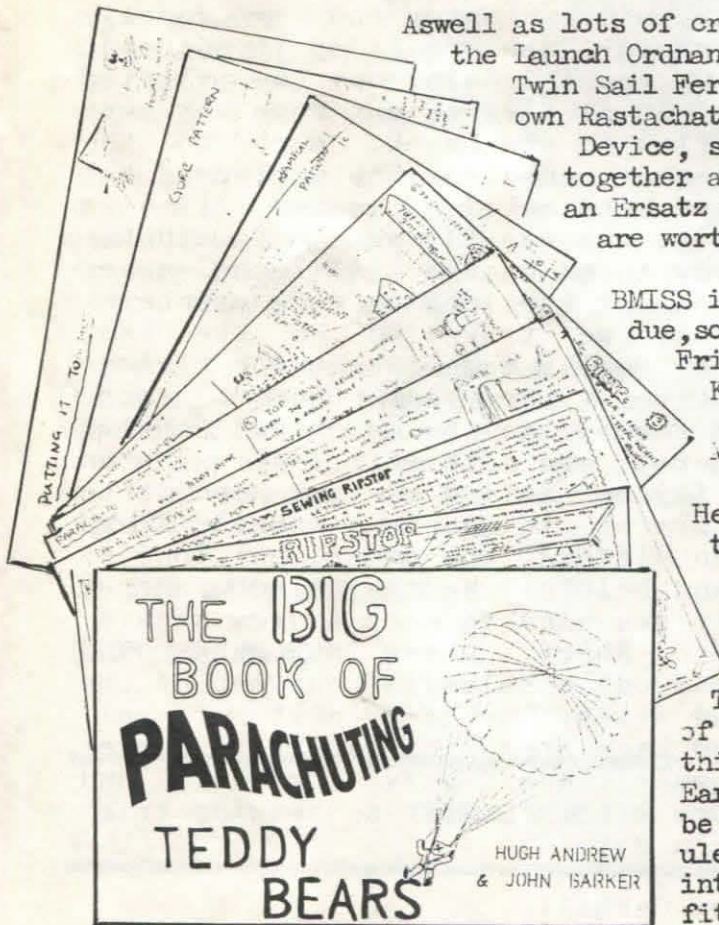
Obviously our Dutch friends believe that Variety is the Spice of Life as the different Species that they Bung Jolly Old Rags onto is quite amazing. Of course, as well as Bears they have Mice, Monkeys, Cats, Dogs, Penguins etc, etc, and also of note is the amont of creature Comforts that these Fauna bring with them on Safari. Deckchairs, Sunbeds, Tents, Sunshades, the list of stuff goes on and on.

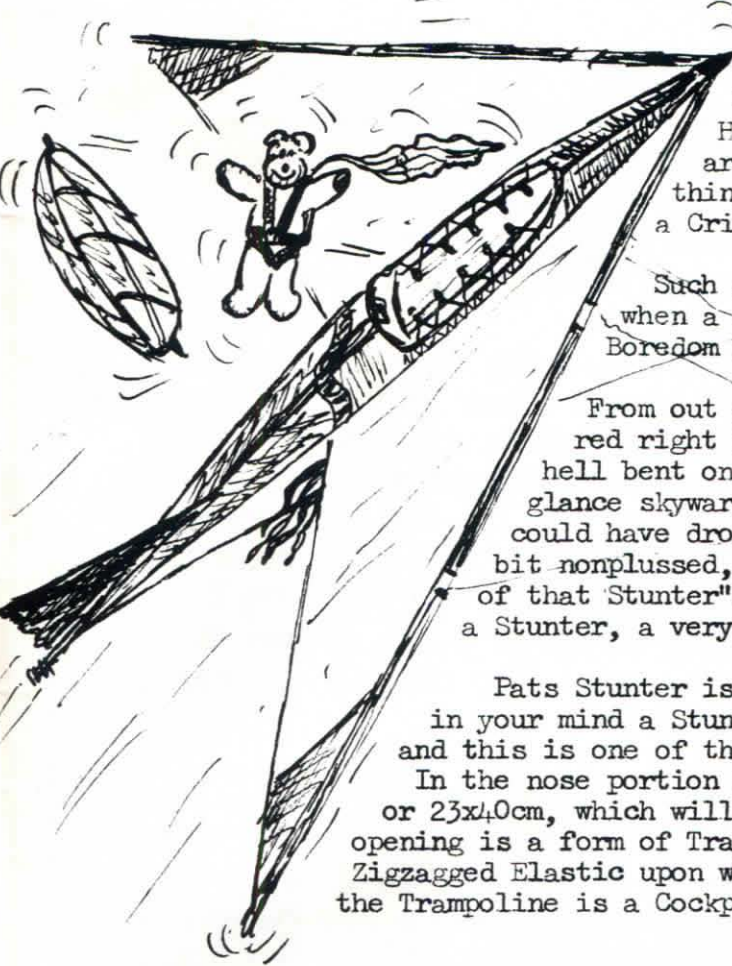
Aswell as lots of creature Comforts, the Variety and heaviness of the Launch Ordnance is Remarkable , in Particular an amazing Twin Sail Ferry that is utilised by the Fischer Regiment, our own Rastachat, after several rides up the Kiteline on this Device, said that its about time we got the BOF's act together and persuaded him to have a go a Cobbling up an Ersatz version. (Its Coming C.C.) as very good ideas are worth Pinching.

BMISS is always willing to give credit where credit is due, so we would like to give a big Hand to our Dutch Friends who are well and truly flying the BMISS/ KNDST Flags on the continent. Nice one Greenys Stuff, De Vlierij, the Fischer Regiment, Websters Mob, the KNDST Legion etc, etc well done.

