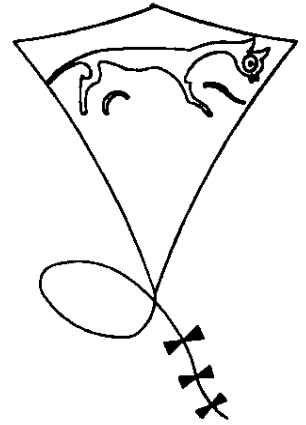


# Cowpat Hill



WHITE HORSE KITE FLYERS  
AUTUMN ISSUE 2007  
OCTOBER - - JANUARY



Doug Jones receiving the award on behalf of WHKF from the President of the AKA  
**The Kite Club of the Year Award 2007**

White horse kite flyers  
PO Box 585  
SWINDON  
SN3 4YR

## **OCTOBER**

14<sup>th</sup> Barbury Castle One Sky One World  
Autumn workshop with John Freeman.

## **NOVEMBER**

11th Barbury Castle  
18th Club AGM at HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS (Swindon)  
M4 J16 starting at 12:30  
21<sup>st</sup> AGM of the BKFA (see forum for details)

## **DECEMBER**

9th Barbury Castle  
27th Barbury Castle Christmas Pudding Fly

Please note that all events are liable to alteration or cancellation. For the latest information please check our web site. [www.whkf.org.uk](http://www.whkf.org.uk)

## A Power Kiting Holiday

On Jan 19th 2007, Team N2i consisting of Rory Sweet, Rupert Longsdon, Henry Cookson and Paul Landry succeeded in their attempt to be the first people to reach the Pole of Inaccessibility on foot. They traveled over 1700km in 49 days using a combination of man hauling and kite skiing to reach this remote point. On their arrival they were greeted by a statue of Vladimir Lenin raised above the ice plateau that had been left there by the Soviet 3rd Antarctic Expedition back in 1958. They were flown out to the Russian research base Progress by ALCI using a DC-3, which had to do a 3500km, round trip for the pick up. There are some excellent pictures of their Flexifoil Blade kite on their web page [www.teamn2i.com](http://www.teamn2i.com)

They also had to endure training of kite surfing in Kenya and kite skiing in Greenland. Now that's dedication. What some people will do to get a bit of space to go power kiting (for 49 days)!!!

My apologies to these brave guys, I am just a bit jealous, as no one seems to want to do parachuting teddies anywhere exotic. The best we can do this year are Milton Keynes, Caerphilly or Alexandra Palace. Do you see why I am the tiniest bit green? I wouldn't even mind if Lenin didn't come to greet me; perhaps be nice if Paddington or Pooh did.

Arthur

## JARGON BUSTER

We have all come across the jargon that is everywhere in modern life, it has even invaded the kite scene. Have you ever listened to a well-informed commentator at a sport kite display? For us old boys who have progressed to the slower and more graceful branch of single line flying it would be as much use if it was in Chinese or the proverbial double Dutch.

What a pleasure it was for a group of us to come to an understanding of just one of these terms. We had been asked to do a display at Gillingham in Kent and having checked out the site in beautiful wind conditions on the Friday evening were looking forward to a good Saturday. It dawned a glorious sunny day but where was the wind? 0 mph to flat calm, but if you are supposed to be doing a display you have to earn you money and with a lot of running up and down the field you could just about persuade a very light kite to stay up. This is when you learn about the term "a 360". It is actually two "180s" and it involves the wind changing to the opposite direction without warning. This means you have to run to the other side of the field to get your line in the right direction. You have been there just long enough to get you kite back flying stably when the wind continues it's swing in the same direction until you are back where you started. You could accept this as the vagaries of the British weather but when it continues to happen all day, except for a short time when it stayed in one direction for about 20min and let us get some sort of a display up, it does start to get annoying.

No wonder the sports kite flyers don't do many of them. It certainly left us k\*\*\*\*\*d. So there you have THE 360.

# Puzzle Corner (6)



1. If Victor danced the Foxtrot, when did Charlie dance the Tango?  
And... what did Mike drink?
2. In a litter of 4 puppies, which is more likely; 2 of each sex or 1 of one and 3 of the other?
3. Find a pair of numbers such that, reducing each by unity, halves their product.
4. How many minutes past 2 is it if 45 minutes ago, it was twice as many minutes before 2?

