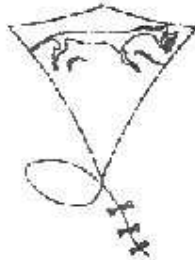


Cowpat Hill

*White Horse
Kite Flyers
Spring Issue 1997*



April - June

Sky Chat

Here we go again into another season of festivals and displays. We have already done 3 workshops, including a three day marathon over Easter. On April 27th the Club is organising a festival at The National Trust Gardens, Stowe, Buckingham. Arthur and I have done all the ground work and we are both hoping that as many members as possible will make the effort to come along. It will be a great chance to try all those new creations before the cramped beach at Weymouth. There is plenty of space for everybody. The world renowned gardens will also be open to all kite flyers, at a special reduced rate. They are well worth seeing.

During the later part of May I'm going on HOLIDAY, joining up with a few other club members, to the States. We have several workshops booked during this period so I would appreciate a few more willing hands to run them. See me at Barbury, or ring me at home, if you can help.

Since the last "Cowpat" we have successfully run the Don Mock workshop and many thanks to all those who made it such a hit. We are currently exploring the possibility of running a weekend of workshops in the autumn. We will try to have the details ready by our festival the organisation of which is well under way with hopefully only the "I"'s to dot and "T"'s to cross.

Finally, before you fall asleep reading this waffle, I have a birthday coming up on April 26th and as Martin's thrash at our place last year was a resounding success Sue and I have decided to do likewise. We will have a fly-in all day at home and a bit of a bash at Bibury Football Club in the evening. You are all welcome to come along but it would help with the catering if you could let us know if you are coming in the evening. Don't forget that it is Stowe next day.

Neil

White Horse Kite Flyers
PO Box 585
SWINDON
SN3 4YR

He can who thinks he can!

I suppose that most of us have, at one time or another, looked at one of Don Mock's Soft Kites and thought, yes I wouldn't mind one of those if only I could afford it. Alas, the problem that affects most Kites, Eyes too big for thickness of wallet.

Still, there was a method of obtaining one of Don's kites at just about half price, the only proviso being that you made it yourself at a Don Mock workshop. As you know, the workshop was the second to be organised by the Starving Horse and, although it could be said to have followed rather closely on the heels of the first workshop which was Sam Huston's "STICK EM UP" Genki, there's nothing like striking whilst the Iron is hot.

The workshop was held over two days as the kite was somewhat more than a handful to construct. In fact, one participant was rather Gobsmacked when he realised just what he was letting himself in for. (see later)

Nine of us, equipped with an amazing variety of sewing machines, gathered at the Headlands School, easier found this time, due to more accurate info from the WHKF Mapping dept., for a dose of that old Mock Magic. Hey, this is a big Kite, yes, in fact probably the biggest Soft Kite I've ever made, and it was good to have the use of the School's Sewing room, with its large layout tables.

Don had precut the Keels, Risers and Panels, so we were quickly under way, with the most amazing sound of ripstop rustling, coupled with nine different sounding sewing machines. Crazy, but true, every one different. Perhaps the most amazing sound was coming from Ray Oakhill's Basso Profundo model, which maybe as Doug Jones suggested, was equipped with a motor salvaged from a U-boat. However, be that as it may, pretty soon some people were absolutely haring away with the construction, whilst some of us who were perhaps more accustomed to a slower pace of kite building, were trailing well behind. Still, whatever this wasn't a race to see who could build one the quickest, or was it? No, perish the thought, we all went at our own pace. Some of the participants were into

customising, and why not? Others were doing the kite as supplied.

Pretty soon, the first day was over, and we retreated to the Official WHKF Hostelry (NAME THAT PUB) for a jolly good evening's get together, being made all the more enjoyable by the fact that it was Robbo's Birthday. 53 was being bandied about, but I'm not sure if that is Robbo's age or waist measurement.

All too soon the evening get together was over and, after the customary blackmail photos were taken (are you reading this Ray?), we all retired for a good night's kip. The second day of the workshop dawned bright and early, for some, and soon we were back at the fridge, sorry School. Once again we were soon sewing like mad and some of us were freezing to death, until a Heroine went home and brought back a heater. *(That's what you think, John. I already had it in the boot - anything for a quiet life! - Jane)* Then the School's heating, which had been off for a week, came on and the temperature and someone's temper started to improve.

Whilst we were sewing away like good'uns in Don's workshop, out in the corridor, Robbo was PFAFFING a vast amount of Black Ripstop. Why pfaffing you may ask. Well, when you have a machine that looks like it does everything and more that mission control does in Houston, and probably has a built in Teasmade, you cannot describe it as sewing. Good thing Robbo was ensconced in a corridor about 300ft long, he definitely needed all of that, the size of the thing he was sewing.

Pretty soon the first workshop kite was finished, then one was taken outside for a quick test flight, where it promptly bit the owner, nice one Arthur. In fact, quite a few were finished on the day, if not flown, but as usual some of us finished the Kites at home. As far as I know, all bar one of the Kites are finished and flying, on the first Cow Pat after the workshop it actually looked like a Don Mock benefit. No one was more Gobsmacked than yours truly who, conscious of the fine workmanship involved in his Kite, had decided to call it "SLASH

AND BURN". As I prepared to launch the Kite on its maiden, I thought maybe I should have christened it "CRASH AND BURN", but no, it flew like a dream with no adjustments whatsoever,

Thanks are due, of course, to Don Moek for coming over for the workshop. To Robbo and Neil who did the organising, to all the participants, all the Helpers, including Jane the heater heroine, what a saviour, Doug Manners who I drove up the wall with my moans about the cold and last, but not least, John Doney. John had never made a kite in his life, had never sewn ripstop, in fact I don't think he had ever used a sewing machine before this workshop, and when he saw Don's example of what we were to make, he confessed that he nearly passed out, but he did the business, albeit slowly. No, he did not finish on the Day, but at the Cow Pat after the workshop, he arrived with the kite and proceeded to launch. It flew and, judging by the size of the Smile on John's face, and his obvious delight, it won't be long before John is making kites with the best of them.

When the next workshop come up, there's no if, should you think, oh, no I couldn't make one of those, just think of Mr. Doney.

John Barker

HELP!

As one who does not make a habit of writing anything that may be published and held to account, but who appreciates the effort, combined with the lack of articles that goes into producing club magazines of any kind, I thought (for a change) that I would like to write an article for COWPAT.

