

# Cowpat Hill



WHITE HORSE KITE FLYERS  
SUMMER ISSUE 2001  
JULY - SEPTEMBER

## THANK YOU

Hi, Dave and Janet, mother, Marla,

We got home safely. Almost perfect trip. Only one thing went wrong was, Air Canada lost one of my luggage. My kite tool box and other items did not showed up. It is not big deal, however I hope it shows up later. I feel that the trip went so well, losing luggage is small price to pay even if it does not show up.

We thank you. We enjoyed our trip. Please say hello to everybody.

I made many friends again, new and old.  
And my wife was so impressed with kite people's kindness, which I always talked about.

Thanks

Dan Goodlooking Kurahashi

*All's well luggage and tool-box turned up a day or two later.*

White Horse Kite Flyers  
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SWINDON  
SN3 4YR

## Diary dates 2001

July		
1	Rockingham Castle	W.D
8	Club Meet	
14\15	Kemet Valley Kite Festival	W.D.T
15	Petworth Kite Festival	
21\22	Tewksbury international kite festival	
21\22	Brighton Kite Festival	
August		
4\5	Middle wallop kite festival	W.D.T
12	Club Meet Barbury	
18\19	Taunton kite festival	
19	Lackham Collage Hengisbury head	W.D.T D.T
25\27	Portsmouth kite festival	
26/27	Uffington show	W.D.T
September		
1\2	Bristol kite festival	
9	Club Meet	
October		
14	One sky one world barbury	
<p>We hope all dates are ok if you know other wise Please let me know. For more dates please see our web page at <a href="http://www.whkf.org.uk">www.whkf.org.uk</a> or <a href="http://www.smartgroups.com/message/listbydate.cfm?gid=82818">http://www.smartgroups.com/message/listbydate.cfm?gid=82818</a></p> <p><b>PLUS ALL DATES MAY BE CHANGED OR CANCELLED DUE TO THE FOOT AND MOUTH OUT BREAK</b></p>		

# Thanks to everyone

Just to say thanks to everyone who turned up at harrow recreation ground  
For the little kite festival we had there on the 22 April 2001

Doug Jones  
As letter to me

Dear Doug

On behalf of the committee I am writing to thank you and your  
friends

For once again running such a fantastic event.

We just cannot believe how many people attended this year and as ever we were  
so lucky with the weather. The parachuting teddies queue seemed to never end!

Thanks for all your hard work. It is such a delight to see so many people  
enjoying themselves.

Best wishes  
Janet Tublin

## Can any one help?

Earlier this year Richard Nourse of Poole Kite Flyers lumbered me via Mr  
Dawson to supply some information on parachuting Teddy Bears to a lady in  
America. She was preparing an article for the magazine "Mary Beth's Teddy  
Bears and more"(circulation million plus). As you know I hate writing for  
magazines so I sent her my web address.

Email comes back "hey you are a cool dude" (I thought it was only Bart  
Simpson said that sort of thing) but we need a bit more detail on how you raise  
(notice US spelling) money and any pics within five days. I did a bit more blurb  
and sorted out some photos and was just in time to put the envelope in postman  
Marla's hand.

I thought no more about it until through the post comes a copy of the mag.  
with a couple of very well reproduced bromides. It is amazing what they can do  
with the rubbish photos I take.

Now the problem: - What do you do with a load of bears whose heads will  
not will no longer go in the bag and insist on being called "The Ted Berets  
International"? And BOF thinks he has problems with his lot.

Arthur

# Festival report for Stowe Gardens

(or what it might have been)

Things had worked out quite well and I had a service visit lined up in Milton Keynes for the three days before Stowe. Unfortunate I know but these things happen (particularly if you arrange your own program). The weather was disgusting all week absolutely pissing it down. If you remember camping there two years ago you can imagine what that site would have been like.

Friday was a little better but Nail would have got wet setting up and any one else camping would have had to go to the pub for the evening. (Shame to miss that bit)

Saturday was a bit poor with heavy storms so I don't suppose many people would have turned out. Sunday dawned a little brighter but no wind and at clearing up time down comes the rain. It would have been back home with wet tents and kites and distinctly upset soggy bears. Have you ever smelt a wet bear? And boy do they grumble.

Sorry about that load of rubbish but some one has to try and find some good coming out of foot and mouth. Let us hope that it is all over by next year and we can all go and enjoy ourselves at a great venue.

