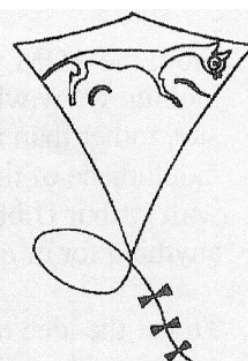


# cowpat hill



WHITE HORSE KITE FLYERS  
SPRING ISSUE 2004  
APRIL - JULY

**From the President**

**Margaret Hazel Peters**  
**"Madge"**

The White Horse Kite Flyers have lost one of its longest and oldest serving members. Madge joined the Club from day one and has always been there in the thick of it ever since. Madge was the Club's unofficial "MUM" and ambassador for the Club. She was there in the marquee at the back keeping an eye on everything, talking to people that came up and wanting to know something about the Club when other members were busy. Putting tape on boards or winding handles, she could not just sit there. Just as the team would be beginning to flag in a workshop, Madge would appear with an ice cream for everybody or some cakes or sweets from the Craft Tent. Mind Madge did have a sweet tooth and in later years Janet had to keep an eye on Madge because of her diabetics, well everybody has a weak spot somewhere. Although Madge never held a position in WHKF she helped more than most during her time, always behind the scene, but always there. When the Club started to run the Swindon Festival, Madge was there with others with a loan to help run the first one. When Dave was supplying Ripstop to Club members, it was Madge who helped out to buy bigger quantities of greater number of colours. There were many other things that Madge did for the Club that most members never heard about. Most of us will remember her wicked sense of humour and even the butt of it. That was Madge. I personally still have little things around home with chickens on them that Madge would have bought on her trips around the Craft Tent.

We will all miss Madge around the kite scene. Our thoughts and feelings go out to Janet and David and to the rest of the family at this time. But at least they know that Madge enjoyed life as fully as she could right to the end. God bless you Madge.

**Neil**

White horse kite flyers  
PO Box 585  
SWINDON  
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## Web Wonderings comes of age!

From the AGM we promised to update the web site for the New Year, well here it is! Do look up [www.white-horse-kite-flyers.org.uk](http://www.white-horse-kite-flyers.org.uk) and see the new site. This is now an official club site, rather than my "homely" page previously. This means that the content is to be the mouthpiece of the club. To that end there is now a team of us to run and maintain the site, with Arthur Dibble, Pete Willis, Chester Middleton and myself. Do contact any of us with anything for or about the site, just e-mail [info@whkf.org.uk](mailto:info@whkf.org.uk) to contact us.

To get the idea of who does what now, Arthur will obviously be commenting on the monthly notes, and he will be maintaining the photographic album of all club events. Peter Willis has the chore of the Diary, thus a handy swap to the Magazine each quarter. Mentioning that he will obviously run that page as well. Our friend Chester Middleton may be a new name to you, but it is thanks to him we now have this wonderful site and his input and assistance has been greatly appreciated, he is our support on all things technical where the rest of us get confused! And as for myself, I get to run the classified ads, the Links page, and anything else! Obviously we all run over each others work where needed to maintain the site virtually daily!

So what's changed? Quite a lot! We have had the main part of the site up and running for a while as some of you will have noticed, with a new layout, smarter graphics and reviewed, up to date information. We have expanded some areas and improved access across the site. You'll be exploring the site for hours in the future!

What's new? Well, we now have an active forum on the site! This means we can chat between ourselves about anything we see or hear on kites. It's an open forum for all to join, we will have some stipulations as you will see below, but these are for the obvious protection of the club without distracting from our enjoyment of our hobby.

We also have a sister site! Our thanks again to Chester for this, but he has produced a great site for our festival, [www.swindonkitefestival.co.uk](http://www.swindonkitefestival.co.uk) to display and advance our efforts, and with support from Pete and Arthur this has developed into a cracking display for us, with all the information on what's on, how to get there, accommodation, etc. for any visitor who would like to know about the event.

There's more? Well, we shall be open to idea's in the future on what the club would like to see, we have some further idea's to implement (Guest book, possible map of members!) but we needed to maintain our promise of this launch now, and we shall expand the site in the future now we have a dedicated site to work from (see, the adverts have gone!).

One aspect you might like to note is that the Buy/Sell/Wanted lists on the

site will be displayed in the Club tent at the Festival this year, so anything you have kite wise that you would like to consider will get more exposure than ever! Just notify the team and we shall be delighted to add them to the lists. Or if you come up with anything on the day, we will accept a postcard sized advert on the notice. This will be just for club members though.