I am but a novice when it comes to kites, luckily my wife, who also enjoys flying, is also a novice. Our methodology of kite selection has been based purely on pretty colours and whether or not it can handle more than one crash without repair. Then we met White Horse Kite Flyers!! and Dave at Kreative Kites (are we allowed to plug?) where we learned, later, that this is as good a way as any!

At this point, may I say many thanks to all

members of the Club? It was, and is, a pleasure to join a club where people want to enjoy their hobby and politics are not evident. I have taken great pleasure in extolling its virtues to others, and I know at least one new recruit has been signed up (and found Kreative Kites!).

However, I have a request to make of the learned, and ask, could somebody please produce an article or chart outlining the qualities and virtues of:

1. Materials, is it ventex or semtex I should buy? Just what is good or not so good about the cloths available?
2. Carbon fibre? Please tell me what those names mean and just what will it do? (Clean suggestions only please).
3. Lines. I know that there are a multitude of types, strengths and lengths. Just what is the recommended (or suggested) and why?
4. Is kite flying a sport, a hobby, or an obsession. Or is this dependent on just how patient your partner and bank manager are!! Or who who really gives a toss as long as we enjoy what we are doing?

Oh yes, any other information that may be printed to help me, and any other novice, or anyone who may be interested.

In summary, anything to help understand what's what about kites, and then, may we be bold enough to ask about tricks, but maybe another article about that later?

To be fair, and especially to Dave and his good lady, I am starting to pick up some of the terminology and phrases, and I appreciate any good kite shop worth its salt will try to guide and advise in selection of equipment. I can now select my kites by the tried and scientific method ... is it a pretty colour and just how many times can I crash it before it's back with Dr. Dave!!!

I look forward to meeting, or hearing from, anyone (perhaps in COWPAT) who can help in this maze, and to looking at the pretty colours, and hopefully not crashing too much.

Mike R.

Wordsearch

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

Find these kite-related words.

BOXKITE
 BRAZILAIN BIRD
 BRAZILAIN PAPAGIO
 BRIDLE
 BUGGYING
 CARBONFIBRE
 CHINESE CENTIPEDE
 CONYNE
 DELTA
 DIAMOND KITE
 EDDY
 EDO
 FIGHTER KITE
 FLEXIFOIL
 FLOWFORM
 FLYING
 HANDLES
 HYBRID
 KICKING LEGS
 KITE
 LINE
 MULTITUBE
 PARACHUTING TEDDY

PARAFoil
 PARASLED
 PEARSON ROLLER
 REVOLUTION
 RIPSTOP NYLON
 ROKKAKU
 SAIL
 SLED
 SNOWFLAKE
 SODE
 SPORT KITE
 TAIL
 WINDSOCK
 WOGLOM PARAKITE
 YAKKO STACK

Kathryn Jones.

A new Kite shop in Oxford

In a recent discussion I heard of a new kite shop in the Covered Market in Oxford, so I stuck my nose in at unit 65/66 on Avenue 2 at the Market to find Air Circus, that famous Bath based shop and one delightful young lady called Paula.

She is very friendly and helpful, a keen flier herself, and is willing to assist any club member with the standard discounts (10% Cash sales, 5% on Cards) on production of membership card.

A reasonable selection of kites are available, as well as Juggling Equipment, along with a good selection of the usual "bits", with a promise of quick delivery of anything else from the Bath shop in a couple of days, so it may pay to call Paula on 01865 246887 first before visiting.

So Oxford could be becoming a kite town, what with Oddballs on the Cowley Road with a good selection of kites and bits, and the Craft Centre at Milletts P.Y.O. Farm, Frilford near Abingdon, selling Flexifoil amongst the usual plastic kites, and a few bits.

Cybernotes

Here's a few messages that are about on the internet this past couple of months that you might like to see.

In article <32F98FD5.19@stb.dfs.co.za>, Robin Gilham <Gilham@stb.dfs.co.za> says:

What is the advantage of a High aspect Delta stunter. Do they generate more pull than other delta's. Are they faster. More agile?

The higher aspect ratio kites (viz Stranger, Box of Tricks, AzizA) have far lower stability fore and aft and can be rolled back and forwards much more easily than "regular" stunt kites. Tricks like FlicFlacs and Yo-Yos are more simple with these kites. Clever management of sail depth, bridle and standoff position can lead to fair precision as well but no one is going to mistake a Psycho for a Tracer (very low aspect ratio design).

Dave Lord's page (URL: ??) had some good things on aspect ratio for deltas and the bottom line seems to be improved efficiency but at the cost to other flight parameters (esp. stability and stall characteristics).

Aspect ratio is not the only determinant of a kite's

flight performance. All of the design aspects combine to make them what they are.

Jeremy Carson (carson@vision.net.au) wrote: My son (14yr) would like to fly a kite and buggy at sometime. At the moment he flies with enthusiasm, 2 line stunt kites. I myself fly single line kites and have discovered that I know little about kites and buggies to be able to give him much useful advice.

My question(s) are what advice would you give a young, aspiring flier who would like to progress safely into riding buggies?

Age (or weight?)?

Suggestions for a quadline soft kite to start (with feet on the ground) flying a 4 line kite rather than 2?

Sources of information

Safety

Putting it all together

Any advice would be much appreciated. Thanks.

Jeremy Carson

Aaron Ciuffo ciuffo@rainbow.rmii.co> replied in article 5drmsp\$nc1\$1@news1.rmi.ne.

Hmm, well my first bit of advice would be to find someone who has a peel or a large power kite and is willing to let your son try it. That way he can get a feel for exactly what he's getting into.

Second, buy the kite first and learn to control it. I learned to fly a 3.6m peel on my butt (ruined at least 2 pairs of pants). Third, see if you can find another generous soul that will allow your son to ride in a buggy.

As far as age goes, 13-14 is a fine place to start. I assume your son is reasonably responsible (big kites=big damage=big bucks). Weight, about 120+lb. Friends of mine weighing as little as 100lb fly my 3.6m peel in lower winds. Sources, this news group is great, and Peter Lynn's book "Buggies, Boats and Peels" is a nice reference.

Safety, HELMET!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Elbow and Knee pads are nice too, but that just saves road rash.

Quadline go straight for a high end one is my advice. Don't waste your money on a rev 1.5 or something like that. A rev 1 is a fine durable kite to learn on.

If you want a softie, Quadrafoils are nice too. Go for the bigger ones if you want a slower kite.

Good luck and may the AoxomoxoA be with you!

