

THE KITEFLIER



THE KITE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

with

MIDLAND KITEFLIERS NEWS

BRIGHTON KITEFLYERS AERODYNE

JULY

ISSUE 24

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THE PHOTOGRAPH ON THE FRONT COVER SHOWS TOM PRATT AND HIS CAMERA RIG USED FOR KITE AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY.

MALVERN KITES

We stock a large range of quality kites, materials, books and miscellanea.

MAKERS INCLUDE Wycombe Kite Co., Prof. Waldof, Vertical Visuals, Trlby, Flexifoil, Peter Powell, Windy Kites, Fennemore, Dan Leigh, Monday Lunch, Propius, Peter Lynn, Stratton, Gunter, Zammo.

MATERIALS Our 1985 range of materials includes many new fittings: rings, swivels, fibreglass rod, dowell, ripstop tape, ripstop, tyvek etc.

MISCELLANEA Books, Model Hot Air Balloons, Boomerangs, Frisbees—all weights, greetings and post cards, clocks, earrings, brooches.

KITELINE Braided kiteline from 23lb. — 1500lb., Twisted line from 20lb — 80lb, in bulk or short lengths. Kevlar (to order).

MAIL ORDER Send a stamp for a free copy of our illustrated mail order catalogue.

VISITORS Very welcome — see our impressive display of kites, photographs and accessories. We are open at weekends and bank holidays too — See catalogue for full details.

WE HAVE MOVED
TO SPLENDID NEW PREMISES

**THE WAREHOUSE, ST. ANN'S ROAD, GREAT MALVERN, WORCESTERSHIRE.
TELEPHONE: MALVERN (06845) 65504**



EDITORIAL

Dear Reader,

We hope that you will enjoy the "new" look newsletter, and the new Kite Society logo (as above). We hope to change, and improve, both the newsletter and the way the Kite Society is run.

It has been suggested by one of our members that there may be other kitefliers who would be keen to start a small group in their area. If you are interested in either starting or joining such a group please contact us before the middle of September so that a feature can be included in the October issue. Remember to send us your name, address and telephone number so that those details can be printed and other kitefliers will be able to contact you.

For some time members (both old and new) have been enquiring about cloth badges. We can, at the moment, supply 4"x2" badges with the words 'The Kite Society' (no logo) embroidered on them. There is a choice of background colours Black or White. Thread colour can be one of Red, White, Blue, Yellow, Green, Black or Orange. Price £1.80. If interested send us details of colour choice and cheque or P.O. made payable to The Kite Society. Please allow 28 days for delivery.

Gill and Jon Bloom.

~~~~~

### MEMBERSHIP FEE:

£4.00 per year for the U.K. £6.00 per year for the rest of Europe. All other countries £6.00 surface mail or £8.00 Air Mail.

For this members will receive four issues of The Kiteflier and discount at various kite shops both in the U.K. and Europe.

### METHODS OF PAYMENT:

All cheques, postal orders or money orders should be made payable to THE KITE SOCIETY.



# LETTERS

From James Kyle-Pope

The Easter Kite Festival was excellent. Previous festivals have often produced no wind, so it was refreshing to hear people complaining about too much.

The wind was certainly stronger than I had anticipated leaving home and the only kite that qualified for the conditions was a 6' flexifoil. Two were up in train already, so choosing a site that wasn't in the way and yet give a view of the proceedings took some finding. A shower of rain miraculously cleared some air space and the flexifoil flew out of my hand and straight up. (I gave up the flexifoil bar control in preference to two hand reels for two reasons, a. solo launching is much easier and b. you can pull much tighter aerobatics). The rest of the afternoon can only be put down to grass-skiing. I never realised that maximum pull was created when pulling out of a steep dive and not during!

By and by the sky was full of flexifoils and it was becoming difficult to watch everyone else and keep flying. The problem was solved when one of the lines broke and the kite fluttered gracelessly down. To rub salt in the wound a small black dog (with a good sense of timing) ran out of the fairground, across the road, sniffed at the kite as it hit the deck, paid his respects as only small black dogs do and vanished back into the crowd before I could find something to throw at him.

Is this the kitefliers ecstasy and agony?

~~~~~

From Paul Chapman

Kites have been keeping a low profile, although we came by a flexifoil for £10 at the aerogjumble at Yeovilton - it flies beautifully in the field opposite the cottage.

I attended a fascinating lecture given by Clive Hart to the Royal Aeronautical Society - the subject was the Theory and Practice of Flight - Pre Leonardo!

He started with Genesis where we were all formed from the water of oceans - which have origins in the air; so that air and water are intrinsically female. The firmament above is clearly male and the act of flying through the air, in the eyes of the ancients, was close to rape - no wonder that the early fliers were viewed with suspicion. Clive illustrated his lecture with a particularly fine piece of Roman sculpture depicting a part of the human anatomy, with bells on it (a wind chime) to illustrate his thesis. Perhaps every kitefliers should have a suitable kite to satisfy the airs desires!!

~~~~~

From John White

In reply to Mr Goldmans enquiry about spruce suppliers in issue 22, may I suggest that he or anyone else wanting spruce in lengths of up to 4 ft (rectangular or square) should write enclosing an s.a.e. to Mr C Goater, The Balsa Cabin, Mill Lane, Fullbridge, Maldon, Essex CM9 7LD

~~~~~

From Terence White

First the bad news. Doug Boyd has closed his Skysport shop in the Free Enterprise Centre, Station Parade, Eastbourne. Now the good news. He can now be found located in the cafe/souvenir shop at the Beachy Head Hotel sited at the famous beauty spot just

LETTERS

outside Eastbourne. With the cafe, the pub, easy free parking, toilets, superb views and great flying, what more could the discerning kiteflier want! Doug will be there most weekends during the summer season.

Seen in Millets packets of Coghlan's Nylon Repair Tape. Each consisting of four pieces - navy 9x3, tan 8x3, green 7x3 and red 6x3 inches - of pressure sensitive, high adhesive backed ripstop. Price £1.75. Lots of uses and ideal for field repairs.

There was an article and colour photo in the sell-out section of Time Out magazine to tie in with the Easter Weekend festival at Blackheath. It covered kites and kite flying in general with various examples recommended. Both the Kite Store and the Kite and Balloon Company were mentioned. Over the years Time Out has been sympathetic to kites even if it does categorise them under CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES and TOYS.

If anyone missed the recent screening on Channel Four of the 1948 b/w film adaptation of Somerset Maugham's 'Quartet' - which included his famous short story 'The Kite' - it is available on Rank Video VHS:0203E. If you cannot persuade your local video library to get a copy it is available to buy at a hefty £35. Or, perhaps someone, somewhere has taped a copy!

'The Kite' is a delightful, old fashioned and unsophisticated tale reflecting gentler times. When Herbert the kite flying accountant (played by George Cole in the film) is asked why he is in Wormwood Scrubs Prison and prepared to remain so rather than pay any maintenance to his estranged, kite hating wife - he replies "She smashed my kite!" That simple line strikes a cord with all kitefliers everywhere - love me, love my kites!