## Forum Rules

Welcome to the new WHKF Forum, on this site we hope that one and all can discuss and comment on the world of kite flying, not only from the WHKF point of view, but all areas.

May we remind you of your agreement you are signing up to on joining the forum. We wish that all members will join with their own names, (i.e. John Smith and not an obscure nickname. it is much nicer to know who you're talking to, and no obscenities will be tolerated. people joining will have to go through a registration period where we will advise members to correct names. we hope registration will be within 24 hours, but please be patient for us to respond.

The moderators and administrators reserve the right to deny access to any one that they feel is not complying with the spirit of this site. They will also edit or erase any items contravening normal standards of good taste including those items listed below.

- 1) The site shall be used for the discussion of kited related topics only.
- 2) No obscene language will be used.
- 3) There will be no defamatory or derogatory comments about third parties individual or business.
- 4) No Racist, sexist, religious or any other ethnic remarks will be tolerated.

Any information posted to the site are the views of the individual posting them and not necessarily those of The White Horse Kite Flyers club, its committee or the forum managers.

Finally, with regard the Data Protection Act, we shall only keep necessary, limited information on any individual to join our forum, and this information shall not be used for any other means; the only exception to this would be on legal grounds to the necessary authorities on demand.

Peter Dawson, WHKF Web Site Co-coordinator.

## The Eyeclops Workshop

We arrived at the Village Hall at 8.30am and began setting up the tables, ready for the days Eyeclops Kite Workshop. Others began to arrive and leant a hand. By 9.15am, we had our full quota of 15 students (14 men, 1 woman!) armed with sewing machine and enthusiasm!

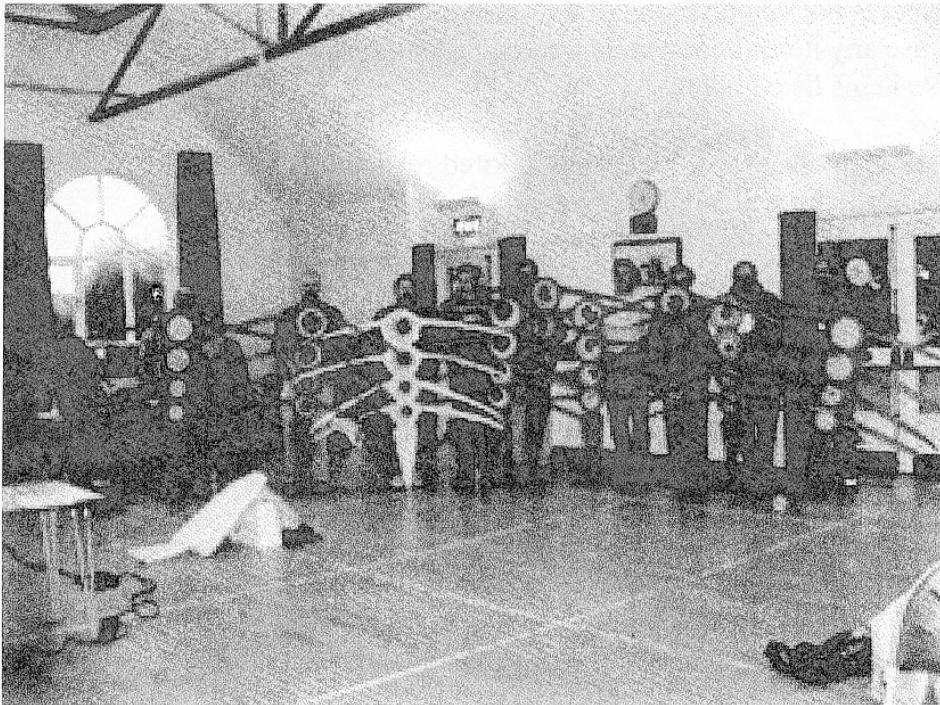
Roy explained the order of the days proceedings, with the help of a pre-made Eyeclops for all to refer to. This turned out to be a good idea, as although a set of instructions were included, well, men don't read them, do they! Most had reached the stage of having done most of the sewing by lunchtime, so all adjourned to the Jolly Farmer at 12noon.

They had all chosen their food earlier, and Rick and Gill had it all ready for us when we arrived (and virtually filled the pub). After eating, people were keen to get back to work, so we were back on the case by 12.45pm.