Aaron

Peter Dawson

SLA Battery charging

Some of you who have had batteries from me to power "Fauna Lifters" have asked about maintenance and charging of them. I hope this will be of some help.

Firstly the batteries should never be allowed to fall below 10 volts. If they do so they must be recharged immediately or permanent damage will occur.

They must never be short circuited or left in a damp condition. After using out of doors they should be dried carefully without heating.

They must never be incinerated or thrown away in household waste but taken to the local amenity and disposed of in the appropriate area.

The correct charge rate is 13.8 volts with a maximum ripple of 30 millivolts. The initial current into discharged batteries can be quite high but will drop rapidly to about 2 amps. A full charge will then take about 6 hours or more with a larger amp/hour rating. At this voltage the batteries may be left on charge with no damage. A suitable circuit is shown.

Arthur.

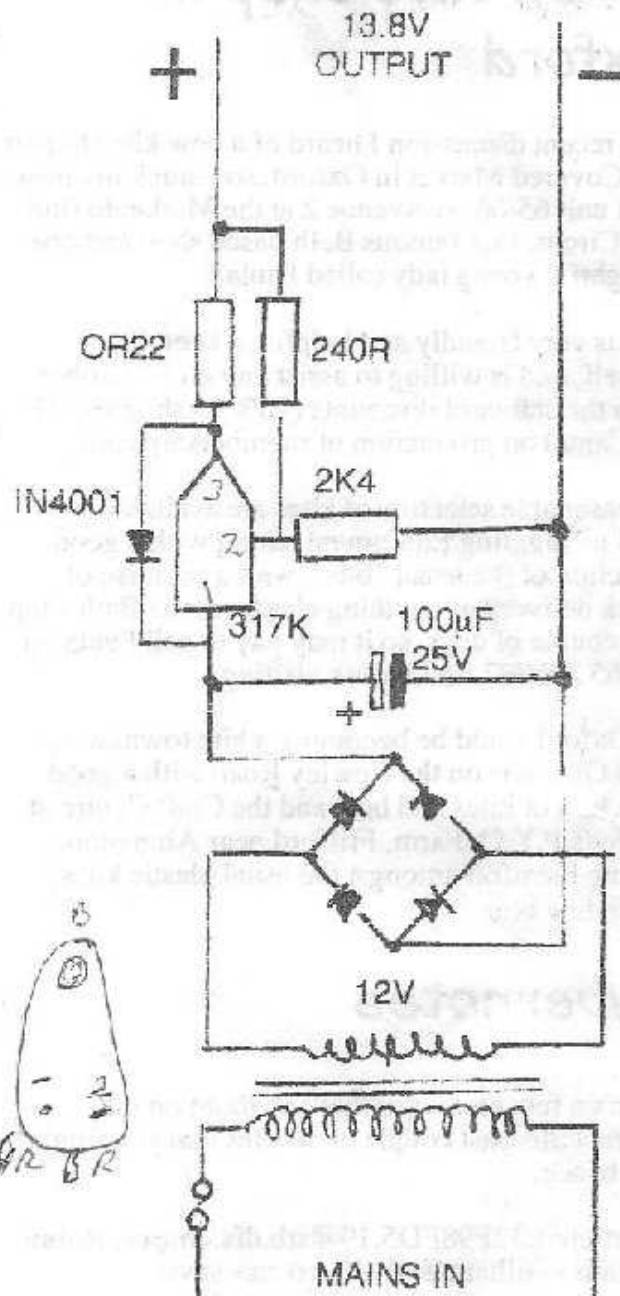
A Suggestion

This letter was received by Arthur:-

Dear Arthur

A suggestion made by someone at Barbury last October was that all we aerial photographers ought to get together for a day in the new year with a view to taking some photographs, exchanging views and generally having a specialised good time. If we chose a few sites offering photo opportunities, perhaps we could do a couple during the day. The opportunities to take up cameras at festivals are usually limited due to space. If we were to set up our own get-together, we could have all the space we need.

If you think you would like to have such a



get-together, please let me know and perhaps we can arrange possible dates and places when a few of us could meet.

Dates which don't clash (yet)

April 19,20,26,27

May 17,18,24,25.

Please pass the word around and let me know of any possible dates and places.

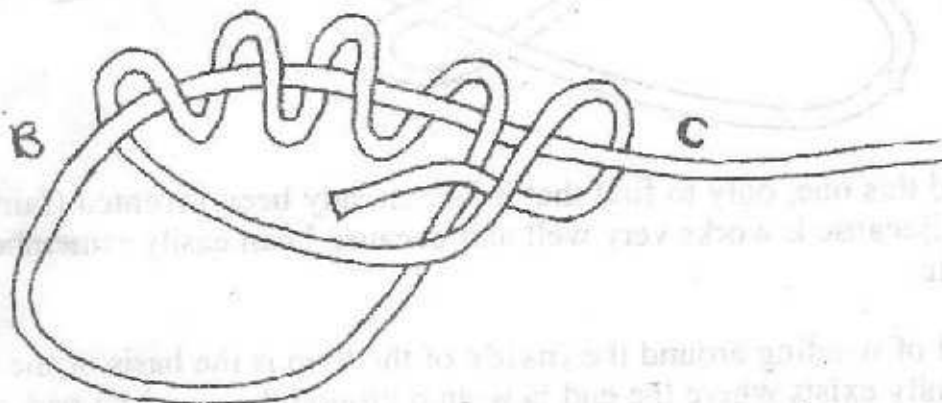
John Browning

(01962 734372)

More or Less Loop

There are times when we want to lengthen a line or to shorten it. Perhaps the line will be part of a multi-line bridle or it will be a tensioning line for a bow.