Arthur

## Great fun!

Let me take you back to a cold frosted day just after Christmas. Stood in the field Out at Neil and it time to play with the new Christmas present a lovely new Alfa+ Little did I know then where it would lead to now and nor had the wife as she would not have got it!! . After I had been flying for a bit a karen took her turn Doug Irvine ask if she would like to borrow his so we could fly together .we said yes and of we when well that were it all started a little after the new year is karen birthday and ask what she wanted you guess it an Alfa+ well she got it

And so hooked on team flying I became! . Then at the first time we where at headiands Doug and Doug Doug invited us to join it so with a few nerves we did Karen did not fair so well and need a little more weight behind her as she still a bit small for a good wind but I loved it and got the bug! So now I own some more sport kites and a lot more lines and have flown with them and some other members on a number of times now and have even done a display with the two dougs. And hope to do a lot more over the coming months so thanks to both dougs for all your help and encouragement and as I know Doug is going to Write about team flying like he says come have a go its great fun you don't know what your missing till you try it!

Peter Willis

## ROBINSON'S RAMBLE

**WOW!** What a "festival" the sun shone! That's quite unique when its time for the Swindon Festival, as you are all aware this years Festival was a compromise, firstly we lost the use of the airfield at Wroughton, then our alternative site, at Roves Farm, was closed due to the Foot & Mouth epidemic. This year we had invited

Dan Kurahashi, from Vancouver, Canada, and by the time we had heard about Roves Farm not being available it was too late to cancel him, he had already bought his airline tickets. So we had to organise something! Hence, the fly-in at Headlands School, plus Dan doing a workshop. As some of you may be aware, I am a bit of a worrier, especially when it comes to our Festival, only because I want it to be a success! Well I have to admit the stomach churning was in full motion a couple of weeks prior to this event, this was totally new ground. Here we were with a guest coming over from Canada, and us having to change venues at very short notice, my thoughts were, "would anyone turn up to see him" The re-assurances from Neil, Janet & Marla (who was staying with us) didn't help! Luckily we had Weymouth the weekend before us, so we could inform as many "Kite-flyers" as possible, I have to thank Pete Dawson for posting the changes, onto the net, also Pete Willis for producing some enlarged versions of the information flyer that Neil had printed, thanks also goes to Tracy & Pete Willis for organising their daughters, Jemma, Karen & Stephanie, in the distribution of these handbills, at Weymouth.

My fears were unfounded! As I said at the beginning of this "Ramble" the sun shone! So we must have done something right! Of course when you invite a guest you have to cover their costs, so the raffle this year took on an all new dimension, it was to be our only source of income. When you are in dire need of raising as much money as possible from a raffle, there is only one person who springs to mind, it's the "Ticket Chick" Marla Miller! Well this year she excelled. We raised £372 in two days, from about 50 people!!! Not only does she sell lots of tickets, she brought over loads of prizes, plus some prizes from our American members and her friends, of course she couldn't have managed it on the weekend without the assistance of Tracy & Janet. I have to say when the amount raised was announced I was totally "Gob smacked" financially this certainly extracted us from the DOO-DOO. A BIG thank-you goes out to all of you who gave prizes for the raffle, also for all of the tickets purchased.

A special BIG thank-you must go to Dan, this was his first trip to the UK, the first time his lovely wife & daughter had accompanied him to a kite event. He must have wondered what he had let himself in for, all he kept getting was e-mails from me, telling him that we were likely to have to cancel the event. I am so glad that we didn't he put on a great workshop, donated lots of raffle prizes and was great company all of the time he was here! I must share with you, one of his thoughts. I was stood with him when he was flying two of his trains side

by side, he said "David there is one bad scenario when flying a train of kites, that is if you tangle with some bodies kite" I agreed! He then said there is an even worse scenario, I enquired what was that, " he said if you tangle with another kite train" I agreed! He then said David, there is an even worse scenario than that, I enquired again, he said it's if you own "**BOTH**" of the kite trains!!! His very dry humour raised its head again when we were at Cleethorpes, Ron Miller, Dan & myself left the workshop tent for lunch, I asked Dan would he prefer fish & chips, or a roast pork roll, he said "I have had fish & chips three days running, since being here, I apologised, he said "**NO**, that's good! I thought I was going to be eating Fish & Chips for fourteen days running!!" His Workmates back home in Canada had convinced him that because of foot & mouth and BSE we didn't have any meat in the UK.

Thanks again to every one who attended the "Fly-In" and help to make it such a success. All we have to do now is find a venue for next years event, the search is underway!!

Regards  
Dave Robinson

## Flyin at Headlands School

Hi there,

Just returned from the flyin at Headlands School, and thought I'd drop you a line.

What a great weekend! I must admit I was a bit nervous about the event, bearing in mind the festivals we have had at Wroughton, but it was great.

Dan's workshop was really good fun and I will get to build the other 19 kites in the train sometime soon (I think).

I now have lots of clothes for the rest of the season and have a hat that won't fall off.

