

# Cowpat Hill

*White Horse  
Kite Flyers  
Summer Issue*



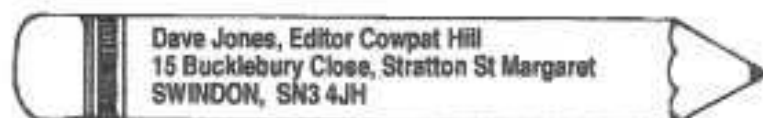
*1995*

*July - September*

## *Dates for your Diary*

	EVENT
July 8/9	Wales International Kite Festival, Monmouth
July 9	Petworth Park Kite Day
July 15/16	Stonar Park, Henley
July 23	Blackheath Summer Festival
July 29/30	Brighton Kite Festival, Stanmer Park, Brighton
July 29/30	Barmouth, North Wales
July 30	2nd Valleys Kite Festival, Tredegar
July 30	Trouble House, Tetbury
August 5/6	Middle Wallop Kite Festival
August 13	Blackwater Valley Kite & Juggling Carnival, Aldershot Park
August 13	Milto Keynes Kite Festival
August 13	Hengistbury Head
August 19	KSGB Convention, Coventry
August 20	Coventry Kite Festival
August 26/27	Portsmouth International Kite Festival
September 2/3	Bristol International Kite Festival
September 9/10	Swansea Beach Kite Festival
September 17	Salisbury Kite & Sky Hoolie
September 24	Old Warden Autumn Ralley
October 8	One Sky One World, Barbury
November 12	WHKF AGM

Details are correct as far as we know, but they may be subject to change. If you are interested in any of these events ring Neil Harvey or David Robinson for more details.



Dave Jones, Editor Cowpat Hill  
15 Bucklebury Close, Stratton St Margaret  
SWINDON, SN3 4JH

# Ode to Neil

The streets of pretty Bibury  
are all chocked up with snow  
the people of the village  
on their journies cannot go.

"Where is the snowplough driver"  
the village people said,  
"I'm afraid" was the reply,  
"He's taken to his bed".

No ducks for the duck race,  
all locked up in his shed,  
with all the P.A. equipment,  
"He's taken to his bed".

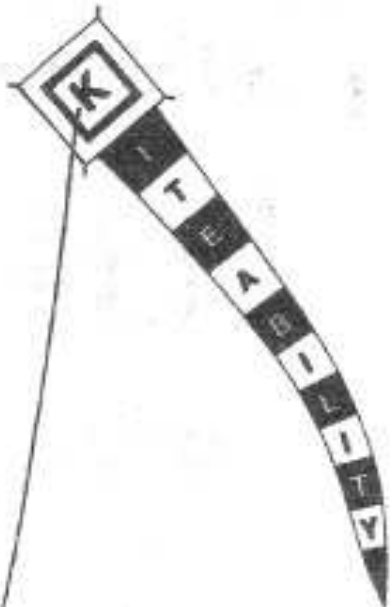
All the chickens scratching,  
waiting to be fed,  
"Where's our local hero"?  
"He's taken to his bed".

No fresh mangle worzles,  
for us to make our stew,  
and there he is a snoring,  
"Oh... what can we do"?

Good news from the cottage,  
He feels a bit of a fool,  
after checking with the doctor,  
he isn't pregnant after all".

Here's health to our Leader,  
now he's out of his bed,  
so now go feed the chickens,  
..... and don't forget the NED.

