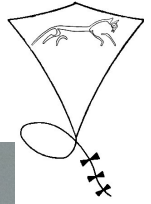


COWPAT HILL

Journal of the White Horse Kite Fliers

Spring 2016 April - June



Its not late!! Enjoy, any contributions for further editions to andrewrumming@me.com, anything accepted!

Andy

www.whkf.org.uk

info@whkf.org.uk

Diary Dates

April

- 10th Barbury Castle
- 23rd/24th North Hants Kilters Jolly Up

May

- 1st and 2nd Weymouth - not a formal festival
- 8th Barbury Castle
- 15th Streatham Common
- 8th Harrow
- 29th Minchinhampton Common
- 27 -31st Margam Park

June

- 4th-5th Basingstoke
- 11/12th Bedford
- 12th Barbury Castle
- 18th 19th Sumners Pond

Deadline for next issue of Cowpat Hill
30th June 2016

Autumn workshop 15/16 October 2016

The workshop this year will be by Ralf Maserski. There will be three designs on offer each with a range of colour schemes and these are shown below. Ralf says that each kite can be completed in a single day so you can make two in the weekend or if you are a fast worker possibly all three. Any one attending the workshop can order as many kits as they wish so that they can take the home afterwards to complete.

Kits must be ordered through and paid to White Horse Kite Flyers so that there is a single payment to Ralf. NOTE the colours and designs listed are the only ones available at this workshop. Please direct all communications via WHKF and do not contact Ralf directly.

If you would like to make any of these kites but cannot attend the workshop you may order the kits As usual we will be providing lunches on both days plus tea and coffee available all day. An evening function will also be arranged, possibly the usual Chinese meal but this may be varied as the workshop venue is now out of the town centre. Keep your eye on the web pages for details.

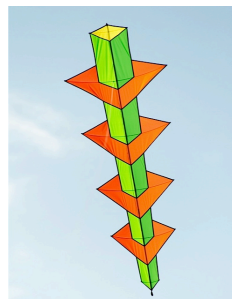
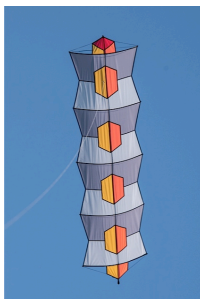
We would like to thank St Joseph's School for the use of their facilities in the past but due to increasing costs we have had to change the location this year to; Hook Village Hall, SN4 8EA. The good news is that those of you wishing to come in your camper van are able to park there from SATURDAY MORNING. Sorry, no electric hook-ups and toilet facilities only available during workshop hours. Note this is a residential area so please be quiet and considerate to the neighbours. Also you will be able to leave your machines etc. in the hall overnight.

Once you have decided on the kite(s) that you want to make and the colour schemes please let us know using the following booking form.

The latest date for this will be 1/07/2016. We will require a deposit of £40 by this date and a final payment for the kits by 30/09/2016 so that we can arrange payment to Ralf in Euros.

The price for this event will be £40 plus the cost of kits. This will not include the cost of the Saturday evening event that is normally about £20 plus your drinks. Please let us know as soon as possible if you will be attending. Any one is welcome to attend the workshop even if they are not making a kite but there will be a charge of £5 per day to cover the cost of meals etc.

Prices	
Stack 7	£60
Square Beam No1	£55
Square Beam No3	£55



BOOKING FORM

NAME	
PHONE	
EMAIL	
KITE 1	
KITE 2	
KITE 3	
SPECIAL REQUESTS EG. VEGITARIAN	
Please complete this form and return electronically to : info@whkf.org.uk with information on your BACS deposit to account; 12573018; sort code; 16-33-11 Or by mail with cheque payable to WHKF to: The Treasurer 61 Bridge End Road, Stratton St Margaret, Swindon, SN3 4PD	

Location confirmed as :-

Hook Village Hall, the location of the workshop is situated in the hamlet of Hook, near Swindon, Wiltshire. Postcode SN4 8EA. (This is no where near and far far smaller the Hook in Hampshire!) It is 5 minutes from junction 16 of the M4 and situated on the Wootton Bassett to Purton unnumbered road. From Junction 16 of the M4 take the A3102 signed Wootton Bassett and follow this going straight over at the first roundabout (just past the Sally Pussey Pub) and taking the third exit (North East) towards Purton at the second larger roundabout. The hall is on the left after 2/3rd of a mile, directly opposite a side road signed Lydiard Park, just as the road starts bending round to the right. It is set back a bit with a big carpark at the front. If you get to the Bolingbroke Arms Pub you will have gone too far by 150m. http://www.wvha.org.uk/halls.php?hall_id=124