The team flying was getting better and better and Doug and I really enjoyed the mega team flyin. Any other flyers that are interested in team flying and want more information or want to give it a try just come and join in or send me an email. As ever the event was really well organised and ran. I'd like to thank all involved in making it a truly wonderful event.

Cheers,

Doug Irvine

# Festival Report

Some of you got in your cars and drove for hours up north to Cleethorpes. I do more than enough driving during the week so give this one a miss. As Sunday looks like being a good day I decided to try the Poole kite picnic. OK so we had a good laugh at Paul getting lost coming to the workshop and now it is my turn. Thatcham to Poole 1 hour 15 mins. To find Baiter Park 35 mins.

However when you get there it is a glorious site looking out over Poole Harbour to Brownsea Island. Car parking is plentiful and free if you get there early enough to get a space on the road. Even if you have to go to the car park that is straight on to the flying site. Good grassy area with convenient toilets and wagon doing coffees, burgers etc. nice bright sky but major problem - NO WIND.

Knees Browning turns up and starts to fly silk headscarf but very little else lifts so it is out with the Sky Surfer for 20 mins. By now there are a few more people about so it's no longer safe in my hands and it's off to socialise. Plenty of familiar faces so lots of time chatting until I notice the wind has picked up and a few kites are starting to fly including a 200sq.ft. paraform so out comes the 88. Up it goes no problem line hand held and looks as if it is nailed there it is so steady. Questions from the other flyer tempt me to walk over to talk and the wind is so good that the two foils stayed steady at the same distance apart as the flyers. I have never flown in a wind like it, so steady that tails streamed out straight and steady behind any kite anyone put up.

My only adverse comment on the day was, what was this bit about a picnic? No hostility suite. No beer! Everyone just sat around eating their own sandwiches. This said I shall go again next time and hope to see more WHKF members as I can recommend it as the really laid back sort of day we all enjoy.

Arthur

## WHKF on TV!!

Well did you see us? Hope you did we looked great even if I say so myself. On the Sunday of Basingstoke we were there on discovery channel doing a bit to keep the good word of kite flying out to the people of the world so I hope you all seen us and if you did not well why! But not to worry I know there are some copies around so if you like to see it ask and I am sure we could lend you a copy.

Pete Willis

# Team Flying

I was talking to a kite trader recently, who told me that a large kite manufacturer had stated, "two line delta kites had died". This made me very sad, as sport kite flying is my major obsession in the kite-flying world. I like power kiting, buggying, single line kites, fighter kites and all the other flavours of our wonderful sport but sport kite flying, especially team flying, is my love.

I was introduced to kite flying at the 1991 World Cup at Ashton Court Bristol where Top of the Line from the USA (as I remember) won the day. I just did not believe the things these fliers were doing with their kites. Over the years I've watched as Europe gained ground on the Americans and finally the U.K. teams won the World Cup three years in succession. Now there is no World Cup. The winning U.K. teams have disbanded, even Evolver the best pairs in world have stopped competing. Is this the end of the U.K. sports kite?

Well STACK U.K. have tried to do something about the demise with the Boot Camp weekend teaching sessions. This weekend of manic tuition and flying is truly superb. You learn how sport kite competitions work, how to fly precision and ballet.

I can remember when I initially wanted to become more involved with team flying not knowing who to talk to or what team flying was about. So what can be done?

There seems to be an upsurge in interest in team flying within the WHKF at present. The Matrix Management team is on hold at present but Doug Manners and I are competing this year as a pair (3D). Doug and I have been impressed with the flying of other WHKF flyers who have come to fly with us in scratch team practice and would like to encourage anyone who wants to have a try to come and join in. We have a small number of full size team kites and lines that any prospective team flyer can use to get a taste of flying in formation. Beware team flying is very addictive, before long you will be looking for a larger kite bag for your team kites and your other flying machines will start to gather dust.

So next time you are at a WHKF club meeting or at a festival where the WHKF are at, look for the two rainbow Matrix kites and come and have a chat, next thing you'll be flying infinities and 88 wraps.

Regards,

Doug Irvine



# Flying Wings Alpha +

I was introduced to the Flying Wings Alpha + at last year's Stowe Festival in the middle of a mega team! I was impressed with the flying performance and when I found out the price and extras I was convinced that this is an exceptional kite. The Alpha is the big brother of the Beetle, an introductory kite that is almost indestructible. The Alpha is a full sized kite (8 ft) and comes in its own heavy weight bag. The bag also includes a very informative booklet, explaining how to get started with your kite and a set of 80ft 150lb Dyneema flying lines, complete with winder and straps! The recommended price for this complete package is £70, although if you shop around and wave your WHKF card you should be able to better this price.

