

THE DECORATORS



Agenda 1991

Malaysia 24-31/01/91

Stevenage 24/03/91

Easter Blackheath 31/03-01/04/91

Vienna 6-7/04/91

Berck Plage 13-14/04/91

Thorpe Park 21/04/91

Le Touquet 27-28/04/91

Weymouth 4-6/05/91

Birmingham 1-2/06/91

UK Nationals and Summer Blackheath 28-30/06/91

Washington 6-7/07/91

European Cup Montpellier 31/08-1/09/91

Bristol 7-8/09/91

World Cup Bristol 14-15/09/91

Newbury 21-22/09/91

Dampe 27-29/09/91

Goslar 11-13/10/91

Kolding 18-20/10/91

Introduction

For centuries people all over the world have been flying kites. A visit to any one of the many kiting festivals held world-wide presents a historical pageant spanning over 2000 years. Kites which maintain their ancient cultural identity unchanged fly alongside constructions which owe their design to developments in space age aerodynamics and materials like carbon fibre and kevlar.

In their long history kites have often had scientific, military and commercial applications, but it is with sport and pleasure that most people associate them. Many people have flown a kite at some time in their lives, usually on seaside holidays as a child. For some however this occasional pastime has developed into a fascinating and engrossing activity.

The element of competition is always present whether in attempts to produce new designs, better constructions, more beautiful sails or developing greater levels of flying skill. Indeed some of the earliest kites were designed for the most direct form of competition of all, kite fighting. The combatants in this extraordinary display attempt to cut each other's flying lines and remain the last kite in the sky.

Stunt kites have developed considerably in the last ten years. The modern two line controllable kite weighs just a few ounces and will fly in the lightest breeze, performing loops, precision turns, power dives and wing-tip landings. The principle of using controlling lines has recently expanded to include kites with four flying lines, allowing the kite to fly backwards and sideways as well as cartwheeling and hovering. Competitions have been established to test the precision and artistic capabilities of flyers, both individually and in teams. Pre-determined figures are chosen for the competitors to fly as accurately as they can. Flyers link these patterns together to form routines which can be performed to music. The individual or teams ability to use their kites to choreograph and interpret the music is judged in the Ballet competition.

It has already been recognized that kite flying is beneficial to participants in a variety of ways. The most obvious is the simple idea of enjoying time spent outside in the sun and wind. There is also the benefit gained by involvement in a concentrated activity which in common with other sports requires some high level of physical control and dexterity. Kite flyers will invariably say quite simply that there is nothing like it!

Romney Johnstone

Jacob Twyford

Felix Mottram

c/o 16 Horton Road

Hackney

London E8 1DP

The Decorators formed early in 1988 to compete in the UK Team Rokkaku championship organised by The Kite Society of Great Britain. Third place was gained in an extremely close finish at the Bristol Kite Festival.

In 1989 the team began to fly two-line kites. The Decorators flew at a large number of British festivals including Blackheath, Brighton, Birmingham, Washington, Glasgow and Bristol. Winning The Kite Society of Great Britain National Team Ballet competition at Birmingham was a major achievement. At Washington, Tyne and Wear, the visit by several long established American teams proved to be a valuable experience for The Decorators in an international setting. Towards the end of the year the team was invited to attend Aeroflot 1989, the Berlin kite festival.

During 1990 the team attended many festivals and events, travelling to France for the French Open in Le Touquet and festivals in Berck Plage and Dieppe, to Oostduinkerke in Belgium and to Berlin and Dampe in Germany. British festivals included Doncaster, Manchester, Gateshead, Washington and Glasgow in the north, Poole and Bristol in the south-west and The European Cup on Blackheath, London where the team won The Kite Society National Championship and the STACK European Cup. The Decorators qualified for the 1990 World Cup but were unable to accept the invitation to Oregon.