Local accommodation

Most convenient probably, both just off J16/M4 and you can usually get a reasonable price by booking in advance:-

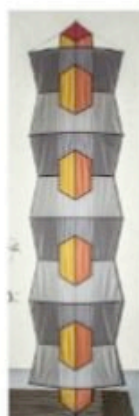
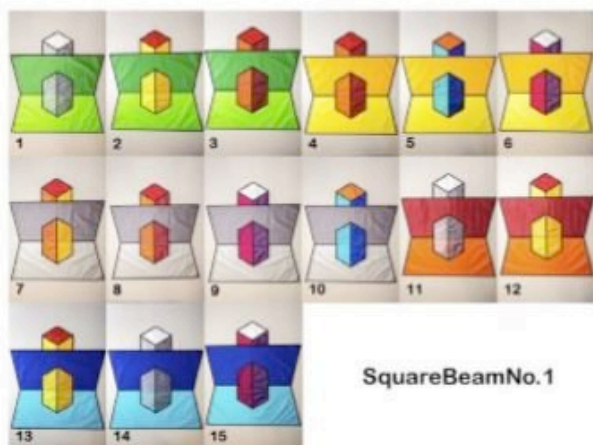
Premier Inn Swindon West - Hotel Great Western Way, Swindon, SN5 8UY

Holiday Inn Express Swindon West - Hotel Frankland Rd, Swindon, SN5 8UD



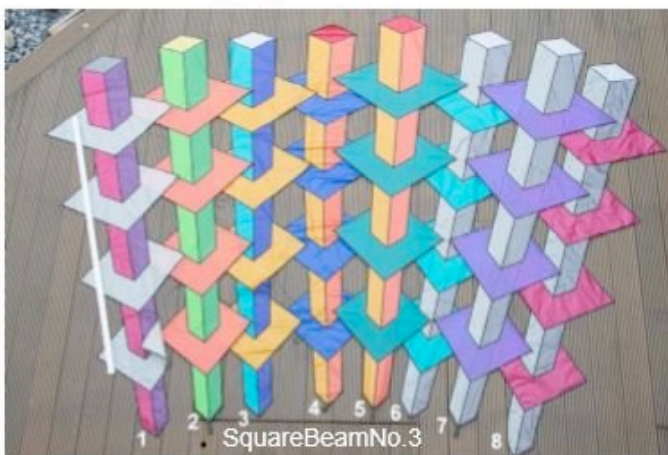
Stack7

Level:
Low to medium



SquareBeamNo.1

Level:
High



SquareBeamNo.3

Level:
Medium

Robinson's Ramble

Well I hope you enjoyed reading the last edition of the Cowpat, what an improvement in print quality, with some added colour photographs. It will carry on like this in the future due to the club buying a new colour laser printer, please don't expect wall-to-wall colour photos, laser printer ink is too expensive for that.

All of you who are doing the workshop will know by now that booking is open! Please book early and send your deposit, to J. Robinson, 61 Bridge End Road, Swindon SN3 4PD You can use BACS the details are on the website, if you do pay this way please drop us an email to the email address below. It makes the organising of the event much easier when we know in advance how many we have to cater for etc. If you weren't aware of the workshop or hadn't realised booking was open, all details are on the website.

Amazing how the years fly by, it's Dieppe this year, it never seems like it was 2 years ago. If you are thinking of going I would advise that you get your accommodation booked sooner rather than later, it all gets booked very quickly. If you are going you need to register, I will be doing registration for club members, so if you want me to register you please contact me on darjer2@aol.com Here is the date if you are unsure of it: Saturday 10th September until Sunday 18th. The Club's insurance does cover you for flying but you will need to be registered to fly in the arenas.

The Club's AGM will be at a different venue in November. I know the Holiday Inn at junction 16 is very convenient, however we can't afford the place anymore. You weren't all privy to this; at last year's AGM they presented Janet with a bill for just over £600, the arrangement was for £240! They blamed it on a change of management and they hadn't been informed that we had a special price. I did get it reduced with some negotiating to a figure not far away from our previous price, but they implied they wouldn't be able to do that sort of price in the future. The new venue is St. Josephs Catholic College, those of you who have done the club's workshops will know this venue, and we will still be providing a buffet lunch.