At the Wroughton Do, I saw Rummings the Elder closely examining a knot with a view to learning it so that he could put it into service with his kite. Seeing this, I naturally poked my nose in and tried to learn about this miracle knot. Later, an American gentleman called Don gave the knot three names, one of which was the Tarbuck Knot. Here it is:

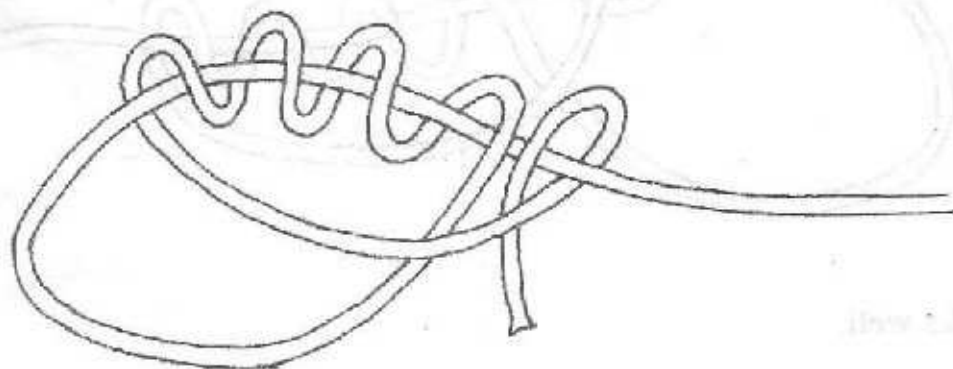


To tie the Tarbuck knot, form a loop and wind the end around the inside of the loop a few times (the smoother the line, the more turns you need but three to four is usual). Bring the end out **through** the loop, put it **over** the standing part and form a half-hitch. Lo, you have a Tarbuck knot. Pull on the loop and the standing part. If the knot has been firmly drawn up, then the loop is as firm as if you had tied a Bowline. But, and here is the magic, the size of the loop can be adjusted by sliding the knot along B-C. We have an adjustable loop which can be put to a multitude of uses.

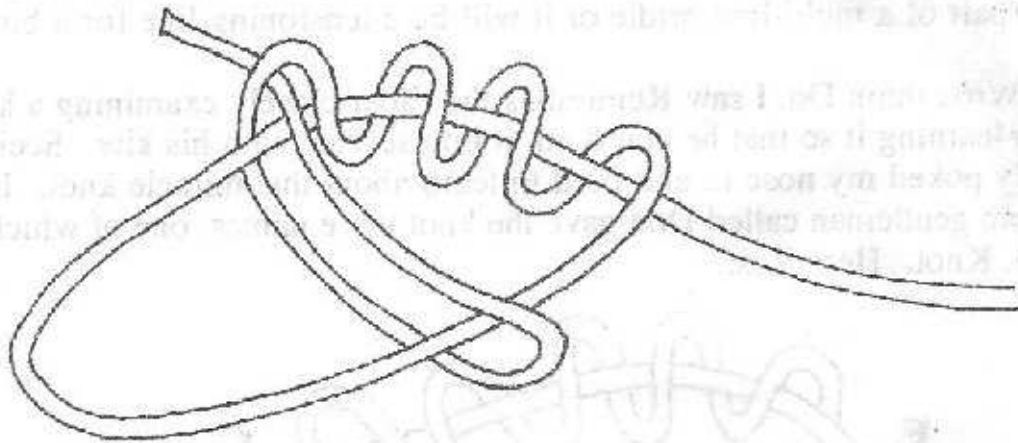
When I went home after the festival, I played around with the Tarbuck knot and as often as not, I failed to get it right. The mistakes, sometimes easier to remember than the genuine knot, nearly always worked as well. The Tarbuck is but one member of a family of knots that achieve the same purpose.

Here are 2 others:

If, after bringing the end out through the loop, it is put **under** the standing part, the knot seems to work just as well. This knot can be thought of as a Magnus Hitch tied with the end onto the standing part:



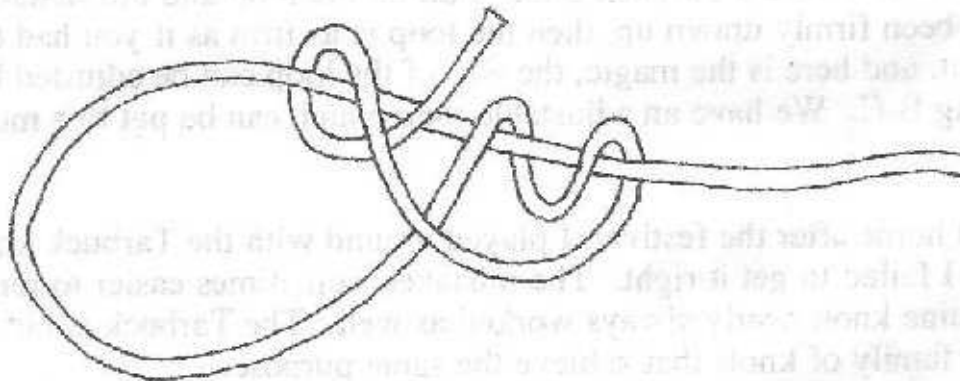
If, after winding the end around the inside of the loop, the end is brought **around** the loop and then tucked back inside the last wind, we get another adjustable loop:



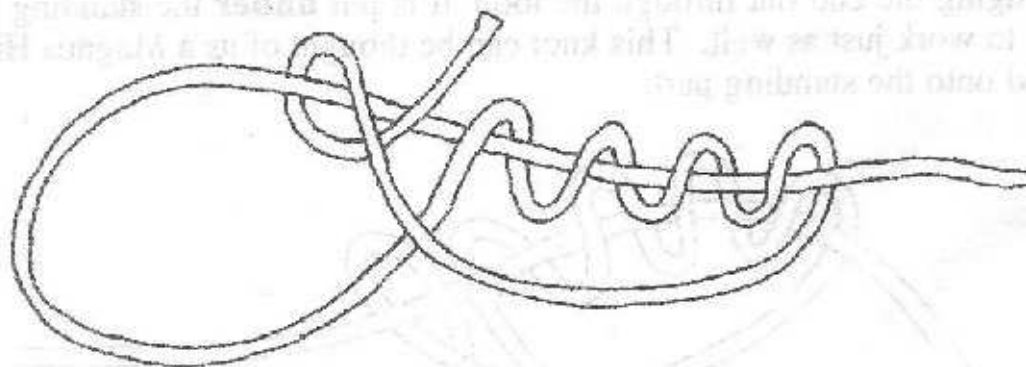
I discovered this one, only to find that it had already been invented (fairly recently, as knots go). Because it works very well and because I can easily remember it, this is my favourite.

The method of winding around the **inside** of the loop is the basis of the above knots. Another family exists where the end is wound around the standing part **outside** the loop and a half-hitch is put inside the loop.