Most people did their own design for the centre parts of the kite, so soon there were some interesting designs beginning to appear. Some of the students hadn't even used a sewing machine before, but they stuck at it and ended up with a finished kite ready to fly.

We had a group photo at the end, an impressive collection. We got the impression that they had learnt something and enjoyed it at the same time. We certainly enjoyed it from a teaching aspect, and look forward to doing it all again.

Roy and Hayley



## ROBINSON'S RAMBLE

If you haven't heard the sad news, Madge Peters, passed away, suddenly from a heart attack, on the 10<sup>th</sup> of March. Madge was Janet's Mum and my Mother-In-Law, not only that, she was a friend to both of us, she had lived with us for 17 years. I expect most of you have heard several Mother-In-Law jokes\_\_ \_\_ *none* of these applied to Madge! She was a gem, who loved to laugh, in fact she was an inveterate giggler, who loved to laugh at adversity, many a time; if I stubbed my toe or bumped my head, I only had to look at Madge and she would be trying her best to stifle a giggle, this in turn put a smile on my face, and we would both end up laughing our heads off! Madge wasn't a kite flyer, but she shared the hobby with Janet & myself; with great enthusiasm, in fact when the club was started formally, the first meeting was in our lounge and the first committee was formed. One of it's first decisions was to hold the first festival at Lydiard, obviously we needed funds to get this off of the ground, the new committee funded this out of their own pockets, Madge insisted on giving £50 to assist us, she never asked for it back!

Janet and myself would like to send a heartfelt thanks to all of you who sent us condolences; they were a great help in coming to terms with the suddenness of it all.

Sam Huston's workshop on the weekend 6/7<sup>th</sup> March (needless to say,) was a great success. Sam never leaves anything to chance, we had 22 eager enthusiasts, and all but one of them went home with a finished kite! The raffle raised an amazing £380 pounds, thanks to Marla the ticket chick, this is amazing; considering Marla had picked up a chest infection just prior to the weekend, and was only operating at about 80%, watch out for when she is fully fit! I must also thank Arthur and his team for their great work in the kitchen. Keep your eyes open for our workshops in future copies of the Cowpat and on the clubs website.

Not long now until our festival on the 8/9<sup>th</sup> May, if you haven't seen it anywhere before we are returning to The Science Museum at Wroughton, if you are new to the club and didn't attend any of our previous festivals there, it's a great place to fly kites with acres of space for everyone. We have invited the British Buggy Club (BBC) to run the buggying; you will need to be a member to buggy at this event due to insurance. **IF YOUR NOT A BBC MEMBER YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO BUGGY!**

Our guest this year is world famed Japanese kite maker and artist Mikio Toki, one of our methods of funding Mikio's visit is the raffle that Marla organises, if you want the club to be able to continue to invite quality guests, such as Mikio, please support the raffle by donating gifts and buying as many tickets as you can.

There will be a gathering of "Gibson Girl" enthusiasts, if you own one bring it along, lets see how many we can have at one festival! Last July when the Science Museum invited us there for an event called "Catching the Wind" Paul Chapman was given access to some old kites that the Science Museum thought were old Cody Kites, this wasn't the case; however, these were rarer kites than Paul ever expected to find there! Paul reported on this "Find" in the last "Kiteflier", this has created a great deal of interest amongst the Historic Kite Group of Europe, some of their members will be travelling to the festival to view these kites. The

Science Museum will have their exhibits on display. Food and drinks will be available plus the usual kite traders, camping is available on site; there will be a fee to camp. Entrance to the event is free to members of the W.H.K.F. for further information visit the festival website [www.swindonkitefestival.co.uk](http://www.swindonkitefestival.co.uk) if you want accommodation for the weekend you will find a special deal, with Holiday Inn Express at junction 16 M4, on the website. If you have any questions that can't be answered on the website, you can contact me on [darjer2@aol.com](mailto:darjer2@aol.com)