1991 has been an exciting year. The Decorators visited Malaysia in January sponsored by Malaysian Airlines, attending a festival in the north and spending time coaching the new Malaysian Airlines team MASK. In April the team went to Vienna and once again took part at Berck Plage and Le Touquet in France. The British Nationals on Blackheath brought success for the second year running and The Decorators remain Overall British Team Champions. The loss of team member Tim Paget gave some problems in the second half of the year and the team slipped to 3rd place at the European Cup in Montpellier. The Decorators represented Britain at the World Cup in Bristol, finishing 8th overall and will round off the season with a visits to Dampe, Hannover and Denmark.

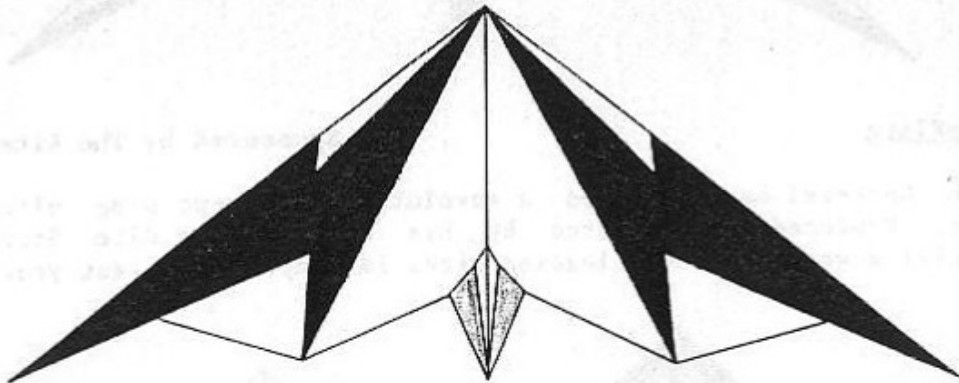
1992 promises to be a successful year for The Decorators. Johnny Claffey will be joining the two line team and the three man Revolution squad is being recognized as one of the top three teams in the world. The Decorators now receive equipment sponsorship from several major manufacturers and has a variety of kites with graphic design by the leading Danish kite maker Jorgen Moller Hansen. Although the sail designs are unique to The Decorators all the kites are available off the shelf from kite retailers. The team will continue to develop a wide range of displays using single line kites as well as two and four line sport kites.

The Decorators Kites 1991

The Flash Angel

Sponsored by Rare Air Kites

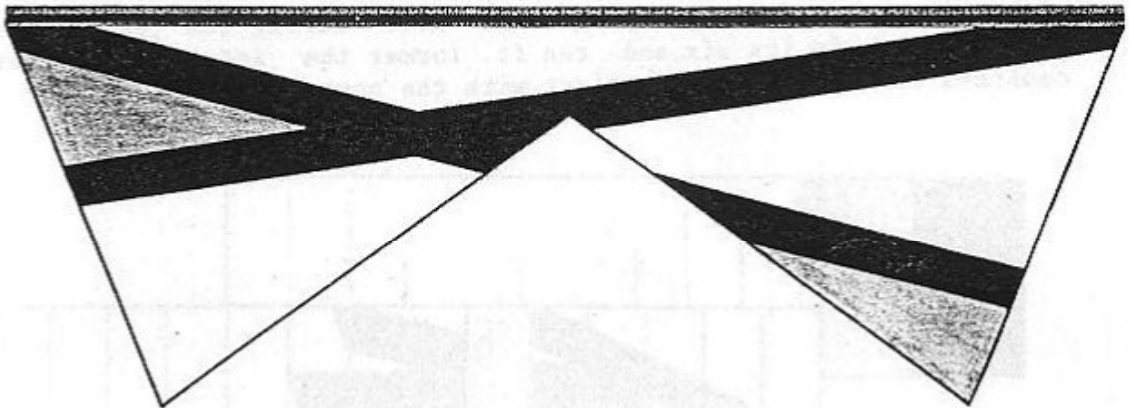
Flown for the first time at the British Nationals in 1991 this kite designed by Zbys Kaczmarek proved exceptional in rough winds and certainly helped The Decorators to gain first place for the second year running.



