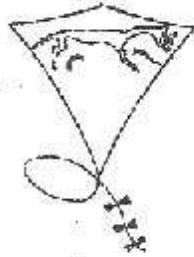


# Cowpat Hill

*White Horse  
Kite Flyers  
Winter Issue*



*1997*

*January - March*

## Barker's Breakfast

The White Horse Kite Fryers has recently added to its equipment a superb gas wok. This was purchased for less than half price by a member who had seen it sitting unsold in a shop for more than a year.

This summer it has seen heavy use at festivals we have attended to provide us with cheap wholesome brunches. Various members have tried using it but one will long stick in our minds and in our gullets.

Imagine, if you can, four pounds of bangers, 20 rashers of bacon, a mountain of mushrooms and we are asked "Do you want eggs?" With a positive response, no more questions are asked and we gastronomes watch enthralled as the chef cracks 12 eggs into the middle of the pan without splitting a single yolk and then produces cholesterol butties like you have never imagined.

This performance leaves me no option but to nominate our own J.B. for the chef of the year award and I hope to put off the heart attacks long enough to enjoy the same delicacy in future years.

If any of you are going to club events and would like to avail yourself of this facility, it is club property and all you have to do is bring your own grub. J.B. might even be persuaded (only usually takes a few rashers) to assist in the preparation. Just contact any Committee Officer.

**White Horse Kite Flyers  
PO Box 585  
SWINDON  
SN3 4YR**

## A few thoughts on One Sky One World

Mike and I were uncertain whether we would actually be going up the hill for this get-together, but we thought that, as the weather people said it was going to be nice, we would make the trek and hope to see all our friends from the White Horse Kite Group, and how pleased we were that we did!

We arrived at Barbury to find the tents erected and lots of people arriving, besides the usual W.H.K.F. flyers, there were people from all over the country:- Jerry and Caroline Swift, Bazzar and Janet Poulter from Brighton, the Dells from Enfield, Anne and Eddie Megrath from Scunthorpe and the B.O.F. was there from West Drayton. There were lots of other faces we knew but couldn't put a name to.

The wind was brisk when we arrived and it stayed that way for most of the time but it warmed up and became really pleasant. We flew various heavy wind kites and some of our tails. It was a good day for us. We met an American feller by the name of Sam Huston and his wife, Anne (Sam was in the country the day before to run a kite workshop on making Genkis). They were really nice people to talk to and they wanted to have a good look at our spinning tails. Now you all know what a pair of showoffs we can be so we chatted away about seams, vents and so on, while the Hustons took photos of our tails (we hope to see the U.S. flying sites full of these tails one day!) They were also interested in seeing our large Genki (our friend who drew the graphics for us, Eddie Megrath, wanted it to be spinned differently but we like the idea of making a modified Genki) and soon someone else may be making another one in this shape!

Well, I'd better finish this article, it is the first one I've ever sent to the Cowpat News, I hope it will be considered for publication but, if not, I have got the bug for this typing lark.

Does anyone else reading this like to play on the www talkers, if so get in touch with me on the <http://talker.infi.net/> at lunchtime I'm usually in the bar chatting to anyone who wants to talk or buy me a drink!

Ann & Mike Heanes

### Dear Mr. Editor

What do you mean 'Dibble Free'????? A banner headline!!!! nine mentions in the minutes!!!! and a non-specific thank you as a contributor. If this is Dibble Free what have some of the previous issues been? Anyway, I promise not to pollute your pages any more

Yours very hurt

Arthur

P.S. Please find enclosed two new articles. (*Saving one for later - Thanks - Ed.*)

STOP PRESS

Two kiting events for the early part of the year.

Mouldon Hill Forest Fun Day, Morden Swindon on Sunday 2nd of March 1997 from 10.00 to 4.00.

Tree planting for The Community Forest in Swindon plus Kite Flying and Workshops. All Kite Flyers welcome. Admission Free. Details from David Robinson 01793 824208

Stowe Gardens Kite Fest.

at The National Trust's Stowe Gardens, Buckingham on the 27th of April 1997  
10.00am to 4.00pm.

Trade stalls and refreshments. Plus the world renowned Gardens open for viewing. Admission £1.00 WKRF members free on production of Membership Card.

Further details from:- N.T. Carol Adams 01280 822850

or WKRF. Neil Harvey 01285 740295.

# A Competition

Preparations for the record "Teddy Drop" attempt are well under way thanks to a lot of work and investment from Vic Walker. He has purchased the bears, made all the back packs and is well on the way with the chutes. Each bear successfully dropped is to have a numbered certificate to prove his authenticity. We want club members to design this certificate and the entries will be judged by the organising team.