Best wishes Neil  
Glad you are feeling better

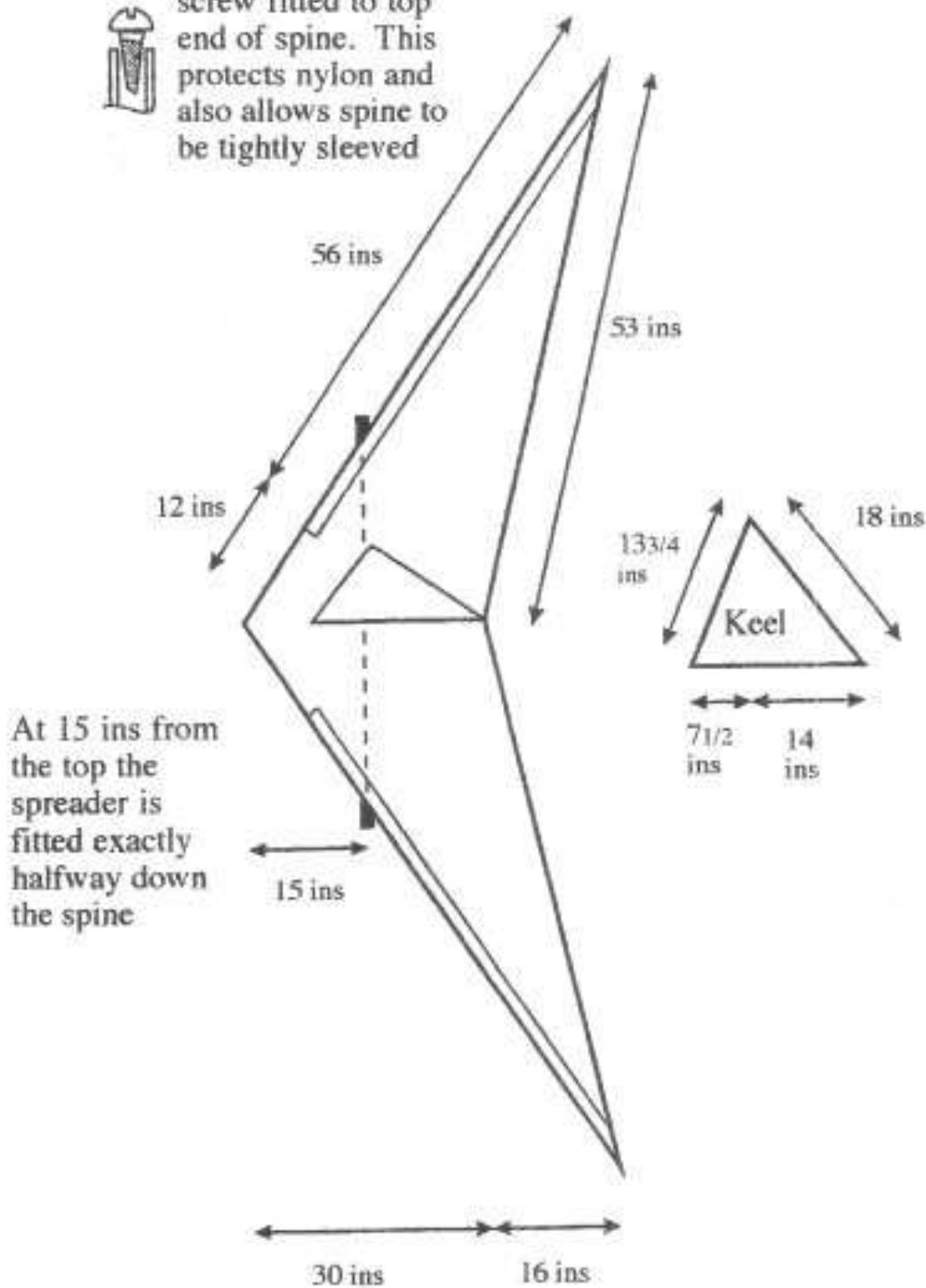


*Patt + Ron*

# The JBD Delta - Ron Reeve



Round headed screw fitted to top end of spine. This protects nylon and also allows spine to be tightly sleeved



At 15 ins from the top the spreader is fitted exactly halfway down the spine

Wing stiffeners, spine and spreader are all of 1/4 ins carbon tubing, fitted with rubber end caps, with the exception of the top end of the spine (see above). Wing stiffeners are loosely sleeved but the spine is tightly sleeved.

This kite has been tried and tested and is a very good flyer in strong and light winds.

# KITE WORDSEARCH - Jennifer Dawson

I came home from "Cowpat" this month saying that a puzzle was required for the next mag. edition. An hour or two later my eight year old daughter came up to me with this competition for you all to try!