The Alpha has an unusual panel layout (that's putting it politely!) but you do get used to it. There are four different colour ways and some definitely look better than others. The sail is ripstop nylon and the frame is 6mm carbon with a 4mm top spreader. The bottom of the sail is contoured so the Alpha should be silent in flight, although I have seen two, which don't fall into this category, but I think their owners (you know who you are!) need to tighten the leech line a bit more. The sail is tensioned with four stand offs, which hold a significant amount of billow. At the nose is a Flying Wings custom made fitting which holds the leading edges to the spine. This is quite a large piece of heavy-duty moulded plastic and I wouldn't want to be hit by this kite if it was travelling at any speed! The bottom of the Alpha's sail is held to the spine using Velcro; this enables it to withstand heavy nose landings without damage as the spine just pops out of the fitting. The Alpha is not fitted with a trick line and can get tip wraps easily. I would recommend fitting one, as it is very easy. The three-point bridle ends in a knot on each side and the sleeved flying lines should be attached with a Lark's Head knot. The cross spars are attached to the leading edges using custom made fittings; these are restrained from moving by stoppers glued to the leading edge.

Flying the Alpha is a very enjoyable experience, on the supplied 80 ft lines in a 5MPH wind the Alpha is quick to take off and very responsive. With a large sail the Alpha is crisp in its movements. There is some oversteer on turns but you can anticipate this and make adjustments. The Alpha is surprisingly good at trick flying; Axles, Fades and other tricks are easily done but that trick line really comes into its own when you really start throwing this kite around. If you exchange the supplied lines for 150 ft lines, the Alpha transforms into a very respectable team kite. The difference between line lengths is quite surprising. The oversteer disappears and the kite becomes quite precise. Speed wise, the Alpha happily keeps pace with a Flexifoil Matrix and will fly squares, circles and stalls precisely. The Alpha will land at your command and still continue to perform tricks to order.

So what are the down sides to this kite? Well the graphics are a bit unusual (to say the least!). The frame is only 6mm carbon and will distort when submitted to a high wind. I have flown the Alpha in high wind using nappies and it is possible but I wouldn't recommend it. It's not a real precise team kite but look at the price compared to say a T2 or Matrix it has to be a REAL bargain. I would unreservedly recommend this kite to anyone who wants to improve his or her kite flying from a small starter kite. It is very durable. We have flown a pair of

Alphas in 25 MPH wind whilst Team Racing and they stood up amazingly, even when crashed into a barbed wire fence!

If you want a kite to improve your flying this is it. Buy one now before they all go!

Doug Irvine. ( P.S. I'm not on commission)

## BUTSER HILL

What a fabulous site, just off the A3 south of Petersfield. A very short notice request got me to this venue on Sunday 9 June. The day dawned bright with a bit of cloud and freezing cold. Having heard the previous nights weather forecast I had packed all light wind gear, the wind in Thatcham at 7AM was about 15mph so in go high wind kites.

9.30 on site Kites Up tent is standing and having to shelter the face painters whose tent has been demolished. A quick look around the site shows us decent toilets, café not yet open, loads of flying space, excellent car parking (£1/day) and so Martin and I agree with the organisers to set up at the far side of the field. We put up the Teddy rig on short lines and Morgan 30 'foil. Then we try the first drop. Motor won't turn. Why? Too much tension in the lines! So now it is back to old faithful the mega delta. This time all works OK but a bit slow until we connect in the car battery with the engine running.

All was very quiet until lunchtime. The café had not opened because no one would take the franchise for the half year not effected by F & M so the organisers have gone out and got sandwiches and coke for all of us. Just about to unwrap first one when the punters arrive and between 13.00 and 16.00 there were about 180 of them varying in size from 20gram micro bears to a b\*\*\*\*y great fluffy white lamb which they went home to get because they thought we couldn't do it. They were wrong! I tell you one thing the little darlings who came back for a second go got a big 'chute and in that wind they didn't come back for quite a while.

I can highly recommend this site even if there is no wind the view is so spectacular that it is well worth a visit.