The original story is unresolved, but the film script writer opts for happy, conciliatory ending with the errant wife joining in the kiteflying. The nicest aspect of the whole story is that kiteflying is seen as a hobby/pastime for all the family.

~~~~~  
From John Spendlove

I wonder if any other readers may care to comment on the use of synthetics, like GRP and polyester film, for fighter type kites.

I say "fighter type kites" rather than just fighters deliberately, because I'm not really much of a fan of steerable kites myself, whether they have one line or two. What I rather like is the idea of making rhombic or diamond shaped kites with a flexible cross spar rather than a fixed dihedral cross spar setting or bowing line, which will fly tailless. I made a few fairly small ones (about the size of the standard imported Indian Fighters) with a Mylar sail and a cross spar of piano wire - rather like the Vic's fighters, but the wire is lighter, so dihedral is developed in almost no wind, and the kite is, in consequence, not dirigible. These are successful.

Now, ages ago I bought a Trlby/Ace stunter, which, according to a Kite Lines reviewer (I forget who) can be flown on a single line, much like a fighter. I threw out the sail of this kite, which had got badly torn, long since and never got round to replacing it. This evening, though, I cobbled it together using Mylar for the sail, and changing the shape to a lozenge for the sake of speed. I found it flies fine with a tail, in a static mode, but I couldn't get it to fly without; maybe the cross spar is too stiff to allow the formation of enough dihedral, at least in the lightish wind this evening. Obviously, I can try a stronger wind, or a shorter tail, hoping to find a balance where the kite is stiff enough to respond a bit like a fighter, but slow enough for a lazy flyer. However, has anyone any other tips? For example, on the Indian fighters one gives a slight bowing to the spine. I suppose a bowing line would be needed to produce that with GRP, but would it be likely to help?



From Les Navier

Amongst the short stories written by W. Somerset Maugham is one entitled "The Kite". Here are two extracts, the first of which touches familiar ground.

"Christmas wasn't far off and Santa Claus brought Herbert his first kite. At the beginning he wasn't very clever at managing it, and Mr. Sunbury had to run down the hill himself and start it for him. It was a very small kite, but when Herbert saw it swim through the air and felt the little tug it gave his hand he was thrilled; and then every Saturday afternoon, when his father got back from the City, he would pester his parents to hurry over to the common. He quickly learnt to fly it, and Mr. and Mrs. Sunbury, their hearts swelling with pride, would watch him from the top of the knoll while he ran down and as the kite caught the breeze lengthened the cord in his hand.

It became a passion with Herbert, and as he grew older and bigger his mother bought him larger and larger kites."

The second extract is a bit more philosophical, but nevertheless quite interesting.

"What d'you suppose that is in kite-flying that makes the damned fool so mad about it?"

'I don't know' I answered. I took my time to think.

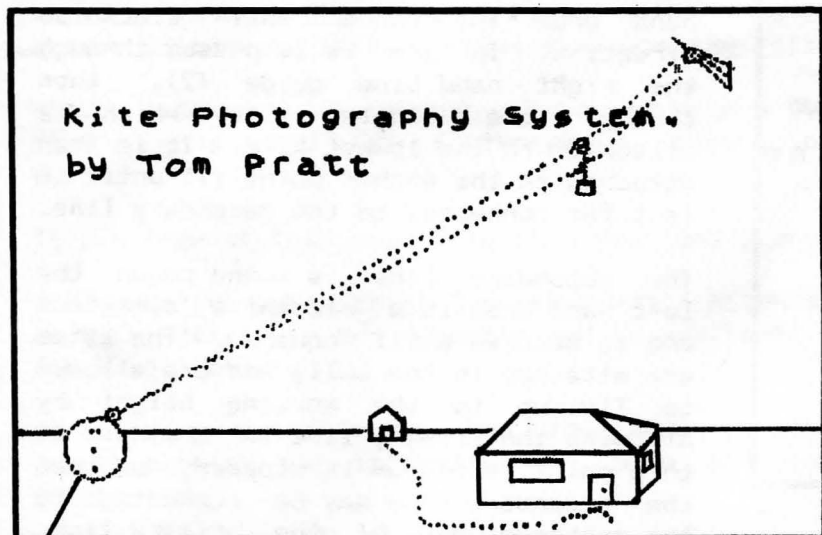
'You see, I don't know a thing about flying a kite. Perhaps it gives him a sense of power as he watches it soaring towards the clouds and of mastery over the elements as he seems to bend the winds of heaven to his will. It may be that in some queer way he identifies himself with the kite flying so free and so high above him, and it's as if it were an escape from the monotony of life. It may be that in some dim, confused way it represents an ideal of freedom and adventure. And you know, when a man once gets bitten with the virus of the ideal not all the King's doctors and not all the King's surgeons can rid him of it.'

(From W. Somerset Maugham, The Complete Short Stories, Volume III.)

In order to prevent ripstop from ripping when eyelets are used, I make a sandwich of 1/32 inch plywood (available from model shops). Cut the wood to the desired shape (scissors are OK). Evostick the two inner surfaces, and attach to the ripstop either side. It soon dries, and eyelets can then be punched in with no possibility of tearing taking place. I have used this method to reinforce delta keels and to strengthen windsock panels.

The difficulty of joining plastic straws together for ultra lightweight kites can be overcome by taking a length of the plastic, say 1 1/2 inches and splitting one side with a razor blade (careful!). This allows the circumference to be made smaller, and the short length can then be pushed into the ends of the two straws to be joined. The natural springiness of the plastic grips both ends, but the joint may be further strengthened by applying tape - not the ordinary transparent sort, as goes off after a year or so, but the white backed tape used for splicing recording tape.





The kite photography system described here has been tried and modified over several years.

It consists of two main components - the winch and the camera. Both of which are necessary.

One of the main design criteria was that it should be able to be carried in the back of a small hatchback car.

Photography from kites is not easy but it can be very rewarding. The main difficulties to be found are in the weather, the nature of the surroundings from which photographs are to be taken, and the local laws.

Of course, man made difficulties are more awkward than those supplied by nature. For example, use a radio control to operate your camera shutter. The obvious answer. Not if you operate in the U.K.

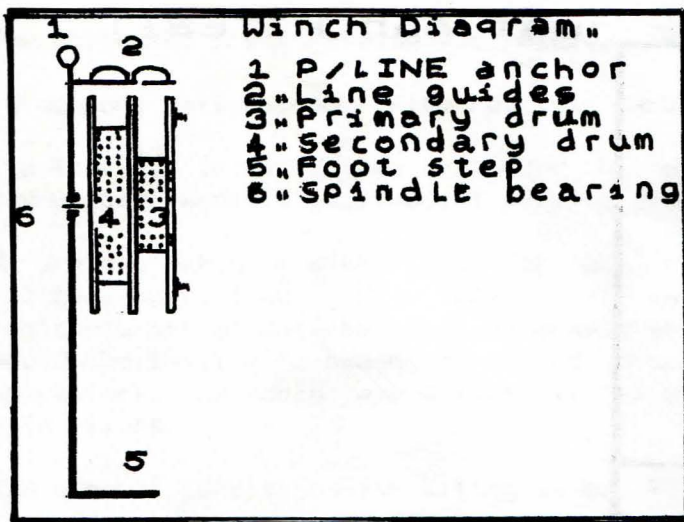
You are allowed to fly a radio controlled model aeroplane in circles round your kite-borne camera using as many radio channels you like for as long as you like, but you may not use one channel for one second to release the camera shutter on your kite borne camera.

A more reasonable law limits the maximum height that you may fly your kite to 60 metres in case you interfere with low flying aircraft. This law can be evaded if you get written permission for a specific time and place from the Civil Aviation Authority, by which time the wind will have dropped, probably.

In spite of the foregoing difficulties, most of which also apply to very expensive helicopters and other aircraft, there are still many opportunities to use kites for photography and this makes the whole thing worthwhile.

The winch is made of plywood having solid cores for the drums, all glued and bolted together. The main drum is carried on an extended cycle wheel spindle and bearing. The drum is supported at one end in the vertical member of the frame. The top of the frame member has a horizontal bar to carry 2 semi-circular line guides, each of which is positioned over one of the two drums.

