

# Cowpat Hill



WHITE HORSE KITE FLYERS  
WINTER ISSUE 2008  
JANUARY - APRIL

HAPPY NEW YEAR



A little humour to start the New Year. A Big welcome to our new member, please see Robinson's Ramble. Well heres to another year. I can't believe the last went so quick. Thank you to all of you that sent Christmas greetings, I hope you all had a good festive season and not too many of you are recovering from over indulging on the Christmas pudding. If You have this year will be the opportunity to get out on the flying field and work off a few pounds. Hope to see you all on a bright and not too blustery field soon Tracy.

White horse kite flyers  
PO Box 585  
SWINDON  
SN3 4YR

# Diary Dates 2008

W =Workshop, D = Display, T = Teddy bears

## JANUARY

13<sup>TH</sup> Barbury Castle

## FEBRUARY

10<sup>th</sup> Barbury Castle  
16/17<sup>th</sup> Club Workshop

## MARCH

9<sup>TH</sup> Barbury Castle

## APRIL

11<sup>th</sup> Streatham kite day  
13<sup>th</sup> Barbury Castle

## MAY

3/4/5<sup>th</sup> Weymouth  
**10/11<sup>th</sup> SWINDON** to be arranged  
31/1<sup>st</sup> Exmouth

## June

7/8 Basingstoke Kite Festival  
8<sup>th</sup> Barbury  
19/22 Fano  
21/22<sup>nd</sup> Southampton Kite Festival

Please note all events are liable to alteration or cancellation for up to date information please check our web site [www.whkf.co.uk](http://www.whkf.co.uk)

W.H.K.F AGM

18/11/07

Apologies: Stuart Lafferty, Ron Dell, Marilyn & Ron Martin, Pete Dawson, Sue Harvey, Noel Hardy, Keith Boxall.

Welcome to the members from the President: Doug Jones presented the AKA club of the year award to Arthur Dibble. Doug received the award on behalf of the club whilst in America.

The Ron Gunter cup this year's recipient has always put a smile on our faces when the festival comes around. Dave Cross who has produced the poster for the festival for the last 4 years. Neil presented the cup to Dave who will hold it for a year.

Minutes of 2006: these were proposed by Jon Browning & seconded by Phil Scarfe. All agreed.

Matters Arising: there were no matters arising.

Chairman's report:

Mr President ladies and gentlemen; thank you for coming to this, the 17<sup>th</sup> AGM of The White Horse Kite Flyers. This year has been dominated by two things for me, the first was having a heart attack during a committee meeting back in April and the second has been the weather.

As far as the first goes I am still here boring you and if you want me, hope to continue for a few years yet. At this point I must thank all of you who have been so good about not letting me do much physical work especially at our festival when you all had to clear the field in appalling conditions. I felt guilty about not being out there helping and was touched at the number of people who stopped me.

The second factor has been the weather. We finished last year last year with the Christmas Pudding fly when the weather was dry-ish and the wind improved during the day. The January Barbury meeting was good with both the kite arches flying plus a good selection of other kites. From there things went down hill culminating in the disaster that was our festival when we managed to set up in the dry and start flying Saturday morning. It then started to get damp and by the late afternoon was distinctly wet and got worse all through Sunday until we abandoned the meeting at lunch time. I would like to point out to other event organisers that they do not have to follow our lead, as there were many wet events during the year fortunately drying up a little towards the end of season.

Returning to the CPF there was a new competition started this year when Sarah L and June J tried to eat as many marsh mallows as possible in one mouthful. June managed 11 but was beaten by Sarah with 13. At that point they had both had enough, having started with about 5 and worked up. I would not have wanted either of them in my car on the way home. We look forward to a repeat match in December 07. If I remember correctly Sarah was going to throw down the challenge and start at 15! I have heard that some of the male members of one of the other clubs are now in the low 30s.

Each year at this point we have to look at the obituaries and late last year we were saddened to hear of the death of Richard Everett. Many of you will not remember Richard but in the early years he was instrumental to the start of this club. He was the first editor/compiler/printer of the Cowpat Hill newsletter that was a monthly single sided sheet and he went on to produce the first few issues of the quarterly magazine we know today. At the time our sympathies were sent to his family.