The **ADJUSTABLE JAM HITCH** is such a knot:

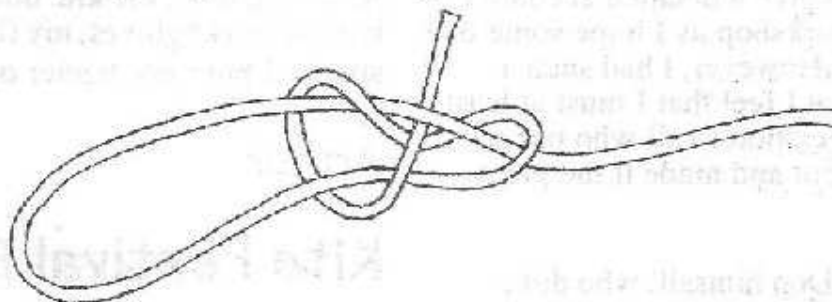


Because it slips in smooth line, it won't serve our purpose but, add another couple of turns at the start of the knot:



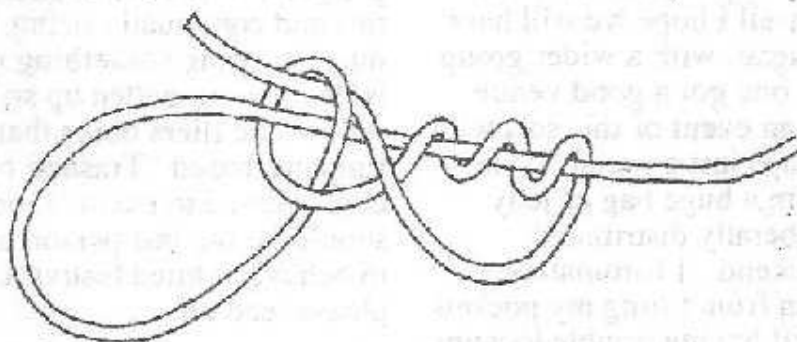
and it works well.

Generally, any hitch which serves to attach one line to another such that the first will not slip on the other when pulled lengthwise (e.g. the Magnus Hitch) can be used to form an adjustable loop. I give one example which is based on the SLACK LINE HITCH:



Again, for smooth line, add another turn or two at the start.

Finally, here is one that I can't (yet) find in the books. Until I am shown that it has been done before, I propose to call it mine. It works very well indeed.



So, there are a few ideas for adjustable loops. There are probably thousands more. Try a few and settle on your favourite. Your bridles and bows will never be better.

Loop-the-Loop, Nottingham.

LARA'S SEAM

I was intrigued by a short article in Roman Candle which showed a "Low Aspect Ratio Annular" parachute with very little detail. This presented a challenge and so I have had a try at making one suitable for our favourite soft cuddlies. I give here a plan for the gore sections (12 needed) and a few points I found useful. Main constructional details are as the standard 'chutes found in various publications which all seem to go back to John Barker and there is no way I can improve on these.

When you draw up the template the narrow end should be the inverse curve of the wide end so that when you are cutting out, by turning the template the other way up it should match the previous one already cut. This means there is no wastage of material between gore sections and all twelve can be cut from a single width of ripstop with enough left at the end for the packing tube.

As you do not get the chance to cut out the centre vent after sewing, the gores must be cut and sewn more accurately than with the standard 'chute. I found it a good idea to stitch all 12 gores together but before connecting the first to the last, do the hem around the vent and add the shroud loops. There are four of these spaced every third gore. All shrouds are the same length and tied in two groups to rings being careful to keep them all in sequence and including the four central ones at the appropriate points

I hope this will provide a starting point for others to try this form of 'chute and look forward to hearing from you with comments or advice. If you want to see how it performs just come and watch or try it anywhere I am bombing.

Dr. I've-ad-a-go

Thanks for the Mock-Shop

I do not intend to give a detailed account of the Don Mock workshop as I hope some one else may do this. However, I had such a good weekend that I feel that I must at least express my appreciation to all who put so much into the event and made it the great function it was.

First I suppose is Don himself, who did a wonderful job of preparation so that we could all end up with a worthwhile product. I am very proud of my effort even if the seams are not as straight as Don's. It was also good to see so many people take up his idea of a "Pot-Luck" type lunch on both days. It worked so well I hope we will have the chance to do it again with a wider group of people. Has any one got a good venue where we can have an event of this sort with flying space or perhaps just a social? Don also brought with him a huge bag of jelly beans which were liberally distributed through-out the weekend. I fortunately managed to deter him from filling my pockets with them but am still having trouble locating sewing equipment which was submerged in them.

Next thanks to Dave and Janet who arranged it all and took care of Don whilst he was with us. It was their hard work and inspiration which made it possible. Dave even gave up his birthday to look after us. I hope the celebration on the Saturday evening went a little way to repaying his sacrifice. I understand that next year is a bit of a special occasion. Watch out for details in Cowpat and keep your ear to the ground for secret plans.

There are many others who helped make the weekend a success, not least Headlands School, without which we would not have had a suitable venue. Then there was the group of helpers who made coffee (very important on Sunday morning, especially the strong black brew Don brought with him), sorted out the food and assisted with moving large quantities of material when one pair of hands was not enough. If I miss anyone it is not deliberate but an aging brain, so thanks Madge, Jane, Neil, Doug, Pete and all the rest. Please keep up the good work. Next time I may be on the support team.

As a final note, the kite does fly but in a high wind do wear gloves, my finger is still attached but very tender one week later.

Arthur

Kite Festival Ethics

There are two points of view about my writing on this subject. The first is that eighteen years of attending international kite festivals, now at the rate of more than twenty per year, with an invitation rate much above this and continually rising, is proof that I must be doing **something** right. The second is that having gotten up so many of my fellow kite fliers noses that there is now an England-based "I rashed by Peter Lynn kite club" vowed to exclude me from all events, I should be the last person to write about how to behave at kited festivals. Your call ... but please read on.

Actually, I believe that much of the contradiction between unpopularity with some of my peers and widening popularity with festival organisers comes down to a disagreement or misunderstanding as to the underlying purpose of kite festivals. I believe that kite festivals are for spectators, not for impressing our fellow enthusiasts. Public kite festivals are the shop window by which we attract new enthusiasts into our world of kite flying. The huge world wide growth in participation in all aspects of kite flying during the last 20 years is, I believe, significantly a product of how successful we have all been at putting on interesting and exciting shows. Many kite fliers believe that kite festivals should be pleasant get-away-for-the-weekend events when they have a good time amongst people of like interest, do a bit of showing off, and stay within their discretionary expenditure budget. Kite festivals are not usually good fun for me, they are hard, dangerous, frustrating work that I am (usually poorly) paid to do. If you can accept that kite festivals should be primarily for spectators then a set of principles and observations on how kite festivals should be structured can be derived which fairly much define how kite fliers should behave at kite festivals.