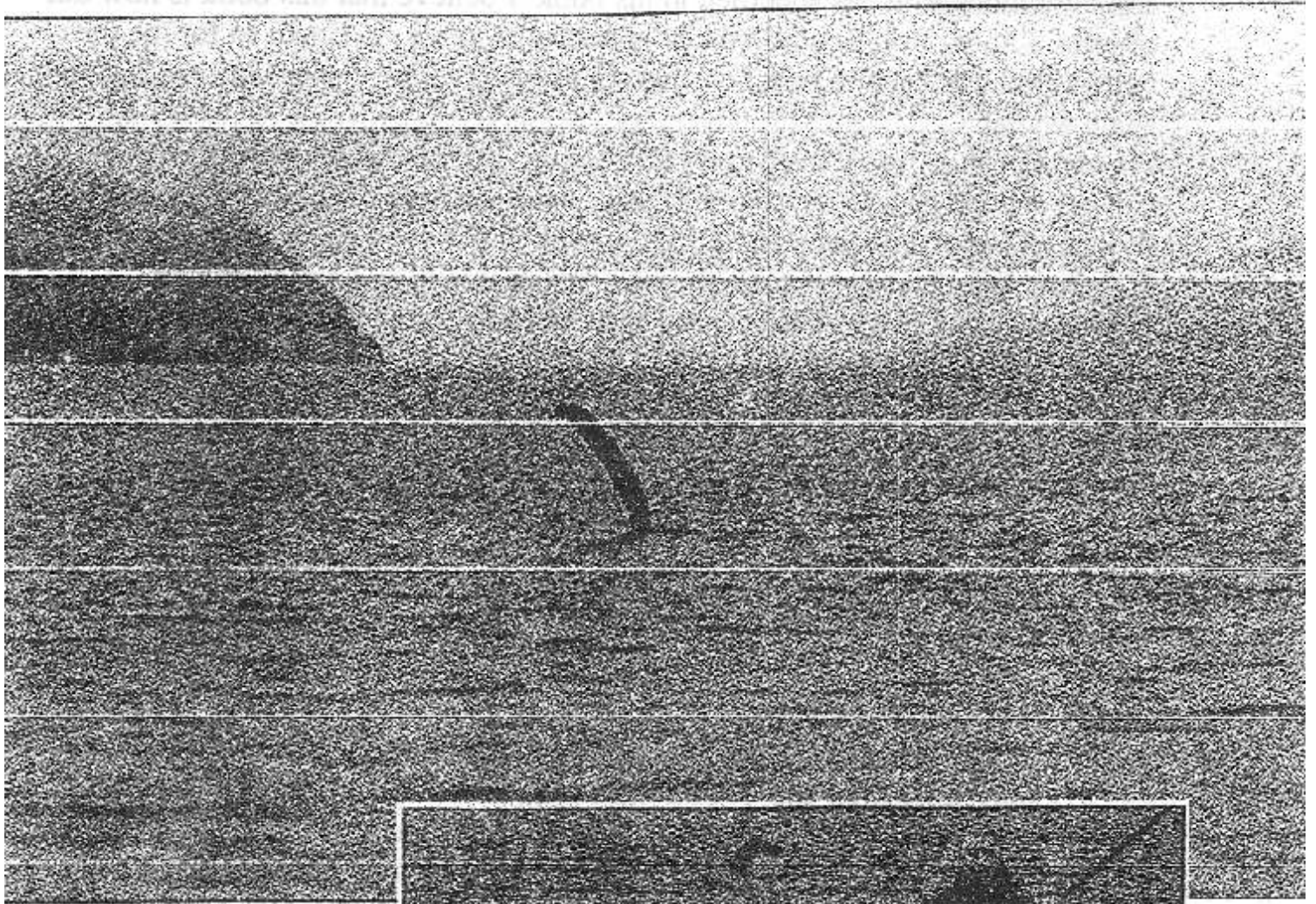
Arthur

# Loch ness strikes again!

Well did you see the mail on may 27<sup>th</sup> !! Loch ness is seen again.. And they have the pictures to prove it !. A guy out fishing saw this black shape skim across the murky water while sat in his boat after it had moved around the water apparently Bobbing up and down for some time it then laid flat on the water and disappeared!!

Well so the papers say but do you believe every thing you read in the paper ? After a good look and some other kite flyers agree with me we think it's a 6ft flexifoil the picture in news print are not clear enough to see any lines. So what do you think the real thing or just hoax's .the truth is out there somewhere

Doug manners



# Team Flying Taster

Over the past few festivals I have been talking to a number of WHKF flyers that have become interested in Team Flying and it appears that a number of flyers want to learn more about Team Flying.

To enable everyone to fly together, Doug Manners and myself, have put together some ideas so that all flyers will be able to join in together using similar equipment and the same training methods.

To reduce costs we have targeted the Flying Wings Alpha + as the kite we would like to use to train on. It is robust, well equipped and cost effective. To fly in a team you will also need some 150 lb x 150 ft Dyneema (or Spectra) flying lines and a ground stake. If you haven't flown Sport Kites that much it would be advisable to practice the rudiments of take off, squares and circles and landing. To assist with this we would recommend the Prism 'Way to Fly' video. The Dodd Gross 'Flight School 1.5' video is good but we feel the Prism one is better.