One thing that this does bring up is the trend of kite flyers to be of the older generation, look on any display field and there are very few youngsters flying single line display. Why is this? Speak to any member of the public about kites and they immediately think of children on the beach. As

a community, kites are going to have to attract more young people in to the hobby or it will die out. The sport kite and power/traction seems to have an attraction for them and let us hope that as they grow up or get injured they will migrate to single line, display and building as many of us have done. I would like to see a concerted effort not only in our group but also in the kiting fraternity in general to encourage youngsters to get in to the hobby. Not only is it a good excuse to get them outdoors away from their VDUs but there are so many topics that can be developed from kites as a starting point. These can range from the complexity of aerodynamics through to art and craft via design, materials, geography, history and many more. In the Midlands area clubs have developed a very close link with the schools environment and I feel we should all work together to develop this for the benefit of the hobby and children in general.

Also over the past few years there seems to have been a down turn in the popularity of the hobby; this has been particularly noticeable by the standard and attendance at some of the larger festivals. Why is this? Have we got complacent with the recent popularity? If so we must do something about it or we may follow the Yo-Yo in to obscurity for 50 years (perhaps nearer 70 because my father was keen on the Yo-Yo when he was a lad). Please think about this over the coming season and see if you have any ideas about what we can do.

This year has also seen huge changes in health and safety requirements. It was possibly the one good thing to come of my heart attack was that I was off work in the run-up to our festival so was able to produce the necessary method statements and risk assessments. Since then our insurers have required us to have a Child and Vulnerable Adults Protection policy and for help with this we must thank Jerry Swift at the BKFA. What ever you do in this hobby be sure you do it right, otherwise you may be liable for any problems and if it is your fault the insurance will not pay out! Any event at which we are involved you must make sure that you comply with the health and safety requirements of the organisers. We have risk assessments and method statements for most areas in which we get involved. If you are involved in a workshop or teddy drop that includes children we would advise that you ensure that their parent or responsible adult remains with them and does not “pop off to get a pint” and what ever happens do not work with children without another adult being present. Preferably you should obtain CRB clearance that can be done at a very reasonable price via the BKFA. I am sure that we will hear more about this from the BKFA later. These comments also apply to vulnerable adults.

To keep the traditional format of these meetings we have here to report on the state of our American representative. Ron went in to hospital a few months back to have a pacemaker fitted and the latest report I have is from Marla who was complaining that she can't keep up with the hyperactive spring chicken (rooster) that she now finds herself married to. We wish him well.

Workshops this year started with the incredible paper box kite by Tom MacAllister. Who would have believed that there could be several hundred parts to a kite especially one made of paper? More recently it has been the John Freeman Bargello kite that also went well and was enjoyed by 17 participants.

The February one next year will be by Karl Longbottom making a bird kite, this is already well subscribed so if you want a place make sure you book today. I am sure David will have ideas for later in the year to put forward to the new committee.

Developments with the BKFA will be discussed later in this meeting.

Many members ask what we have to do with the AKA, as we are a British club? It costs the club nothing as associate membership is granted when 5 individuals join it. As they seem to be the only international body for the hobby some of us have decided to become members at our own cost. A number of benefits have been felt including use of the marquee at Dieppe and when we registered our event at the National Kite Month calendar we automatically entered the raffle and were lucky enough to win a major prize of some good kites worth several hundred pounds. These

have been used as prizes at our own raffles that help to cover the cost of events such as the festival and AGM. More recently we have been Awarded The Club of the Year trophy, which is a feather in all of our caps.

We have a lot to get through so I must finish shortly but cannot do so without thanking various people. Firstly it must be Don Baggett who does such a fantastic job behind the scenes organising out kite kits for workshops and to sell on. These make a very large contribution to the income required to keep this club going. Then there is the committee, the officers who spend all their spare time working to keep things happening, the general members who assist in so many ways it is not possible to list and finally all of you, the club members who make the work worthwhile.

Hon Secretary Report: Dave started with a Thank you to Pete Willis for setting up the hall for the John Freeman workshop.

AKA logo sweatshirts are now available for members to purchase. The AKA recognise what we do as a club this is why we have received the award, firstly because we fund our own festival totally non sponsored. Doing children's kite workshops. This hasn't come through Marla she was asked to comment & vote the same as anybody else. A pin has also been made but is not available yet. Insurance, clubs are going to have to give more details of club members on the cards. Until our insurers tell us this officially we will carry on as we are.

Karl Longbottom is the teacher at the February workshop making a Bird kite. The Freeman's have requested to come back next October to do a butterfly kite. A show of hands was taken to show interest.

Hon Treasurers Report: a copy of the report was given to all members at the AGM. Proposed by Phil Scarfe, seconded Brian Smith all agreed.

Cowpat Hill Report: Thanks were given to all those who have contributed articles over the past year. Request was made for more members to send articles of events they have attended or articles they would like to contribute this can be recipes jokes or articles seen in the press. Tracy told members this would be the last year she would stand as Cowpat editor. She will resign at the next general meeting. This gives somebody a year to consider taking it on.