Regards David Robinson

### Doug Hagaman Memorial Fly

Back in September 2003 David Robinson of the White Horse Kite Flyers in England called me to say the Martin Croxton had suggested they have a memorial fly for Doug Hagaman. Martin reminded club members it was going to be 10 years since Doug died. For those who are unaware of Doug Hagaman: he was a master Parafoil maker who, over many years, perfected that form of kite. "Great idea" I said agreeing with David. Then the subject of having a pin for everyone who fly's their parafoil came up. "Great idea" I say again. So naturally I volunteered for the job. While working on the pin and not paying much attention to anything else Sylvia Bernauer of the Washington Kitefliers Association read an article in the White Horse Kite Flyers newsletter about the Doug Hagaman Memorial Fly. She too thought having a memorial fly on the same day would be great. So with Sylvia's organization, Marla's phone calling and pins ready to go we waited anxiously for Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>. The day arrived and as Doug would have it, the skies cleared of predicted rain, the temperature dropped, the sun peaked out and the wind blew. Boy, did it blow. The wind can be too strong for a parafoil and this was the day. Many of us went ahead and launched our kites but they did not stay up long. The wind speed was approximately 30 mph. We had about 26 people, 16 or 17 Hagaman parafoils and a special treat of Doug's mother bringing her small parafoil to fly that Doug had made for her. Due to the wind chill factor we took the group photo, passed out the pins and shared some special stories about Doug. Sonny Hamner and Ken Tumminia drove up from Oregon on Saturday and back on Sunday just for this fly. Well, maybe Sonny did it for the too. I won't share photos and dialog about Sonny's wind tubes and trees. Just ask him next time you see him. The White Horse Kite Flyers in England had light wind and very cold weather. They managed to fly 13 parafoils that day. Stretch Tucker in Florida waited all day for the rain to stop to fly his. No luck! The Lehigh Valley Kite Society in Pennsylvania braved very cold temperatures and snow to fly their club parafoil. All in all it turned out to be a successful Memorial fly with Doug's mother bewildered that this many people after 10 years still thought of Doug. If you would like to see Internet photos of the fly both in the USA and the UK go to: [www.tedberets.co.uk](http://www.tedberets.co.uk) and click on pictures, then click on Photos in 2003 and so on. Also [www.lehighvalleykitesociety.org](http://www.lehighvalleykitesociety.org)

Thank you to all that supported this fly and again to Martin Croxton for thinking of Doug.  
Ron & Marla

## CRUMBS FROM THE HICHAIR

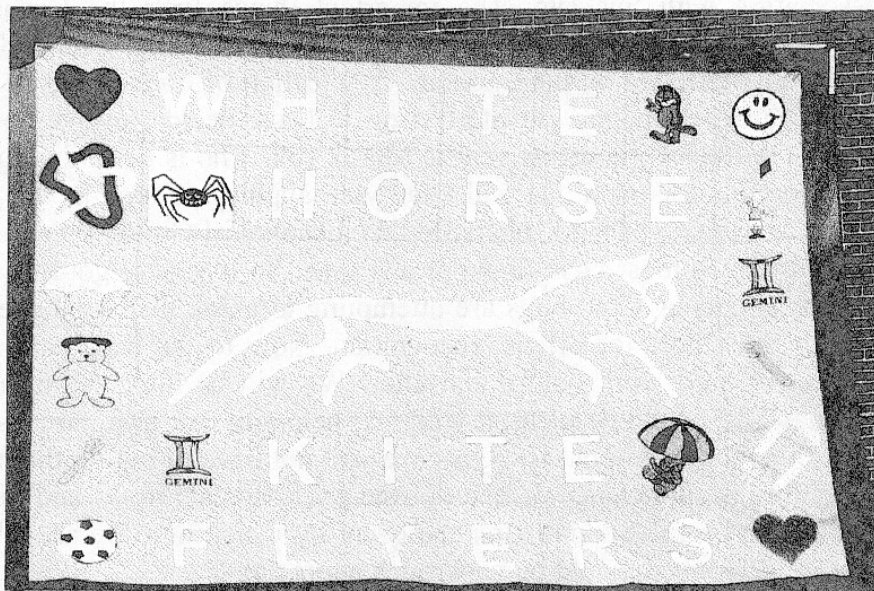
I will not dwell on the sad loss of Madge whom we all loved dearly. She will be missed by us all and our heart felt sympathy goes to Janet and David.