Revolution

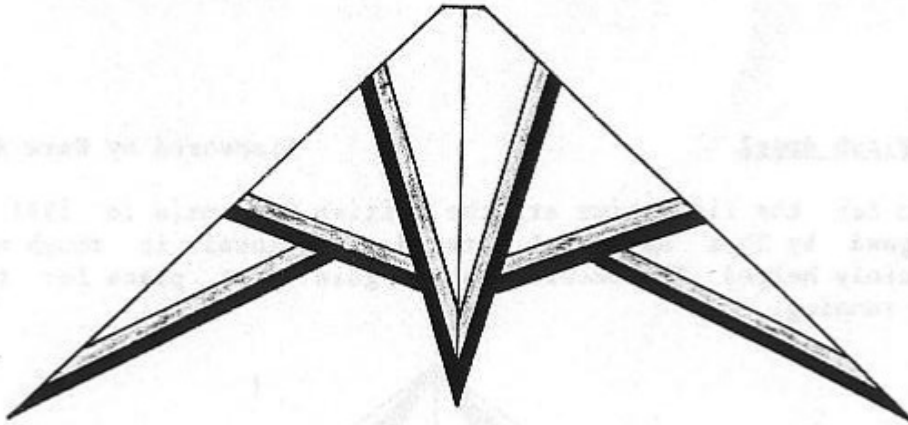
Sponsored by Revolution Kites

This innovative design took two years to develop by the Hadzeki brothers from San Diego. The four control lines allow the kite to be manoeuvred in a radical way, with movement in any direction and the ability to hover and spin on its own axis. This kite has massive potential in the innovative competition, both individually and for the team.



Phantom

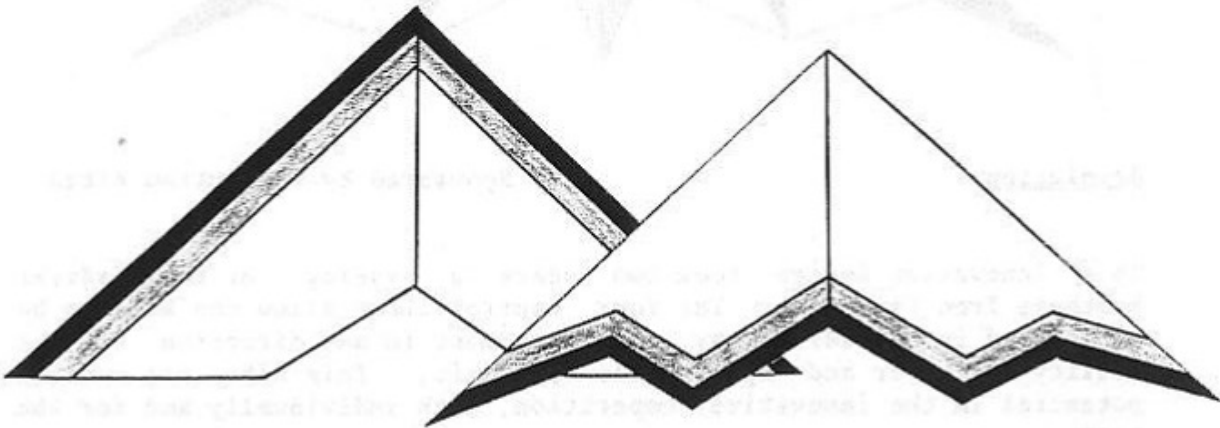
During 1989 the team asked Tim Benson to produce a set of custom Phantom kites which were first flown at Aeroflot 1989 in Berlin. This cut-away swept wing kite combines superb straight line handling with acute sensitivity in ultra-low wind conditions.