The major source of disputes between kite fliers at festivals derives from territorial behaviour. Some kite fliers act as though they have title to a particular piece of sky by rationalisations that either "they had it first" or that it is "their fair share". Particularly obnoxious by my standards are those who arrive early and stake off some invisible kite at out-of sight altitude so placed as to deny the use of much of the available kite flying area to everyone else. Alternately, I have no problem with the kite flier who "muscles in" to an area providing their display is well received by the spectators relative to other kites flying. "The sky belongs to kites that make best use of it by the standards of the spectators". Many effects flow from this:

- Any show that goes on for more than just a few minutes has to be very entertaining because the public attention span is short. Of course, it is important at festivals for there to be a good number of kites in the sky, as a sort of "frame" around the central picture to attract viewers from a distance and to put a "this is a kite festival" stamp on proceedings.

- "Authority" at kite festivals is primarily the festival organiser, who has bought the right to call the shots by taking on onerous responsibility. Festival organisers will usually be very well attuned to sponsors interests which is as things should be because only sponsors enable festivals to occur. Closing the circle, spectators by number and enthusiasm justify the sponsor's investment. There are rare times when kite fliers should act against the festival organisers directions - when it is clear that organisers are not optimising spectator/sponsor interest.

- The public does not usually appreciate the fine accurate workmanship or other characteristics by which kite makers judge each other but are impressed by bright colours, movement, size and representational effects.

- Crashes and wild kite behaviour generally adds to spectator enjoyment whereas they are seen by kite fliers as evidence of bad kites or bad kite flying.

- Some kite fliers self-righteously exhibit behaviour based on envy and jealousy rather than aligning themselves with the needs of showmanship. By kite fliers

standards of course big kites are not "better" than small kites and those that get media attention aren't necessarily "better" than those who work away quietly without recognition but by the public's values size and media are king.

- For two and four line flying, manoeuvres that impress judges at kite flyer competitions will not necessarily impress the public. I have seen perfect synchronised "axles" interpreted as bad flying by the crowd.

- A relevant observation rather than a principle is that festivals with good spectator numbers but less than fifty or so kite fliers will often be impressively cooperative, with all fliers contributing unselfishly to optimise the show. With higher numbers of kite fliers, internal competition seems to rule and the overall show relatively deteriorates.

- Another observation is that of course egos get in the way at kite festivals as in every sphere of human activity, but it is a very good thing that we have egos because they drive us to do better. When kite festivals are effected by ego driven disputes between kite fliers, the judgment call is easy, based on which "side" is getting the greatest ground swell of crowd support.

Good festival organisation by way of field layouts and program is the best way to mitigate kite flier disharmony and maximise festival results. Of particular virtue are programs that list all possible "acts" as 10 to 15 minute items but leaves the sequencing of these acts to be set hour by hour to fit changing wind and weather conditions.

Actually, I have considerable sympathy, even agreement with some of those who have been criticising my festival activities. Tangle and crash incidents are just an unavoidable part of the cost and frustration of festival participation from my perspective but by any other standards are just bad behaviour. I am certainly far from being the perfect person. In contrast to public kite festivals, kite flier only events are quite a different matter. Although also not without their pressures, the ethics of flying at such events can and should have quite a different basis.

Peter Lynn

The not so "Starving Horse" on tour!

Fort Worden Kite Retreat, and how to put on one stone (14 pounds) in ten days! Janet and I weren't going to Fort Worden this year, and then Ron Miller phoned to say that they had hired the house that we had stayed in the previous two years and would we like to join them again this year? It took us about two minutes to decide, the answer was yes, we are so weak-willed! The invitation this year also included Madge, who, to our surprise, also agreed to go, an answer that had not been forthcoming on previous occasions.

So, we arrive in Seattle on Wednesday 5th March, to be met by Ron, Marla & Don Mock, with Ron & Marla's Daughter & Son-in-Law plus their two children. Quite a welcoming party but no Super-Woman, where was she (Marla)? We soon arrive at the Millers' house in Tacoma to unload our cases including two toasters! (that's another story). Then it's off to Don & Jeanne Mock's for dinner. We hadn't been in the States for two hours, is this where the weight gain begins? After a lovely evening at the Mock's we retire to bed with jet-lag setting in very quickly.

Thursday morning arrives and we are all still tired, including Ron & Marla. Marla cooks breakfast. I end up with three eggs, bacon, pancakes & toast. Is this where the weight gain begins? The afternoon arrives and it's time to leave for Fort Worden, which is about two & half hours from Tacoma. If you saw the film "An Officer and a Gentleman" you will know Fort Worden because that was where it was filmed. It's an old Naval training base that has been turned into a State Park & Conference Centre. Of course, on the way, we stop for dinner, a dinner so big I couldn't finish it all! Surely the weight gain didn't start here? Friday arrives, it's breakfast to start the day, the food at the retreat is served canteen buffet style. You can eat as much as you like, did the weight gain start here?

The Kite Retreat commences, this year it had a Japanese theme. Mr Masaaki Modegi and his lovely wife, had brought over, from his museum in Tokyo, some wonderful kites that were on display in the classroom that the Japanese guests were using for their classes. Mr Hideo Matsutani a long-time, well respected kite maker in his 70's, was there, showing his amazing skill at painting a kite in about 5 minutes. If you want to see one, see me at our Festival, because I was lucky enough to be given a skin. I doubt whether I will turn it into a Kite. It's good enough to be framed. Also in the Japanese party was Mrs Tokuko Sato, a talented artist and kite maker, who is a master of the kite making style of Northern Japan. Mr Modegi had also brought over a kite maker, whose name escapes me. Unfortunately, as he wasn't

booked to be at the event officially, I can't look his name up anywhere. This guy was demonstrating the skill of splitting bamboo. I had a go and, much to my surprise, managed to split a piece first time! Not only was he great at the bamboo splitting he also had a great sense of humour. He spoke no English, but broke the ice when meeting people like me (with a fat belly) by tickling it and, at the same time, giggling like a child. Needless to say, he was as skinny as a rake! A paragraph without food, the weight couldn't have gone on here! Oh! but wait a minute, what about the cookies in the hospitality room? Perhaps the weight did start increasing here, after all.

