

COWPAT HILL

Journal of the White Horse Kite Flyers
Summer 2024 July - September



Dates for your diary 2024

August

- Sunday 13th - Club fly-in at Barbary Castle
- 17th-18th - Kites Connect, Dunstable
(National Trust organised)

September

- Sunday 8th - Club fly-in at Barbary Castle
- 13th - 15th - St Annes Internation Kite Festival, Lytham St Annes
- 21st - 22nd - Filey Kite Festival North Yorkshire
- **28th - 29th - WHKF Fun Fly, Lechlade**

Subscriptions for new members for 12 months from December 1st 2023 £16 (including 4 issues of Cowpat Hill and kiteflying insurance at events). £5 for each additional family member. Renewals will be reviewed annually. Personal Liability Insurance £13 per person.

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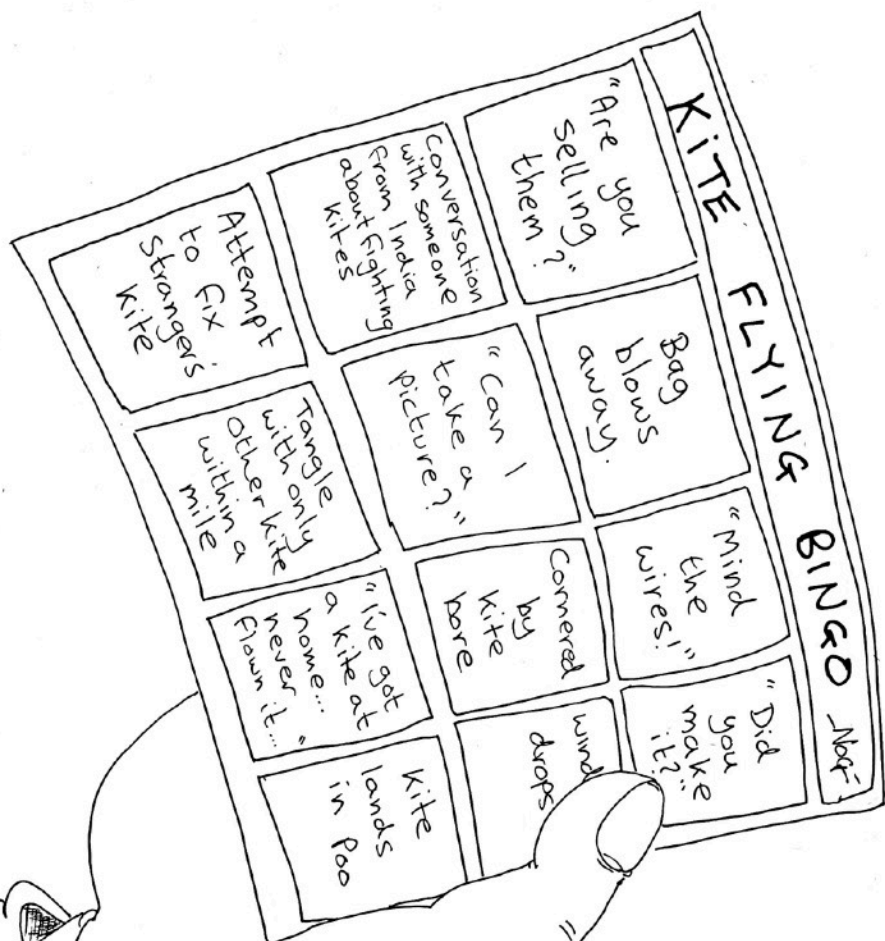
A bit from the Editor

Hi Folks,

Well the magazine is month late and I apologise for that. Haymaking, butchery and calving rather over took things. However I will make a big effort to get back on time. Many thanks to Dave Cross for his cartoon, and words and pictures from Barmouth, it looked good, and thanks to Neil for his Skychat.

As always I'm open to any picture and words, for those of us that cant get to many events its always good to see what went on and what people are flying.

Andy



Sky Chat

Well here we are half way through the Summer without much Summer yet! We can still hope. I am afraid I have not been out and about much this year it is getting harder to find the energy to get up and go. I did get to go to The Workshop and Display The Club did at Didcot. The weather was kind to us and there was a good wind and we all had a pleasant day, even though I did take some time to find the Park. One noticeable thing there were the number of Red Kites in the air, the bird variety. I have not see as many in one place for a very long time and they were having fun with are our kites. I did find doing the Workshop was harder and the fingers were not as nimble as I would like them to be, but I still had a very enjoyable day.