Kreative Kites have very kindly offered to sponsor the certificate which should contain the following information:-

- World Record B.M.I.S.S. Category 1 (the "classic" method)
- White Horse Kite Flyers
- Sponsored by Kreative Kites
- Spaces for bear's number, date, witness signature
- An original background design of your own.

The certificate should be on A4 size paper and may be monochrome or colour. The prize for the winning entry will be one of the record breaking bears. Bears will also be available afterwards at a reasonable price to help Vic recover some of his costs. All bears will come complete with certificate but not with back pack or chute. All competition entries will be displayed in the club tent at the Festival and will be kept for future possible use, with a little modification, for other occasions. If you want to reserve a bear, please let Vic or me know with any number preference (first come, first served).

Arthur

# A Myriad Mélange of Miscellany

"Would you like to make a genki?" asked David. "Make a genki what?", I replied seemingly missing the point. No, a workshop to construct a kite without recourse to the old 'stitch-a-matic', and tutored by an innovator in the technique. Intriguing though it seemed, the working patterns of the 'Other Half' precluded attending what, by all accounts, was a thoroughly entertaining and enjoyable day.

Sunday, being One Sky One World, seemed an ideal opportunity for a gentle day trip to Barbury Castle. Having been to Wroughton, navigation did not pose too much of a problem, unless one placed too much emphasis on the 'Castle' aspect. Lots of wind! Too much for many, but the parafoils relished the air, if not the hawthorn bushes, quite so much.

One disturbing trend, noticed on the day, seems to be the ever more fiendish methods some people will resort to in order to get their poor, unsuspecting fauna aloft, in the shortest possible time. Has the nation-wide trend for productivity and output led performance criteria infected the 'bungers' in our midst? If the aim is now to ensure the most rapid dispatch and recycling of animals and equipment, why impose the restrictions of a kite, and the attendant problems that they will bring, including the dependency on naturally occurring puff. Surely the BOI, with his engineering background, Baz, with his talent for miniaturisation or Jerry with his aeronautical connections, could come up with a bear sized version of the ejector seat testing rigs that are used, or failing this, a more portable version of the 'cow chip catapult as featured in 'RC'.

Perhaps, however, the pace of life now dictates that the gentle ride on a traditional ferry, which reflects the steady descent that follows, under a fully inflated chute, should be replaced by the frantic motor powered ascent as demonstrated by 'Arthur' and Jerry'. Surely a slower ride aloft would allow the intrepid jumpers to savour the experience more than the 'milliamp' inspired headlong rush to the sky?

I see there is another workshop proposed, an ideal opportunity for some serious ripstop wrestling. A small soft kite provides enough amusement when trying to get all the material through a machine without stitching bits that should not be stitched. 120 sq. ft. of material would seem to offer ample scope for

bad language and errant seams. Mind you, I guess that to a WHKflyer that amount of material hardly seems a realistic challenge.

It was sad to see that the Japanese giant is now considered to be past its sell by date. It must be nearly 10 years since plans were first proposed for restoration, and now it is gone forever, a piece of history and kite lore, something that can never be replaced.

It is an interesting social comment on differing nationalities, how kites have formed such a part of the culture, history and upbringing of so many people outside Europe and the northern hemisphere.

Whilst the far eastern countries have had kites forming part of their culture for hundreds, if not thousands of years, they have never been part of our make up, and are only evident in the last two hundred years or so. The kite forms a ritual part of the lives of so many nations, but not the English?

Festivals only serve to amplify this division with the western nations presenting a mind-boggling range of modern, artistically inspired kites with the major influences being size, complexity and innovation, whilst the Eastern countries are proud to demonstrate their traditions in making, decoration and methods of flying.

What fascinates me with traditional kites is the remarkable background to each and every type of kite, the way they are built, the use of materials and how they are flown. Even in this respect, each nation is different, having developed widely different line storage systems and flying techniques. A Korcan reel is a beautiful piece of work on its own, as well as being functional, and to see the fights at Dieppe between a Chula and Pakpaos with the team, the traditions and skill - an amazing experience.

I know we all have kites which we call Rokkakus, and many people have had a go at making fighting kites, but to me these all lack that magic ingredient, which is the little piece of history and the tiny part of the soul of the maker which lives in each traditional kite. I realise that this can be evident in European kites, but as many of them are unique works of art, it is so very different.

We are all familiar with the Indian fighting kite, but even here there are at least four very distinct forms, and huge variations in decoration. If you move further afield then you can find oddities like the Afghan kite which is about 4 times the size of an Indian fighter and about half the weight. Bali, Thailand, Tibet, Malaysia, Korea, Sri Lanka, the list is endless, anything from fighters to large decorative and ceremonial kites.