LiteFlite

Sponsored by The Kite Store

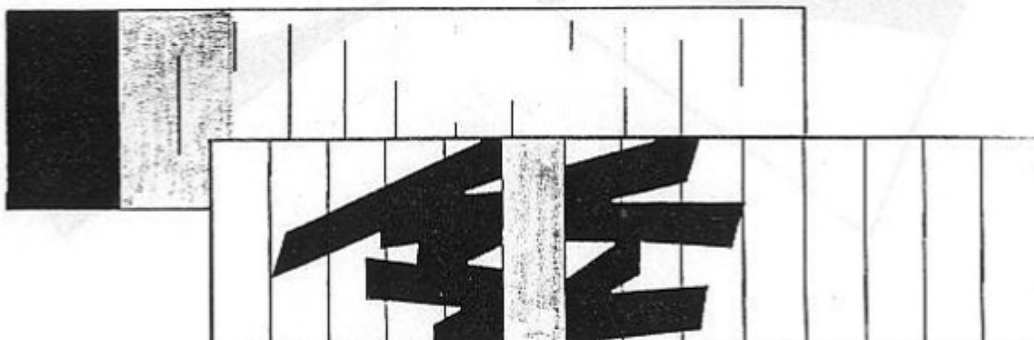
Mark Cotterel has designed a revolutionary swept wing ultra-light kite. Produced and marketed by his company The Kite Store, the LiteFlite was one of the leading kites in competition last year.