We are getting closer to our Fly-in and the committee are drawing up the final plans and we will let up all know about them in due coarse. All I hope that the weather is fine and as many of you will be able to attend and we can enjoy your company. The trouble is that the older members are getting older and it is getting harder to make these events so we must try and find some younger members to carry on the good Work of The Club. Easier said than done.

I am sorry this is a fairly short Skychat as I have not much else to chat about at the moment, but I hope that after The Fly-in I will have plenty to gas about and we are getting close to The AGM. Till then Clean Winds and Tight Lines and Good health to you All.

Neil.

Barmouth 2024

After checking the weather forecast earlier in the week, I decided against camping this year and booked a last minute Airbnb in Barmouth for this year's festival. I drove up early on Saturday morning and arrived in time for the first hour of torrential rain, sat in a misting up car trying to identify fellow kites in their vehicles doing the same. Around 11 the rain stopped and people started emerging and heading down to the beach. The rest of the day thankfully remained dry and some good flying ensued. The wind did get a bit too strong for comfort and my sandbag with the 3 pig ground bouncers proved inadequate as they decided to go for a trip along the beach. With help they were retrieved and I can report John Elvin makes a good temporary ground anchor!

Sunday also began a bit wet but it wouldn't be Barmouth without rain. Again it cleared up nicely and a good breeze blew all morning. The sun came out in the afternoon and the day ended very warm. An award for best in show was deservedly won by Ernie & Sandra with their magnificent koi carp display.

This year the arena was roped off and the public excluded for safety reasons which worked well.

Barmouth is a brilliant place to fly, a huge beach with the backdrop of Cader Idris and a constantly changing sky, and friendly fellow flyers. Looking forward to next year already!

Dave Cross





Simple phone KAP

Like lots of folk, over the years I have participated in a kite aerial photography with my rigs evolving as technology moves on. I started with film cameras, wooden and steel cradles, progressing to digital cameras. Now, I think the pinnacle is the mobile phone. With its fantastic camera on board and access to numerous apps it provides an amazing integrated platform, with no or minimal additional expense.

So here is my current set up. It's optimised for simplicity, compacted size and reliability with the idea it can easily be taken on family trips, in the tractor etc.

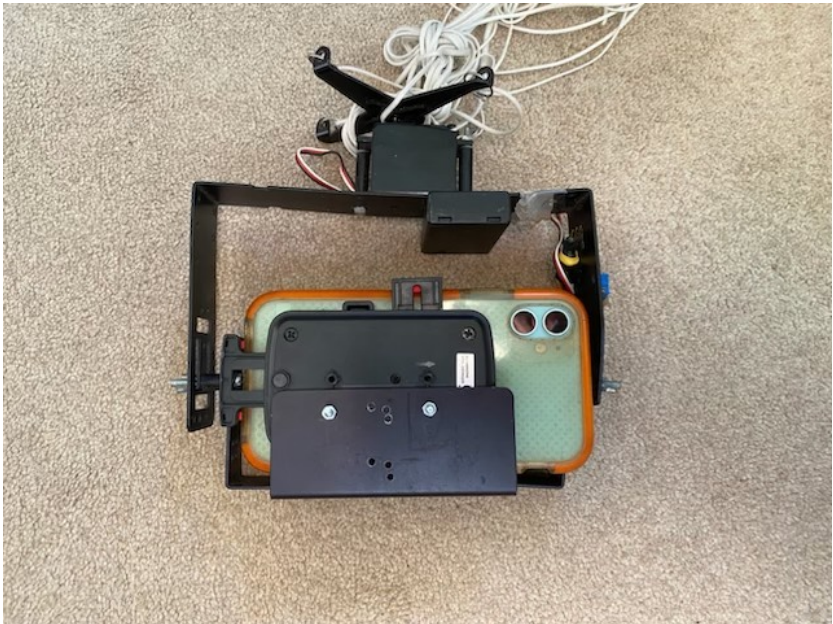
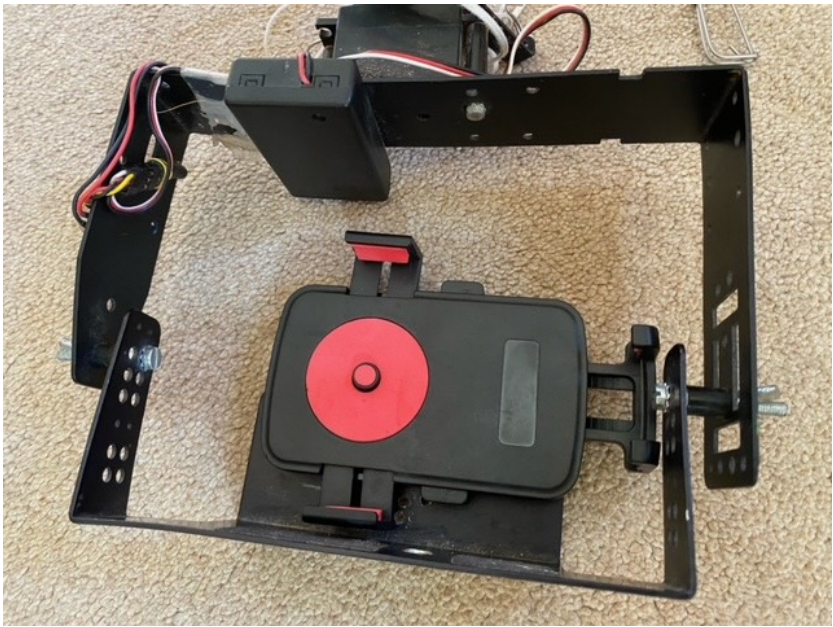
The rig/frame is a brooxes.com one which I purchased many years ago. It has 360 rotation which currently moves the camera a few degrees around every 5 seconds. It has a picavet style self levelling attachment to the kite line with some nifty brooxes clips which I really like. It originally came with a servo powered shutter presser but I have removed this. What I have added is a cradle from a car phone holder (the suction cup mechanism had broken) which allows you to mount your phone very quickly, and essentially with nothing obstructing or touching the screen. To do this I had to disassemble the phone holder, remove mounts I didn't need, and of course ferret around the floor for the 2 springs which flew out when I opened it up...