China and Japan are two more countries steeped in kite making history, but with completely differing styles. Almost every Japanese kite has decoration which illustrates a legendary or Kabuki character, and although many of the Chinese kites are based on legend the art of decoration has become more significant.

Sadly, however, even these nations have started along the path of westernisation, forsaking the traditional, both in designs and materials, regularly one reads of the demise of 'the last kite maker' in a particular town, and another link with the past goes.

Soon it seems that it will only be the collectors that have these kites and, whilst they may be admired and even treasured, they are still that part of a collection, not part of the collector's history or culture.

I seem to have wandered a bit from workshops, but mention of old kites has that sort of effect on me.

Merry Christmas to you all from the Frozen East.

Cheers,

Hugh

## 1996 festival review

1996 started cold and wet in our part of the country, we thought that we'd get a sunny summer because of this, but it didn't work out quite that way. We visited Old Warden for the first meet of the year, it's nice to meet up with old friends after the winter hibernation. I'm sure there were more people there than last year but maybe it was just wishful thinking. We had a great time and Rosie took some video of me trying to fly a Wild Thing, is this the most difficult two-line in existence? Next up was the W.H.K.F. festival at Wroughton. After two days last year of constant bugging the lack of wind came as a bit of a shock. The evening event was fun and I even convinced Rosie that she was going to enjoy spending the evening under canvas with David and me, boy was it cold! A really good festival despite the lack of wind and we are looking forward to next year. On to Basingstoke for the Sunday and this time the wind did blow. Doug Manners and myself entered the Rok fight, we got out in the first round and I spent most of the afternoon hunting around Basingstoke for my kite. It still hasn't appeared so I hope it has found a good home. We haven't been to Tewkesbury since I worked for Rascal but decided to do so this year, again no wind, but I got a chance to see Arthur's electric rig at close quarters. I spent most of the time taking notes and stealing his ideas (for which I am really grateful). At the end of a very hot day we went for a dip in the pool, whoever arranged this wants a medal as it was really wonderful, followed by a superb barbecue - a really nice festival. Hengistbury is one of our favourite festivals, we usually splash out and stay in a B & B on the Saturday before, this gives us time for me to fly and Rosie and David to paddle in the sea. Sunday started grey but windy with a promise of heavy rain later on. We set our new electric rig next to Arthur's and prepared for the descending hordes. Arthur's rig is considerably faster than ours and is flown at twice our altitude so we ran two services, one (Arthur's) was first class and ours economy. It proved to be terrific fun with a steady stream of punters arriving until torrential rain put a stop to the festival. The Avon Kite Flyers festival at Bristol went by so quickly I can't remember that much about it apart from really enjoying ourselves. Doug Manners and I finished fifth in the Rok fight on the Saturday, but as Doug couldn't make it on the Sunday, David helped me in his first real Rok fight. We put up a respectable fight but didn't get a place. All too quickly Old Warden came round again, this time there didn't seem to be as many Flyers as last year, which was a shame as the weather was nice and warm with a good wind. There we go, another year almost over. We hope to make it to the mince pie fly-in again this year depending on the date so we look forward to seeing you all again then.

Regards,

Doug, Rosie and David Irvine.

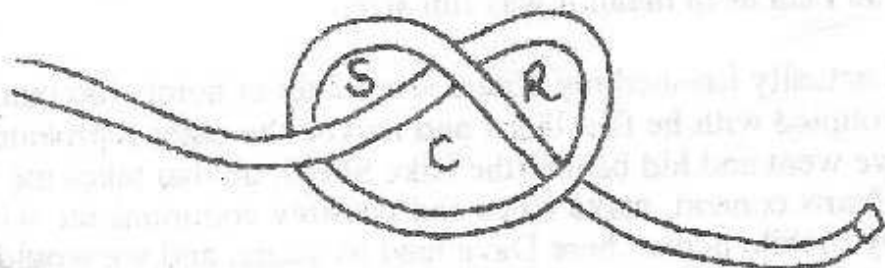
## A Challenge

The article entitled "Get Knotted" in the Autumn Cowpat (anon. but I can guess the arthur) - somehow reminded me that I had covered much the same ground in the Spring Issue. Déjà vu, or what?

I challenged Mr. Robinson to decide whether he tied a Department-Store knot or a Farmer's Halter Loop. He tells me that it all depends on how he is feeling at the time - or something along those lines.

My new challenge is as follows:-

Taking the diagram given in "Get Knotted", how many possible knots are there? If the end can be put through the overhand knot at S, C or R either from the top or the bottom, does this make six possible knots or are some just mirror images of others?