Answers to [john@johnbrowning.net](mailto:john@johnbrowning.net).  
Any comments about Puzzle Corner ?

Quack Quack

## ROBINSON'S RAMBLE

Well this year's kiting diary has had a touch of the "London Bus Syndrome" You wait forever for one; then they all come along together! Due to all of the bad weather this year several events have had to be cancelled, I really feel for the organisers of all of the events that were called off, especially Tewkesbury, their festival was due the weekend all of the floods arrived, and of course Tewkesbury made the National headlines for weeks. I mentioned the "London Bus Syndrome" basically because after all of the earlier cancellations, August & September comes along and we have a surfeit of events, over the Bank Holiday the club members managed to be at 3 events, Portsmouth, Science Museum, Wroughton, and Uffington Show, I think through September there was an event that the club members were at every weekend.

Janet & Myself have just come back from a very pleasant weeks holiday in Germany, we started out with a visit to the Lünen Kite Festival, an event that is usually visited by lots of British kite flyers, however this year there were only 10 Brit's there. The event was as popular as ever with the locals, there was an estimated 50,000 people who visited the site on Saturday. The weather was gorgeous over the weekend, however the warm weather had an effect on the wind on Sunday, there was some very high altitude wind at about 1000ft. if flyers could get to that point the kites sat there, but occasionally they would fall from the sky. When they did fly there was some spectacular kites on display, none more so than Ralf Dietrich's Star shape facet kite, it can only be described as AWESOME! How it goes together is a mystery to me.

for the week, especially Lucas who acted as our tour guide and interpreter for a couple of days, and Rike who took us Shopping, of course Janet doesn't need any help in that area!

As I am writing this we are only a few weeks away from the club's Autumn workshop, when we will be welcoming John & Marzlie Freeman from Canada, this couple are famous in USA kiting circles, for their many and varied workshops, they are at Fort Worden every year. I have never done one of their workshops but Neil Harvey & Phil Scarfe have and they tell me that they are brilliant teachers, the kite they are teaching at Swindon, is a Della Porta, with bargello patchwork.

Don't forget that the Club's AGM is on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> November, at the "Express by Holiday Inn" just off of junction 16 M4, commencing at 12.30pm, a buffet lunch will be provided, this is paid for by the raffle, so please be generous with your donations and your ticket buying.

Regards

David Robinson

Cowpat

I have used this it's a great recipe its from an old book and is on the web somewhere.  
Old English Apple pie

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**Serves 6 - 8**

Ingredients

- 200g short crust pastry 1kg cooking apples
- 100g Demerara sugar
- Rind and juice of 1 lemon
- 50g raisins
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon ground nutmeg

Method

Oven 190°C - 375°F - Gas Mark 5.

1. Peel, core and slice the apples. Cook with 4 tablespoons water and half the Demerara sugar. They should be soft but not cooked to a pulp.
2. Cool.
3. Use two thirds of the pastry to line the Gratin dish. Leave a little pastry to overhang the top edge. Roll out the remaining third to a circle big enough for a lid.
4. Mix the remaining sugar, lemon rind and juice, raisins and spices into the cooked apple. Transfer to the pastry lined dish. Dampen the top edge of the pastry and cover with the lid. Press the top edges well together and trim off the excess pastry.
5. Make a steam hole in the centre and decorate with pastry leaves.
6. Bake in the centre of a pre-heated oven for 30-35 minutes, until the pastry is crisp and golden brown.
7. Dust the top with icing sugar before serving with what you like on it.

Ceri

## Hereford Kite Festival.

The new location for the Hereford kite festival this year was Berrington Hall, which is set in a beautiful grounds and gardens.

We arrived a bit late about 13.00hrs only to get stuck in the mud at the entrance. We were towed out by Dean Clow, a Midland kite club member who had towed a few vehicles onto the flying area with his Animal pick up; this was very much appreciated Dean thank you from all of us.

I was actually towed in backwards much to the delight of the onlookers.