Janet took a class this year, not in kite making, but in making kite jewellery, this interesting class was conducted by Dawn Williams. The jewellery was made by tracing a kite design onto to heat shrink plastic then colouring it. You then place it in an oven for about ten minutes. It reduces in size by about 70%. This was quite amazing to watch. I had not seen this sort of jewellery making before. I will name a few of the other kitemakers in attendance but please forgive me for not mentioning them all. Jeff Howard, an expert at indoor kite flying, Kathy Goodwind, who owns and runs "GOODWINDS" Kites (Kathy did a class on stunt kite making), Ed & Bonnie Wright took a class on Parafoils, Jon Burkhardt took a class in appliqué. I will finish here but, in closing, will add that this is a superb event which Janet and myself wouldn't hesitate to attend in the future. The kindness and hospitality shown by everyone we met makes you feel very welcome. I still can't understand where all of this extra weight came from, or could it have been from the wonderful meal we had at Sam & Ann Houston's or the meal at Bob & Gerri's or the meals that we had at several restaurants in the week prior to returning home?

HAS ANYONE GOT A GOOD DIET PLAN?!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

DAVID & JANET ROBINSON
(not forgetting MADGE)

Dates for your Diary

| | | |
|-----------------------|--|------|
| 13th April | Old Warden Spring Rally | |
| 27th April | Stowe Gardens Festival, Buckingham | |
| 19th & 20th April | Caernarfon Kite Weekend, Clynnog Fawr, North Wales | |
| 3rd May | Kite Society Convention, Weymouth | |
| 4th & 5th May | Weymouth International Beach Kite Festival | |
| 10th & 11th May | Swindon International Kite Festival, Wroughton | |
| 17th May | Grange Infant School Fete | ws |
| 26th May | Prospect Day, Polo Ground, Swindon | ws/d |
| 31st May & 1st June | Basingstoke Kite Festival | |
| 7th & 8th June | Bath Kite Festival | |
| 7th & 8th June | Margam Park Kite Festival, South Wales | |
| 14th June | John Bentley School, Calne | ws |
| 14th June | Wintern School, Andover | ws |
| 14th & 15th June | Teston Bridge, Kent | |
| 14th & 15th June | Beach Festival, Weston Super Mare | |
| 15th June | Peterborough Kite Festival | |
| 21st June | Bourton Hill School, Malmesbury | ws/d |
| 21st & 22nd June | Southampton Kite Festival | |
| 28th & 29th June | Wales International Kite Festival, Monmouth | |
| 5th & 6th July | Perworth Kite Festival | |
| 5th & 6th July | Shrewsbury Kite Festival | |
| 5th & 6th July | Washington Festival of the Air | |
| 12th & 13th July | Brighton Kite Festival | |
| 19th & 20th July | Golden Valley Kite Festival, Tewkesbury | |
| 20th July | Blackheath Summer Kite Festival | |
| 27th July | Camelot Fliers Giant Fly-in, Honeydown Farm, Crewkerne | |
| 2nd & 3rd August | Middle Wallop Kite Festival | |
| 9th & 10th August | Teston Bridge, Kent | |
| 17th August | Coventry Kite Festival | |
| 23rd - 25th August | Portsmouth International Kite Festival | |
| 6th & 7th September | Bristol International Kite Festival | |
| 20th & 21st September | Caernarfon Kite Weekend, Clynnog Fawr, North Wales | |
| 28th September | Old Warden Autumn Rally | |

All events are liable to alteration or cancellation, please check with Neil or Dave if you intend to go. Others events are being booked weekly.
ws denotes club workshop, ws/d denotes club workshop and display.

And finally a note from the Editor.

Firstly, a belated but heartfelt thank you to Dot Robotham who donated her late husband's kites to the Club. It was a fantastic sight to see his train of 108 kites flying at Barbury recently. Photographs have been promised. I hope that we will be able to publish these later.

The calendar is filling up rapidly, so it looks like another busy season ahead. Plans are well under way for this year's festival. Guests this year include Stretch Tucker, Sunny Hamner (and his wife) and Greg & Sue Clark all from the States and Martin Lester, who is hoping to attend on Sunday. We are not sure if Fritz is coming from Holland, he is hoping to attend but it is possible that he will be back from Japan in time. This year's evening "do" will be a Hog Roast followed by an informal talk given by Stretch Tucker. There will be the usual raffle so any donations, to be used for prizes, will be gratefully received. Events planned for this year's event include the record attempt at Teddy dropping and the Rokkaku challenge for the Scouts and Guides. I am told that the Teddy Drop equipment has been tested and that they are confident of breaking the record. I hope you will all come along and support Vic Walker in his record attempt. You never know you may get on the television!

Thanks to all of you who have supported Cowpat in the past keep the articles coming!

I look forward to seeing you at this year's events, the more of you that are willing to help the easier it is for all of us.

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!
- ⁴Kite 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...sant 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 AVOID 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