It's been a busy first few months as chairman. Is it really 5 months since I was elected? The biggest change so far has been the regular committee meetings that I hope are keeping all the members informed about what is happening and giving them the chance for their input. A very helpful addition to this has been the committee online "Smartgroup" that makes it easier to make documentation available to us all. There were a few teething problems at first and I was getting really excited as these seemed to be getting smoothed out as we all become more used to the facility. Sadly it seems to have gone down hill again recently. A similar but reliable forum will be made available to all club members from the new club web site starting at the publishing date of this magazine. This is currently being tested by the committee and proving very good. The club web site and the associated Festival site have been brought up to date with a good looking new format. Thanks for all the work done on this by Chester Middleton et al. Any constructive comments on these sites would be appreciated. With several of us able to access this site I hope we will be able to make it easier for Pete Dawson who has done such a great job on his own over previous years. The Projects workshop and the Sam Houston workshop have come and gone and details of these can be found in other articles (I hope) and by the time I write the next of these articles the festival will be a thing of the past and we will be starting to look towards next year's. When you read this the festival will only be weeks away and the committee have been busy getting everything organised. As you will be aware we are back at Wroughton this year following a positive approach from the Science Museum. If we can make a success of this year we should be able to look forward to an ongoing association with this site. The important things first: the bar is booked and Pancake George will be there as his Spanish home is not yet ready. Fish and chips will be there and some healthy catering by the museum. A selection of traders will be there but alas not Kreative Kites as the economic climate has made Dave decide to give up trading at the shop and festivals. Our major guest this year is Mikio Toki who is not only a great kite artist but also a very entertaining person. He will keep you laughing as long as the whiskey lasts. There is also a display in one of the hangars by the Gibson Girl Group with an attempt to set a new world record for the most GGs flown at one time. So if you've got one please bring it along. Also the British Buggy Club boys are attempting to break their land speed record and are in contact with the GboR for official recognition. Now to the hard part; to put on this event requires a lot of hard work before and after. We will be there setting up from about 10AM on the Friday and would be pleased with any help you can give. Arenas and PA have to be set up as well as the club tent. This year we will not have to put up the marquee as we have decided that this is something we can get the professionals to do and have hired one. The worst part of all is on the Sunday after the event by which time we are all worn out but still have to clear up. Help then would be very much appreciated.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE FESTIVAL GO TO  
[www.swindonkitefestival.co.uk](http://www.swindonkitefestival.co.uk)

## PLAYSAIL WORKSHOP

It was one of my aims when I became chairman to try and involve more people in club activities and remembering what fun we had making the centipede etc thought a club project would be good. From the Mince Pie Fly onwards I made available squares of material for any one to appliqué. We then arranged a weekend at Headlands School to sew things together. With all the contributions laid out on the floor it became apparent that we were one square short so Pat started in to make one up. Mean while there were enough bits done for Francesca to start sewing the top row together while I started on letters and a team of cutters rapidly got ahead of me cutting them out. On the other side of the hall miles of ripstop was being laid out, measured and cut for the new windsocks. Seemed from the Playsail side like a lot of talking by a lot of people just to make a few triangles. By Saturday evening all the squares were together but looking at it we felt it needed a border, so panic search for some suitable material and cut it into strips. By this time the windsocks were cut out so a good time to break for the day then Dave and Janet very kindly invited us round for a spag bol. To celebrate Valentines Day which is also Dave's birthday. We would have gone to a pub but they all seemed to be booked that evening. Dave looks very sweet in his pinny and makes a great SB. Sunday morning was back to work and Francesca got the sewing machine in top gear, stitched on the borders, hemmed them and added the reinforcing and flying straps. By mid afternoon we were able to take it out in the playground and see what it looked like in the air. It was difficult to tell which way the wind was blowing between the buildings but we managed to get it flying long enough to take a picture.



Courtesy John Browning



While all this was happening the wind socks had their vents reinforced and were sorted on to rolls to be taken away by Neil and Dave to be sewn up. We look forward to seeing the finished articles. Lunch both days was the potluck variety and our thanks to Di and Tracy for all the work sorting that out. Every one I have spoken to had a good time so I hope we can do a similar event later this year with a few more people getting involved with personalised pieces. Watch this magazine and the web site. Further pictures can be found at [www.tedberets.co.uk/sail/index.htm](http://www.tedberets.co.uk/sail/index.htm).

Arthur

### Thank you

Hello, just to say a big thank you for a very enjoyable weekend, your kite work shop was great, hospitality from your club members as always the best. Thanks

Harry & Rita

Can I just add to this thank you to all helped this weekend for what ever you did this was a great weekend which saw the play sail finished and flown and two wind socks cut out and reinforced and one lasted thank you in advance to Neil and Dave Robinson for the long hours of sowing them up!!!!!!

Pete willis

## Hereford Kite Festival

The 4th Annual Hereford Kite Festival is to be held the Weekend of 17th & 18th July 2004 As last year the venue is Kingstone High School, Kingstone, HR2 9HJ, about 5 miles south west of Hereford City.