We set up and the weather was fine but the wind was up and down. I got my spikes up, the wind improved and the sun came out. It was a fantastic afternoon and a great venue, plenty of room for everyone to fly kites. Kites in the air in the afternoon; Box kites from Robert Brasington, Hex kite from Ralf Maserski, underpants and a large lady diver by Karl Longbottom, kites by Martin Lester and kites from Sky Bums - Paul and Helen Morgan and mini kites by Mick House, to name but a few. The Avon Kite fliers had a good display going with their Geckos and a smaller version of one of their spirits. There were lots of deltas up very high.

Clubs represented there were Avon, Brighton, Midland and White Horse Kite flyers. So a great mix.

There was kite workshop for the children run by Dave Salmon, which was very popular. Sky Bums were there nice to see them again.

There was an Indian meal organised for the evening then the auction.

### The Sunday: by kind permission of Sara Longbottom.

I woke up at 05.00 to see rain and decided to get back over to Berrington fairly sharpish (Karl stayed on site).

I knew that heavy rain was forecast from 9am onwards; the difficulty was persuading the campers to get moving off the field.

Pat McCarthy must have been woken by the rain and made his escape soon after 6am; Dave Cross got his car off and took the tent down later.

Dave Salmon cooked himself a hearty breakfast, packed his stall and drove off without a hitch, Paul and Helen Morgan would not have been far behind but for having to wait for another vehicle to move out of their way.

Martin Croxton, Doug Jones and Phil Scarfe had all moved their cars on Saturday so had to carry all their gear and were doing really well until Doug missed his footing; at least the soft mud made a soft landing.

Most of the Cars took a wide sweep around the front of the marquee, managing to travel in a straight line across the mud and got out under their own steam. Fortunately Chris & Pat Mabon had got their camper off the night before, towed by Dean. Then Dean took his caravan off first but then Mick Burls got his Discovery stuck while towing his caravan off.

The last van to go was Steve Lane, his caravan was the biggest of the three and the line he chose would have been fine but for the unexpected dip, which seemed to ground both front and back of the van at the same time. Dean was a real trooper, returning again and again; he towed Mick out of his hole, then the big caravan and finally towed the only other car that got stuck.

### Back to Ceri.

Don't let this muddy story put you off coming next year, if you have never been please put this one on your calendars. It is a real kite flyers festival. There is lots of free space to fly your kites, plenty of room, good facilities, great company and a very enjoyable family day.

Thanks to Karl and Sara.

Ceri Jones.

Sara Longbottom.

I know we set the example at our festival but did they have to copy the weather?  
(Arthur)

## **Flashes in the Sky**

Night flying: all sorts of light-up things – mostly light-emitting diodes because they are small, use very little power and come in all colours. Sometimes, like at Dieppe, there are searchlights and they show up kites in the night sky to wonderful effect. Even fireworks can be attached to kites – brilliant but a bit scary and short-lived.

Probably, the brightest light we commonly see (except for the sun, which we rarely see) is the bright flash from a camera. A capacitor charges up and then discharges through a flash tube filled with xenon. Given a man-lifter, one could haul up a mains-powered strobe light and out-do anything around but raising mains-powered gadgets can be a bit foolhardy.

Have you ever thought about using camera flashes? No? Then you should. To save having to raise the whole camera, just take the flash bit. How? Then I will explain:

Disposable cameras are used once and then thrown away (the camera shop will say they are re-cycled but I have my doubts). Inside these throwaway thingies are perfectly good working flash units and it is these, which can be put to spectacular use on kites. It is very easy to take the flash unit out of the camera. When you get the unit out, take a screwdriver and use it to short across the ends of the big capacitor. You will get a big spark and crack. Better this than have it short through you – it hurts.



The next thing is to have the flash go off repeatedly without having to switch the thing manually. (Unless you have very, very long arms – even longer than Mr Tickle’s arms). What you need is a component called a sidac. This little beauty

stays open-circuit until the voltage across it reaches a certain value and then it shorts – only to return to its original open-circuit state. Now, if you put the sidac across the contacts, which make the flash circuit fire, then the flash will go off repeatedly – all by itself. The sidac you need for this job is a DO-92 from RS Components. (put “sidac” into the RS website search box.)