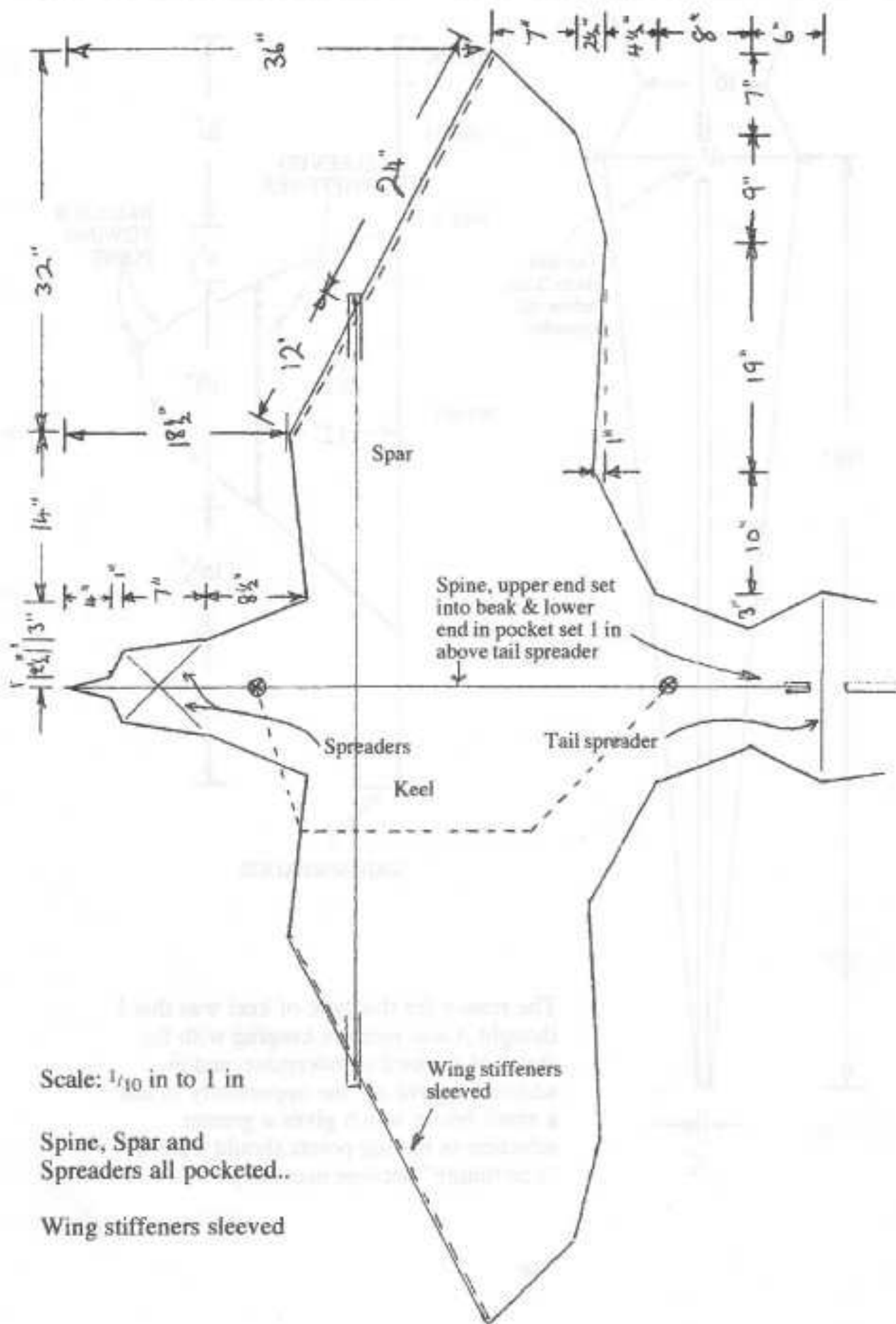
There are twenty kite names, all straight out of "The Penguin Book of Kites", hidden in the matrix, and I'll give a Mars Bar to the winner drawn 'out of the hat' at our club meet in October, "One Sky, One World", so all entries in by September 10th please.