Camping available from 4pm on Friday night, but not before, as the pupils will still be there and the access gates will be locked.

Saturday night BBQ and Auction.

For further details call 01981 550326 or email [Karl@longbottom.org.uk](mailto:Karl@longbottom.org.uk)

## SAM HOUSTON WORKSHOP

What an EXCELLENT weekend, it was relay good to have Sam back over to make one of his STICK TOGETHER KITES. I did Sams work shop the last time he was here and I thought that intense, but that was only one day to make a roller, this time it was two days to make a TRI D BOX, and what a nice kite it turned out to be (I wouldn't expect anything else from GENTLEMAN SAM). The Saturday started off with a chat from Sam then down to work sticking all the seams, I lost count of how many. Lunch was supplied by Arthur and the girls, who all did a splendid job over the two days. By the end of the first day I thought I ain't going to finish this in two days but I don't think I was the only one, some were a lot further behind than others. On the Saturday evening we all went for a meal at the Toby Carvery, which was very nice. Then on the Sunday it was back down to the work.

I was quite surprised to find out that on the Sunday I wasn't as far behind as I thought and I had the kite all assembled by lunch time, and I was by no means the first to finish there were plenty before me and still more after.

After lunch it was time to do the raffle, guess who was selling tickets???? Of course it was MARLA, but who else! Thank you Marla I know you made a tidy sum but I cant remember how much and thanks to every one who brought in the raffle prizes. By the end of the afternoon I think there was only one unfinished kite so I don't think that was bad. During the afternoon Dave Robinson made a presentation to the caretaker at Headlands School as he was due to leave the job, so I think that was the last work shop there, so a big thank you goes to Dave the caretaker for his hospitality over the years.

I would also like to thank Dave Robinson for organising the event, but the biggest thank you goes to Sam & Anne for an excellent workshop with extremely well put together kits.

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU SAM & ANNE.

Don Baggett  
Vice Chairman

While on the subject of thank yous I would like to give my personal thanks to all the people who sent cards, E-mails and telephoned Di when she went into hospital for her treatment. She went through a very bad couple of weeks but now is on the mend, but still not back to her normal self.

We have got to go and see the Consultant again next week to get the results of the scan she had the day she came out of hospital.

So our family would like to thank you all very very much.

DON DI EMMA & PHIL.

## Possible formation of a British Kite Flying Association.

For some time now, there has been a feeling amongst some kiteflyers that we need a national body to represent us. In order to test this idea, Jerry Swift (Secretary of the MKF) called a meeting to discuss the matter. This was held at the Risley Park Hotel, near Sandiacre, Notts on Sunday 9th November 2003. Some 50 people attended the meeting. Jerry Swift opened it by welcoming everyone, particularly those who had travelled so far. People from North East, from Brighton, from the North West, from Avon in the West Country, from Wiltshire and from 10 minutes down the road. He also noted that it was Remembrance Sunday and the meeting paused for one minute's silence. As he was acting as meeting secretary Jerry said that he would prefer somebody else to chair it and nominated George Webster. There being no other nominations, George agreed to chair. George then outlined how the meeting would run. He identified the proposition to be debated.

### Proposition

“That this meeting believes that the time is right to form a national, elected body to represent all U.K. kitefliers. This meeting supports the election of a working group of UK kitefliers to develop a constitution for such a body, in consultation with existing UK kite flying organisations and requires the working party to report back in 6 months time, at which time this meeting will agree whether to proceed or not. If the decision is taken to proceed, the meeting at that time will elect the first governing council, chairman and such other officers as the working group shall identify as necessary.”

Jerry Swift opened the discussion with some general remarks: He noted that there are many diverse groups – KSGB, PKA, BBC and all the clubs ranging from a few 10's of members to MKF, WHKF and others with maybe 1000 members. None would claim to represent all kite fliers.

Some issues have been identified with the nearest we have to a national body for single/two line fliers – KSGB. They produce a national magazine but are not elected and as such cannot be said to reflect us all. That said, we mustn't underestimate the contribution and the effort that Gill & Jon put in, and it is the only national magazine we have.

All this diversity is against a background of increasing regulation, increasing interest and sometimes opposition from local authorities, Health & Safety Executive and other regulators. Insurance is also becoming increasingly difficult, particularly for smaller clubs. So against these sort of issues we note that there is greater strength if we all get together - that's why this initiative was started some 15 months ago leading to today's meeting.