Flexifoil

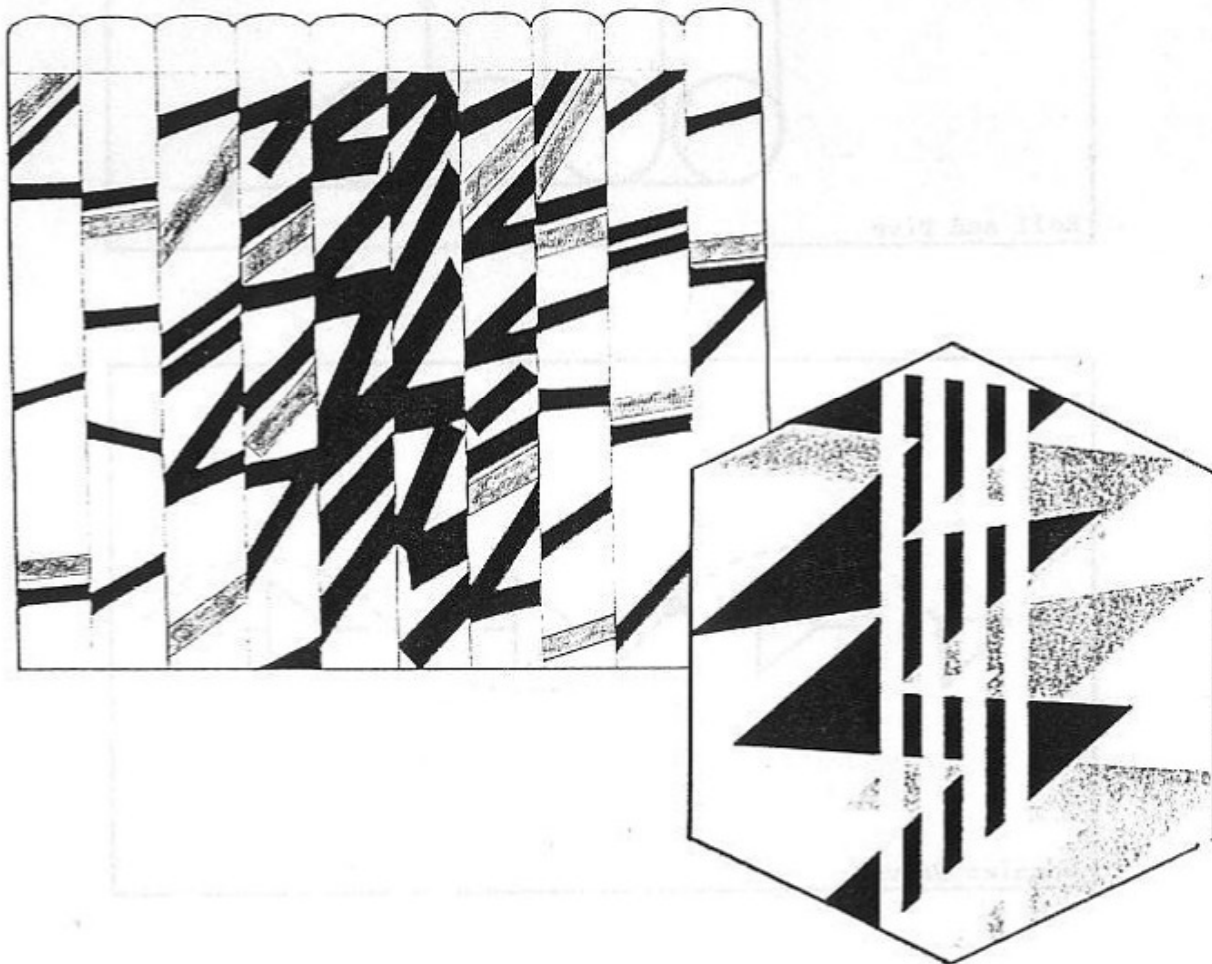
Sponsored by Flexifoil

The Decorators started flying this kite during the 1990 season. Widely known in its six and ten ft. format the intermediate version combines the agility of the first with the power of the second.



Jorgen Moller Hansen Parafoil and Rokkaku

At Aeroflot 1989 Jorgens interest in the teams presentation and the striking design in his previous kites convinced The Decorators to commission this leading Danish kitemaker to build a large showpiece single line kite. His stunning suggestion was for a twelve and a half square metre ram-air inflation parafoil with a typically distinctive graphic relating to The Decorators white with black/colour format. This years commission was for a three metre Rokkaku, once again using the black/white/one-colour design.



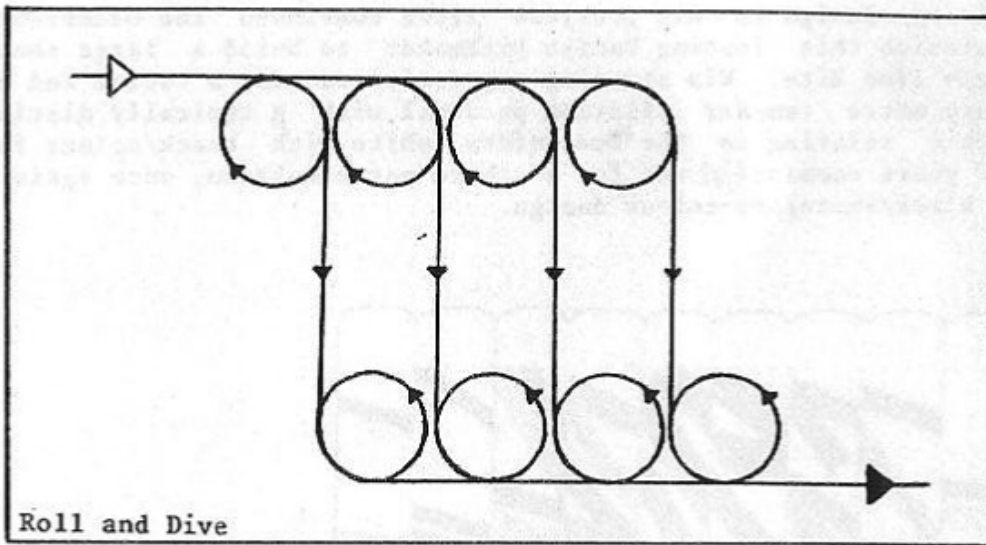
Equipment sponsorship by;

Rare-Air
Revolution Kites (USA)
The Kite Store
Flexifoil
Leading Edge
Top Shelf (USA)