Regards
David Robinson

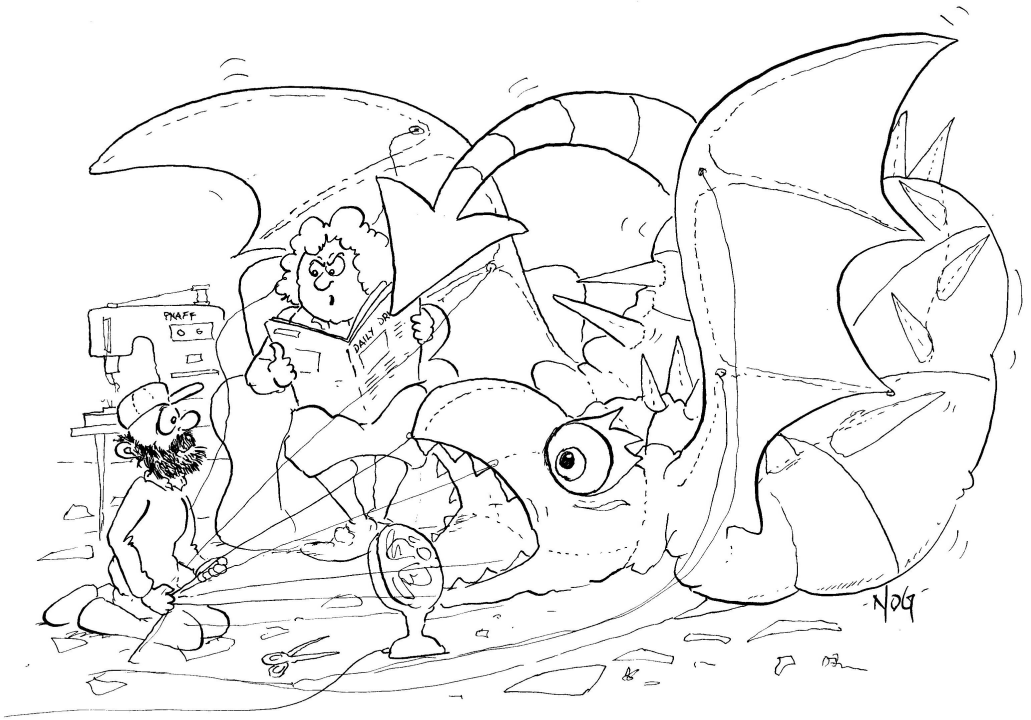
Sky Chat

Well here we go again with another “Cowpat”. I hope that you enjoyed the last issue (sorry it was a little late) being the first one printed on The Club’s new laser printer. I am getting my head around the way it works slowly; it is fascinating how it works out to print in booklet form and both sides of the paper at the same time. This saves time on collating, so I only have to do the stapling and folding.

Arthur, Janet & myself did a display at an Oxford school the other day. As always when we want wind there was none but at least we did get a few light wind kites in the air. We put up a display of other kites on the playing fields fence, good job it was a dry day. The children had done their own workshop beforehand and it was a shame that we were not involved in it as they had tried to make Eddy Kite that was only about 12inches by 9 inches or 30cms by 20cms with thick garden sticks. There no chance of these kites ever flying, if only little more research had been done the children could have had kite that would have flown. A reward for all their hard work.

Don Baggett has just retired from working on his beloved aircraft, so we wish him well in his retirement. No doubt Di has plenty of jobs lined up for him to do and as busy granddad there will be more duties to carry out. Don has also given up his job of sending out our Kite Kits to all the people that request them. I thank Don on behalf of the Club for all his hard work and Di’s in doing this task, I know how much goes into getting all the bits and pieces together and on time out to the different places. Thank you again for all this work Don & Di.

Now we are into the New Season and our hopes are building for a good fine and breezy one. On the March Barbury much against the odds we had great time on the hill with sunshine and wind and a good display of kites in the air while Swindon was shrouded in thick mist. You just do not know what to expect just around the corner. Still here’s hoping for clean winds and tight lines. **Neil.**



“Why can’t you take up golf like normal men?”

‘Unique’ creature attached its brood like kites

A shrimp-like creature that carried its young in capsules tethered to its body like tiny swirling kites 430 million years ago has been dug up in England.

Measuring less than half an inch long, the animal found in the Herefordshire Lagerstätte – one of England’s richest deposits of soft-bodied fossils – has been named after best-selling novel *The Kite Runner*.

It shows ten juveniles – at different stages of development – connected to the adult meaning molting was postponed until after they were old enough to hatch. Otherwise they would have been cast aside with the shed exoskeleton.