WHKF USA Rep Report: membership is still holding out. American members only receive the magazines. The freeman's joined the club when they came over in October.

The Science Museum: there have been many changes at the museum. Matt Moore told Dave as management has changed we needed to put in writing why we wanted to use the site. Arthur has written but so far has heard nothing even after several phone calls. The site will be a corporate hire only. At present it's touch a7 go as to whether we will have the site.

Election of officers: Chairman Arthur was prepared to stand again Dave Robinson proposed, Phil Scarfe Seconded Arthur Duly Elected.

Vice Chairman; Dave Thompson was not prepared to stand again. Nominations were asked for Ceri Jones proposed Don Baggett seconded by Simon Hennesey Don Baggett was duly elected. Secretary: Dave Robinson was duly elected.

Treasurer: Janet Robinson was nominated and duly elected.

Cowpat editor: Tracy Willis was nominated by Simon Hennesey and seconded by Jon Barker.

Committee members: Phil Scarfe, Pete Dawson, Pete Willis, Dave Thompson, Doug Jones, and Martin Croxton.

Arthur attended a meeting at Wroughton. They were impressed that a small amount of people has continued to run an event for seventeen years. A suggestion has been made that Swindon Cultural development take it over and approach Wroughton. It may not necessarily be called Swindon kite festival, but in association with Swindon Kite Festival. An agreement needs to be made between cultural Development & the science museum. Jerry Swift pointed out that we need to ensure that it's a partnership. Other site possibilities have been discussed at committee level.

Other Events: a diary of events is published in Cowpat.

National Body: BKFA has new website. Jon Caton is Chairman. A lot has been going on behind the scenes banners and leaflets have been produced, they have attended festivals but haven't had the man power to man stands. Risk assessments are available on the website including night flying & flying with the disabled. Child protection is through affiliation with aero club. BKFA are not another club they are there for support as a representative body.

Equipment 08: no equipment is needed.

Projects 08: another set of legs is in the process of being finished, other projects have been dropped until this project is completed.

Workshops: have been covered else where in the agenda. There was enough interest shown to go ahead with the Freeman Butterfly.

Changes to Constitution: the proposal to reduce Committee members by 2 and quorum by 2 to 5. Tracy Willis pointed out that over the years there has been natural wastage of members not being replaced when they have resigned the committee is at the lowest number it has been for years. Proposal rejected.

Fees from November 08: the committee asked for the ability to put fees up if the price of insurance increases in 09

A.O.B Jon Barker proposed Honorariums. Dave suggested giving Neil Harvey £200 as the clutch on his car went on his car and Neil does a considerable amount of towing for the club. £50 to Janet Robinson, £50 to Don Baggett, £50 to Tracy Willis.

Simon Hennessey gave thanks to Arthur on behalf of the members. If Swindon goes ahead it was suggested it would be the prime time to celebrate Coady kites, as it will be the centenary of the first powered flight. Paul Chapman to arrange this. It was proposed that this would be our theme no where ever we are.

#### Old Magazines

I recently uncovered Volume 2 Issue 1 of Cowpat Hill, dated January 1991. This is now scanned in and on the web site. In it Richard says that there were 11 issues in 1990. I have only managed to find 6. Please can you help?

Arthur

## ROBINSON'S RAMBLE

Help! Here it is the 27<sup>th</sup> December, and I have just realised it's time for me to write my ramble; trouble is I don't know what to write! So what's new there!

Firstly I would like to apologise for the food at the AGM, (or the lack of it)! Part of the reason was that I never know how many of you are going to turn up, so I usually arrange for 40 people for a buffet, this year 53 people attended! I'm not complaining about this, in fact it's great that so many of you are interested in attending the AGM, especially considering how bad the weather was that day. Of course the food situation wasn't helped by the Hotel fire alarm going off; just as the food service began, apparently caused by someone smoking in one of the bedrooms.

Janet & myself have just got back from the "Mince Pie Fly" at Barbury, it was good to see a lot of you there so that we could wish you all a happy new year in person, for those of you who weren't there; here is a belated "Happy New Year", to you all!

Here's a story that will interest the club "Boffin" otherwise known as John Browning. The following is a story I noticed in the Sunday Times on 23/12/07, it was headed "Ben Franklin used electricity to cook a turkey". I had heard about his research into electricity, by flying kites in thunderstorms, with a bunch of keys hanging from the line, but this was something I hadn't heard of, so it got my attention straight away. Please be aware Franklin did this experiment in 1749, I have written it straight from the paper so there is some odd language of the time.