Anyway with two small bolts holding it to the metal angle part of the rig, it works a treat holding the phone tight and secure.

The app I use is Skyflow. This is designed as a stop go / time lapse photography app. You can adjust the interval between the pictures, a delay to starting and take infinite pictures or a certain number of frames. I use the free version which for what I do is just the trick. I use my regular phone which is currently a second hand iphone which I paid £200 for.

Kite wise the top performer is the Fled, although I have a 1/2 mockform flowform for higher winds. The plan is to build a bigger light wind flowform as kites with sticks dont work too well in the tractor cab - and taking pictures when out haymaking is one of my favourite things to do.

Andy Rumming



Olympic kiting

From the Independant

Friends and supporters of kite surfer Ellie Aldridge have spoken of the “buzz” created by the “inspiring” 27-year-old as she won the first gold medal in the Formula Kite discipline at the Olympics.

A crowd gathered at Parkstone Yacht Club in Poole, Dorset, where Aldridge first tried out sailing as a child before moving on to become the first winner of the kite-surfing final which took place in Marseille in southern France.

Having only taken up the sport six years ago, Aldridge quickly began to show her talent having competed in the European Championships in 2019 before becoming a World Championships medallist in 2021 and then winning silver at an Olympic test event in 2023 before winning the Formula Kite European Championships in Portsmouth in the same year.

Former coach Oli Woodcock told the PA news agency that he was not surprised that she had gone on to such success after shining during a talent-spotting event.

He said: “She had to learn to kite-foil and then apply her racing knowledge and skills to be able to perform in the new discipline.

“So in terms of how she’s developed, she’s developed from not being able to kite to being a medallist on a regular basis on the world stage.”

Describing her dedication, he added: “Ellie is someone that just loves being active, being outside and being on the water.



“So she’s really embraced kite foiling, she was always on the water and it was always a struggle to sometimes get her to have a rest day.

“She’s always out there and learning and throwing yourself into everything.”

On her success, he added: “She’s super calm under pressure, she’s really level under that high pressure environment, more so than any anyone else I’ve coached.”

Roger Bennett, commodore of Parkstone Yacht Club, said that he had seen Aldridge grow up on the water since attending a parent and child event when she was six or seven years old and added: “She progressed all the way through so it’s fantastic that that relatively small girl is now at the Olympics.”

He added there was a “buzz” at the centre around her success and said: “We had a big youth event last week and a lot was made of the fact that just 10 years ago she was competing in an equivalent event and they love the idea that someone like them could be in the Olympics in a few years’ time.”

Describing the atmosphere as supporters met at the centre to watch Aldridge’s win, he added: “We had a lot of club members here.

“The atmosphere was fantastic all the way through the race and it’s lovely to see her claim a gold.

“It will definitely do something for our youngsters here at Parkstone because we will be able to point to this and say ‘you could do this yourself one day’.

“Ellie came from our junior fleet and travelled all the way up and now look; she is at the top.”