Aquilonifer spinosus –



Aquilonifer spinosus, the Kite Runner, lived 430 million years ago

which comes from ‘aquila’ which is Latin for eagle or kite and the suffix ‘fer’ to carry – had no eyes and was covered by a shield-like structure. It lived on the ocean floor during the Silurian Period – 444 to 416 million years ago – with a variety of other animals.

The juvenile pouches – attached to the adult by slender, flexible threads – look like flattened lemons.

Professor Derek Briggs, curator of invertebrate paleontology at the Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History in Connecticut, said: “Modern crustaceans employ a variety of strategies to protect their eggs and embryos from predators – attaching them to the

limbs, holding them under the carapace, or enclosing them within a special pouch until they are old enough to be released – but this example is unique.

“Nothing is known today that attaches the young by threads to its upper surface.”

He and his colleagues considered the possibility the juveniles were parasites feeding off a host but decided it was unlikely because the attachment position would not be favourable for accessing nutrients.

Professor Briggs said: “We have named it after the novel by Khalid Hosseini due to the fancied resemblance of the juveniles to kites.”

WHKF have recently agreed to share their magazine with other AKA clubs. If you are interested in seeing these you can find them on our web pages at :- <http://www.whkf.org.uk/AKAnew.html>

These will be updated as we get sent others

After ignoring all the appeals for articles over the years I have, at last, decided that it was time I sent in my penn'orth of banter.

Firstly let me congratulate Andrew on a fine take over of the unenviable task of Cowpat Editor and secondly on the progression to colour photos - something that gave me that final shove (picture of the March 2016 fly-in attached!)

Like writing this letter, I had been meaning to attend the event for a long time.

When I first joined the club I was a Kennet Kite Flyer's member too and the main thrust of my activities was two line sport kites.

I was a keen lad (well in my late 40's) in those days and I am proud to boast that, with the blessing of the club, I organised what was, and still is, the biggest Winter League there has ever been in the UK - as I remember, something like 36 people turned up to enter! Some of the faces were quite new to kites at the time and are still seen in and around many events and festivals today.

Many, however, are the ones that have moved and no longer fill those empty spaces in the kiting fields or around the arenas at festivals.

The question is often raised about how we can hold or increase our numbers - perhaps we should be asking them if we ever see them again? (exit interviews)

The same smiling faces of the old guard arrived on the hill after a meeting no doubt held somewhere much warmer. By this time we had set up on what is traditionally known as the two line field - oh how I remember wishing the single liners stayed in their own field when Marilyn and I were just starting out as a novice pair and were pushed further across the field toward the copse as we competed for space with the other practising sport kite teams and pairs.

No such thing on that day - I did see one father and son trying to launch a two line but I think they must have broken it because they had quickly disappeared.

Marilyn and I are always available for a bit of guidance or some full blown coaching but we don't like to impose.

We would have been down with the others but the easy entrance to the field had been blocked - something that had been discussed at the meeting and should be rectified next time.

However, I did feel that it gave the steady stream of spectators/visitors easy access to come and chat - we gave loads of cards away for them to see our web-site (maybe an idea the club should consider?) and it gave them better opportunities to take photos with their cameras and to spread the word using social media on their phones - something that is now compulsory by law for the younger generations I believe?

Our friends Ian and Aditya enjoyed the cold but decent wind to get their new Peter Lynn crocodile aloft along with several others that were a welcome addition to the day.

They had travelled over from Fleet and it was these guys that alerted us to event so publicity of some sort must have worked - I should really have a chat with someone and formulate some sort of advertising to go on our web-site too, after all, we get over a thousand visitors from kite flyers all over the world every week! - and advertising with us costs nothing!

I was a bit disappointed that more people from the club didn't venture over to join us - Arthur made the effort but then you couldn't hope to keep him away from some new kites to look at - perhaps there were more that I didn't notice? - I was pretty busy running around with the camera!

Anyway a good time was had by all and we shall be diarising the next one in the hope of it being a bit warmer - the bones are older now and stiffen up more in the cold - hence the tents we didn't have back in the old days.

I couldn't help but notice that, as we left, that there were quite a few people just arriving - not club members but, kites in hand ready to have fun!

Another event I remember on the hill was the attempt at the 100 teddy bears record.

I still have my own recording of that on a disc somewhere and have been threatening for many a year to dig it out and put it on line - I really will try to do it soon.

As many will know, I frequently put videos of kites on You Tube (including one of the March fly-in) - if you would like to be notified when I do this please subscribe or send me your email and I can include you on the mailing list.