*Franklin's account describes his plan for a dinner party. "A turkey is to be killed for our dinner by the electrical shock," it says, "and roasted by the electrical jack[spit] before a fire kindled by electrified bottle, when the healths [sic] of all the famous England, Holland, France and Germany are to be drank [sic] in electrified bumpers [tumblers]."*

*Franklin continues: "Using five jars [Leyden jars, a primitive form of battery] we killed a turkey with them of about 10lb and suppose they would have killed much larger. . . . The birds kill'd [sic] in this manner eat uncommonly tender."*

*Franklin also describes how he received an electric shock from two Leyden jars during a similar experiment. He describes the sensation as "a universal blow throughout the body" and says it was "some minutes before he could collect his thoughts. He did not hear a crack, "tho' bystanders said it was a loud one".*

John let this be a warning to you when you are conducting your many experiments.

I realise this isn't a kite story however Ben Franklin is very famous for his kite experiments, so I thought you might like to see one of his other experiments, he would have been a welcome member of the White Horse Kite Fryers!

Regards  
David Robinson

## Cody Kite Bridle

When beginning a bridle I suggest burning (or melting) all ends of bridle lines to keep them from fraying, I also tie a simple knot in the end of the line before tying a knot to keep that knot from slipping out. This bridle can be used on Cody's War, Extended Wing and Compound kites.

To start the bridle you need to know the unit size of the kite, the unit size is found by measuring one box wall from side to side (do not confuse a box wall with a set of box walls).

The front bridle line will be just over 8 units long, the extra line over 8 units is for loops that will be tied in the line to go around rods, to attach rear bridle lines and for the tow point of the bridle. The two rear bridle lines will be just over 3 units long.

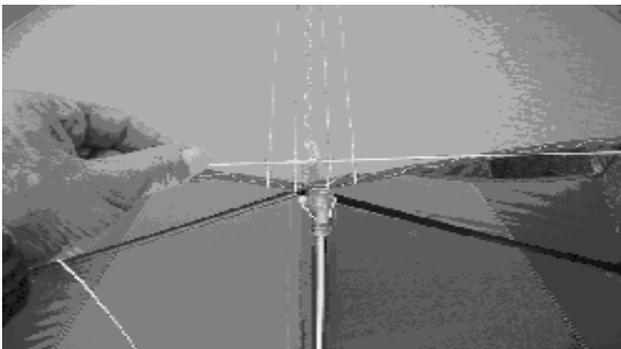
All ends of bridle lines tied around rods should be tied as tight as possible to the rod.

Start the front bridle line by tying it around the longeron rod at the right or left side of the front boxes and at the leading edge of the boxes (the kite should have tension loops anywhere a rod extends beyond the skin of the kite and bridle lines should go through the tension loops as well as around the rod) then tie off the other end of the bridle line to the opposite side of the box walls. Next, you need to tie a knot making a small loop in the bridle line, to find where to tie this knot pull the line across the leading edge of the front box walls to the leading edge of the centre box wall the knot (not the loop) should be at this point, repeat with the other side of the front bridle line, when you are done with these steps you should be able to pull both sides of the bridle line across the leading edge of the box walls and the knots will be touching. Last, with the two knots that you have just tied held between two fingers you can now locate the tow point for the bridle by moving to the centre of line and tying another loop.

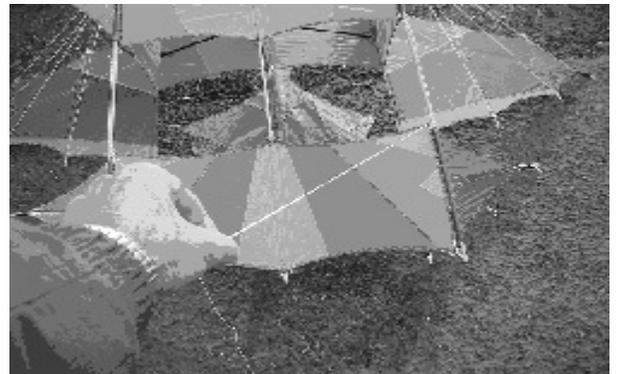
Now you can attach the two rear bridle lines, they are tied around the rod and through the tension loop at the leading edge of the rear boxes, after that tie the other end of the rear bridle lines to the loops that you made in the front bridle line, now pull the front bridle line across the leading edge to the front box walls to the centre box wall, if every thing is tied correctly the knots for these loops will still meet at the same place with the rear bridle lines pulled up tight as well.