To prepare for Team Flying we use Ron Reiche's book 'Kite Precision'. Ron is probably one of the world's greatest Sport Kite flyers and really defined competition flying at the end of the 80s beginning of the 90s. We use the calls and definitions Ron has specified in his book. I believe that this book is now out of print. I know Ron has retired and is not contactable via Email so for the time being (until it is back in print) we can supply some photocopies until the book is again available.

Francesca Caton has offered to try and obtain Alphas at a discount price if we can get enough people interested. I'm not sure what price will be available but it should be better than the standard shop price. If people wish, we can also buy Dyneema in bulk and make up line sets, which should again save money. If anyone would like any further information or just chat about Team Flying, please feel free to call me on: 01869 249296

Doug Irvine

## Basingstoke Loweroglyphics

I'm sorry but this is a complaint about another club. I went to Basingstoke Kite Festival and had a great weekend. So much so in fact that I purchased one of their T-shirts. This was particularly good as it had an Egyptian theme and last year we celebrated our silver wedding with a Nile cruise. As usual we ended up with the standard souvenirs that included a chart to translate hieroglyphs.

I duly translated the T-shirt expecting it to at least say Basingstoke Kite Festival or more likely knowing some of their members perhaps something suitably rude. But NO it was just a load of rubbish; what a let down. Or perhaps my translation is wrong. Give me a clue guys.

Arthur

## Sky Chat.

Well here we go again, another "Cowpat" already. The season is about half way through and it seems to be just the same old mad rush to fit everything in. Making sure that we have enough sails cut and taped, same again with the tails and bridles, not forgetting the handles. Then on top of that making sure there are members to man the workshops and fly the demo's and that's before we get to the event.

Our Fly-in instead of the Festival went very well, I thought. Very relaxing instead of the usual rush. Having Dan Kurahashi across with his family was great; his wit along with his knowledge of kite making made his workshop a great experience. Pity more people could not take advantage of his skills. Again we must thank Marla for her marvellous effort in running the raffle. Talk about getting blood out of a stone or selling sand to the Arabs they've nothing on Marla. Thanks go to her helper and all those who donated prizes. Cleethorpes was another memorable weekend with just under 1000 sleds made with our usual slick efficiency and with many happy parents and children. Dan had a good crowd around him when doing his demos.

Some of you may have heard that David and Janet are on their World Tour in November and have asked if we could possibly bring forward this year's AGM by a week. I think that if we tried to hold the meeting without them would be sheer hell, so I ask you all to agree to this request. As usual there are many things to sort out before then and the committee will convene to get things moving.

Well "Spanners" Washing machine is working now. The first item to be washed were the "Frogman's Legs" ready for Martin, Phil and Doug to take to the States. Hope they have a great time over there. Second was the large marquee into the tub, its come out not quite whiter than white but a great deal whiter.

I know there is a lot more I should be writing about but deadlines seem to come to quickly to fit everything in. So I will close now wishing you clean winds and tight lines.

Neil

# IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT!

Whenever a friend calls and asks if they can come for a visit, there are two very important questions to ask: 1. For how long( 7 1/2 weeks) and 2. Is this Marla?

Well I really did not want to miss going to Harrow and fly kites with the White Horse group, and I really did not want to miss Weymouth and then I can't miss Swindon and Cleethorpes and I had never been to Basingstoke and of course there were a few other things thrown in, like a wonderful birthday dinner with great friends.

Being surprised by my wonderful crazy husband who flew over 3 weekends in five weeks (not to see me, but to go to the festivals). So do you all get the picture?

I can not tell you what a wonderful time I had, being with my dear friends (who have now given up one complete room for me), sharing great times with the Kurahashi family, walking around the block in Bibury and just doing a fine job of being a "Want To Be Brit"!!!!

The festivals were all great, and I still am thinking of even going back to Cleethorpes to make kites for those kids, and seeing some of my new little friends there. We even made the best of Swindon's Fun Fly and for those of you that did not come, did you miss a great raffle.

Some very special, Thank You, to my magnificent sister and her fantastic husband, Janet and David Robinson and Mom (Madge Peters) who tried to keep me on the right path.....Love you Mom! The entire Harvey Family, who always share their home and hearts, To My Douglas, who is a very special person in my life and my kite maker and his wonderful family, Phil, Libby and Lucy Scarfe, Martin (boy can I keep a secret) Croxton, and on and on and on. I have once again flown kites and attended more events in England than I have in the USA, over here they say I am starting to sound British, and my answer is "Sorry"

I did make it through customs and the luggage weighed a little more than when I came over, but as I tell Ron, I helped with someones economy. Well until your phone rings or your doorbell or I am just sitting in your home, I wish I were there with all of my British friends. You made me love you and it is ALL YOUR FAULT. Did I ever tell you how much I love England? I'm really home sick, can I come back?