At the bottom of the frame member, at right angles, is a strong foot-rest to enable the winch to be firmly held on the ground by the operator's foot.



The primary line is wound onto the right hand drum (3) in an anti-clockwise direction. In use it is passed through the right hand line guide (2), then through the single pulley which is attached to the lowest kite. It is then attached to the anchor point (1) until it is later connected to the secondary line.

The secondary line is wound round the left hand drum in a clockwise direction and is secured until required. The kites are attached to the pulley and are allowed to fly up to the working height by allowing the primary line to unwind. At this point the drum is stopped, so that the secondary line may be connected to the anchored end of the primary line.

Before the connection is made the secondary line is passed through the left hand guide.

Once the two lines are connected together the camera carriage is mounted at the point of the join. Now if the primary line is wound back on to its drum the secondary line goes out, because it is wound on in the opposite direction. This means that the camera carriage is carried up towards the kites.

Starting position for the primary line. The line runs from the right hand drum through the line guide. It then passes through the pulley to which the kites are attached and is then attached to the anchor ring on the frame member.

Now when the line is unwound by turning the drum the kites will ascend until all the primary line is out, or until they have reached the desired working height.

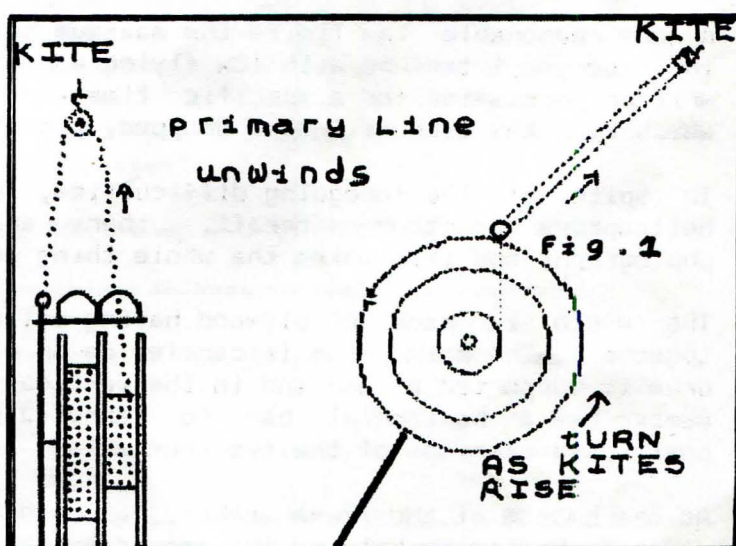
Once the kites are flying at their working height the secondary line must be connected before the camera mounting can be attached.

So, lock the winch to prevent it turning, undo the end of the secondary line and pass it through the line guide. It is then connected to the anchored end of the primary line before the primary line is disconnected from the anchor ring on the frame. Free the primary line from the anchor.

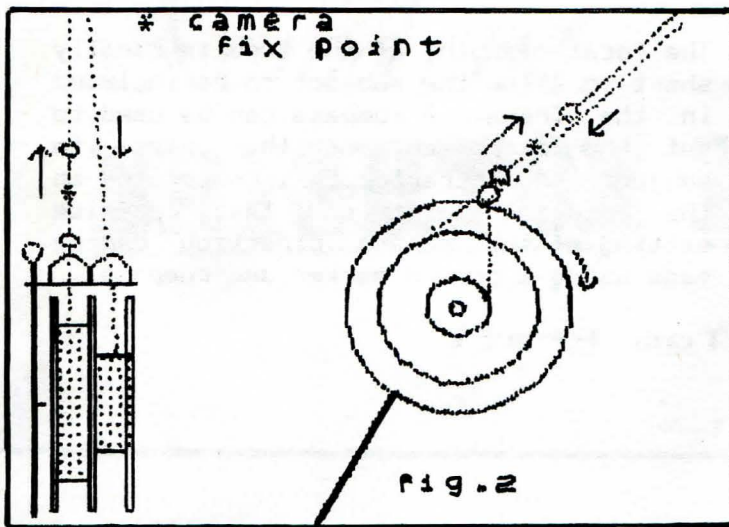
Now when the primary line is wound in, the secondary line goes out, and if a camera is attached to the point indicated in fig 3 the camera will ascend towards the kites.

The camera carriage is attached to the point in the lines where secondary and primary lines are joined. To prevent the lines carrying the camera from sagging away from the other line a runner is placed on the upper line and is connected by a short line to the top of the camera carriage above the camera column. This is not shown in fig.3

If the winch is turned to wind back the primary line the secondary line will wind







out because the drum carrying the secondary line is of a larger diameter the kites will help to pull the camera carriage up raising a little as they do.

The camera can be lifted up to the lowest kite, or can be checked at any point on the way up to take a photograph from a lower view point. The method of operation of the shutter will be described below. Enough to say now that it is mechanical system and does not call for supplementary assistance from radio or infra red beams. The camera is mounted so that it can be turned to face in any direction in azimuth. It can also be tilted up or down so that it can be pointed at any desired subject.

A protractor is included on the mounting so that when used in conjunction with a compass and a ground marker the camera can be directed fairly accurately at the subject, thus reducing the "guess factor" to acceptable proportions.

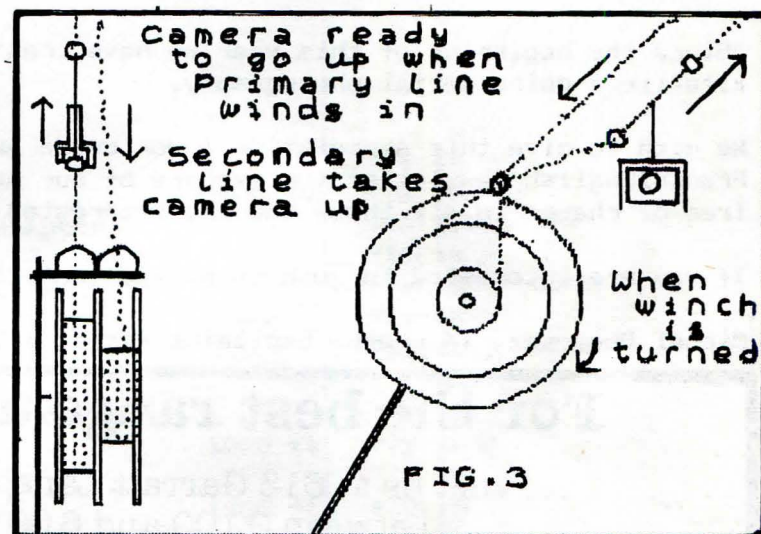
When in use a line attached to the foot of the winch frame is attached to the screw picket or other fixed point on the ground so that the winch can be left safely while working on camera adjustments. It is also easy to disconnect this line and walk with the system to fresh view points.

Camera carriage, the materials used are plastic water pipe and channel section aluminium. Pop rivets and nuts and bolts.

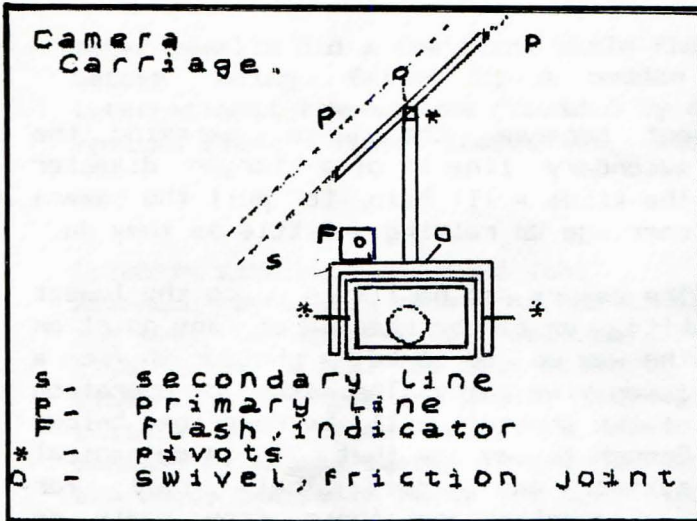
The main carriage is suspended by means of a vertical tube. This has a pivoted straight member at its upper end, which is used to attach the unit to the kite lines. At the lower end is a friction joint which allows the camera frame to be pointed in any direction. The vertical tube ensures that the pendulum effect keeps the camera frame level when still.

A photo flash is mounted on the vertical tube, so that it always points back down the kite lines, it is connected to the shutter of the camera and indicates when a picture has been taken.

The camera is mounted on the bed of the frame which can be tilted to provide the required deflection from the horizontal. The lens is set at "Infinity" for focusing. The exposure is set by adjusting the aperture using a fast shutter speed to reduce the effects of camera movement. (Recommended shutter speed - not longer than 1/500th sec.)







The focal length of the lens is usually short to allow the subject to be included in the frame. A compass can be used to set the direction of the camera to subject. A protractor is incorporated in the friction joint so that precise setting of the camera direction can be made using a ground marker and compass.

Tom Pratt

For those people interested in Aerial Photography the following news will be of interest.

The Worldwide Association for Kite Aerial Photography.

"Since the beginning of this year we have created a non commercial association gathering kitefliers doing aerial photography.

We wish to give this association a worldwide audience. We shall soon publish a bilingual French/English newsletter for members of our association. The first issue will be sent free of charge to all those who are interested as well as an embroidered badge."

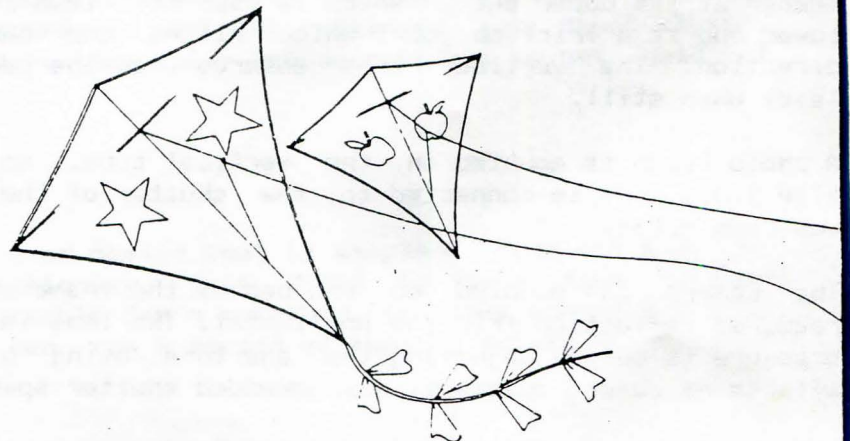
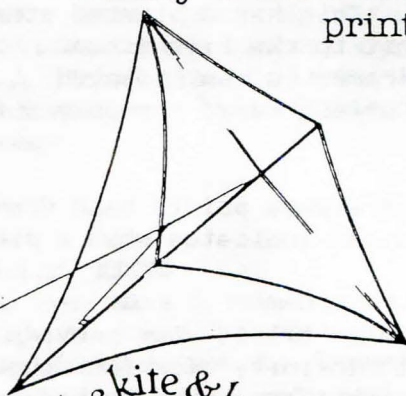
If you are interested to join us please contact:-

Michel Dusariez, 14 Avenue Capitaine Piret, 1150 Brussels, Belgium.

## For the best range of Kites & Balloons

... visit us at 613 Garratt Lane, Wandsworth, SW18 anytime between 09.00 and 6.00 Monday to Saturday.

See our range of Vertical Visuals craftsman kites plus a wide variety of other makes and types, plus a selection of plain and printed balloons for all occasions.



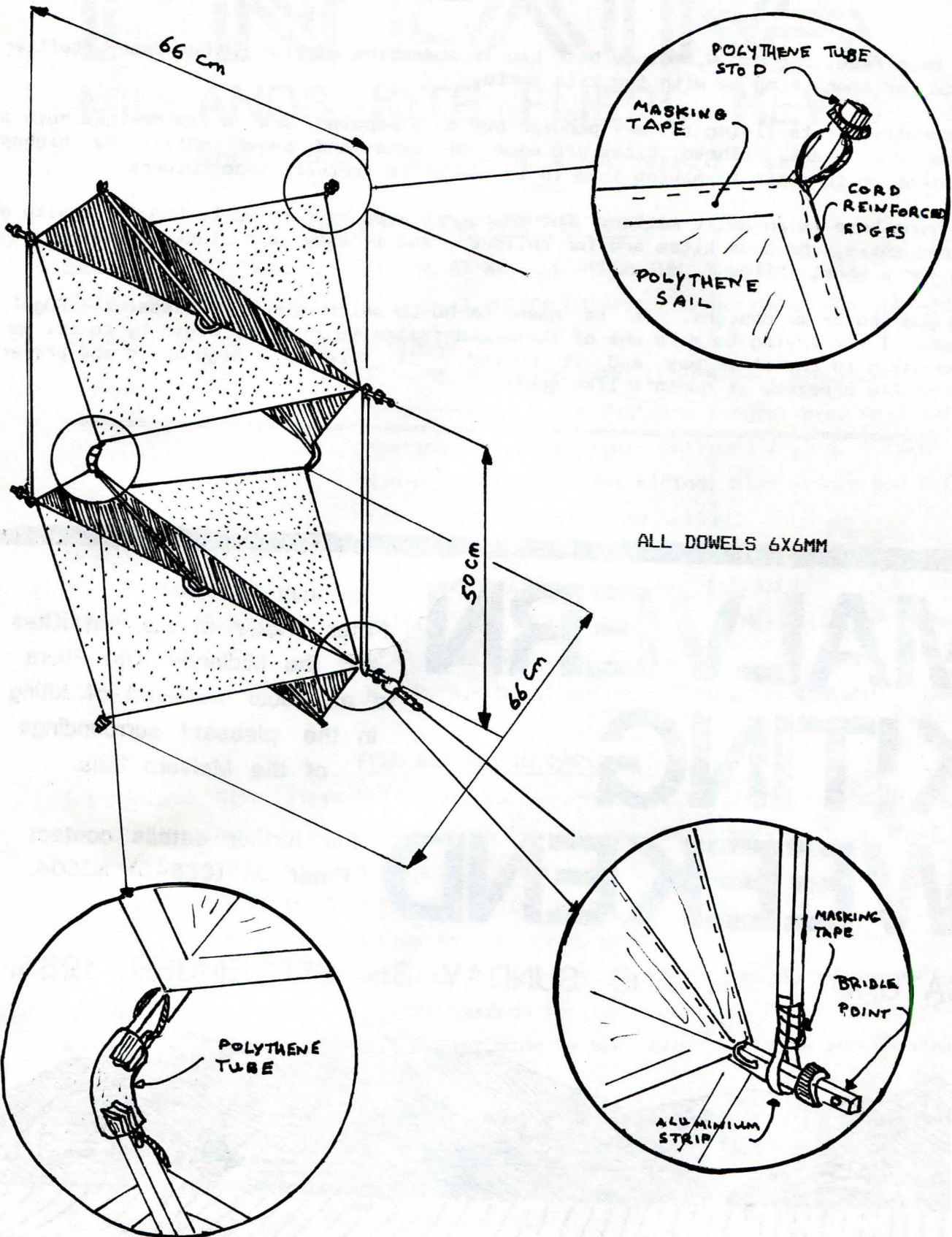
the kite & balloon company



613 Garratt Lane, Wandsworth, London SW18 4SU.  
 Telephone: 01-946 5962  
 27 Essex Street, Birmingham B5 4TR  
 Telephone: 021-622 2331/622 5391



# KITE DESIGN



UN-RO-CO  
by GONZALO TRONCOSO  
Bahia Blanca 1984



## KITE DESIGN

I have been receiving K.O.N. since Nick Laurie ended the edition of European Kiteflier. Thankyou for connecting me with the kite world.

In my country, kite flying is very popular but only popular are a few designs such as hexagons and stars. These kites are made of cane and paper only. The highest sophistication consists in making them in the favorite football team colours.