If you look at the circuit board, there is a switch, which is the one you press to start the charging process. In most brands (like Kodak), this switch is a raised bubble of thin metal held in place with sticky tape. It clicks when you push on it. Take the bit of metal off and solder across the contacts – or somewhere on the circuit to do the same job. Next. Find the contacts, which fire the flash – two pieces of metal sticking out from the board. It is across these two contacts that you solder the magic sidac. When you connect the battery, you will hear the circuit charging up and then..... FLASH. The unit will continue to flash for about 30 minutes; taking longer and longer between flashes as the battery runs down.

Put the board + battery in a box to give a neat unit which you can hang onto your kite. If you hang the unit on the string with the flash pointing at the kite, you achieve a particularly impressive effect – every now and then the kite appears in the dark sky.

Repeat warning about the capacitor: after connecting the battery, make sure you keep your fingers away from the circuit because that discharge needs to be through the flash tube – not through you.

Go to <http://members.misty.com/don/kmaxhack.html> to get some more details.

A picture is worth a thousand words. There are a couple on the WHKF website which should make things clear.

Do have a go.



AGENDA for  
WHITE HORSE KITE FLYERS  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
18<sup>th</sup> NOV 2007

At

The Holiday Inn (SWINDON WEST)

12.00PM for 12.30pm Start

1. Welcome to Members from the President.
2. The receiving of AKA Club of the Year Award  
Club member of the Year.
3. Apologies.
4. Minutes of 2006 AGM.
5. Matters arising from Minutes.
6. Chairman's Report. (Including H+S & CPA updates)
7. Hon. Sec's Report. (Including insurance changes)
8. Hon. Treasurer's Report.
9. "Cowpat Hill" editor's Report.
10. WHKF USA representative's Report.
11. Address from The Science Museum.
12. Election of Officers.
13. WHKF Festival 2008.
14. Other Events.
15. National Body.
16. Equipment for 2008.
17. Projects for 2008.
18. Workshops for 2008.
19. Changes to the constitution.
20. Fees from November 2008.
21. Any other Business. Now is your chance to have "a say", or have we forgotten something?
22. Close of the Meeting by the President.

Lunch will be served following the election of officers.

THE RAFFLE WILL BE DRAWN AT THE END OF THE MEETING.

Please support it well as it pays for the FOOD.

## Notices from holiday hotels

- Madrid Our wine list leaves nothing to hope for.
- Japan You are invited to take advantage of the chambermaid.
- Finland If you cannot reach the fire exit, close the door and expose yourself at the window.
- Thailand Please do not bring solicitors into your room.
- Seoul Measles are not included into your room charge.  
Choose between twin bed or marriage bed; we regret no King Kong sized ones.
- Moscow If this is your first visit to the USSR you are welcome to it.
- Nairobi Customers who find our waitresses rube should see the manager.
- Ankara You are invited to our restaurant where you can eat Middle Eastern food in a European ambulance.
- S American  
Ferry In case of emergency the lifeguards are under the seats in the centre of the ship.
- Italy  
Near a bell If service is required give two stokes to the maid and three to the waiter.
- Spanish  
Airline Bags to be used in case of sickness or to gather remains.
- Africa You may choose between a sea view and the backside of the country.  
Las Palmas If you telephone for room service you will get the answer you deserve.
- Rome Please dial 7 to retrieve your auto from the garbage.
- Moscow You are welcome to visit the cemetery where famous Soviet Authors and writers are buried daily except Thursday.
- Tel Aviv If you wish breakfast, lift the phone and the waitress will arrive. This will be enough to bring up your food.
- Bucharest The lift is being fixed, meanwhile we regret you will be unbearable.
- Poland As for the tripe served for you at The Metropole, you will be singing its praises to your grandchildren on your deathbed.
- Soviet ship Helpsaving apparata in emergings behold many whistles! Associate the stringing apparata about the busoms and meet behind. Flee then to indifferent lifesaving shippen obediencing the instructs of the vessel chef.
- Tokyo In case of earthquake use torch to pass yourself out.