Well that's it for now - I'll wait for the flak!

Allan Pothecary



Web Master's report.

As promised I have taken on the roll as web-master and will try and keep you up to date with what is going on in the electronic world of White Horse Kite Flyers.

Firstly our web site at :- whkf.org.uk

Many of you are probably unaware that this can also be accessed at :- whkf.co.uk that is a mirrored site with identical information and is provided in case anyone gets the address wrong and a backup if there are problems with the URL

Since giving up the chair, I have gone through all the pages and tried to update and correct them. Please if you notice any errors I will be grateful if can you let me know as with "all the extra" time I should now be able to put them right.

The sites are full of interesting information, the photo album pages give a record of many events going back to the early days of The Club and there is a separate list of all the major events in The Club history linked from the front page. In the scrap book there are many of our newspaper cuttings that bring back memories. You can also find useful documents such as insurance and risk assessments plus details of facilities and equipment that belong to The Club. Do you know what kites The Club owns? As members you are entitled to fly these and use the equipment provided it is not in use for a Club event.

Now the forum, linked from the bottom of every page on the web site.

I have tried to keep this up to date with information about Club events, meetings etc. but get so little response that I was going to close it down. However I will give it another lease of life and perhaps you will visit and post something. If you have lost your log-in or pass-word please contact me and I can reset them so that you can gain access and change them to something I can't read. This time it will be "Use it or Lose it"!

The Facebook Group.

A facility that hasn't been going as long as our web page is titled "Friends of White Horse Kite Flyers". It has all the usual FB facilities and is an open group so any one can be added. Anything to do with kites or WHKF can be posted but any one posting anything abusive will be blocked. Lots of up to date information about Club workshops and events can be found here.

Finally Twitter.

#WhiteHorseKites. This is a much newer venture in to the electronic world for me so I would be pleased to see people using it as I am not fully conversant with what goes on at these sites. I will try and keep information flowing to it.

Arthur

Pasir Gudang, Malaka and Satun – 23 rd February to 10th March 2016 with Peter Hulcoop and Jacqui Mountjoy

Jacqui Mountjoy was invited to represent South Africa at the Malaysian Kite festivals in Pasir Gudang and Malaka and the Thailand Kite festival in Satun this year and I was invited to be her assistant so on 23rd April we packed our bags and set off on our adventure.

Now when I say ‘we packed our bags’ our first problem arose. Since September 2015 new regulations adopted by nearly all airlines mean that the maximum bag size that can be taken on a plane without excess charge is 158 cm linear length and even then the maximum size must not exceed 203 cm. That’s achievable with inflatables but stick kites, well not so easy!

After much effort we limited ourselves to 20 kites that would break down to 140 cm and chose a bag that had a 30 cm diameter. 140 x 30 x 30.....fingers crossed!

Heathrow were prepared to accept the bags without the excess charge so we didn’t have to shell out another £100 per bag.....yes!

Nine and a half hours of flying and we arrive in Beijing tired and exhausted with a three hour wait in the airport and another six and a half hour flight to go. At eleven thirty pm local time we arrive in Singapore and are met and transported to our hotel in Pasir Gudang, Malaysia. Finally at one o’clock in the morning we arrive and enjoy a very welcome sleep.

The first day started with a welcoming meeting and a chance to meet the other International flyers. There were flyers from across the world and over 40 countries were represented. It was such a treat to meet people I have been Facebook friends with for many years but never met in the flesh. What a great bunch they are, world famous names and little old me!

After the meeting we and our kites were transported to the flying field and given two Liaison officers per country.

Our LO’s were two young students and they were a fantastic pair of girls.

They were keen to help with all our needs, assembling kites, making sure we had water, putting on sunscreen and stopping for breaks. In turn we wanted to include them in the festival rather than just as helpers so we got them to inflate the line laundry and fly some of the smaller single line kites.

The winds were far from perfect and the site sloped up in both directions from the corner where the flyers tents were. This meant that the blustery winds twisted across the site



causing downdraughts at times along with different wind speeds and directions at different heights but our Paul Morgan Sled Delta stepped up to the bar and managed to stay airborne for most of the day along with a couple of Nick James Little Devils.

Day two and the winds were still being troublesome. We started with a 2 meter Rokaku which seemed to fly stably so decided to test it out with a couple of Fauchi.....it worked!

I was amazed how tiring the weather was (34 degrees C and 90% humidity) and out LO's were constantly bringing water and suntan lotion out to us.