Knot worth the effort.

# FLOUR AND WATER PASTE? GET THEE HENCE

When Father Papered the Parlour, you couldn't see far for Paste

Dabbing it here, Dabbing it there, Paste and Paper everywhere

Mother got stuck to the Ceiling, the Kids got stuck to the Floor,

You've never seen a Blooming Family so stuck up before.

Ah, those were the days, When decorating and Kite making were reminiscent of a Cookery Class. Make a Kite? right, first off, assault the Flour Bin for a goodly helping of McDougalls finest self raising, slosh in the water, mix well, boil on the stove, cos we don't want it going mouldy. Grab some Newspaper, or if you were affluent, Brown Paper and some Parcel Twine and Garden Canes and go for it.

Holy Cow, the resultant creation usually resembled a childish attempt at Papier Mache, so heavy, as to make the flying of a Brick tied to a piece of string more certain.

Still as they say, Times change and Glue changes with it. So when our Hon Sec said Give us your money, this is an Up stick, way of making a Kite, I though, I'm game for a Laugh, I'll have some of that, I can make paste.

Was I in for a shock, no, not with the Modern method of sticking Kites together, but with the amazing directions given for finding the Venue. I though it was going a bit Pear shaped when I went through Cricklade, but when I saw the sign saying Welcome to Cirencester, I thought, Sod this for a game of Tin Soldiers, this ain't Swindon I know. Still not to worry as by more luck than judgment, the Venue was finally stumbled across.

Must say, I'm well impressed with the all inclusive Kite Kit, it even included as Dingley put it a Mouldy Grape, or for those of you of a nervous disposition, a piece of Bees Wax. Sam the Main man of the "No need to lick it, 3M will stick it" School of Kite Making was soon in full flow, demonstrating with skill, just how easy, if somewhat slow method of making a Kite this was. Sam had examples of "APPLIQUE" work in this STICK UM UP method, very good they looked too, even the Multi coloured Cody, a thing which I'm usually averse to, looked quite splendid.

Sam had thought of pretty well everything to construct our Genkis, even down to supplying a marking out board for every participant. However, the Construction Plans were so good and detailed that I found it easier to make the Kite directly from the Plan as in detail it was full size.

I actually finished my Kite a week later at home, too many distractions on the Day coupled with the fact that I and maybe the other reprobate Smokers would do better if we went and hid behind the Bike Sheds, ah that takes me back, we could smoke to our Hearts content, make Kites and possibly communicate with the rest of the workshop by mobile phone, here Dave lend us yours, and we wouldn't have to keep skiving off outside for a quick Drag.

So what of the modern day version of Flour and Water Paste? It certainly seems to do the Biz on lccy even though Sam reckons its not so hot on Nylon Ripstop. It appears to be available over here via the R.S. catalogue, so if you're not too handy with a sewing machine as Sam says, its another way of making good kites.

So the first of what could be many Starving Horse Workshops went off well, and wh knows, maybe you'll be a future participant.

B.O.F.

## Now We've Done It!

Well, as you heard at the A.G.M., Doug Irvine and myself stood up and mentioned that we would like to organise a special Rokkaku Kite Fight for Scouts at our Festival. After being cornered by Caroline Bruce and her Mum, (who would argue with them, not us!) we will include the Guides.

The idea is to try and set an official world record for the number of Roks in a fight and, as the four of us are all Scouters and Guiders, we feel that this would make a great competition for the youngsters to enjoy and enter kiting.

At the time of the A.G.M. we thought that the maximum was 47, but we hadn't reckoned on the Yanks! it would appear that they have had fights in the order of 81, but we are undaunted, and still see that we can beat the record....

This may seem that the Festival could be swamped by lots of children in uniform racing around the place. Well yes, to some degree, but most Scouts and Guides are well behaved, but the "fight" is to be held to one side of the festival, not in the main site, so don't worry, with 47 acres there is a lot of room (isn't there Neil?): and, with a three round fight of 100+ Roks, they will be spending a lot of time out of the way, and what else is the festival for, but to expand the knowledge, excitement and flying of kites to all?

I know this sounds like an apology before the fact, but if we're to organise this properly, with what could be 500 or more children, we all could do with some prior warning! And with this number I would appreciate any offers of marshals for this event, for many this will be their first time with a string in their hands.

An event of this order can only help to enhance our festival I think; and, along with Arthur, we hope to get the B.B.C. programme "Record Breakers" there as well, so more people will come to see the popularity and fascination of kites.

Peter Dawson.