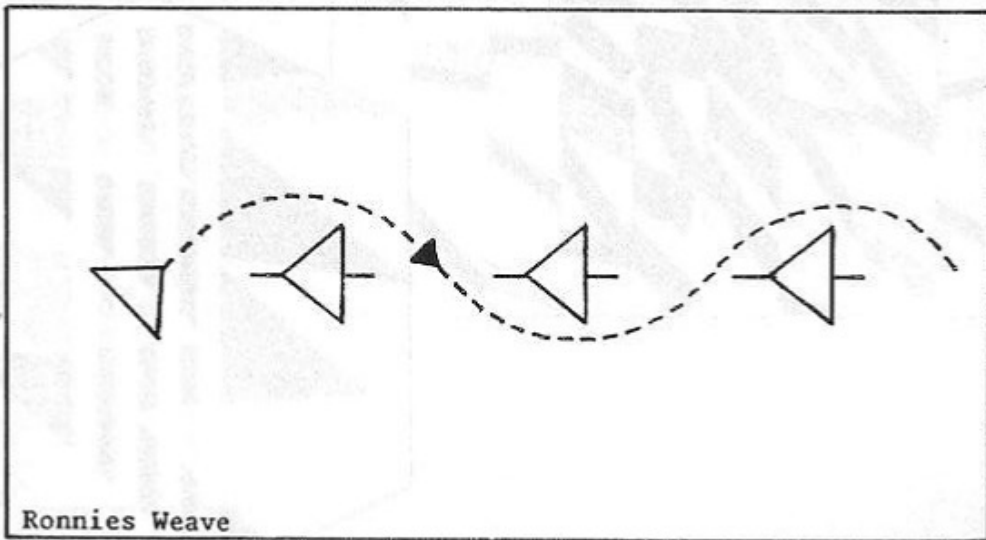
Special thanks to;

Jorgen Moller Hansen (Denmark)
The Kite Society of Great Britain
Fly-High (Austria)
Top of the Line (USA)
The 1990/1 Festival Organisers
Malaysian Airlines
STACK

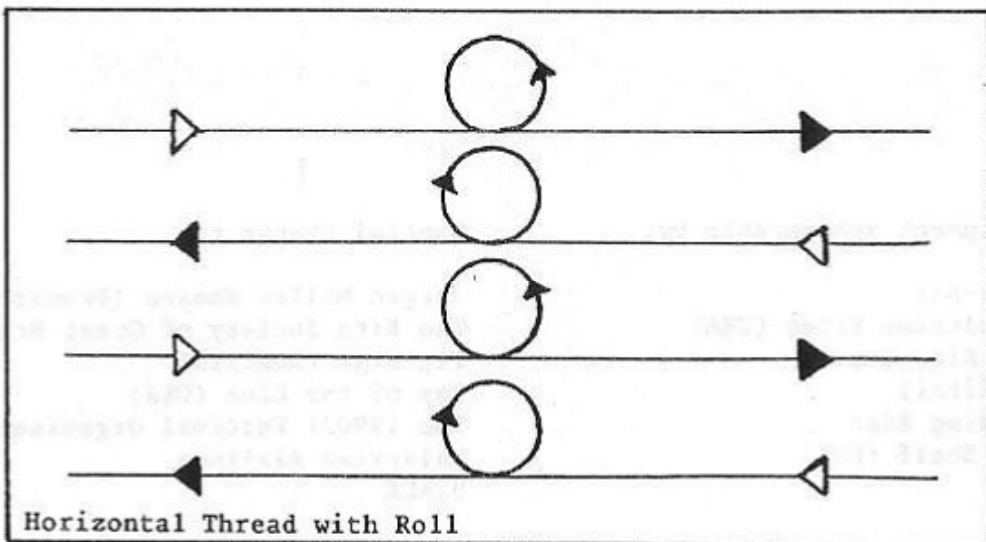
Team Manoeuvres



Roll and Dive



Ronnie's Weave



Horizontal Thread with Roll