I decided to put my Brasington rainbow butterfly train up so spent over half an hour assembling them. By now we had collected 6 LO's and it was wonderful seeing them each holding a butterfly eager to fly them. Up they went and what a show they made for about half an hour until a downdraught brought one of Peter Lynn's Trilobites across under their line. I decided to move to the right but saw the second Trilobite go over the top and left me in the dilemma of flying my butterfly train through the middle of two enormous inflatables! Slowly the two trilobites stabilised and their pilot gained height collecting my poor little butterflies as they went. They twisted round Peter's lines and the first butterfly exploded as it was crushed under the strain.

Peter Lynn's LO's were on it and brought his lines down at an amazing speed which saved the five remaining butterflies.

Once the tangle was sorted I was relieved to find that the sail had survived so now I just need to find new carbon and they will fly again.

That evening the organisers put on an amazing show with fireworks, traditional dancing, a



night time parachute display and night kites, they certainly know how to celebrate a kite festival in Malaysia!!

Day three was the last day of the festival and the winds were still misbehaving but we managed to fly for most of the day using the ever faithful Rok along with eight dolphins, two Nemos and an Angel Fish. We also flew the Little Devils and Jacquis Brasington Gothic Gothic Delta.

The Gothic Delta managed to collect a tree but a Cherry Picker was used to safely return it to terra firma with no damage!

We took an hour off to visit the Pasir Gudang kite museum which is on site. It was stunning to see so many kites, some over 30 years old that have been donated to the museum. Most were traditional Malay kites and the level of detail and workmanship quite amazing.

Back to the flying field I tried a little KAP work. Because of weight restrictions I was unable to take my Gopro but I did take the picavet and attached my Ricoh CX3 which was set to 0.5 second interval shooting so it was better than nothing. The results were OK and gave an idea of the event which was better than nothing

In the evening the organisers put on a lavish meal and entertainment as a closing ceremony. Speeches were made, thanks given and a good time was had by all.

Monday was a welcome rest day. A slow start followed by a trip into town to the Chinese quarter which is the only place where it is legal to buy alcohol. We went back to the hotel for our evening meal and then were treated by the organisers to an evening of ten pin bowling. It amazes me how much mayhem a bunch of kites let loose can create! The evening ended with prizes being handed out by the President of the Malayan Kite Association. Most of the ladies received three prizes whilst a few of the men flyers were selected and received two!

Tuesday morning was an early start leaving the hotel after breakfast and travelling for three and a half hours to Malaka. Once there it was out of the coaches, onto the flying field and start flying. Day one was a press day so everyone was there to put up some colour and answer questions from the press as they wondered amongst us. The wind was better but still a little gusty at times blowing across the town and over the bay. By early afternoon the wind had built up to a very blustery 30 – 40 kph and several flyers lost kites out over the bay.

We managed to get three of the Fauchi family up, lofted by the incomparable [Paul Morgan Sled Delta](#).

At times the wind was so strong that it managed drag the concrete anchor across the field at

about 1 foot a second!

Finally the time came to bring everything down and all went well until the very last second when a gust lifted the kite, folded it in half and split the 14 mm fibreglass cross spar. I spent an hour whipping the broken end in the hope that it will survive another day.

The evening was a magical opening ceremony with heads of state, major dignitaries and invited guests from across the country attending. A sit down meal was provided with a live band and traditional dancing laid on as entertainment. Stunning, stunning, stunning!

Finally by 11 pm we were back at the hotel and ready for sleep.

Wednesday morning at nine o'clock we were back on the flying field and the weather was no surprise with temperatures in the mid 30's and ridiculous humidity. The plan was that we should fly for the day then straight to a smart restaurant at half past six for our evening meal. We started flying and for the first 3 hours the wind just got stronger and stronger. By 12 it was too dangerous for anything but Peter Lynn's Trilobites and Mantaray.

For about 2 hours we melted in the sun and 45 kph winds then finally the wind dropped enough to fly the Molar with two Nimos, an Angel Fish and a small Piranha.

The afternoon saw the wind come down to a far more reasonable 20 – 25 kph and although still a little fickle a lot more single line kites came out. The one that caught my attention the most was a Vietnamese Dieu Sao variant made to be flown as a quad line. Steve DeRoot from Canada, one of the world leaders in quad lining, flew this remarkable kite for over an hour before going to the next level and fitting Vietnamese horns on the back and flying again. By flying it as a quad he was able to control the volume of the horn – so impressive!