# The Bear Bombing Day from Hell

or

## "I should have stayed in bed"

It was our school fête and, as usual, we agreed to parachute bears and give buggy rides. The fête only lasts from 11.00 to 2.00 so it's not too bad. I've just finished a new 5 metre multi flare which flies really well. I put this up on our rig, dropped 'Colby' my test tiger and all was OK. The punters arrived in droves and I thought 'this should be good'. Three bears into the day and one of my swivels snapped! The kite, rig and bear disappeared into the distance. I assumed they would land in the fields but no, the kite got stuck on the roof of one of the really big houses in the village. The pulley got stuck in the top of a tree in the garden of the manor house and the line stretched across the main road draping over the village power line!

Nothing for it - borrow a ladder and rescue the kite, this proved to be more of a challenge than I had originally expected. Fortunately my daughter Rachael was on hand to assist her dad. The owner of the house had his relatives around for a barbecue in the back garden and looked very surprised by the arrival of a large kite and very long tail, now straddling the roof of his expensive abode. I tried reaching the flare from the back of the house but the bridle had become entangled with a ridge tile and so the only way down was to climb up onto the roof. Now, I am not very fond of heights, in fact it was this problem that started me into kite flying but that's another story. Once clutching the roof of the house, I then unclipped the kite from the line and let it fall to the ground. Unfortunately, I could not release the line as it was suspended over the main power cable for the village. My son, David, then took a spar and attached the end of the line to it to hold the line out of the way, next stop the tree. Back across the road, climb up the ladder and try and pull the block down.

Why does kite line always migrate to the highest, most inaccessible point of a tree? I finally rescued the block, but how was I going to get the line back from the power cable? We disconnected the swivel from David's end. He let go and I pulled the line as fast as possible. It flew through the air and over the cable without touching. A narrow escape and one I would not care to repeat. The flare had all its spars broken but the sail's OK so back to the field and put up my delta, the punters come back as the delta soars into the air then it pulls the attachment ring out of the Dacron reinforcement and flutters to the ground. By now, I can't see the funny side any more so I'll try my bomb proof Rok 'Dark Side of the Moon'. It goes up like a train. First bear drops great, all the rest refuse to release. Bring down the rig and find the stops fitted on the wrong side of the pulley so take it all apart, put it together correctly and eventually, two hours late, I get a working rig with a kite that doesn't blow up. Still, the children who did get to bomb their bears went away happy and I learnt a lot about safety.

Doug Irvine.

## Sky Chat or what I said at the A.G.M.

Well, another year down the line and definitely a year older. The year has gone more or less to plan, good job we do not put too tight a limit on plans. There are too many festivals, workshops and displays to mention them all and I think that most went well, weather excluded. But there was one magical moment for me when we were at Salisbury and were asked to fly kites during a pop concert in the evening. Those of us there managed to get about 10 kites in the air on very little wind and we left them flying during the firework display. When the fireworks burst around the kites it was, I think, spectacular and, judging by comments from the spectators, they did as well.

The club projects for last year have all been well received and have flown well. I thank all of you who have had a hand in any of them, no matter how small.

Also, as usual, many thanks to all of you who have helped throughout the year to the benefit of the Club. It is this spirit that makes this a great Club to belong to. No doubt, during the course of this meeting, there will be ideas floated to make it even better so please speak up - but don't go on too long as we have to get out of here by 5.00!!

I'm sorry that I did not organise a general workshop last year as was noted at the A.G.M. but will try again this year. We had a brilliant workshop with Sam Huston in October and I must congratulate Sam for all the prep. work put into the kits and his detailed instructions on the day. I must also thank Dave R. for all his efforts in pulling this workshop off and to all the others who helped to make the day go so well and to all the participants who did everything they were asked with regards to the workshop. I believe that this is another acorn which has been planted on the W.H.K.F.'s field that will grow into a large oak tree.

Finally, some of our members have not enjoyed the best of health or the best of luck this year, as we have apologies from the President, I wish them the best for '97.

I hope that I have not missed anything or anyone out, but if I have no doubt Dave or the rest of you will tell me. So, here's to '97 - may it be a kiter's heaven.

Neil P.S. Just a little thank you to all of you that came to the 'Mince-Pie' fly-in, although it was cold there was plenty of sunshine and some wind for a change. We raised about £160.00 for "Village Life"

Also from me personally and Sue for all the cards and telephone calls after my op. and the many Christmas cards.

Final I would like to wish you all A very Happy New Year. Neil.

## Bears at Downe

A school for the daughter's of poverty stricken gentle folk decided to try and raise some money for building improvements by holding a fun day. Unfortunately one of the staff knows about my predilection for parachuting bears.