Kite flying here is an adult matter. But of course, you have to go to the field with at least one child, because kites are for children, and if they are lucky, can hold the string for a short while.

I send you one of my designs. It is named UN-RO-CO which means UNsuccessful - ROgello - COrner. I was trying to make one of those and failed to provide rigidity to it. So I put the sails in the other way and it worked. It flies at a high angle and prefers steady gentle breezes, it doesn't like gusts.

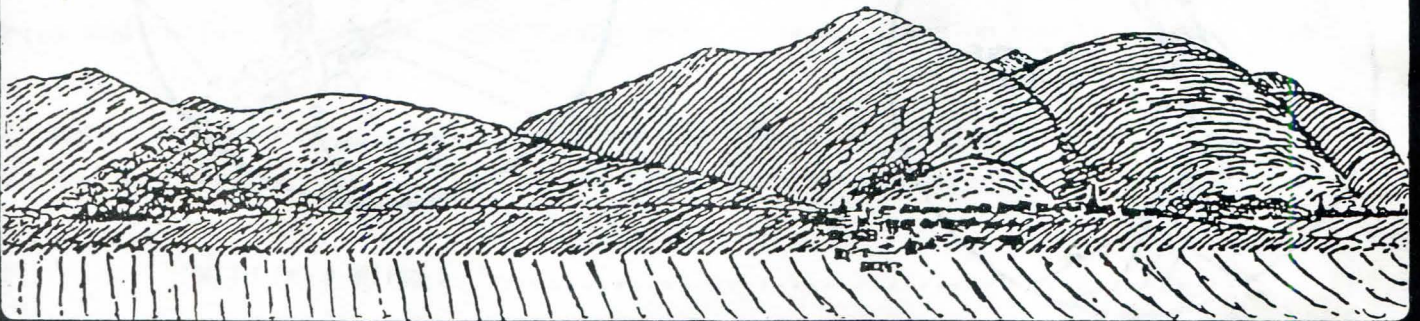
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# MALVERN KITING WEEKEND

An invitation from  
Peter Walter of Malvern Kites  
and the Midlands Kite Fliers  
to a casual weekend of kiting  
in the pleasant surroundings  
of the Malvern Hills.

For further details contact  
Peter on (06845) 65504.

SATURDAY 7<sup>th</sup> AND SUNDAY 8<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 1985.





# MKEXTRA

## MIDLANDS KITE FLIERS NEWS

76 OXHILL ROAD, HANDSWORTH, BIRMINGHAM, B21 9RH.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY IN 1985.

- SUNDAY 7th JULY 1985. FLY-IN AT WALSALL ARBORETUM, WALSALL.
- SUNDAY 4th AUGUST 1985. FLY-IN AT BURTON DASSETT COUNTRY PARK, WARWICKSHIRE.
- SATURDAY 3rd AND SUNDAY 4th AUGUST 1985.  
FLY-INS AT COFTON PARK, LONGBRIDGE, BIRMINGHAM.  
This promises to be Britains largest ever ballooning meeting with over eighty balloons flying. A large area has been set aside for kiting, plus models and a fun fair. Further details to follow.
- SUNDAY 18th AUGUST 1985. FLY-IN AT RUFFORD PARK, NEAR OLLERTON, NOTTS.  
(FURTHER DETAILS FROM DENNIS ENGLAND)
- SUNDAY 6th OCTOBER 1985. BRITISH KITE FLYING ASSOCIATION MEETING AT OLD WARDEN, NEAR BIGGLESWADE, BEDFORDSHIRE.
- SUNDAY 3rd NOVEMBER 1985 M.K.F. A.G.M. AT HOLYHEAD SCHOOL, HANDSWORTH, BIRMINGHAM.

### FUND RAISING IN 1985.

The Midlands Kite Fliers held their second raffle at the British Kite Flying Associations meeting at Old Warden on the 5th May 1985, the result of which was

FIRST PRIZE A Waldorf Superstar to Mr Mark Duffy.

SECOND PRIZE A Pearson Roller to Mr J.E. Kirk.

THIRD PRIZE A Neon Star to Mr M. Bowler.

The M.K.F. would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who took part in the raffle, especially Peter Waldron for the Superstar, Peter Walter of Malvern Kites for the Pearson Roller made by Dan Leigh and Derek and Chrissie Kuhn for the Neon star.

The M.K.F. also ran a raffle at the very successful Shrewsbury Kite Festival, The prize was a beautifully made 'Wyled Star' (Columbia Star) made by M.K.F. member Graham Wyle. The kite was won by Mike Harris of Bromsgrove. Thanks again to all those who took part in the raffle.

By now you may be thinking 'What do the M.K.F. want with all this money'.

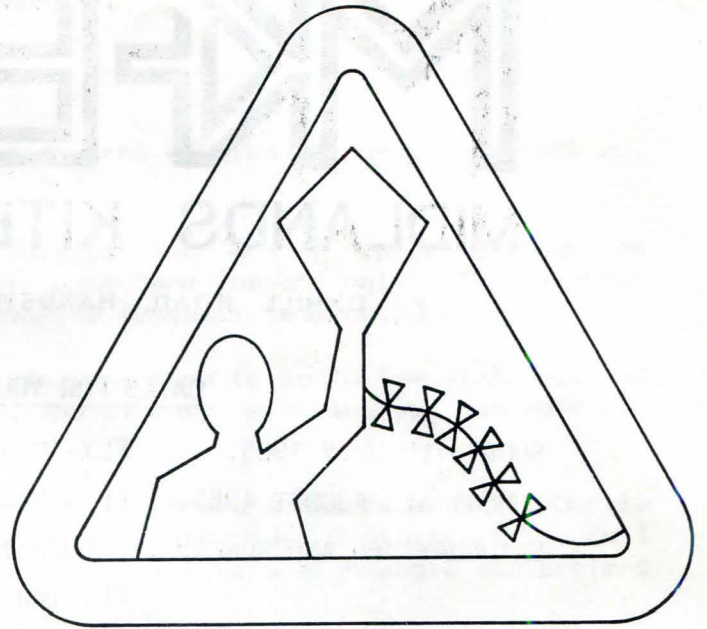
Well we are starting to plan for a new kiting project for the 1986 season.

Further details will be announced in due course, so watch this space!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

THANKS AGAIN.

## KITE SAFETY

Kite safety is of major importance to anyone who is involved in organising events, whether a small local fly-in or a large national meeting. Thanks to Stephen Smedley we were all reminded of the C.A.A. Regulations in the last issue of KON. However I believe that there is a large area of the population that still need to be reminded of the dangers inherent in kites and kite flying. Please do not misunderstand I do not want to frighten people away from our hobby, but letters inform the public of our presence. We have all at sometime flown in areas that are used by the public, who have been totally unaware of the dangers of lines etc. For this purpose the M.K.F. have had copies of this symbol printed on A3 card. It may do the trick. If any club or individual is interested in copies then please contact the M.K.F.



# BEWARE KITES FLYING!

ISSUED BY THE MIDLANDS KITE FLIERS, 76, OXHILL ROAD, HANDSWORTH, BIRMINGHAM. B21 9RH.

Bill Souten. Secretary.

### SEEN RECENTLY.....

We have extra copies of the recent articles that appeared in both the Sunday Times and the Telegraph. S.A.E'S to the M.K.F. if you would like a copy or copies. The hit of this years Old Warden meeting must have been the Twirling Drogues. Derek and Chrissie Kuhn have very kindly sent in their plans on how to produce them. Gain S.A.E's to the M.K.F.

A superb Edo Kite made from polythene and old aluminium arrows. Flew very well and almost won the beer lifting competition at the Shrewsbury Kite Festival.

### WITH DEEP REGRET.....

It is with deep regret that I must inform members of the kiting fraternity of the death of Gill Hale. Gill, as many of you may know suffered from cancer, which she courageously fought to the end. Our thoughts are with Mike and the girls.



# Aerodyne

## **BRIGHTON KITE FLYERS**

July 1985

The compilation of the new-look, word processed *Aerodyne* has, temporarily at least, passed into the hands of Stephen Smedley. Info, letters, suggestions, ideas, etc. can be sent to 86B Centurion Road, Brighton BN1 3LN. Remember, this is your newsletter - use it!

### EVENTS

|      |       |                                        |         |          |      |
|------|-------|----------------------------------------|---------|----------|------|
| Jul  | 7     | Red Hill                               |         | Fly-in   |      |
|      | 21    | Red Hill                               | 1000 ft | Fly-in   |      |
|      | 27/28 | Victoria Park, Netley, Southampton     |         | Festival | WKG  |
| Aug  | 4     | Goring Gap                             |         | Fly-in   |      |
|      | 11    | Grafham Water, nr. Godmanchester       |         | Fly-in   | GOKF |
|      | 18    | Beachy Head                            |         | Fly-in   |      |
|      | 25    | Hengistbury Head, Bournemouth          |         | Festival | WKG  |
|      | 31    | Telscombe Tye                          |         | Fly-in   |      |
| Sept | 1     | Tunbridge Wells (See Greg for details) |         | Fly-in   |      |
|      | 15    | Red Hill                               | 1000 ft | Fly-in   |      |
|      | 29    | T.B.A.                                 |         |          |      |
| Oct  | 13    | Red Hill                               | 1500 ft | Fly-in   |      |

Car passes are available from Greg for major events.

### BOGNOR REGIS 27th April

Members of BKF were invited to the Glade School summer fair at Bognor Regis to give a demonstration of kite flying. The kids queued up to have their teddies dropped from a Strat 4 handled by Greg and Dave Clements, while Peter King and Dave White kept the crowd entertained with some fine stunt flying on Flexis and Peter Powells. A lot of young people saw kite flying as they had probably never before imagined it. A good day's work.

