

# COWPAT HILL



Vol. 1, No. 9

NEWS SHEET OF THE WHITE HORSE KITE FLYERS

October 1990

## PRIVATE SKY

### Letter To The Editor #1

Since meeting members of the White Horse Kite Flyers at Barbury Castle a year ago I am hooked to flying kites whenever I can. I have attended one of the Kite Workshops at the Jolliffe Studio and produced my own Delta Kite. However, there has been no attempt at either of these venues, nor in the News Sheet, to promote and increase the membership of the club. I enjoy reading this publication, but surely, there are costs involved in sending to interested parties such as myself? It is surely normal for clubs to increase membership to cover such work? I appreciate that club members do not normally like to be too pushy, and besides I do have a tongue and could ask for details.

Perhaps a higher profile would encourage more interest in the club and it's activities. Wiltshire Newspapers publish club activities for free. 'COWPAT HILL' could include dates of future events as well as write ups on past meetings, for example the Evening Advertiser covered a recent kite festival not too far away featuring the WHKF, but I do not remember it advertised here in 'COWPAT HILL'.

*Richard Akenhurst*

*Can we apologise to anyone else who missed the Kite Flying at Quemerford Gate Farm on September 2. We were approached by 'Tony' (see letter) to see if WHKF could fly at the farm although no initial date was known at the time. Unfortunately the final date became known only after the August issue of 'COWPAT' was published, though I should add it was extensively publicised by 'Tony' in both Local Press and Radio.*

*The WHKF is merely a number of enthusiastic kite flyers with a common urge to fly kites. 'COWPAT HILL' originated from this enthusiasm and is edited, produced and distributed on a voluntary basis by the flyers within WHKF - Ed.*

### Letter To The Editor #2

Dear Richard,

I read with sympathy Neil's letter regretting his early lack of a Gibson Girl. I was one of the lucky ones and at the age of six I had one (not the soft cuddly type) and used to fly it smugly whilst watching others of my age run up and down fields, hills and beaches attempting to loft the more conventional kites. This was back in the days before Nylon or Spectra lines and I am assured by the parent who provided the kite that we flew it on 1000ft of ordinary parcel string.

Almost forty years later I still have the same kite which although rather worse for wear still flies well in almost any wind.

My interest was also re-kindled when Peter Powell put his stunter on the market and one duly arrived on my birthday. This was then followed by a Dunford Flying Machine which is difficult to set up but very rewarding to fly when correct. By this time of course I had contracted the dreaded 'KITITUS' and after a trip to Malvern for treatment ended up with a 10ft one (Flexi I mean).

Whilst having a 'barby' in Saverlake a few years ago I noticed a small blue threewheel r trying to fly a Parafoil and on closer investigation found Ron Gunter attempting to correct the shrouds of the errant kite.

Having got details of WHKF I started coming to the monthly meets and was pleased to find such a friendly bunch of folks. I have learnt a great deal there including that a 10ft Flexi pulls harder than my legs.

After witnessing Ted Devil 'Duncan's' heart rending free fall decent I was so upset that I refuse to take up parachuting fauna. As an alternative I am trying dropping small gliders from a Dunford Retrievable Messenger. So far all is going well but would be pleased to hear from anyone else in the club that has tried this (all constructive advice welcome).

Lets hope the WHKF goes on gathering strength for years to come so that when we are all in our dotage there will be others to haul down Martin's Giant's and Doug's stretched lines (*even Russian Pilot won't*

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

# WATCH FOR THOSE POWER LINES!

*believe they can stretch that much! See later article).*  
May you always have the wind!

Arthur Tribble

Thatcham, Berks

*Many thanks for your letter Arthur. I have tried dropping small gliders from kites using the pipe cleaner method, and more recently have made a large copy of the messenger found in the Pelham Kite Book. With this I hope to be able to safely parachute 'Duncan' and friends. Pass the beans!*  
- Ed.

## A letter from 'Tony' of T - K Tackle

Dear Janet and David,

On behalf of myself and all at Quernerford Gate Farm, I'd like to thank you for a splendid day. Everyone was very impressed with the kites.

Thank you for arranging so many different kites. There has been a lot of interest shown by many people and hopefully we can arrange another display next year.

We hope you enjoyed the day as much as we did. Becky and Matthew send a special thanks for allowing them to go up on the big kite, they're still on a 'High'.

Many thanks again to you and the White Horse Kite Flyers.

Hope to see you soon.

*Tony (T - K Tackle)*

## Doug Versus The Russians!

(or... Why I'm a fugitive from the Wiltshire Police)

As usual July saw only two serious kite fliers at Barbury Castle! Martin and Doug. Doug's Delta was launched at 9.30 and flew constantly at 200 feet until mid-day when a Russian Iliushin Aircraft came along and flew beneath his Delta Kite! witnessed by several people *(including me! Ed.)* This was hotly pursued a couple of minutes later by a Wiltshire Police Helicopter which circled and then landed on the

Castle site! Now this started to make Doug wonder... 'am I really flying at 200 feet?' and after some 800 feet of line was later wound in decided he was! About half an hour later the Police Helicopter took off flew round the kites for a closer inspection and then deciding that as Doug was no great threat to the Nations Security flew off in the direction of Devizes!

*(Who me? I never said a word! - Ed.)*

## The WHKF Go Green!

Most, if not all the regular WHKF members now sport bright green summer shirts with the White Horse Logo on them. These proved very effective at the Bournemouth festival, where we did the WHKF team 'Man-Lift'. We looked *(in the words of a certain kite flyer)* 'THE BIZZ'!. And by the Bristol Festival we had also acquired matching hats and we were then definitely 'THE BIZZ', Green and Ozone friendly. Watch out for WHKF sweatshirts and badges! *(Ok any idea where we can get bright green trousers Dave? - Ed.)* Whilst at Bristol we attempted to launch Vic's Statoscoop 9 to do a man lift, but as with last year just not enough wind. Still, we did get filmed by HTV though they only mentioned it in passing in their 40 seconds!! report on the Bristol Festival.

## Articles For COWPAT HILL

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

Richard Everett

115 Walterbank Road,

Chipping Norton,

Oxon. OX7 5DQ.

## The Who Did What Bit

Published by Rom Gunter on behalf of the White Horse Kite Flyers

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Another COWPAT HILL News Sheet in November