Fortunately a survey visit showed a very small area with trees all around so no chance with a kite. However, the chapel tower and flag pole looked promising and after a precarious climb inside the tower we decided to give it a try. Using half length lines this proved to be possible so we said we would give it a go.

The day of the event turned out to be beautiful so at 12.30 we set up the rig from the flag pole and during the afternoon dropped almost 100 fauna. These often had to be rescued from roofs and trees but none were hurt in any way.

Another first for the Ted Berets?

Arthur

# Whiz Bang

Whiz Bang is a small, fun, trick kite. It came about as I was trying to finish a Rokkaku for the Bristol Kite Festival and was having the usual problems with my sewing machine where it manages to produce wonderful plumes of cotton from the bobbin and then jams solid (the joys of a Japanese sewing machine!). This usually means stripping the machine down and adjusting everything in sight until a decent stitch is achieved. On this instance, I decided not to use a piece of scrap to test my adjustment, but to make a kite, just for fun. At Tewkesbury I had noticed someone with a small trick kite flying in a very low wind. When asked about the price I was told "about £50.00". Now this seems a bit expensive so, putting this and a failing sewing machine together, gave rise to Whiz Bang.

I bought some rather nice Ripstop from Ron and Pat at Kiteability to make some kites for a local fete, but I felt the quality of material was too good so I saved it for another project. This was the ideal material for Whiz Bang. It is light and with the feel of paper. The main frame material is 2.5 mm carbon rod and is held together with 2.5 mm end caps. It is important to check the size of the caps before purchase as some are too thin to be punched to take the rod, so check before you buy.

If you can make a kite you can make a Whiz Bang easily. Everyone has their own construction techniques, so I'll just give some pointers. Start by cutting out the two sides of the sail, making sure that you add a hemming allowance to the pattern given! Join the two sides and hem all edges. Reinforce the nose and tail with Dacron, making sure that you make a pocket for the spine to slot into. Reinforce the two stand-off attachment points as marked. To make the two wing end stops, start with a piece of Dacron about 6 mm long. Fold in two and sew down one side. Sew this to the wing tip with the hem in line with the leading edge. Sew from the trailing edge into the Dacron about 2 mm. Leave a 2 mm gap and continue sewing to the end of the Dacron. Repeat on the other wing. Trim any surplus. Reinforce the centre tee connection point with a diamond of Dacron about 3 mm square. Punch a hole in the middle of this reinforcement.

Framing the Whiz Bang is an interesting experience. First punch 6 x 2.5 mm end caps with the smallest punch available. Then punch holes in the leading edge for the cross spars at the marked positions. Thread a piece of 2.5 mm carbon through the wing tip reinforcement. As the carbon appears at each hole, thread one of the punched end caps into place. Push the carbon into the pocket until the wing starts to bend. Cut the carbon in line with the end of the reinforcement and slot into place. Repeat to the other wing. Punch one end cap as before but then punch a second hole at 90° to the first, thread this onto another piece of carbon. This will become the spin. Cut to fit so that it is a snug fit, making sure that the end cap protrudes onto the front of the kite.

For the top and bottom spreaders, I used the lengths of 31 cm for the top and 68 cm for the bottom spreader. The stand off measurement is 11 cm. To attach the stand off to the sail, cut a semi-circle out of the top end of an end cap and use this to capture the edge of the Dacron reinforcement. Bridles are best made of 60 lb Spectra if you have it, or any other light braided line if not. Make the line from the tee to the main knot about 8 cm longer than needed, then tie two knots, one at the end and one at the marked length which I refer to as the knot. For the outside bridle, just mark the length from the top to the knot and then attach to the other line using a lark's head knot. I suggest that you glue all joints using Bostick to prevent the kite falling apart as you try to fly it. I fly my Whiz Bang on 30 feet of Irish linen fighting kite line.

Whiz Bang is a VERY fast and responsive kite, it will axle and trick (even though I can't). It will fall out of the sky if there isn't enough air in the sail, but it is great fun, and you should be able to build one for less than £10.00 (considerably less if you have a large bits box). I built a second Whiz Bang for Doug Manners, which seems to fly in the same way as mine. We have given them serious abuse, flying in high winds and crashing very severely, they seem to bounce!

I hope you build one. The amount of flying fun is not proportional to the size of the kite. Please feel free to call me with any comments of help with construction (01296 770422).

Why the name? It was the noise of the first test flight!

Regards,

Doug Irvine

# Workshop Feedback

2 Shelburne Way  
Derry Hill  
CALNE  
SN11 9PA

Dear Dave and Jane Jones

May I commend the group for the excellent workshop that they ran.

The detail and thought that Sam had put into his kites was outstanding. The venue was excellent and such a lot of effort had gone into the preparation - even down to the mints.