### BRIGHTON KITE FESTIVAL 26/27th May

Despite the later date, the weather was mixed for BKF's major event of the year, but even some alarming thunderstorms didn't deter large numbers of the public from turning up to join in the fun with enthusiasts from the south of England. Thanks to D.I. Kites the air rapidly became full of Star Stunters and ripstop fighters, mixing with some varied deltas and the odd Waldof box. Some Flexis and



Peter Powells did a few turns while the Red Delta flew bravely at 1000 feet before being felled by a sudden 180° change of wind direction. An international flavour was provided by a Dutch couple with a train of 17 black spotted sleds - closer inspection revealed an almost complete set of dominoes!

#### PETWORTH KITE FESTIVAL 23rd June

Arranged by Joanna Mersey as the finale to the 8-day Petworth Festival of Music and Arts, her efforts were well rewarded by a massive turn out by public and club kites alike. The rain held off long enough to bring out a wide variety of kites in all shapes and sizes. Although the wind was too light for stunters, rollers and deltas could be seen flying alongside Codys and Conynes. A cup donated by estate agents King & Chasemore was awarded jointly to John Barker, Ron Macey and Keith Macey for operating John's teddy-dropping delta, a Dan Leigh copy made by Ron. All in all a very enjoyable day's flying, accompanied by the local brass band. Already looking forward to next year!

#### MORE TEDDIES

17th August should be a date in every bear's diary when the U.K. Teddy Bear Tour hits Preston Park, Brighton. Organised by the International Teddy Bear Club in aid of the Save the Children Fund, attractions at this Teddy Bear's Picnic include the World's Largest Teddy, a Sinclair C5 Teddy Grand Prix, famous Bears of famous people, and the inevitable parachuting Teddies. No doubt BMISS Dropniks will be well in attendance.

#### A SOLUTION LOOKING FOR A PROBLEM

Electronics and computing are becoming a major second interest with several members. How can we turn this to advantage? Ideas, please.

#### NEW FLYING LINE

Kevlar, the super strong and super thin synthetic line, has always had the disadvantages of high cost, deterioration in sunlight, and high abrasiveness. It cannot be knotted because under load it simply cuts through itself. Every section of line to be knotted had to be laboriously sheathed with a protective material. Now, Shanti Spools, 2021 Folsom Street, San Francisco, Cal. 94110, USA, have come up with "Skybond", a twisted Kevlar core surrounded by a braided Dacron sleeve. The outer polyester protects the Kevlar from sunlight, and from itself, and is reckoned to be the ultimate for stunt flying. Unfortunately you will still need to take out a second mortgage to get hold of some!

#### D.I.Y. KITES

Do you have a favourite kite plan or design that is simple to make and great to fly? It doesn't have to be revolutionary, just cheap to make from readily available materials; something suitable for a workshop, or for a school project. Send them in, and maybe we can run a series of them in future editions of *Aerodyne*.

Brighton Kite Flyers, Greg Locke, 49 Greenways Crescent, Shoreham, BN4 6HR



For those of you who were at the International Kite Festival at Scheveningen last year, those who would like to see what all the fuss is about and, finally, those who are ardent collectors of kite related videos the following may be of interest.

STTV, a German video company, have produced a video 'International Fokker Kite Festival 1984'. 43 minutes full of atmosphere, kilters, highlights, interviews and kites, kites, kites...

It was seen at the convention this year and everyone thought it was a good show.

The video is available in 3 systems VHS / BETAMAX / VIDEO 2000 (Colour system PAL). The cost is hfl 98,-- per cassette and is available from Vlieger Op, Weteringakade, 2512 AK Den Haag, Holland.

It may be possible to have the video made in other colour systems (SECAM / NTSC etc) if enough people are interested to make it viable. Contact Vlieger Op if you are interested.

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The following release was presented to us at Scheveningen.

"Olympic Games For Kites in Zandvoort (Holland).

Let us organise one every four years. The olympic games for kites to be held in the well known beachtown of Zandvoort.

1992 the Olympic games in Holland. 1992 The Olympic games for kites at the same time.

The Fly Away Consortium has in the last few years great experience with games for kites. All kinds of kites can fly in Zandvoort. For example on the long beach, in the wide dunes around Zandvoort and on the racing track.

Zandvoort is an excellent beachtown with 9 km of white sandy beaches, it has 50 hotels and boarding rooms, has easy access by rail and road, and is in the neighbourhood of both Haarlem and Amsterdam.

Olympic games for kites in Zandvoort. What do you think? Speak about it.

Let us know."

If you have any suggestions or queries the Fly Away Consortium, can be contacted at Brederodestraat 77, 2042 BC Zandvoort, Holland.

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We have received, via Ron Moulton, an invitation for a team of up to five representatives to go to the Republic of China Kitefliers Association Festival, 19th - 25th October 1985.

The arrangement is similar to that for the first mainland China trip in that accomodation, meals, transport and sightseeing are free and all one has to do is to get there! Reply is required before 30th July.

If you are interested then we suggest that you contact Ron Moulton as soon as possible. BKFA, Wolsey Road, Hemel Hempstead, Herts, HP2 4SS.

The following press release was received from Sharon Wong of the STPB.

'Singapore International Kite Festival 1986.

The festival in 1985 was attended by participants from 10 countries and from the favourable feedback received, I believe that the festival was a success.

We are now making preparations for our next kite festival which is scheduled for 25th - 26th January 1986. Once again, it would comprise of a kite competition for local residents and an entertainment programme whereby overseas experts from some 15 countries would be invited to demonstrate and display their large crowd pleasing kites to spectators. We would appreciate it if you could bring this event to the attention of kite fliers.

The general conditions for kiting in our flying site are as follows:-

Wind - Consistant average wind speed of 10-15 mph gusting to 25 mph.

Rain - The kite festival is held during the NE Monsoon period and it is possible that there will be heavy rain. However, at this year's kite festival, we were fortunate to have no rain and sunny weather.

Kites - As a crowd of 10,000 - 20,000 spectators is to be expected we look for large kites with "spectacle" or entertainment value. Some of these kites should also be able to fly during wet weather.

Anyone interested in attending this festival is most welcome and I would be pleased to arrange for our travel agents to package a tour including the festival if they wish.'

The address to write to is:-