Keep flying

Love Marla x

# Southampton Festival

For those of you who did not make it all I can say is sorry. Saturday was superb with sunshine wall to wall and wind that would lift anything even though a little gusty. If you complained about anything you were trying hard. Perhaps a little too much STACK competition but I make no bones about it, that is not my scene.

Craft tent was good with exhibitors going to the trouble of producing kitey bits. Good raffle prizes for next year! Food OK but limited evidently not expecting big crowds. No beer tent, big downer. Only George stayed open to serve food in the evening so following local advice I went up the road about 10min walk to the nearest pub. I am still having trouble coming to grips with the prices:- 8oz Rump, tomatoes and more chips than I could eat; £3.99!, Mixed grill, steak, gammon, lamb chop, sausage, tomatoes and chips £4.25: I have to go back next year to see if I was dreaming.

Back to site for night fly and the wind is failing so into the tent for a good nights kip. Sunday morning dawns flat calm but who cares, the weather makes it a pleasure to be alive and we all try to find a bit of shade and sit about chatting. Then some prat ruins every thing by calling an altitude sprint. The duration is set by playing 2 tracks of music and by the end of the first one some people have managed to work their kites up to all of 10 meters. With dedication you managed to get a breath of wind and then suddenly they start to climb. After 6 mins the music stopped and I am judged to be second and it is only when I started to wind in the cotton on my roller that I realise that I have more than 1200ft out with a height restriction of 500ft. Not bad!

All week end the club provided a children's work shop making kites that really flew and I am sure a number of you will have sympathy with them as they ran out of kits on Sunday afternoon after making in excess of 600.

After that nothing flew in flat calm so that it was suggested that perhaps the only thing suitable was Georges pancakes but as far as I know no one took up this challenge even though there was still cheese available up to 4 O'clock to my knowledge.

About 3.30 the wind started to pick up and they even managed a sweet drop. I am glad I was not underneath as the usual mayhem ensued. I have not yet missed a Southampton festival and this one made up for all the past bad ones and means that there is no way I shall miss next years, so many thanks to Mike, Alex, Mark and all the rest who worked hard to give us such a great week end.

Arthur

# ROMAN CANDLE

6/4

## DROGUE OR PILOT, SOMETHING ELSE TO WASTE YOUR TIME WITH.....

A WORTHWHILE ADDITION TO ANY CANOPY IS A DROGUE OR PILOT CHUTE, WHICH CAN BE MADE TO PERFORM EXACTLY AS ON A FULL SIZE HUME PARACHUTE.

Easily made, the pilot is actually a small parachute in its own right, which helps in the deployment of the main canopy. Consisting of six or eight gores, the pilot is attached to the main chute via a length of tape, webbing, ripstop or whatever takes your fancy. The Pin which secures the main chute pack is attached part way along this connector. how far depends on the dimensions of your particular chute pack. As on a full sized Hume chute, the pilot or drogue can be stored in a container which is attached to the side of the pack. The container is a plastic tube which is easily obtained from various household containers in fact an empty talcum powder tube was just the job.

A sleeve to hold is formed from ripstop and is sewn to one of the side flaps of the pack. A tight fit on the tube is required, plus perhaps some glue, you paye yer money, you takes yer choice.....

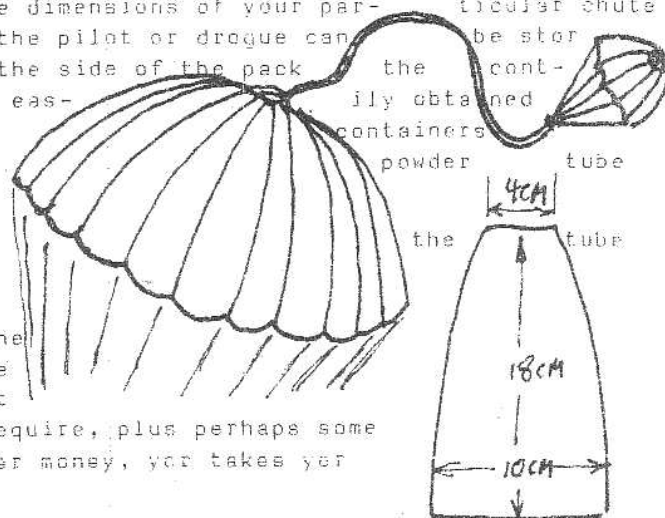
The packing sequence is as follows. The main chute is packed as normal and secured with the pin. The static line is fed into the crown of the pilot chute which is folded neatly and inserted on top of its shroud lines and excess of the connector into the tube. On release of the fauna, the static line pulls the pilot from the tube, which deploys and pulls the pin from the main parachute pack. The shrouds for the pilot can be any length you like, its up to you, as is the length of the chute to pilot connector. lots of room for tinkering here, but when you get it right it looks really good.....