T	Y	O	X	D	Q	R	O	K	K	A	K	U	A	U
W	E	D	I	E	U	N	D	S	T	U	N	T	E	R
Y	S	T	Z	L	U	A	N	U	L	T	B	O	T	O
O	L	O	R	L	M	N	O	Q	Z	E	A	E	I	L
Y	I	L	Y	A	L	A	M	E	Y	R	C	D	I	L
B	O	X	O	P	H	N	A	C	E	O	Y	D	K	E
X	F	Z	I	O	A	E	I	M	A	T	T	Y	A	R
C	A	R	I	R	Y	P	D	X	S	I	C	O	S	Y
U	R	Z	N	T	I	O	E	R	U	V	D	K	A	P
N	A	D	E	A	F	N	I	R	A	E	F	K	G	E
O	P	T	T	A	M	F	D	Y	F	L	U	A	A	T
S	I	B	T	C	O	D	Y	N	C	O	N	Y	N	E
W	N	L	S	E	R	P	E	N	T	I	L	L	X	R
A	E	D	Q	L	I	N	E	E	S	L	E	D	Q	J
D	O	U	U	Y	N	N	E	J	Z	U	D	U	N	U

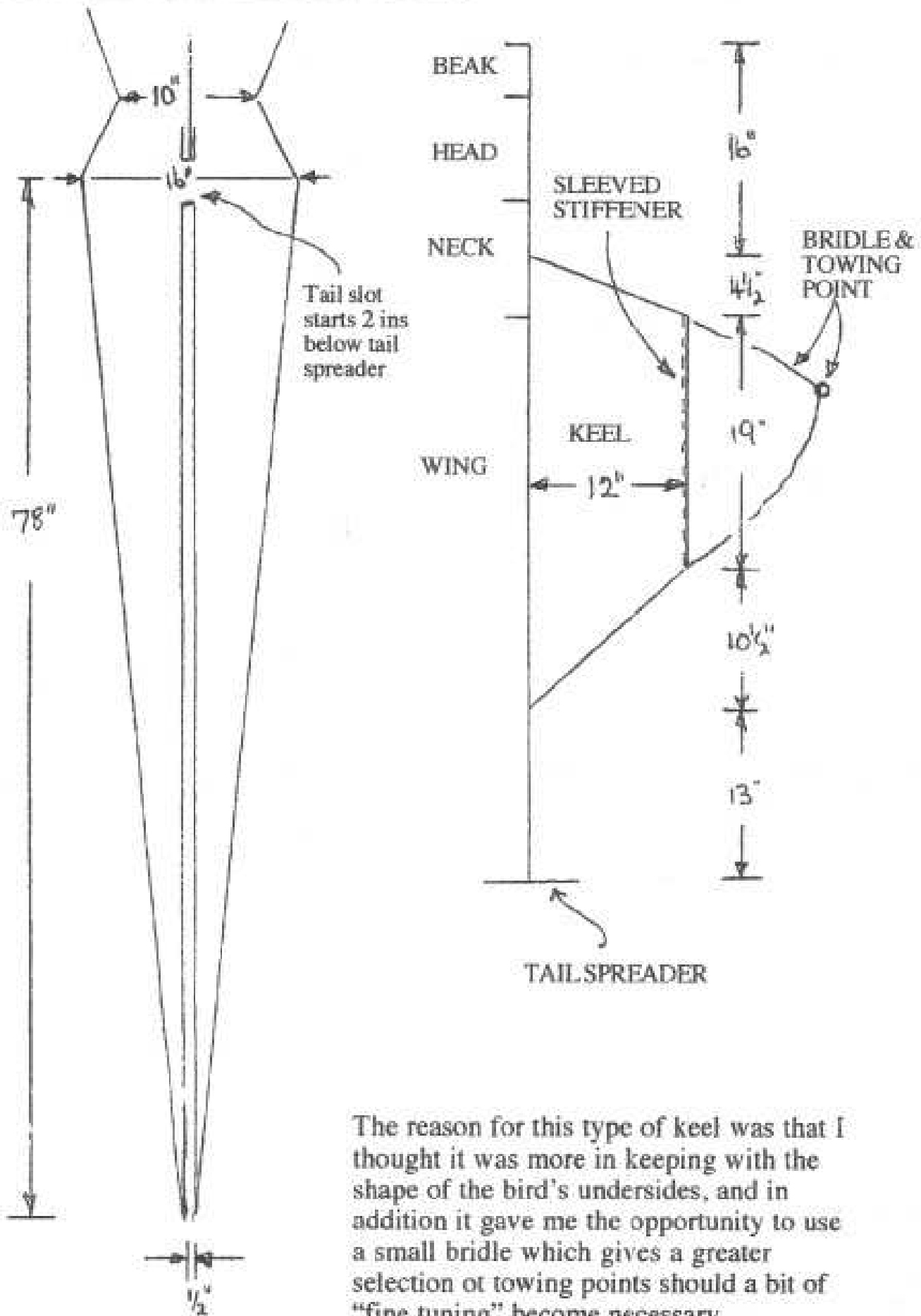
The Kite names? Well, you didn't think I'd make it that easy, did you!