Rick Brown.

Front bridle loop shows the loop tied in the front bridle line for the rear bridle line to attach to.



Back bridle shows the rear bridle line attached to the kite



Complete bridle shows the bridle lines all in place



Full colour copies of these pictures can be found at: -

[www.whkf.org.uk/MAGpicsnew.html](http://www.whkf.org.uk/MAGpicsnew.html)

All photos copy write of Rick Brown.

Thanks to Rick for this very good article. I have used these instructions with great success.

Article sourced by Ceri.

## Ceri the Frog

Well again we have a cry for articles, come on members have a go we don't bite. All those of you who have been to festivals should have a bit of news. Well not much on here at the moment I am making an arch kite for the festival raffle that is nearly finished now. I also have a condor to finish putting the spars on, then that's ready for flying.

I am as always looking forward to next season, and how quick Dieppe has come around again. The last Dieppe was great fun indeed a good club display was put on and noted by the organisers.

Also Fano of course. Fano is Before Dieppe and we look forward to this special kite meeting. In 2009 it is the 25<sup>th</sup> Fano kite meeting and will be just fantastic If you are considering going the time to book for this would be the middle of 2008 you may get accommodation if your lucky. As I was involved with the annual frog migration count on Fano last year I look forward again to being part of it next June, this is a very important event, one you must have had a lot of German Brandy before hand ☺.

I am making a kite arch for the Dieppe festival with some promises from club members to make me a kite, I have had a few in so far so if you have said you would make one and want it on the arch kite for Dieppe please do it in the next month or so.

Regarding the AGM: Well our committee has done it again nearly all the same people and a great team I would like to thank you all for all your hard work. That's outgoing and incoming. There is so much that members do not see going on behind the scenes these guys work very hard. Thank you.

So everyone, another article about nothing really.

Jan and I will not be at the Christmas fly in so we wish you all Happy Christmas Bah Humbug.

Ceri the Frog

## Kite Flying Safety Tips

Most readers, when they receive their copy of our prestigious newsletter will tear their Cowpat from its envelope and, with unbounded excitement, eagerly turn to the back cover and read Kite Flying Safety Tips. A literary gem. Pure wisdom. The richness of the prose!

Could we perhaps augment the dreary list of NEVERS and Things to AVOID? I have a few thoughts on how this may be done and submit them.

Taking some of the points as they now appear and taking a **positive** rather than **negative** approach:

*1. NEVER fly a kite in wet or stormy weather – try to keep your kite line dry.*

This advice, if followed, would proscribe virtually all kite flying in England (and Northern France).

A more positive way of looking at wet and stormy weather is either to look at it as an opportunity to do some decorating or to go to some idyllic S.Sea Isle and fly your kite in the balmy breeze. Of the two, I prefer the balmy breeze option and so I would change the wording to:

**ALWAYS** go to a S.Sea Isle to fly your kite and keep your whistle wet.

**2. NEVER** fly a kite near power lines, transmission towers or aerials.

How about:

**ALWAYS** try to bring some excitement and tingle to your kite flying. Try to wrap your string over anything that might spark. Blacken out whole districts! Bring some relief to those who are addicted to TV soap operas.

**3. AVOID** members of the public. Stunt flyers please take care.

Now this first part I see as positive. Members of the public should be avoided at all times. This will benefit all parties and lead to a more tranquil world in which peace will reign and pretty flowers will sprout up. As for stunt flyers, they should also be avoided.

The positive alternative:

**AVOID** members of the public. Take care of stunt flyers.

**4. NEVER** leave bits of flying line etc. on the flying site.

I think 'flying line' means string. I may be wrong and would not feel hurt if corrected. 'Etc.' of course, can mean anything in the whole wide world. The advice not to leave anything behind could be misinterpreted. What, for instance, if otherwise well-meaning kite flyers took the rules to heart and never left anything behind. What if they took all the grass home? What if they took all the sqidgy bits of sheep and cow poos home? You'd have to change the name of our newsletter and we wouldn't want that would we? No, a more positive approach is needed:

**ALWAYS** leave the poos alone.

I think you will agree that 'Kite flying Safety Tips' could well be uplifted a bit in the way I have suggested. Comments (as many and as constructive as possible) to the Editor. Praise too, of course.

T.Incheek.

## Why BKFA

It was obvious from comments following our AGM that most people don't understand why we are supporting the BKFA. I will try and briefly outline the reasons.