The COWPAT HILL Journal

Journal of the White Horse Kite Flyers

Editorial Team: Dave & Jane Jones

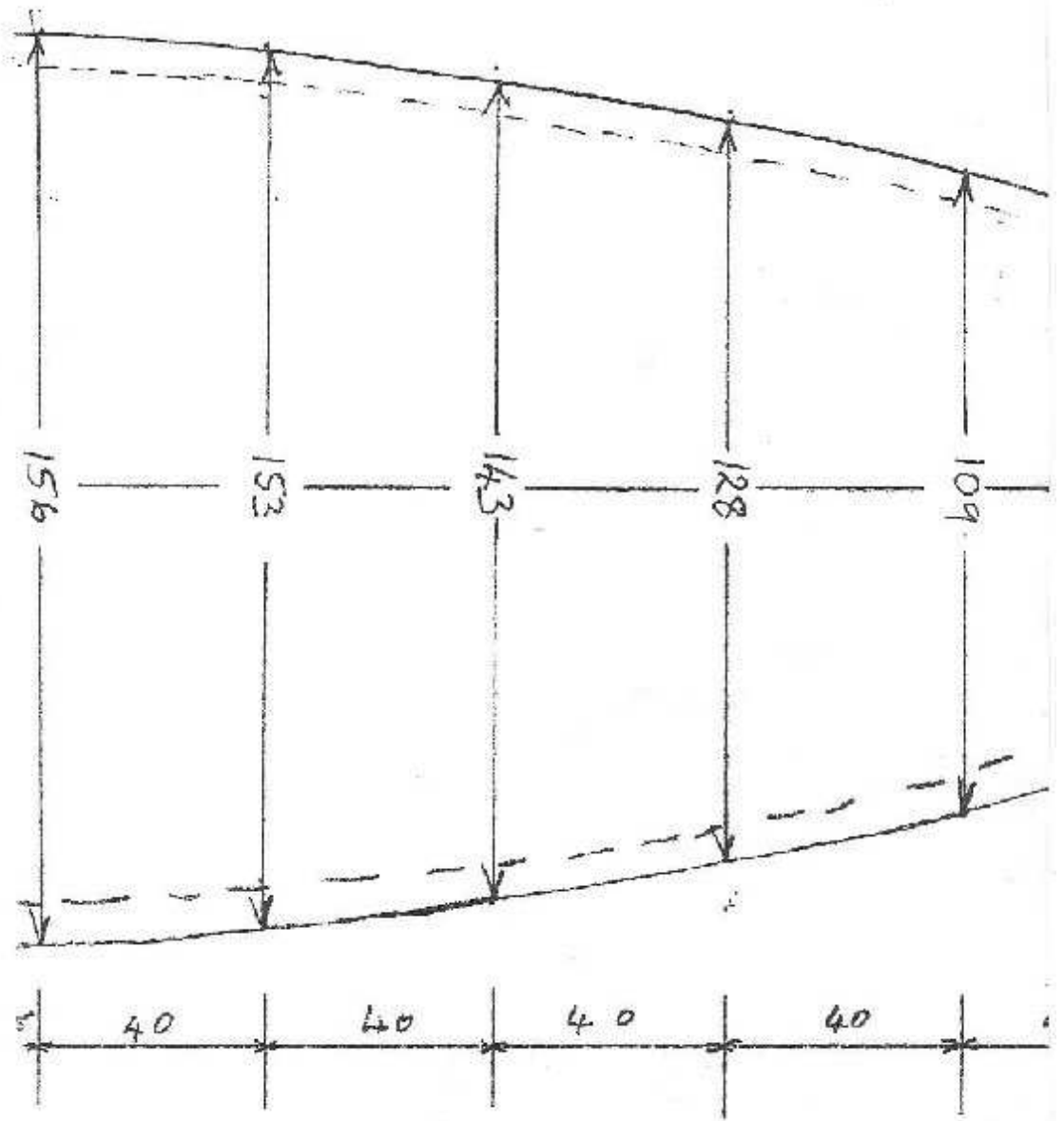
15 Bucklebury Close, Stratton St. Margaret, Swindon, SN3 4JH

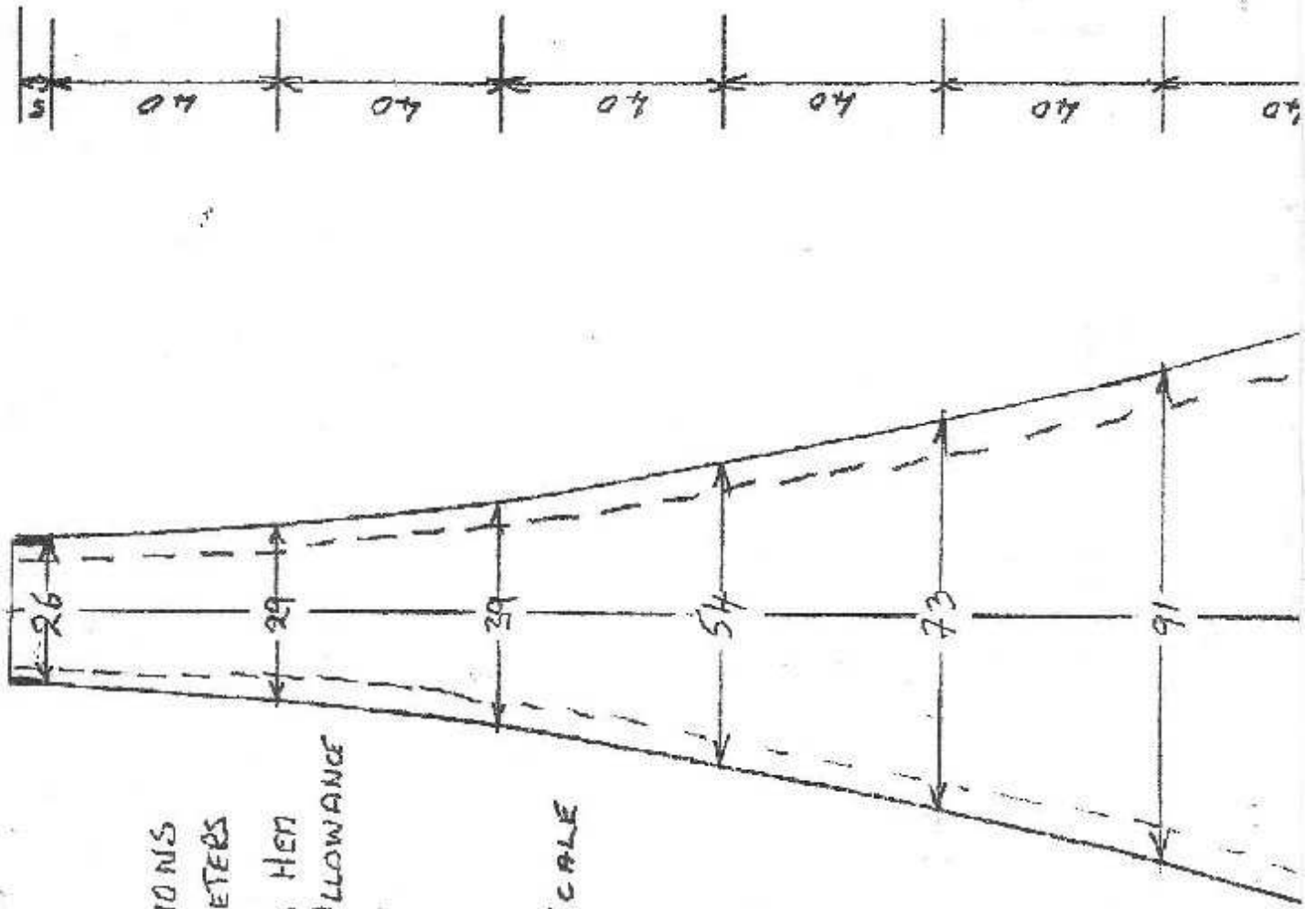
Tel: 01793 823493

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.





ALL DIMENSIONS
IN MILLIMETERS
INCLUDES 5mm HEN
OR SEAM ALLOWANCE
ALL ROUND

CUS 12

NOT TO SCALE