4 Luck, Peter Dawson.

# The Pleasant Pheasant - Ron Reeve



# Details of tail, keel & bridle



The reason for this type of keel was that I thought it was more in keeping with the shape of the bird's undersides, and in addition it gave me the opportunity to use a small bridle which gives a greater selection of towing points should a bit of "fine tuning" become necessary

## *Bridles from scratch - Mike Swann*

If you have just built a kite and have no sample to work from, it's difficult to know where to start your adjusting from. I've gleaned this information from a variety of sources and make no claim to originality.

Length of bridle is important. A short bridle gives more instantaneous control of the kite, but can increase the frame loading, and makes adjustments smaller for given effect. Conversely, a long bridle reduces the frame load and makes adjustments more tolerant, but introduces some sloppiness in control especially in light winds. As a starter, try about 1.5 times the leading edge length for the main bridle.

Bridles are usually either top leading edge to centre T with an outhaul to the lower leading edge, or top to lower leading edge with an inhaul to the centre T.

The majority of the kites I've seen use the first method.

To define a start point for a new bridle, consider each sail half to be a rough triangle. "Draw a line from each angle to the centre of the opposite side. Use the crossover of these 3 lines as the initial bridle point. Move the bridle point down until the kite will no longer take off. Put a red mark at this point 'cos you can then make all further references to this known no-fly point. After that it's pure suck-it-and-see, but I do most flying with it set just above the no-fly. Julie White described the effects of up-down movements in the last issue. In addition shortening the outhaul will normally make your kite turn faster, but can make it very twitchy to fly and at the extreme can put too much load on the lower leading edge of the frame. Be aware that, because of the bridle geometry, shortening the outhaul also slightly lowers the bridle point, and lowering the bridle point lengthens the outhaul.

Congratulations to the Cygnets (Georgina and David) on winning 4th prize (a camera) in the Mystery Object Competition at the Science Museum in March.

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**Thanks**

Dear David

Just a quick line to thank you for having me along to do my thing at the Swindon Fest., and also for your contribution towards my petrol expenses. I really enjoyed performing my multiple kite demonstration although, at times, the very lumpy and variable winds were making it hard to keep the routine as smooth and precise as it can be.

I hope that you and other W.H.K.F. thought that my routines added something to your festival and I would be grateful if you would keep me in mind for any future events that you may be involved with.

I will be performing at many more festivals this year, so no doubt we will be bumping into each other from time to time.

It was nice to meet you at last and put a face to the voice on the phone. Many thanks again. Best wishes to you and your family, and to the White Horse Kite Flyers.

Looking forward to seeing you again soon,



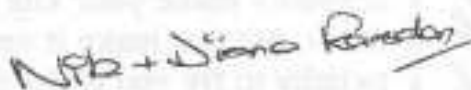
Mark Coventry, Okehampton, Devon.

Dear All

Just a short note to say thank you for such a pleasant weekend. We both enjoyed the Festival and the diversity of kites there, I think we are both hooked.

Once again thank you and we hope to be back next year,

Regards



Nik and Diane Ramsdon

Dear Mr Robinson

Can you please offer everyone involved with the Swindon Kite Festival a sincere and big "THANK YOU" from Maureen and I?

It was greatly appreciated and was one of the best we've ever been to in all the years we've been doing the rounds of the festivals. It was so nice to have so much space to fly - a lot of organisers forget that you need a lot of space in front of you when there's a decent height clearance. I especially liked the bit where my kite got so small that I couldn't see it and it was nice to see the clean bits of line on my deep sky reel, or should it be space reel? I don't think I've ever seen so many stacks of "Flexifoils" etc. at once with room to spare!

How about one in October when the weather will still be warm and just before the change back to G.M.T.? Would a minimalist one work if there were no workshop, no paid flyers, no marquees etc.? Don't bother to reply it was just a thought ...