## BEAR OR BEER, YOU CHOOSE.....

ELECTRIC ARTHUR SENT US THE BEAR OR BEER MAT SHOWN RIGHT, WHICH HE FOUND AT SOME WATERING HOLE HE WAS ENDEAVORING TO PRISE THE TED BERETS OUT OF.

Let it be said here and now that Arthur was only in the said watering hole in his role as protector of the young and innocent from the machinations of the Demon Drink (thats his story and he's sticking to it) but, said Arthur, the original of the Bear mat is in colour and it looks as if the Bear is drinking a glass of Raspberrvade and he's not too sure if any of the Ted Berets would be seen dead drinking that stuff.

Rest assured Arthur, its none so hell aint raspberrvade, its more than likely red wine.....



**Ask about our  
range of drinks.**





OH, NO! NOT A G-CLAMP IN THE GOOLIES,  
WELL NOT QUITE, BUT NEAR ENOUGH TO MAKE  
YOUR EYES WATER IN ANTICIPATION.

You may remember some time back that the BOF cobbled up a grapnel from some stolen fencing wire in order to to rescue a fauna from lodgement up a tree. This worked a treat, but was totally blown into the weeds by Dekie Ones Version which was more likely to tear down the tree than to lift out the stranded fauna.

In California, they do it in a slightly different way, but they do get a result.

We'd better let Squirrely of the Bear Devils Aerial Circus tell it like it was, cos he's the Bear who was stuck up the tree.

"It was the first day Sunday in months, we were all anxious to get out into the sun and fresh air and get some jumps in after gathering dust over the long winter.

We had travelled to a beautiful park which was full of TREES... Holy Cow! Big, tall, spiky, gnarly, kite sailing, Bear swinging trees. Stay calm boy, take a deep breath. One of the Bear gulping string yankers is talking... sounds like they have a big open field to fly in nearby... great! but nope, they're gonna fly here in the trees, cos it's nearer the Bear and the Barbeque. No comment

Huh? go figure. Oh well, lets make the best of it.

Uh oh. Ernie the Ground Crew has that look in his eye that says we're going up, one way or another. Now he's got his finger up in the air like a T.V. weatherman, squinting at the clouds, nodding to himself, knowingly as if he really can figure out the angles, finding a spot between the tall pines for the drop zone, trying to look as if he knows what he's doing, but he doesn't fool us.

Groups, seems like I've drawn the short straw for this fixer. Fine with me, cos I'm happy anytime I jump, still, there are a lot of trees out there. Never mind, lets do it! we are the adrenaline junkie Bear Devils arent we? Nope, I'm not afraid hook me up and I'll go for it.

I'm up at about a 100ft (really not a test exercise) the Bear is on the air. The chute deploys beautifully, those puny lines down there look like ants, but wait, the wind is shifting, I'm heading for that large tree Holy #3& I'm snugged for good and I'll probably be stuck up here for ever. Those Bear swilling, chicken murching string tangles don't have a clue what to do and Ernie the Ground Crew is laughing like mad. Some joke, I'm gonna hang here twisting in the wind till some monster crow packs my eyes out or a big storm blows me down into the river and I drown, very amusing....

Wait, theres a kite puking at me. Some silly cod with a Stunt Kite, whats he think he can do with that thing, he'll never lift me off this branch. He finally gave up. Now what, hey another booking Kite wragger is gonna give it a go. He's flying this big Delta over the tree, and theres a big heavy steel G-Clamp dangling from the string.

Whats he think he can accomplish with that, besides knocking me unconscious? Hey, hes coming right at me, BOOF, the clamp caught the chute, its pulling me right off the branch. It works, I'm free! Those tungs aren't so cute after all. ground crew is still a jack, but I'm happy to be alive. That was great fun. Heck I was only pretending to be scared. I want to go up again..... right after I throw up.

Note...what we call a GEE CLAMP our American friends call a ZEE CLAMP, whatever, it will still make yer eyes water if it hits you in the GOOLIES.....

# And Finally

Even with many events being cancelled the club have still been busy. Many new places to visit and new people to meet. So why haven't we got a Dibble free mag? Come on you guys let's hear from some more of you it hasn't got to be pages just a few lines will do. I'm sure at the end of the day you have thoughts of how an event went or something funny someone said, so come on write them down. Have your say it's your mag lets hear from you! Thank you to all those who supported this edition see you all on the flying field

Tracy

## 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, MEND 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:

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Dave Robinson on: (01793) 824208

and

Lynn & Brian Simpson on: (01793) 845346

COWPAT HILL

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Club Subscription: £8.00 (One year UK)

(including postage and kite flying insurance)

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