5 pm came and we started to pack up just as the public started to arrive (such a shame that the kite festival was organised on the back of two other weekend festivals which meant that when we flew most people were at work and when we finished they were ready to come out to play). We were whisked off to a fish restaurant where I'm told the food was fantastic (I thoroughly enjoyed my rice and vegetables).

Finally back to the hotel for some liquid refreshment with other flyers, a few reminisces of the day and bed.

The next day was a rest day so we had to pack, have breakfast and leave the hotel by 10 then get on the coaches for a tour of Melaka before a visit to the Royal Palace, a walking tour of the city centre and a ride up the Manari Taming Sari (a 110 metre high tower with panoramic views across the city). The day ended with an evening boat trip along the city canals to see the amazing light displays along the waters edge. Back to the coaches and off on the long drive through the night to Satun in Thailand.

After the long journey we arrived at our hotel with just 15 minutes to spare before being taken to the flying field for a days flying for the press.

The winds were all over the place, NW blowing at 20 kph then down to nothing and back up again in less than a minute as it turned SE. No flyers were safe and there were tangles aplenty but we all made it through with only minor damage.

I flew my Panther Genii and Brasington Dark Matter along with a smattering of other small kites.

At 6 pm we all took down our kites and went over the flyers area for dinner then next door to the stadium for the opening ceremony - a very glittery affair with national dancing and music.

We finally got to the hotel at 10 pm, a shower, a glass of wine/beer and bed.

The next day, the first official festival day, started at 9 o'clock with nice steady winds and temperatures already in the 30's. We began with our Molar flowform and three Fauchis - what a beautiful start.

Gradually as the day wore on the wind direction swung round and the wind fell away to nothing then up to 38kph in cycles. Now flying under all the lifters things started to get quite exciting so we decided to change to smaller single line kites.

Around midday a dust devil caused mayhem and took out all the remaining line laundry and lifters and three 5 metre spikey balls that were anchored to a ton and a half in rubble sacks. The balls were lifted into the air and started to over inflate which made them flatten on the windward face turning them into sails. They shot across the field at about 20 kph shattering the bags and shredding the balls as they went, thank God no one was in their path as it could have been fatal!

During the afternoon we flew Nick James Little Devil's, Robert Brasington Dark Matter, Gadis Widiyati Garuda and a 2M Spiral Rokkaku.

It was extremely tiring as it was almost impossible to be out on the flying field for more than 20 minutes at a time but such an enjoyable day.

At 6 o'clock dinner arrived but, apart from rice, there was nothing vegetarian.

A simple request to the organisers and a special meal just for me was ordered.....it was enough for about 5 people but I had to make the effort (and it was fantastic).

Night flying followed then back to the hotel for a shower, beer/wine with friends (not necessarily in that order) before bed - the end of a beautiful day and best of all, we got to do it all again the next day!

The final day flying was very similar to the previous day with winds coming and going. One second they were about 25 kph and the next nothing. They swung left and right changing direction by up to 100 degrees in seconds!

I put the Fauchis up again and decided to do a bit of KAP using the ever faithful Rok – great fun.

Jacqui put up her Telephone Box which attracted a lot of interest and much photographing.

We had a wonderful time and I will never forget the experience. Thank you everyone for the amazing organisation and especially Ron and Baew Spalding for the tireless work they put in and the miracles they performed, they are true heroes!

The last day of our time in Satun was a rest day and as a reward the organisers had arranged for a white water rafting experience for those who wanted to have a go. Each of us was given a kayak and a paddle and off we went. An hour of confusion and raucous fun ensued as we negotiated various small rapids in the shallow river. There were kayakers everywhere, over, under and across each other; it was great to feel cool for a while and not to worry about keeping a kite in the sky.

Next day and an early start to the Thai border then all day and the next night on a coach back to Singapore via Kuala Lumpur. Passing via the Malaysian/Singapore border control I was stopped by customs. It appeared that my e-cigarette along with other smoking alternatives like Nicorette and patches are illegal in both countries, evidently you can smoke yourself to death using tobacco but not use vapes! They confiscated my e-cigarette and made a note of my passport then sent me on my way. We finally arrived at Changi airport, Singapore at half past three in the morning.

Gadis Widiyati gave up her day and met us there at half past six. She took us for breakfast followed by a tour around the Indian and Chinese quarters where I bought a battery booster for my mobile phone. Our day finished with a visit to the waterfront and views of some of the amazing architecture of Singapore city.

Gadis took us back to the airport and we had a very enjoyable meal with her, her husband and Derek Kuhn who had represented Scotland over the tour.