## **Special Report from Our Agent at the A.K.A. Convention.**

I arrived in Seattle one and a half hours late and in my tiredness did not comprehend why I was being asked for photos of The White Horse Kite Flyers. But at Ocean Shores it all became obvious when the award for Kite Club of the Year started to be announced. I did not see the giant screens above the stage were photos of Phil Scarfe and other members of the Club were being projected. After a quite a long spiel by Susan Skinner(President of the AKA) it was eventually announced that it was The White Horse Kite Flyers, in my shock I just sat there in disbelief. Eventually I managed to bring myself together and go up to the stage and receive the Plaques on behalf of the Club, one which we must return to the AKA before the next conference at Gettysburg next year.

I will write a BIGGER article for the next "Cow Pat" when I get home.  
Doug Jones.

## **Sky Chat**

Well how about that! Our Club winning The Club of the Year award. That must be the largest feather in our cap. I think that a large part must go to two persons that have pushed the White Horse Kite Flyers to the AKA, that is Mrs Marla Miller and Arthur Dibble, who have both been pushing articles and news about us for publication in Kiting. We can all pat ourselves on the back and take a bow.

Now getting back to terra firma, life has been little up and down due to the weather this summer with some events biting the dust or should I say the mud. The latter summer events have been quite good and fairly well attended by members. We have also been to two new events in September this year. One was in Gillingham, Kent with a Japanese theme, weather was fine and sunny but no or very little wind all day. I was glad that I had taken some Charlie Scotch kites along. I was most impressed with the Kent Kite Flyers with their array of Japanese kite they displayed around the arena. They also asked if we would like to have a joint Fly-in somewhere halfway between us. This is something the committee can look into. The second event was down by Caerphilly at Penallta Park which was an old slag heap with a pit pony built in relief on the ground. The park is fairly new and the vegetation has yet to take a real hold, but it is coming on. Still we were there to do a WHKF kite workshop which went very well. We were kept busy from 10.00 to 6.00 making the green tadpoles and as so often happens they were the most numerous kites in the sky. We must thank the Caerphilly Council and the Longbottoms for this invitation and hospitality. After such a good day I felt sorry for Dave, Janet and especially Arthur for their journeys home, because after the M32 junction on the M4 it was painfully slow.

Talking about the committee as I was earlier, it is that time of year again, the AGM or your chance to air your views about your Club. Bring along fresh ideas, projects and such forth. We want younger new blood in the Club, some of us older ones are running out of steam and are wanting to take a bit more of a back seat, instead of trying to run around a kite field trying to get one of the Club's kites in the air. I am whacked just thinking about it. I definitely think Charlie has the right idea with his small kites, that's the road for me, well maybe a few larger ones as well and if possible the chair flyable type.

Can I at this point thank all Club members for all the hard work you have put in during the course of the year, especially Dave and Janet keeping us up to speed in making sure that we knew what was on and who was required. Also to Arthur with health scares that had us all worried. Arthur you must take your foot off the accelerator and come out of overdrive. We have to thank Ralf & Lucas Maserski & Holm Strück for being able to use their vehicles as a base, at the festival, and further thank Ralf, Rike & Lucas Maserski, for their hospitality the following week after the festival, when we stayed in Dortmund

Neil.



The Club's Playsail

## Club Merchandise Now Available

New club patch £1.50	The New club jacket £35.00	Cap £7.50
Legionaries cap £8.50	Cap with ear flaps £10.00	
Tee shirts	Polo tee shirts	
s-xl £9.00	xs-xl £14.00	
2xl-3xl £9.50	2xl £14.50	
	3-4xl £15.00	
Sweatshirts	Festival sweat shirt	
Xs-xl £16.60	xs-xl £25.00	
2xl £17.90		
3-4xl £18.40		

All items can be viewed on our web site [www.whkf.co.uk](http://www.whkf.co.uk)  
all above price's **do not** include post and packing if you like it posted to you please mail or ring us  
first for a price .To order please send your order with cheque to  
W.H.K.F , P.O.Box 585 , Swindon , SN2 4YR

## 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

Journal of the White Horse Kite Flyers

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