But this must be viewed against the risk of some big clubs dominating the issues, a risk of only representing part of the kite flying community and excluding, say, the power kites; and the need to balance all aspects of our sport and hobby. And the ultimate contradiction: we all do this for fun, we do it to get away from work, from politics, from hassle. But organising a national body is just that, hassle. Jerry then précised correspondence he had received, ranging from negative through neutral to positive.

There followed a discussion with many contributions and points raised.

Some people felt that a national body was essential to give us the power to deal with the increasing burden of restrictions and regulations that may affect the future of our hobby. Others felt that a national body would conflict with the aims of local clubs and possibly "take them over". There was also some concern over the possible provision of national insurance for kiteflyers. Some club representatives said that this could destroy their clubs, as a large number of members join solely to get the benefit of club arranged insurance. There was also some discussion as to whether membership should be "individual" or through club affiliation. At the end of the discussion, George proposed a vote on the proposition, seconded by John Larson.

It was carried with 48 in favour, none against and one abstention. There was a proposition that a steering committee is formed with representatives from every club present at the meeting. This was not intended to give every club a "vote", but more a convenient way of ensuring a good geographical spread of working party members and ensuring that no particular club could dominate. The Clubs were identified as: White Horse Kite Fliers, Hereford Kitefliers, ELF, Golden Valley, MKF, Brighton Kite Fliers, Avon Kitefliers, Thorpe Kitefliers, North East Kite Fliers. Also agreed should invite KSGB, STACK, BBC, PKA. Committee should also consider inviting other large groups such as Northern Kite Group, Great Ouse Kitefliers and the Manja Club. A list of representatives was drawn up and with that, the meeting closed.

My name was put forward as the member from WHKF.

Please note, that at this stage, all that has been agreed is to set up a working party to investigate the viability of a National Kiting Body.

This working party will canvass opinion and look into the establishment of such a body. It may conclude that it is not needed, or not viable. If however, it is felt that we need a national body, then we must look into the role of the organisation, its objectives, terms of reference, constitution, etc.

In order to do this work, we need as much input as we can get from ALL kiteflyers, whatever their particular interest in the hobby.

If you have any thoughts, opinions, suggestions, etc. then please let's have them!

You can pass information through any committee member or direct to me:

email: [jon@catons.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:jon@catons.freeserve.co.uk) or mobile: 07771 531312

Jon Caton

## OKR (Oregon Kite Retreat) Totem Pole Class

This invite came about via a phone call to Roy on his mobile while he was in the pub! It was a class previously taught at Fort Warden (in America) a couple of years ago, so this made it easy.

The class started at 9am, with 15 students full of enthusiasm. The kite kits were distributed to the students (all kite makers or kite fliers). Each person had a template of the kite, then two extra colours for all the panels. We also took spare colours for those who wanted to vary the design (which most of them did). Roy explained the first few steps of the design and they all got down to work-in between chatting and catching up on what everyone had been up to since we last saw them.

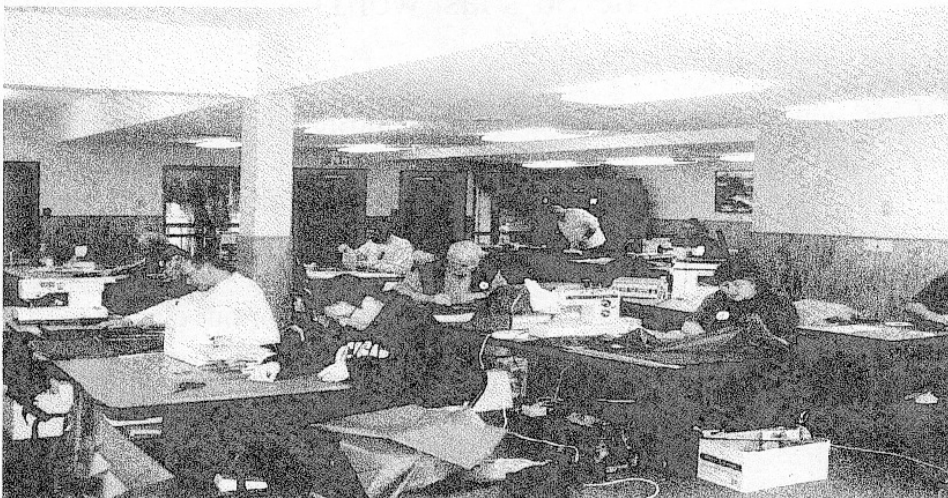
Rather than sewing, the design is mainly stuck using double-sided tape, then the panels cut out using a normal appliqué technique.