Miss Sharon Wong, STPB, 131 Tudor Court, Tanglin Road, Singapore 1024, Republic of Singapore.

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There are a couple of new (or newish) groups that have recently come to our attention.

The first is the DCD (Drachen Club Deutschland, Forsmannstr. 6-8, 2000 Hamburg 60, West Germany. The president is Dr. Jurgen Thieme.

The other one is Vlieger 10 Beaufort, Postbus 1346, 8001 BH Zwolle, Holland. We spotted a copy of their magazine in Joe's Enterprises in Amsterdam and is quite good.

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John Clements, who works for Morgan Grenfell, had a short article about his kites and teddies in the Morgan Grenfell staff magazine "Overview".

There are three photos, one of John and kite and the other two of parachuting teddies.

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For your information the Great Duse Kite Fliers have a new Hon. Secretary. Ted Fleming, 10 Laxton Close, Eaton Ford, St Neots, PE19 3AR.

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On Thursday June 6th the Daily Telegraph published an article on kites. It was mainly based on two interviews, one with Gill Bloom and the other with Jilly Pelham. The article is one of the best I have seen, well written and to the point without treating



the subject either as a joke or for children only.

There is a picture of both Gill and Jilly with kites and a number of sketches of kites.

The only mistake we spotted in the article was one of the sketches had the words "Moon and Clouds classic diamond kite designed by Eddy Bow for Monday Lunch".  
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There have been several other articles in the press over the last few months.

May 26th Sunday Times Magazine. Tried and Tested looked at a number of kites, with comments by Bill Souten. The only problem we spotted was a Chinese Pheonix kite with it's wings upside down!!

The Daily Mail has had four bits about kites.

The first concerned a kite being flown in Hyde Park. The offending kite was spotted on the radar at Heathrow and the police alerted. After being warned that it is illegal to fly a kite in the park the kite flier ignored the warnings and continued.

The flier was fined £10 for his offence. It seems that the flier was particularly upset by the court insisting on calling his flying object a kite.

He explained that it was 'a device for generating aerodynamic lift force' and it had taken him 30 years to develop. On the day he was caught he was testing his contraption as a life saving aid.

Made of Mylar he went on to say "Aeronautical engineers say there is no explanation of why it flies but with the slightest breeze it will go straight up to 1000 ft. A three year old could fly it."

The next two articles related a few other odd facts about kites and the last was on Monday 20th May in the 'Have a Nice Monday' column by Nic Morrison.

In it he quotes Andy King as saying 'Kite flying is a complete antidote to a stressful and increasingly complicated life'. Nic then goes on to explain why he disagrees quoting the problems of taking children kiteflying with the inherent dangers of not coming up to scratch compared to his friends dad. Andy is then quoted again "as many adults as children now fly kites". The retort is 'Of course they do, presence is mandatory'. The article is amusing and gives a different view of kiteflying.

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There were several kitefliers from Weifang in Holland and, a week later, in England. When we saw them they gave us a number of colour brochures of the kites made in Weifang. The brochure is an excellent addition to a collection and we will have some at the festivals. So see us there.

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A new science fiction book entitled "Kite World" by Keith Roberts, published by Gollancz Ltd 1985. Hardback £8.95.

This book is set in an imaginary world after, what appears to be some form of nuclear disaster. (The world is obviously closely based on Earth). The world has "badlands" and fertile lands and when the wind is blowing from the wrong direction "devils" etc come over from the "badlands".

Fortunately for the inhabitants of the fertile lands the wind is normally in the "safe" direction - and a steady force 3-4!

Kites are introduced as religious objects. Cody kite teams are flown with observers to keep the "devils" from the lands. The teams are flown both from land and sea. The kite teams have a complex structure of people operating the team from the lowest "Kitecadet" to the highest "Kitemaster". The levels between include such things as "Rigging Master" and "Observer". (Most observers are considered to be a little mad). There are complicated rites associated with flying the teams!

The book is a compilation of short stories which individually are fine. Unfortunately they do not lead to a coherent story line and the book tends to rely on the boy meets girl, falls in love etc theme.

However, the book is enjoyable to read (if not a classic) because of the brilliant descriptions of Cody teams which are sprinkled throughout the book.

Unless you are a S.F. fan £8.95 is rather a lot of money just for descriptions of Codys - but try your local library.

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Joanna Mersey and the Petworth Park Festival would like to thank all the demonstrators who came to Petworth Park on the 23rd June and gave such a magnificent display.

Joanna goes on to say:-

"The standard and variety of kites was the best ever. There were approximately 2500 people in the park during the day and £600 was collected for Riding For The Disabled.

The festival cup went to John Barker and his Brighton kiteflyer team and the Petworth Star, given by Greg Locke was won by David White with his three yellow Peter Powell stunt kites."

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Whilst we were in Angers we met Daniel Picon. He has written a new kite book entitled "Cerfs-Volants". A small soft cover book 78 pages with a number of colour pictures (35). There are sections on flat kites, soft kites, semi rigid kites, cellular kites and kites with dihedrals. The diagrams are reasonably clear and the book itself would be a good addition to a kite library.

The price is FF 47,00 and is available from Editions Fleurus, 31 Rue De Fleurus, 75296 Paris, Cedex 06, France.

If you are buying it add a bit for postage costs.

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We have just visited Malvern Kites new shop and must say that not climbing that hill is a marked improvement. The new shop is set above a furniture makers and used to be the store room. It is large and well lit with plenty of room to hang kites on display. Obviously it will take a little while to tidy it up (it was under a few inches of dust when they moved in) but it is well worth a visit especially to see the range of kites that is stocked.