The world we live in today thrives on a blame culture and any problems someone is likely to try and sue you. As more of these cases are brought payouts are becoming larger and insurance companies have to protect their interests. They are therefore imposing greater restrictions on their policies. It is also true that much of the talk about suings and record payouts is hype rather than reality – I wonder who benefits form that?

When I started flying no one had even thought about having insurance cover but today before you can do any public flying you must have it. For clubs, compliance with the Health & Safety at Work Act is a good idea: if anyone is going to be prosecuted generally that is the Act that is used.

Before we get our insurance we have to provide the Name of our Governing Body (UK) and documents detailing our Children and Vulnerable Adults policy. To run any event we must now have risk assessments and method statements and if the activity involves children we have to understand the possible requirements for CRB checks on any one involved.

This is what goes on in our club committee behind the scenes but there is no way any of us could sort out all the documents required and ensure they complied. It would also be a pity if each kite club in the country had to go through these procedures individually.

This is where the BKFA come in; they are not trying to replace clubs or organisations within the hobby but to co-ordinate information and make it available for every one so that we can go on enjoying flying. The Child Protection policy document has been reduced to a mere 17 pages, a standard risk assessment is available and a Code of Practice statement. These have each taken many hours of research to prepare and are updated to cover new legislation as it is brought in. They have drawn on experts in the field such as the NSPCC and Lloyds Register (its useful having the right friends!)

What else do they do? Insurance has always been a big question mark with them and they have in place the ability to get a policy that will cover all requirements. To make this financially viable they have to have a membership of 1000 plus and as some of the major clubs have existing policies in place on better terms this number has not been reached. In the future our own policies may have to be upgraded and this deal become attractive. The BKFA are keeping the options open should this happen and they are trying to get the minimum number down.

Membership is now available to individual members at a cost of £5 and this does not get them any insurance so they will still have to be members of a club that provides this and they will be vetted by the committee and may have their membership terminated at any time. A similar more expensive package is being discussed for a trade section. Each of these sections will have the same representation on the council as any other section.

In association with the AKA and other international bodies they are going to coordinate kiting records and ratify them with the Guinness Book so that at last we will have a standard to work to. Following recent problems with imported toys the CE marking is probably going to mean that kites, instead of having to have a simple statement from the manufacturer that they contain safe parts will have to under go stringent safety checks. This will have a heavy impact on the small manufacturers especially and probably affect our hobby adversely. BKFA are going to look at this.

Where possible the BKFA will also try and support any one who has restrictions placed on a flying site. There have been a number of these in the past and unfortunately due to the previously mentioned problem of manpower may not have all been followed up. However some have and been pursued successfully for responsible flyers.

So these very briefly are the major things that the BKFA offer. Many other small things are going on in the background and new problems are being watched all the time. Remember there are only 6 committee members; all volunteers and most of them also have full time jobs so they can not be everything to every one all the time.

Well they have convinced me to the point at which I have become not only one of your club representatives but also a full committee member. Please contact me if you want to discuss any of this.

Arthur

(Chairman WHKF)

## Coper Nuzzler (7)



1. Re-arrange the heading to give a more apposite one.
2. Tenpin Bowling. There are, at the start, ten standing pins. You roll down one ball. How many different *combinations* of pins could still be left standing?
3. Two unopened cans of Coke. One is Diet. One is Regular. All labels/printing missing. How can you tell which is which without opening either or both of the cans?
4. Reverse the digits of one number (less than a hundred) and get another number. Take first number from second number and get a positive number that ends in 2. What are the numbers?
5. Change either show to get an animal.

Answers to [john@johnbrowning.net](mailto:john@johnbrowning.net).  
Any comments about Puzzle Corner?

Duck standing on the pavement looking across the road.  
Chicken comes up and says, "Don't. You'll never hear the end of it"

# AKA Convention 2007.

In July I saw a advert for cheap British Airways flights. So with the AKA convention at Ocean Shores in mind I booked a ticket to Seattle for about half price. On 25th September at Seattle airport I was met by Marla Miller not in a tele-tubby outfit or accompanied by a nun

While at Ron and Marla's house I was subjected to questions about the White Horse Kite Flyers and asked if I had any photographs etc. I did not think there was anything odd about this, probably because I was suffering from jet lag.

Two days later Charlie Sotich arrived in readiness for the convention. Charlie also stayed at Ron and Marla's spending his time making miniature kites. Once at Ocean Shores, Charlie and I shared a room in the hotel. I discovered that Charlie has terrific sense of humour, turning the television off he said in a strong Chicago accent, "You are now watching the best program on US television."