The class began in silence, but people soon got the hang of things, and were nattering between themselves, asking us questions if they got stuck. The time passed quickly and before we knew it, it was time to stop for lunch. By this stage, there were some interesting designs starting to appear.

This is a Kite maker's conference, and a lot of kite makers from all over the world are invited to share their various skills, making it a very interesting 3 days. The "sticking" rather than sewing is a slow process, requiring patience and getting it right first time. It was new to virtually all the students, who seemed to get on okay, although a bit frustrating for some, as it is time consuming before actually seeing results.

After lunch, more sticking and cutting continued for about an hour or so, then the process moved on to the next stage of sewing on the pockets and hemming around the edge of the kite. Lots more questions this time, but they all got it right. By 4pm, we knew we'd be coming back after dinner! The class re-started at 6.45pm, and carried on and on! Lots more chatting this time, but by midnight (!) they had all virtually finished their Totem Pole kites, an impressive collection.

Roy and Hayley



## Flying in America

Out of the two weeks we were in America, we only had wind on one day! We went to the Westport Kite Fliers meeting, in a hut in the middle of nowhere, not far from the Pacific coast. Before the meeting, we went to the beach to fly, but it was far too windy, the drizzly rain was horizontal!! There were people trying to surf, but were beaten back by the waves every time, at least they tried! 5 minutes in the wind and it felt like your ears would drop off with the cold. Roy did manage to fly a single line bird for a few minutes, but stopped because he preferred to keep it in one piece. We are fortunate enough to have been invited back next year, so perhaps we'll be able to fly more then.

Roy and Hayley

## Sam's workshop.

Many thanks to all involved in setting up and running another successful workshop. Sam Huston, whose kits instructions and patience were all excellent; Arthur whose catering for the inner man kept us all going; and all those who did the organizing and preparation of the hall. By the time we had finished the line of completed kites was very satisfying and looked very impressive.

Again, thank you everyone involved.

Alan Walker.

## The Ed's last word.

Please find enclosed with this issue of your magazine a poster for the Swindon kite festival. please put this in your local shop window, your car window or a notice board at work this will help publicise the event and help with advertising costs. Well it's the start of the year and the diary is starting to fill up already, the club and Sams workshops were a great success and it's been nice to receive your positive responses to them. Thanks also should go to Marla for emptying all our pockets and raising yet again more money for our club. Keep your comments coming let everyone know what you have enjoyed about an event. The deadline for the next magazine is 28<sup>th</sup> June. Hope to see you all at Wroughton on the flying field or workshop.

Tracy.

## Club Merchandise

Club merchandise is available to buy including tee shirts, polo shirts, sweat shirts ,polo sweat shirts ,caps ,winter hats and patches all with club logo on. To order please contact us at address on front page or on web site [www.white-horse-kite-flyers.org.uk](http://www.white-horse-kite-flyers.org.uk) . where all merchandise can be seen. Latest prices are on request.

## Kite Flying Safety Tips

### The NEVERS of Kite Flying

- Fly a kite in wet or stormy weather, try to keep your kite line dry.
- Fly a kite near power lines, transmission towers or aerials.
- Fly a kite with wire or anything metallic in the line.
- Fly a strong pulling kite without wearing GLOVES.
- Leave odd bits of flying line etc on the flying site.
- Fly a kite at over 200 feet\*.

\*Kite festivals may have C.A.A. clearance to fly higher.....ASK!

### The Things to AVOID

- Motorways, roads, car parks railway lines or buildings.
  - Airfields and low flying air traffic patterns.
  - Members of the public.....stunt flyers please take care!
  - Those kite eating trees.
  - Animals, they can be frightened by kites.
- Remember...your kites can get really quite lonely up high in the sky, just occasionally, look up and give them a little SMILE.*

... AND PLEASE, MIND THOSE POWER LINES!

## Where the WHKF go to fly their kites

WHITE HORSE KITE FLYERS fly at Barbury Castle Country Park, Wroughton, Swindon, Wilts on the SECOND Sunday of each month  
Will YOU be there?

Local WHKF contacts are:

Neil Harvey on: (01285) 740295

Arthur Dibble on: (01635) 865976

Dave Robinson on: (01793) 824208

COWPAT HILL

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Whilst every care is taken when compiling this journal the WHKF cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions which may occur.