Hey, Look what the Cats dragged out from under the Stairs, its you know who, "Oi, you silly old Sod, wotcha hiding for, cos we aint had a single Pro Stunter Letter". It seems dear Members, that them Stunters are like the BOF, Mostly Harmless.

Those Dropniks out there who were not too sure of how Hughs Big Book was presented can see from this exactly what you are getting for your hard Earned Dosh, of course all the smart Money would be on the Full Size version and not on the Miniscule version we show here which Hugh had to throw into the washing Maschine to Shrink it down to fit the page. If you believe that.....





There are times when the average Kiteflier/Dropnik begins to think along the lines of, Ho, Hum, Yawn, Have I seen it all?... And when they are in such a Frame of mind, its then that something occurs which hits them with all the force of a Cricket Bat across the head.

Such a something occurred at Blackheath last Year when a certain person was going into Brain Fade with Boredom at a Nudge, Nudge, you know what Festival.

From out of the Blue, one of our Members suddenly appeared right in the middle of a StuntKite Routine, seemingly hell bent on giving 'em some of that, BMISS style. A quick glance skywards revealed no obvious Kite that our member could have dropped from, and the certain person was just a bit nonplussed, until someone said "Hey, that Bear popped out of that Stunter". It was true, the bear had come from indside a Stunter, a very ingenious Kite made by Pat Bonneau.

Pats Stunter is tops in Audacity and Original thought. Picture in your mind a Stunt Kite of Fairly normal Delta Configuration, but and this is one of the clever bits, with a Hollow Fuselage Section. In the nose portion of this Fuselage is an opening of approx 9"x16" or 23x40cm, which will just accomodate a small Parabear. Within this opening is a form of Trampoline, i.e. a piece of Ripstop sprung with Zigzagged Elastic upon which the bear lays. Forcing the bear down onto the Trampoline is a Cockpit Cover made from Ripstop and F/glass.

The Cockpit Cover can be released, enabling the bear to Pop out of the Kite and to Parachute down. The really clever part of the design of this Kite is the use of an Electric winch which not only releases the Cockpit Cover, but also releases some "JET EXHAUST" Ripstop Streamers which indicate to the Pilot that the bear is ready for release and that he should go for maximum altitude.

Inside the tail of the Kite is concealed a small electric winch from a Lego Set, power for which comes from a small 9volt Battery. The winch is a slow rotation type which Pat has set to release the Streamers and the Cocpit Cover after it has wound up a certain length of line which takes approx 3 minutes or so.

The Flight Sequence for the Kite is Roughly as follows. The bear is placed under the Cockpit Cover which is fastened with a Pin which in turn is connected to the winch via the length of line. The winch is switched on and the Kite is launched. Normal Stunt manouvers are performed until the streamers appear at the Wing Roots. Shortly after and hopefully with the Kite at maximum altitude the Cockpit Cover is Tripped and the bear is ejected along with the Cover by the force of the Trampoline.

Although dear reader, you may have your own favourite piece of Kite kit, you must agree that its got to be very exceptional to Top this amazing Kite from Pat Bonneau.

Rumours have it that the speed of development of this type of Bear Launcher is so fast, that the Mk 1. version described here is already obsolete, and Mks II and III are already being worked upon. As soon as details are available you will read about it in R.C.

By the time you read this dear Members, we will be into the New Year, over halfway through the Hibernation Period (I'm doing this in my Sleep) (Yes, I know you can read this in your Sleep) and we can be looking forward to another great Season of giving the Dropniks and Stunters what for.

Your News, Views and any old Rubbish to the Teddytorial, c/o The Cardboard Cutout/
Boring Old Fart. 48. Laurel Lane, West Drayton, Middx, UB7.7TY. United Kingdom.

fred 

Stunt Kites 1991

As I write 1990 is coming to a close and the manufacturer's new product releases for 1991 are rolling in with each & every post.

1990 saw the sport of Stunt Kite flying move forward considerably and as a result fairly significant changes have resulted in the level of equipment available to flyers.

What was previously Open Class equipment- large wings with glass fibre tube frames - is now beginner/intermediate level equipment and what were tricky, almost unflyable, weirdo designs are now standard Open Class equipment.

As a frame material carbon fibre tube/rod/laminates is almost universal in top end kites and there seems to be no immediate upgrade available beyond this in terms of strength or stiffness. A plea- would the fliers out there who break carbon spars please not dispose of them by putting them in the nearest public rubbish bin to the flying field- either take them home and cut them into short lengths or return them to us when you buy a replacement- incentive 50p discount on replacement spar for

each broken spar returned (carbon fibre splinters horribly and it is unsafe to dispose of it where children could lay hands on it).

On the flying line front, Spectra displaced Kevlar as the first choice line- the principal advantages of Spectra are smaller diameter and greater line on line slipperiness. We still sell Kevlar for applications where Spectra won't do (eg flying over rocky or gorse strewn flying sites where Spectra can be easily damaged).

Developments on the kite front for 1991 include a new, smaller Revolution 4 line kite (Rev 2), a cylindrical Rogallo LiteFlite (the Heavy), a complete range of indented spine swept wings from Skynasaur (Classic 48-96), a large Speedwing (!- think of the pull) and a bigger soft steerable from Skynasaur (the Stuntfoil 42).

Details of all these (& more) are in our new colour Stunt kite catalogue available Jan 1991, as is another one of our books- "Swept Wing Stunt Kites" for those who really must design & make their own stunt kites.

Stunt Kite 1991 Catalogue available Jan 1991

*And we hereby promise not to mention Stunt Kites
again this year.....*

**The Kite Store Ltd, 48 Neal Street, London WC2H 9PA
Tel; 071 836 1666 Fax; 071 836 2510**