The only downside was that the wind was not suitable for a mass fly on Sunday. A flock (what is the collective noun for a mass of kites?) of Genkis would have been a nice sight - and a fitting end to the weekend.

I hope this is the start of many more group workshops.

Congratulations,

Philippa Todd.

53 Parkstone Avenue  
Parkstone  
POOLE  
BH14 9LW

16th Oct. 96

Dear David,

We are writing to thank all those involved in setting up and running the workshop last Saturday; and of course Sam Huston himself.

It was, in every respect, most impressive. Though recent and long distance members, we were made most welcome as we arrived, and were delighted by the generous refreshment supplies and organisation. Sam's guidance and kits were excellent - providing two types of toothpick for different purposes shows his attention to detail. All that is needed now is a suitable breath of wind to fly a very stylish kite!

Again, thank you Sam; thank you all the White Horsers who helped.

Best wishes,

Alan and Susan Walker

## Possibly the most relaxed Kite Festival in the world.

Carolyn and I needed a range of chill-out after the stresses and strains of the U.K. season. (If you believe that you will believe anything!) Where better than the rugged island of Fuerteventura in the Canaries, some 150 miles west of the Sahara.

The island has to be a kite flyers paradise. Steady, straight winds blow all day long most of the time. They change only slowly ensuring that, at some time or other, you should be able to fly anything in your kite bag from fighters through any multi-line stuff to Codys and parafoils. We did. All this on a huge beach, temperatures mid to upper 70s (F) and on a beautiful if very rugged island with excellent food.

We arrived on Wednesday 6th November and got to the beach in the afternoon to fly the Roks. Thursday was also a Rok day but there was virtually no wind on Friday so it was Indian fighters and Koreans. Saturday and Sunday were good medium wind days, excellent for the two-line brigade and we had five Roks planted in the sky. Monday was a rest day with Tuesday blowing a howling gale and the only things that would possibly fly were parafoils; our German friends kindly lent one from which to hang the Union Flag.

The Festival is in its 9th year and is now organised by Angela and Claudio Azzali who run the kite shop (Via Col Vento) in Corralejo. The town, in the north of the island, is growing up fairly rapidly based on the tourist industry but still retains some of its picturesque charm. The festival itself is held about 3 miles out of town in a large area of sand dunes some 5 kms. long and 2 or 3 kms. deep. It's a trudge of some 300 metres off the road to get near the beach where everyone flies although, with excellent swimming, a bar, and plenty of room to fly - it's worth it.

Flyers are mainly German and Spanish and indeed Joachim Stolzmann and his wife Edith Woock, from Berlin, are also involved in the organisation. The British contingent numbered 15 from across the country.

Paul and Karen Webster who run Airborne Kites in Newcastle came with Mick and Anthony Martin and Fred Davison from the North Eastern Kite Flyers. The buggy contingent included Diane and Gary Neal from Doncaster and Lynn and Graham Jackson from Harlow in Essex. John and Barbara Baker of Leeds Kites flew a variety of single liners whilst Mick and Rose Burgess from Rugby were flying both 2-liners, fighters and power kites. We made up the balance of the Brits flying "The Lovers" and other Roks and doing some bear bunging, much to the amusement of both the locals and some on-lookers on the beach.

We really enjoyed it and would like to thank everyone for making us so welcome. We will be back next year.

If anyone wants any further info., see the pix (yawn) etc., give us a call, 01737 769459 or email 71703.553@compuserve.com.

## Lünen '96

Thanks to an invitation to Kevin Appleton (Team Cascade in Norwich) and organisation by Stafford Wallace, 8 Brit kite flyers were once again able to enjoy a really relaxed family festival in Lünen, Germany, in October this year.

The fest. is organised by Christian Treppner Schultheis, who is an avid pin fanatic and had the amazing airbrushed trailer at Bristol earlier this year.

Lünen is a small town in the north east of the Ruhr area of Germany, 20 kms. north east of Dortmund. A glider field forms the festival site, with meals in the hangar. This is one of the strengths of the festival as for DM60 (approximately £25) you can get 5 meals, and 2 drinks, which everyone eats together at long trestle tables. This makes for a great atmosphere.

The fest is truly international with fliers from most European countries as well as Uncle David Gornberg and Vic Eshpeter from the U.S.A. with Ray Bethall and Art Ross from Canada. The Dutch, French, Belgians and Germans either use accommodation provided in a school gym, or camp on site. The Brits are kindly given the use of a local Red Cross Hostel which backs onto the flying field.