All that remained now was a 7 hour flight to Beijing for a transfer flight of 10.5 hours back to Heathrow.

Singapore check in questioned our bags and at first refused to take the kite bag. We stuck to our guns saying that they were OK coming out and therefore should be accepted for the return to the UK. The check in staff work for the airport not the airline and they always push their luck as they get 30% of any excess charge they receive but they finally relented.

The airport at Beijing is enormous and it took quite a while to get from one terminal to the other. At security they decided that the battery booster I had bought less than 24 hours earlier and was yet to even charge was prohibited so they confiscated it. I thought about arguing but the staff were huge well-built men that that simply went red in the face and started shouting at

me in Chinese so I took the easy option.

We arrived back in the UK at 6 pm and collected the car. As a final twist of fate the car wouldn't start so we had to wait for half an hour in temperatures of 10°C to get a jump start (remember most cars electronically lock so all we could open was the drivers door, we couldn't even open the boot to put the luggage away). Now that might not sound too bad to a lot of you but we have just arrived back from night temperatures of 24°C and daytimes of 38°C+!!!

Finally with the car started it was just another two and a half hour drive and we were home.

NORTH HANTS KITER'S JOLLY UP 18 on April 23rd and 24th 2016

Gate open from 12noon on the Friday...

- The site is located in the village of Cliddesden, just south of Basingstoke (not far from J6 of the M3).
- On-site camping is available from *Friday* midday onwards (£8 per tent/camper for Fri and Sat night)
- Fish and chips available on the Friday evening (via the zipwire!) from 6pm to 9pm.
- The Saturday evening food will be the BBQ, tickets available on the weekend-(£7.00 and please try to bring a plate and cutlery!)
- Once again we will be doing Jacket Potatoes for those interested at lunchtimes over the weekend, and Bacon rolls will be available on both mornings.
- The Auction will once again be held on the Saturday evening, and any donations gratefully received before or on the week-end (*before 4pm please* if poss to give us time to set it all up)
- We may run the Beer Lift competition, wind permitting, same rules as before.
- Please contact Roy Martin for any info on the Sled competition.
- Roy's Refreshment Tent will be open for Business, normal rules apply..

For further info, please either contact:

Roy on 07778 352825

Colin on 07770 338419

Or e-mail roy@kitesup.co.uk

For orders: hayley@kitesup.co.uk

You can pre-order your tee-shirt / poloshirt, etc. Please email Hayley if interested in doing so.

(The dates for this same event taking place later this year again are Aug 6th & 7th)

Please Note: this is NOT a Buggy/Boarding weekend, thank-you.

WHITE HORSE KITE FLYERS CODE OF PRACTICE

Always fly safely.

Always be considerate to others using the same area be it noise or physical intrusion into their space.

Always fly legally taking in to account all national, local and CAA restrictions and by-laws.

Never fly at a height of more than 60m above ground level, in the UK unless a CAA clearance is in force (as at kite festivals). If you don't know what the clearance is ASK!

Never fly a kite in wet or stormy weather. Always try and keep your line dry.

Never fly a kite near power lines, transmission towers or aerials.

Never fly near Motorways, roads, car parks or railways.

Never fly near airfields.

Never fly a kite with anything metallic in the line.

When tethering a kite ensure that the ground anchor is suitable (see BKFA report 6 June 06).

When flying large kites always use a brake line.

Always wear good quality gloves when flying large powerful kites.

Always give priority to domestic animals particularly if they are showing signs of distress.

Always clear up after yourself, especially lines, tails and bits of plastic that could trap, choke or injure domestic or wild animals. If you see dangerous rubbish left by others clear it up or report it.

Never fly near those kite-eating trees.

NOTE: The use of traction kiting at Barbury Castle is forbidden by law.

Finally remember.....your kites can get really quite lonely up high in the sky; just occasionally, look up and give them a SMILE. It will make you feel better too.

WHITE HORSE KITE FLYERS meet at Barbury Castle Country Park on the second Sunday of each month.

Your local contacts are: -

Neil Harvey +44(0)1285 740295 Arthur Dibble +44(0)1635 865976

Dave Robinson +44(0)1793 824208

This issue edited by Andy Rumming, contributors this issue: Arthur Dibble, Nog, John Browning, Dave Robinson,

Subscription AGM to AGM £16 (including 4 issues of Cowpat Hill and kiteflying insurance at club approved events) £5 for each additional family member. Personal Liability Insurance £11 per person.

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