Anyway, we greatly enjoyed it and look forward to the next one. Thanks again.

Yours sincerely



David Hughes, Bozeat via Wellingborough, Northants.



# Skychat

Well, another Festival gone, with ALL its headaches. At least the weather was kind to us this year. I must apologise for a few things that did not go quite as planned. Dave and I started talking with the Science Museum last June/July with the understanding that we would have the Festival in front of the hangars, all 42 acres of it, plus 22 acres at the bottom end of the runway. All this space and not a tree in sight, was this a mirage? The only hitch seemed to be that the 42 acres had to be re-drilled with new grass. This was to be done in the autumn. Well, this was not done but promised to be done early in the spring. Alarm bells rang with me and I said that things were going to be very tight on timing for the grass to be forward enough for us to be able to use the field. The land on the Airfield is farmed on licence which should mean that the farmer has to do within reason what the Museum wants, but this farmer had his own running order and was going to do what he wanted to do. Still, he did say that we would be able to use the land we ended up on and that he would mow it for us. I believe that he thought we would need just a corner of the field. He had not met kite flyers with their appetite for using the area allotted to them and any more that's handy. Well, the grass was not planted until late spring but the farmer still said it would be ready for us. We started to make other plans to site the Festival but this would have made the whole thing spread out more than we would have liked. Other years we have prided ourselves in having a homely, friendly Festival. Still, we carried on hoping that we would not have to use them. Getting ever closer, and more meetings with the Museum and farmer, (beginning to lose count of the number of meetings and phone calls) then came the last meeting on the Tuesday afternoon before the event.

The forecast for the weekend said it should be typical Swindon Festival sunshine and showers, so it was decided to hold the Festival on the alternative site as the thought of a mud bath on the original site was too much for the Museum to contemplate. This is when the farmer said he had not and would not cut the now ever longer grass and wanted us to guarantee that no stakes would be left in the grass. At this I said that I would not but that we would do our best to make sure that the site would be clean on Monday. This is how it was left at the end of the meeting. The farmer must have had second thoughts that night, because the next day he took off the grass on one plot. This, I'm afraid, left the multi-line site with long grass for which I apologise and hope that it did not ruin the enjoyment too much. I'm sorry too that the campers were tucked out of the way, but at least they had good toilets.

Still, the Museum was very happy with our event and is looking forward to next year. The buggiers had a good time and did not get tangled up with the rest of us and the weather stayed good.

I must thank everybody that helped with the Festival, from setting up on Friday until we cleared the site on Monday. Too many to name in person but I must thank Janet, Dave, the staff of the museum and our visitors from abroad for their efforts to make the Festival tick. Looking forward to next year and hoping that there will be not quite so many hiccups in the run-up to the weekend.

In the mean time, the Club has been busy doing shows around the country and there are many more to come but more help would be appreciated. Now don't be shy - it's good fun showing off in the best possible taste. Many thanks again and keep your lines tight and good winds.

Neil

## *And finally a note from the Editor*

Well it's Cowpat time again, and yes, it's new look Cowpat time. I'm sorry to those of you who liked the new format but it was getting very difficult to put together especially the kite plans. It was almost impossible to make the plans small enough and yet still be able to read them. With this size mag I can still adjust the text size but the pages are large enough to take the plans. I promised Doug Irvine that I wouldn't mention the name of the club member who couldn't read the text in the smaller mag. It's alright Doug your secret is safe with me. One advantage of this format is that there is less space for me.

Well the festival seems a distant memory now, but we would like to take this opportunity to thank Neil, Dave & Janet,

plus all the others too numerous to mention, for all their hard work. We are looking forward to next year

Thanks also to our foreign visitors, I don't think I've laughed so much for ages.

With the workshop season well under way it's time to pass on a few thank yous. Letters have been received from Grange Infants School and the 6th Swindon Scout Group. Thank you to all who helped at these events plus all the other events we've attended. If you haven't helped at a workshop, why not give it a try? No special skills needed and it can be good fun.

Finally thanks to Ron Reeve for the kite patterns, keep them coming please!

## *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:

Ron Gunter on: (01793) 770784

Neil Harvey on: (01285) 740295

Arthur Dibble on: (01635) 865976

and

Dave Robinson on: (01793) 824208

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