The address is Malvern Kites, The Warehouse, St. Ann's Road, Great Malvern, Worcestershire, WR14 4PZ.



From Dennis England.

Memo to all members. 18th August 1985. Public demonstration and rally Rufford Abbey Country Park. Location - on east side of A614, 22 miles north of Nottingham, 3 miles south of Ollerton and 7 miles east of Mousfield. If you intend to escape there armed only with an Ordnance Survey map the grid ref is SK 647650. Entrance off main road.

No entry fee, car parking for kite club members only at flying point. Toilets and cafe 175 yards. Two a-la-carte restaurants within 1/4 mile. C.A.A. clearance has just been received for kites max 1800ft above ground level within a 2km radius of above position, between the hours of 10am and 8pm British summer time on that day only. Providing that visibility is at least 5km and kites remain at least 1000ft vertically and 2km horizontally away from cloud.

Sales stand by Kite and Balloon Co. Birmingham expected. Flying site is vertically a woodland clearing approx 325 yards by 90 yards. Sculpture gardens, wildfowl lake, woodland walks are a bonus. I hope a lot of you will turn up and have a nice day.

Speaking of nice days all of you who were not at Ferry Meadows on June 2nd really missed a treat. It was just the closest to my image of the ultimate medium sized kite rally one is ever likely to get. Dawn to dusk brilliant hot sunshine with consistent wind strength suitable for flying the widest possible range of kites. Superb spacious idyllic parkland surroundings and even a spectacular maiden flight of a 6 metre span full size replica of a historic Georges box kite which may possibly be on ground display at Rufford.

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From Jim Rowlands, 50, Old Brumby Street, Scunthorpe, DN16 2AN.

In an attempt to generate interest in kites a group of enthusiasts from North Lincolnshire are presenting the Cleethorpes Fly a Kite Day on Sunday August 4th 10.00am-6.00pm. Support of Kite Society members would be most welcome to fly and display their kites. The Cleethorpes council have set aside about 1 sq kilometre of foreshore for the event with free parking for participants cars.

Several of the country's well known kite flyers have agreed to attend. Peter Walter of Malvern Kites has given his generous support to the event through sponsorship and will be offering a wide range of kites and accessories for sale. Given a rain free day, therefore, it should be most successful.

Cleethorpes, for those that don't know the area, is a resort on the north east Lincolnshire coast. Road links are good A1/M1 to M62, M18 and M180 to about 6 miles outside the town. Rail links are fair, most routes changing at Doncaster.

The foreshore is vast! Inshore the sand is firm and depending on the height of the previous tide, dry. More than about 50 yards out it does however get softer and muddier, so wellies and strong shoes are advised rather than sandals. There are no natural anchor points and those flying large parafoils, deltas or scoops should equip themselves with a deep anchor.

Camping is available on sites near to the flying area, for those stopping over. Alternatively accommodation can be booked in advance by contacting Jim Rowlands at the tourist information centre, Scunthorpe central library, Carlton Street, Scunthorpe. Tel 0724 860161. Cleethorpes does however get very full at this time of year and those booking should be prepared to accept accommodation up to say 10-15 miles away.

For further information concerning the event you should contact Jim Rowlands.



Malvern Kiting Weekend.

Last year we held the first Malvern Kite Weekend, and although plagued by rather indifferent weather, it seems to have been well received.

So we hope to hold the event again this year. Provisional dates have been set for September 7th and 8th - a new site is under consideration, and we hope to hold another evening meeting on the Saturday at our local hostelry, the Red Lion.

If you would like to come along, please let us know, we will send details of hotels, camp sites and a programme of events, in good time this year. (S.A.E. please).

Peter Walter.

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The Kite Society has been invited to give a display at a N.S.P.C.C. Air display weekend. Situated at Nuneham Park near Oxford.

Basically we can fly all day Saturday - plus in the evening after a music concert the public will be invited to watch illuminated kites to music.

Sunday - we open the event and fly for a few hours before the balloons and other events. We also fly later in the day before 20 - 30 balloons take part in a "Key Grab" event. This is where balloons race to grab a key on top of a 30' pole. The key is to a £10,000 car.

Camping is to be provided - with breakfast on the Sunday (either free or for a small charge). Malvern Kites will also be on site the whole weekend.

If you are interested please contact the editorial office as soon as possible so that we can arrange car passes etc. We look forward to seeing you there.

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We have also been asked to fly kites at Hastings on Saturday 3rd August. Starting at 11am the flying will be at East and West Hill just outside Hastings. We will also be setting up an exhibition for the day and there will be a small social get together in the evening. The base for events is Photogallery, The Foresters Arms, Shepherd Street, St. Leonards on Sea, East Sussex, TN38 0ET.

Contact us at the editorial office for further details.

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The administrator of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Michael Dale and Frank McShane of the Scottish Kite Group welcome Kite Flyers to take to the sky for the Festival fly-in at Holyrood Park August 16th - 18th.

On the final day of the Kite Festival fly your kite to a large crowd of spectators at the great Fringe Sunday "Lark in the Park". Fringe Sunday on August 18th is known for its spectacular events and includes open air theatre, jazz bands, inflatable structures odd happenings and takes place in the Queens Park by Holyrood Palace.

For details of accommodation etc contact Frank McShane, South Lodge, Garvald, East Lothian. Tel 062083 266.



# EVENTS LIST

|                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 27th July      | Netley Festival, Southampton. Festival. W.K.G. **                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 28th July      | Netley Festival. Festival. W.K.G. **                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 3rd August     | Hastings Fly. Display. K.S. See pages 21/22<br>Dartington Art College, Devon. Workshop.<br>Cofton Park, Longbridge, Birmingham. Fly-in. M.K.F.                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 4th August     | Cleethorpes Kite Day. Festival. See pages 21/22. **<br>Dartington Art College, Devon. Kiteflying Day.<br>Cofton Park, Longbridge, Birmingham. Fly-in. M.K.F.<br>Burton Dasset Country Park, Warwickshire. Fly-in. M.K.F.<br>Goring Gap, Sussex. Fly-in. B.K.F.<br>Wickford Memorial Park, Essex. Fly-in. E.K.G. |