In the Brit party we had Stafford and Hilary Wallace, Kevin Appleton, Paul Judkin (also from Norwich) Paul Barrett from Northampton (flying fighters), John Ogden from Gloucester and Barry Poulter from Sussex flying Boop Troop kites, Nick Webb from Basingstoke with some parafoils and Carolyn and I with the Rok and the motorised bear bunging rig. The latter caused some considerable interest with the Germans and the Dutch in particular.

Stafford had organised a mini bus and we all met at Folkestone for the trip through the tunnel (try it it's excellent) and then he drove through France, Belgium, Holland and into Germany arriving in Lünca mid afternoon in time to do some flying.

The festival is primarily a single line event with some truly stunning creations including a Rok type with a clock face, the hands on which are geared and blown by the wind, a line of genkis which do well in what are often light winds and, of course, Willy Koch's lattice work kites which were seen at Weymouth earlier this year.

Friday night was pin trading in the hangar. Kevin increased the size of his collection but has a long way to go to catch up with Uncle David with his 2400!

Saturday night was party night in the hangar with international relations being cemented with copious quantities of German beer and a national spirit by the name of Feiging, fig extract in Vodka. The ritual is to tap the bottle furiously on the table (noisy) until it turns cloudy, remove the top and place on end of nose, drink the bottle in one then flick off the top. This is very silly! There was also an excellent night fly with some superb fireworks.

Sunday saw the weather break. There was limited flying in the morning but by midday people were leaving with tractors towing campers and cars out of what was rapidly reverting to being a riverside bog.

We stayed on and spent the afternoon being shown how to make miniature kites, for indoor flying, by Ton Vinken from Holland.

An excellent supper was followed by an unbelievable ice cream - there are pictures available.

Thanks to Stafford and Kevin for organising the trip and inviting us and we hope to have the privilege of attending the festival next year.

## One Sky - One World

Carolyn and I had a superb day out at Barbury Castle in Wiltshire on 14th October 1996. It gave us the opportunity to fly the 'Peace Comet' kite, a limited edition (29/100) diamond Malay designed by Jane Parker-Ambrose, which we bought in the 'States'. I understand (although how true it is I don't know - maybe someone can confirm or deny) that numbers 1 and 2 are owned by Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan respectively and that the kite was designed for the first One Sky - One World. It's a good story!

The design is planet Earth with the Stars 'n Stripes and the Hammer & Sickle flags either side, a gold comet streaking overhead.

Good (well VERY good actually) winds meant a long walk to retrieve the 'Brick Wall' so bear bunging was abandoned for the day.

An excellent day's flying and thanks to everyone at W.H.K.F. for another excellent piece of organisation.

Jerry & Carolyn Swift

## And finally a note from the Editor.

"I hope someone will have time to write to Heather Moore", my final words in the last issue. Did anyone manage to find the time to write to her? Please let me know if you did.

The Don Mock workshop is going ahead, the last I heard was that 5 people had signed up, so it will definitely take place. The venue is the same as before, Headlands School in Swindon and the date is 15th/16th February. There are still places available, up to a maximum of 20, so if you are interested send your deposit of £75 to David Robinson as soon as possible. The workshop coincides with our secretary's birthday (which one I'm not sure) so Arthur is organising a get together at the White Hart in Wroughton on the Saturday evening. He needs to know numbers and the pub would like to know orders in advance so if you intend to go get in touch with Arthur as soon as possible.

I hope you can follow the pattern pieces for Doug's Whiz Bang kite, any problems just give me or Doug a ring.

Those of you at the AGM will know that we gave a donation of £200 to "The Swindon Macmillan Appeal". The club received a very nice thank you letter from their appeals manager, Dorothy Woodhouse. I'm sure you will be pleased to know that the two nurses are already working at Princess Margaret Hospital, in Swindon.

Finally a special thank you from me to all of you who have supported Cowpat over the last 5 years and don't forget the 2 record attempts:- Vic Walker with his teddies and Pete Dawson with his Rokks will need lots of help.

## 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 aerias
- 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!
  - These kite eating trees.
  - Animals, they can be frightened by kites
- Remember...your kites can get really quite lovely 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  
Wardens House (Lynne)  
01793 845346

Will YOU be there?

Local WHKF contacts are:

Ron Gunter on: (01793) 770784

Neil Harvey on: (01285) 740295

Arthur Dibble on: (01635) 865976

and

Dave Robinson on: (01793) 824208

The COWPAT HILL Journal

Journal of the White Horse Kite Flyers

Editorial Team: Dave & Jane Jones

15 Bucklebury Close, Stratton St. Margaret, Swindon, SN3 4JH

Tel: 01793 823493

Club Subscription: £6.00 (One year UK)  
(including postage and kite flying insurance)

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