The Olympic Kite

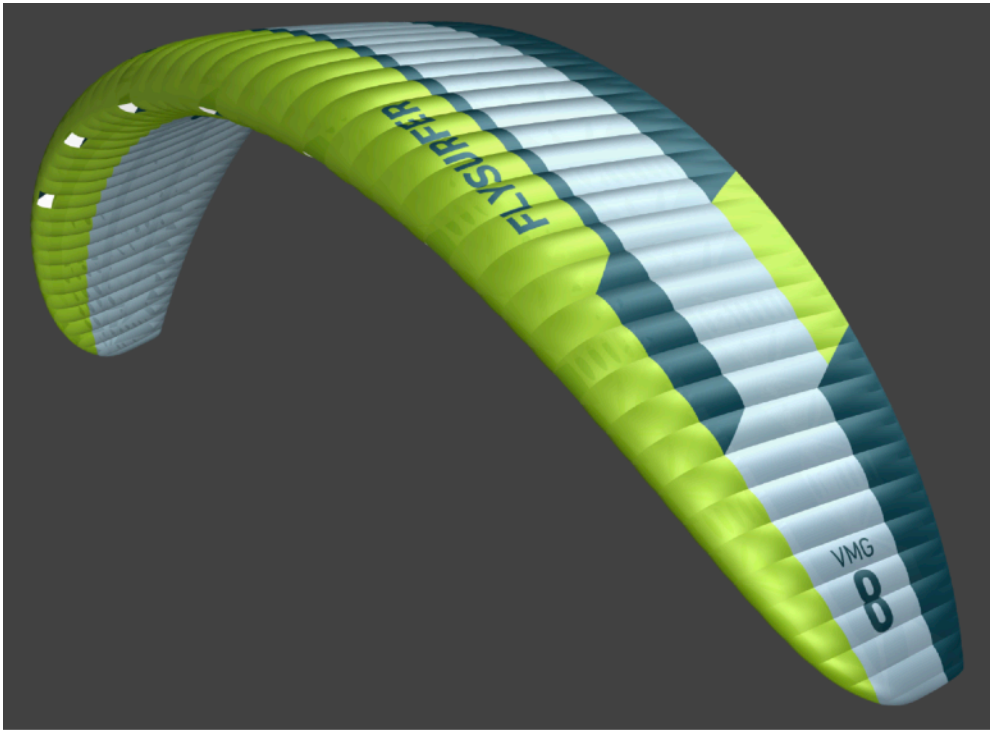
For the Olympic kite event, all competitors use the same brand and model of kite, but can choose which size they use in the race. Interestingly in the final race Ellie Aldridge used a 15m² kite when all the other competitors were using a 21m² kite.

All the kites used for the Paris Olympics (held in Marseilles) are Flysurfer VMG. Flysurfer as a company have been around for many years and I remember seeing one back in the early 2000's at Exmouth. They were seen as a bit specialist, we were dubious about their water relaunchability and they were very very expensive! However, in light winds they can circles over leading edge inflatable kites.

The clever german folk that designed them came from a paragliding background, and you can see this in the design and some of the features in their construction. The VMG has a number of interesting features that if you have ever sewn a parafoil type kite you may find interesting. Firstly it has a closed leading edge, so the air gets in through a small number of valves. This isnt a new idea, you will find a design for a kite (C22) with these in Mark Cotterell's The Kite Store Book of Kites from 1988. Secondly the ribs inside have fibreglass spars to 'reinforce' the fabric ribs. The fabric ribs are extremely vented. The fibreglass is to give rigidity and allows the use of far fewer bridle lines.

The other really clever bit is that the angle of attack of the wing can be changed by the kite flyer, so the pull of the kite can be massively changed giving a large wind range. For years most soft 4 line powerkites had a fixed angle of attack and steering / power control was by deforming the trailing edge, changing the angle of attack is allot more aerodynamic. Interestingly I drew a diagram in one of my notebooks back in the 90's when I made a lot of 4 line power kites, of a rib/profile and bridle with a mechanism to do this rather than deform the back edge. I didnt really know how to make this work in reality and thought if it would have worked others would be doing it, but hey ho!

Andy Rumming



Watch the womens Olympic kite final on the BBC iplayer by finding the olympic coverage, click on the gold medal tab, and going to the “Day 13 Sailing Womens Kite final”

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. **Never** fly at a height of more than 60m above ground level, in the UK unless a CAA clearance is in force. (as at festivals) IF YOU DON'T KNOW.....ASK.

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

Never fly near power lines, transmission towers or aerials.

Never fly near airfields.

Never fly a kite with anything metallic in the line.

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

Always use a brake line when flying large kites.

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.

Never fly near 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.

WHKF meet at Barbury Castle country Park on the second Sunday of each month

This issue edited by Andy Rumming, Please send articles to andrewrumming@me.com