| 11th August    | Grafham Water Southside. Fly-in. Starts 2pm. G.O.K.F.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 18th August    | The Stray, Harrogate. Fly-in. N.K.G.<br>Rufford Country Park, Notts. Fly-in. M.K.F. See pages 21/22.<br>Hylands Park, Chelmsford, Essex. Fly-in. E.K.G.                                                                                                                                                         |
| 25th August    | Bournemouth Festival. Hengistbury Head. Festival. W.K.G. **                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 31st August    | Telscombe Tye, Brighton. Fly-in. B.K.F.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 1st September  | Wickford Church Lane Park, Essex. Fly-in. E.K.G.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 7th September  | Malvern Kite Weekend. Festival. See pages 21/22. **<br>Aldham Fete, Marks Tey, Colchester, Essex. Festival. E.K.G. **                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 8th September  | Malvern Kite Weekend. Festival. See pages 21/22. **<br>Grafham Water Southside. Fly-in. Starts 2pm. G.O.K.F.                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 14th September | NSPCC Air Day, Nuneham Park, Nr. Oxford. Demo. K.S. See pages 21/22.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 15th September | NSPCC Air Day, Nuneham Park, Nr. Oxford. Demo. K.S. See pages 21/22<br>Littleton Road Playing Fields, Salford. Festival. N.K.G.<br>Red Hill. Fly-in. B.K.F.                                                                                                                                                     |
| 21st September | 2nd International Kite Festival of Berlin. Festival.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 22nd September | 2nd International Kite Festival of Berlin. Festival.<br>Thorndon Park, Essex. Fly-in. E.K.G.                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 6th October    | Old Warden Air Field. Festival. B.K.F.A. **                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 13th October   | Riverside Park, St Neots. Fly-in. 1pm - 3pm AGM. G.O.K.F.<br>Red Hill. Fly-in. B.K.F.                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 20th October   | Otterspool Promenade, Liverpool. Fly-in. N.K.G.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

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|----------|----------------------------------|
| K.S.     | THE KITE SOCIETY.                |
| B.K.F.A. | BRITISH KITE FLIERS ASSOCIATION. |
| G.O.K.F. | GREAT OUSE KITE FLIERS.          |
| N.K.G.   | NORTHERN KITE GROUP.             |
| M.K.F.   | MIDLAND KITE FLIERS.             |
| E.K.G.   | ESSEX KITE GROUP                 |
| B.K.F.   | BRIGHTON KITE FLYERS             |
| W.K.G.   | WESSEX KITE GROUP.               |
| **       | FESTIVAL.                        |

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Advertisement

Great Kiting Bores of our Time  
No.13 The Man Who Makes Sleds.

"I have always found that my two stick, tapered, rectangularly vented sleds ( you know, like the one on page 215 of the Penguin Book of Kites by David Pelham) with the Hornbeam leading edge modification to prevent leading edge collapse and a long 6ft braided line bridle with double swivels to prevent it tangling actually flies better than my friend's one made with three sticks, round vents and a single swivel probably because of my extensive tests and careful choice of materials, and did you know that I made nearly fifty different sleds while on my holidays last month making a total of nearly three hundred in the last year or so and I have found that plastic carrier bags from Supermarkets and shops are an ideal source of material for making sleds out of and they're usually free although you do have to buy the green garden canes which are very cheap although in fact I find the most expensive part of making a sled is the sticky tape although I can normally nick it from work but this can be a bit risky so I usually peel it off very carefully and transfer it from kite to kite indeed in this way I know that it is my design changes that are being evaluated and not the vagaries of the sticky tape being used to hold my sleds together given that all other things are equal and the flexibility of the garden canes I am using is within the normal tolerance level for a 3ft sled say about 1" flex with a 3oz weight applied near the end but normally this is not too limiting a factor in my designs unlike the problems associated with the stretchiness of carrier bags especially those you get from Tesco and off the Duty Free on Sealink Boats but probably the worst are the ones that the **Kite Store** gives you with a sled design already printed onto them which never work for me but then I'm probably so far ahead of them in design and fabrication that in fact I probably know more about sleds than anyone else and you may have seen some of my sleds flying at the Blackheath Kite Festival in a measured 35mph of wind on some 20lb line I picked up cheap at the local surplus store which I can recommend as being really good stuff to fly your sleds on as long as they are less than 1023 sq. inches in area although I have flown some of my large light wind sleds (you know, about 8sq feet of sail area) on it in winds up to 9.3mph without them breaking the line but you must be careful about the wind speed and should measure it using a wind speed meter like this one I got from the Yacht shop around the corner the other day so that I could evaluate my designs properly and come to proper scientific conclusions about their performance allowing me to design a sled suitable for flying in any conditions although I doubt anyone else will be able to duplicate my techniques for making sleds because it takes a lot of time and practice to make a really good one that you can just take out and toss up into the air and expect to fly well under all conditions like when I went down to Dorset on the coast one week and it did nothing but blow a gale all the time so I had to use my SW51/3/DV (Strong Wind, design no 51,3 stick, doubly vented sled - I invented this nomenclature myself and think all kite fliers should use it) which is absolutely fantastic in these conditions but then again my VSW34/2/SV sled would probably have flown as well under these conditions although I have heard reports from other members of my group whom we like to call the Sled Lovers Appreciation Group and you may have seen my cloth badge which bears the initials of our organisation on my cap next to all my other ones....."

**Now you know why we do not sell sleds.**

**We give them away.**

**69 Neal Street, Covent Garden, London WC2H 9PJ.  
Tel; 01-836 1666**