The convention slowly got underway with members arriving at the convention centre. Marla made an immediate start on the bag raffle. Phil Scarfes flow-form kite took pride of place in a large window at the end of the room, the tails were draped around the rest of the windows. Marla had managed to accumulate over 300 items both small and extremely large for the raffle.

On the first night we had the World premier of the film, "The Kite Runner." Most of us agreed that it was a film well worth seeing, indeed it is the only film that I have ever seen in Pashto, this is a warning that nearly all the film is with subtitles. The silence of the audience was only broken near the end of the film by Tom Mc Alister on seeing a man selling kites from his stall in San Francisco, shouted out, "That is not me." Tom was accused of product placement.

I concerned myself with getting a set of mass ascent pins. The first so called ascent took place in the convention centre due to the rain. The rain seemed to be a main feature of that week at Ocean Shores.

Charlie Sotich's miniature kite making class was very popular. Among Charlie's helpers was Susan Skinner the AKA president, a dab hand at making miniature kites.

The fly market as usual was very good with stalls including Bazzer and Kim Poulter selling hand made spray painted kites. There was a very good book stall where I managed to purchase several kite books.

On the Friday evening it was auction night, both the silent and the one conducted by David Gomberg. The prices were very high, a Revolution that had been finished by 5 artists including Bazzer, went for \$5700-00. Other items included the North West ripstop articles including the WHKF arch which made at least \$150-00.

Saturday was bag raffle day. this was fortunate because it was an indoor event. Outside it was winds of 40 MPH with very fine rain that would penetrate a deep sea diving suit. Phil

Scarfe's kite was won by a priest, unfortunately I could not photograph it flying because of the weather. I won a couple of miniature kites, stars and stripes bunting and a Pooh bear badge.

Saturday evening was when the awards got under way after a particularly awful meal that is the hallmark of AKA conventions have you ever eaten chicken breast that has only been cooked in a microwave oven? It is only at AKA conventions you realise how many categories events can be split into. The first noticeable award went to Linda Sanders the Region 13 director (our region) as, "Director of the Year." Region 13 is the only region that has increased in size, probably thanks to WHKF.

When the citation for AKA Kit Club of the Year was read out by Susan Skinner. It started in general terms to describe attributes considered to be essential for the award. Susan said, this club meets regularly every month, makes kites for children at festivals, has regular kite workshops, has attended festivals in Europe and workshops in the USA. Also members attend the AKA convention. (By this time it dawned on me what was being said could it be WHKF ?) It was then said this club's members pay more for their subscriptions to the AKA because it is not even in the USA and has eight AKA members and has even attracted Americans to become members of this club.

By now I was stunned. When it was announced that it was the White Horse Kite Flyers from the United Kingdom, I just sat there completely shocked and had to be urged to go up and collect the award.

Being totally unprepared and in a state of shock I was unable to say anything except: "Thank you," twice.

In the meantime while being presented with the award, I was unaware a slide show was being shown of members and events of the club. I did hear heavy laughter, but in my state of ignorance had not realised that John Browning's photo of Phil Scarfe with pith helmet and gawky eyes sunglasses was on the screen. At the end of the presentations the slide show was rerun, just for me.

When the evening came to an end I had a quick McDonald's cheeseburger (remember we had an awful meal earlier). I got my hands on my laptop and immediately e-mailed; David Robinson and Arthur Dibble telling them of the good news.

When back at Ron and Marla's house I tried to send more information, because I could not use Ron's wifi, I had to quickly do it all over again on Ron's computer.

Linda & Kevin and myself were taken to the Drachen Foundation by Marla. There we were shown around by Ali. The main item of interest was a pear shaped kite which had been found in a house in Amsterdam and brought over to Drachen by Peter Lynn. It is believed the kite was made in 1769 as this is a date written on it. The kite is decorated with deer and fir-trees, making one think of Christmas, the tail is made from pages of Latin script folded up and tied on a length of string

Eventually, all too soon, unfortunately it was time to leave the USA. It hardly seemed that I had been there for a fortnight. The flight back was comfortable and I was able to get some

sleep, but according to a friend who came to pick me up at Heathrow, the flight was non-existent according to the BA website.

My thanks are due to Ron and Marla for putting me up and making me welcome, also to the AKA.

Doug Jones.

## **Basingstoke Kite Festival 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> June 2008**

**At Down Grange Sports Complex, Pack Lane, Basingstoke.  
From 10am to 5 pm (both days)**

Come along and help us to celebrate our 16<sup>th</sup> Festival and join in the fun!

The theme for the weekend is still to be decided, and will be published in the next edition. As in previous years, a prize will be awarded for the best themed kite, so soon you can let your imagination get carried away!.

