

COWPAT HILL



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NEWS SHEET OF THE WHITE HORSE KITE FLIERS

August 1990

PRIVATE SKY

All Flies And Kites Too!

All that flies in the sky may NOT be kites! I'm not sure why, but I seemed to be the only person walking round Barbury on Sunday with a personal swarm of FLIES in attendance! Even standing in the smoke from the barbeque didn't work! And NO COMMENTS please.

Free Falling Teddy

Sunday also saw the first (*and almost the last!*) parachute drop of my latest Ted Devil 'Duncan', the problem was that I forgot to attach the static parachute release line! Result? Duncan free falling 200 feet and bouncing. Duncan and I got it right next time round, both static line and parachute got it together in the end!

Richard Everett

Flying Chicken Legs!

Kite fly-ins on the Castle site this summer are getting just like a MacDonalds, not only did David have the finished sixteen foot Swept Delta Kite for Martin but he also contacted everyone in time to bring along food for a Barbecue (*and all that beer too!*). Four of us assembled Martins new kite, then came the trial flight, yep! the wind dropped off completely, still a long rocket launch got the new monster up about two hundred feet. Not only did the kite fly, but it went looking for lift and found it over the car park, and AGAINST the wind! While all this was going on David had a go at starting the barbecue. After half an hour he decided that as I used to be a Fireman and knew how to put out fires I should actually know how to commit arson! We eventually got the thing going and we both then began flying Chicken Legs, Chops, Sausages and Beefburger.

West German Air (Kite) Lift

By the early afternoon the wind had started to blow at a steady rate and we managed to get Martins big Parafoil up, several people went up over forty feet on this with the man lifting gear (*including a 13 stone Mick Roberts!*) whilst all this was going on we noticed a young man watching us and after several animated attempts at conversations we discovered he was a German computer

student (*he and I had long conversations about computer programming - Ed*), this wasn't so bad as he could speak English better than my daughter could speak O-level German, he was invited to try his hand at going up on the kite and after getting him in the harness and airborne he didn't want to come down (*he went up three times!*). Using his camera we took photographs of him on the kite as he doubted the English family he was with would ever believe him!

That 'GIBSON GIRL'

Before starting I would like to thank Richard and helpers (*or should that be hindrances*) in producing this News Letter. Though I reserve the right to ignore some of the (*his?*) comments! I came into kiting out of a frustrated childhood. When I was about 9 or 10 I wanted a 'GIBSON GIRL' (*didn't we all, the soft and cuddly one!* - Ed) Box Kite as they were being sold off by the War Department at the time. I never did get my wish granted. I told my wife this story after seeing some PETER POWELL kites performing. Come that Christmas guess what I had as a present? (*that soft cuddly thingie?* - Ed) a PETER POWELL and within a few days I went down with that most dreaded of all bugs 'KITITUS' and have still to recover from it, and that was 11 or 12 years ago! Still, soon after that I met Ron Gunter at a Malvern Kite Festival and carried on seeing him and his wife Bet from time to time. Meanwhile the 'KITITUS' was getting worse, I had to start making my own kites, some were of rare and very odd shapes, most are still in my collection and flyable. As I saw more of Ron and started to get along to more festivals I felt that there was a need for a Kite group about here, so after sounding out Ron I found that he felt the same way, and as we were asking other fliers what they felt Thamesdown Arts approached Ron and asked about starting a Kite group, and from there started the "WHITE HORSE KITE FLIERS" (*to date there are some 59 members*). Of more importance to me is that we started and are still doing kite workshops at the Joliffe Arts Centre and various Schools and Fetes etc. There we pass on "KITITUS" to others. It's a great feeling when a small child or a handicapped person makes a kite and to see their faces when it first flies in the air. The pleasure of parents coming back and saying 'Thank you' (*the Children always do*) for something that works and yet cost only a few pence to make. The stories about expensive kites that were bought and didn't

Remember, when out flying your kites, look up and give them a SMILE, they get lonely up there!

WATCH FOR THOSE POWER LINES!

fly are endless, perhaps due to the way they were bridled or lack of knowledge about how or why kites fly. Still, it's those smiles and happy faces as they hold on tight to their kite that are always with me.

Neil Harvey

A Week-End With The OPAL Kite Group

Back in April I received an invitation from both the OPEL Kite Club and KAPWA to fly at the Le Touquet kite festival. Well, it's easy to get to France, you just go to Dover and then the ferry to Calais.... WRONG! Having got my rail ticket to Dover I discovered that the ferry would be sailing from... Folkestone and crossing to Boulogne! British Rail are very forgiving though. On arrival at Le Touquet it was shrouded in sea mist with a lone VERY large Delta in the sky (*and yes, it was even bigger than Martin's being over 7 metres*). So I went over and introduced myself, but as I was the only one who spoke English they had a slight problem! Later as more people turned up I found that communications became easier, and I was soon issued with food, BEER, Hotel and Dinner Dance vouchers. By 10.30 the weather had gradually changed so that it was very bright with a steady 15 knot 'Fly Anything' wind. I indulged myself in aerial photography using my Delta. Andy King turned up later with Sara and Viv along with Tony Cartwright and his wife, we all decided on a mega 'LEGS' fly with five kites equalling 10 legs, 5 Left and 5 Right. Andy and Co got on with their stunt flying, whilst I flew a Parafoil and the Rokkaku with the words 'Hello Jim' on it, much to the amusement of my French hosts, though I'm not sure why, is 'Hello Jim' something very rude in French! I kept on wondering, though I didn't dare ask! After booking into the hotel it was one booze-up after the other. First the reception by the Town Council, complete with champagne. Next Andy King holding court at his hotel and then on to the Dinner Dance at the Lido. The Dinner Dance was absolutely fantastic! with wine and a first rate meal in pleasant surroundings which all ended up with indoor kite flying and a number of people being thrown into the swimming pool. Tom Pratt was at the dinner, he came over a much easier way to me. Aberdeen to Paris then train to Le Touquet.. and you thought I had travel problems! Breakfast the next day found me with Tom, his wife and the rest of the KAPWA members. I found that my fellow fliers were Lawyers, Teachers, Doctors, Opticians and Americans. We talked about everything with the exception of anything to do with kites! Back at the flying site things

were getting good, a cloudless sky, Andy King and Co were doing their stunting stuff. A French kite team launched a train of kites numbering between 70 and 100 PETER POWELL stunter type kites, the trouble was that the flying lines kept breaking. A few Belgians seemed to specialise in every type of CODY providing they were in Black Ripstop and very large i.e. 24 ft CODY WAR KITE! Anyway as time went on I had to prepare to return home by catching the 'Last Train', 'Last Ferry', another 'Last Train' and finally the 'Last Underground' home! Even this was not without incident, as the train pulled out of Etaples station I looked back and there, on the platform seat was my jacket, not just any jacket, but THE jacket with MY Passport in the pocket! The long and short of it was that the French Railways are fantastic and I was reunited with my jacket AND Passport 40 francs later. When I eventually got back home I could not help but reflect on the French, their generosity and organisation.

Doug Jones

Apology

Due to lack of space the continuing story of Martin's escapade's with his Stratoscoop 7 and other news items have been held over for September's COWPAT.

Editor

Articles For COWPAT HILL

We would be pleased to receive articles for possible publication in COWPAT. Hints, comments, plans even the odd moan! we'll try to make use of whatever you send! See Ron on the Second Sunday or send it to:

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The Who Did What Bit

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With help from those White Horse Kite Fliers

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Another COWPAT HILL News Sheet in September