Guests will be from Home and abroad and as well as things going on in the display arena, there will be the usual array of activities, along with various Kite & Food traders.

A raffle is held over the weekend with lots of donated kite related prizes, so Kite traders please take note!

On Saturday evening we will have our usual Social Get Together in the marquee, and all are welcome. (There is a small fee if you would like to join in with the Buffet, well worth it!)

Camping is available on the Friday and Saturday evenings @ £5 for the weekend (payable on the weekend) and there are showers and toilet facilities on site.

Come along and join in, and we look forward to seeing you there!!!

Contact	Alan Cosgrove	01256 421800
	Roy Broadley (Kites Up)	01256 812487

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## AKA Region 13

Dear Arthur & everyone in WHKF...

Let me see... what's happening here...? Use any of this below - edit, chop, delete as you see fit?...

From AKA RD Region 13 - in Australia -

We're gearing up Down Under for another wonderfully warm Christmas - as I write, about 98F - with definitely NO hint of snow, anywhere!

But we're used to that... shorts, tee-shirts, sun-block lotion. It's called SLIP-SLOP-SLAP over here.

Slip on a shirt, slop on some sunscreen, and slap on a hat; our country has the worst incidences of skin cancers caused by UV rays, apparently. And kite fliers would be high on that list, if we weren't so safety-conscious!

Thanks to Arthur & The Ted Berets for sending me the patches & pin, and to all WHKF (esp. David & Janet) for the fantastic 2007 AKA Award sweater. I'm sure we'll have the occasional nippy night where I'll need to wear it!

By the time you read this my own new website ought to have surfaced, so you'll have a better view of what fills my days. Kevin's days are filled with fixing my mistakes with the computer! - which button DID I push to make it do that?!

We both wish everyone a fantastic family Christmas. Good health, and happiness to you.

Linda Sanders

AKA Region 13 (International) Director of the Year 2007

[region13@aka.kite.org](mailto:region13@aka.kite.org)

*... less talk ... more fly ...*

## SKY CHAT

I'm sorry this is going to be a very short "Sky Chat" as I'm not on top form. I went down with the dreaded lurgie just before Christmas and have still not fully recovered. Just about firing on two cylinders, waiting for the other four to kick in.

From Sue and myself thank you for the extra honorarium, it was gratefully appreciated.

Wishing you all a very Happy and prosperous New Year here's hoping the Club has a successfully year.

Neil.

## Club Merchandise Now Available

New club patch £1.50	The New club jacket £35.00	Cap £7.50
Legionaries cap £8.50	Cap with ear flaps £10.00	
Tee shirts	Polo tee shirts	
s-xl £9.00	xs-xl £14.00	
2xl-3xl £9.50	2xl £14.50	
	3-4xl £15.00	
Sweatshirts	Festival sweatshirt	
Xs-xl £16.60	xs-xl £25.00	
2xl £17.90		
3-4xl £18.40		

All items can be viewed on our web site

[www.whkf.co.uk](http://www.whkf.co.uk)

all above price's **do not** include post and packing if you like it posted to you please mail or ring us first for a price .To order please send your order with cheque to  
W.H.K.F, P.O.Box 585, Swindon, SN2 4YR

## Kite Flying Safety Tips

### The NEVERS of Kite Flying

- Fly a kite in wet or stormy weather, try to keep your kite line dry.
- Fly a kite near power lines, transmission towers or aerials.
- Fly a kite with wire or anything metallic in the line.
- Fly a strong pulling kite without wearing GLOVES.
- Leave odd bits of flying line etc on the flying site.
- Fly a kite at over 200 feet\*.

\*Kite festivals may have C.A.A. clearance to fly higher.....ASK!

### The Things to AVOID

- Motorways, roads, car parks railway lines or buildings.
  - Airfields and low flying air traffic patterns.
  - Members of the public.....stunt flyers please take care!
  - Those kite eating trees.
  - Animals, they can be frightened by kites.
- Remember...your kites can get really quite lonely up high in the sky, just occasionally, look up and give them a little SMILE.*

AND PLEASE, MIND THOSE POWER LINES!

## Where the WHKF go to fly their kites

WHITE HORSE KITE FLYERS fly at Barbury Castle Country Park, Wroughton, Swindon, Wilts on the SECOND Sunday of each month  
Will YOU be there?

Local WHKF contacts are:

Neil Harvey on: (01285) 740295

Arthur Dibble on: (01635) 865976

Dave Robinson on: (01793) 824208

COWPAT HILL

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