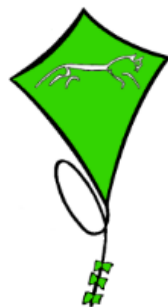


COWPAT HILL



Journal of the White Horse Kite Flyers

Issue Winter 2021 January – March

Kite at the end of the tunnel.

A Happy New Year to all our readers. 2020 was not a good year but 2021 is starting with some better news. It looks as if a vaccination has been found to combat Covid-19. With any luck this may start reducing the pandemic leading to the easing of restrictions and hopefully back to some kite flying.

Please can we ask kite flyers not to get carried away and having large meetings too soon and keep social distancing. That way hopefully we can get back together at events like the Jolly Up and Fun Fly.



**PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU READ THE ARTICLE
ABOUT PERSONAL INSURANCE.**

www.whkf.org.uk

Diary Dates

Please check web sites and social media before attending any of these events as they may be cancelled at short notice due to Covid-19 restrictions.

JANUARY 2021

10th Barbury Castle club fly-in.

FEBRUARY 2021

14th Barbury Castle club fly-in.

MARCH 2021

14th Barbury Castle club fly-in.

NOTE: At the time of editing Barbury is in Tier 3 restrictions so no one from a Tier 4 area is allowed to go there. Please check the current situation before attending by going to the web site:-

<https://www.gov.uk/find-coronavirus-local-restrictions>

and use Barbury post code SN4 0QH

Possible dates for future events:-

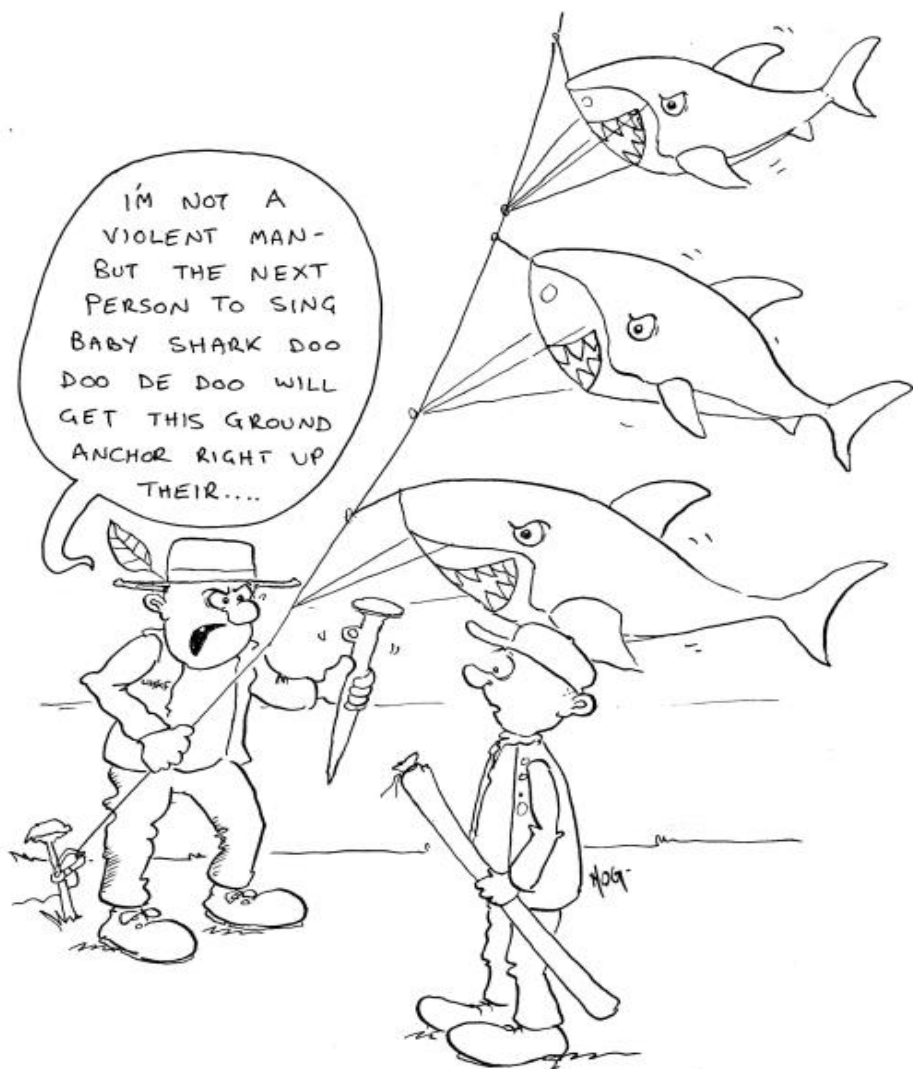
1-3 May Broadhaven

Fun Fly 25/26 September

AGM 21st November

Workshop 23/24 or 30/31 October

Dead line for next issue 28 th March 2021
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If you don't understand this follow this link.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XqZsoesa55w>

The Year of the Ox



(Mainichi/Koji Hyodo)

Traditional Japanese kites featuring cows to represent the Chinese zodiac's Year of the Ox in 2021 are seen at the Takomo Honten kite shop in Nagoya's Nishi Ward in this recent photo, ahead of this year's production peak. The shop was founded in the late Edo period in the mid-19th century, and continues to employ the same kite making methods, crafting the kites by hand. This year orders have dropped due to the pandemic, and the company plans to restrict production to around 2,000 kites. Naoki Yamada, 34, a sixth-generation kite maker at the shop, said, "It's been a hectic year due to the coronavirus. I decided on a design depicting a cow sitting firmly in the hope that next year would be calm and steady."

IMPORTANT

Personal Insurance

Following analysis of the audited accounts, it was found that the club had prepaid Personal insurance premiums for some members who then chose not to avail themselves of the facility. This occurs as, due to administrative restraints the BKFA require payment well in advance of the policy start date. These payments were based on the previous years' uptake and led to a small unrecoverable expenditure for the club, a situation that cannot be repeated if the officers are to be seen as carrying out their duties responsibly.

To prevent recurrence of this situation the following proposal was unanimously agreed by the executive:

The deadline for those wishing to avail themselves of Personal Insurance cover will be 31st January (there will be no extension to this date). The cost for the year 2021/2022 will be £13.00 per person. This is based on the previous years' cost plus 10% administration fee rounded to the nearest pound.

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. Thompson', written over a horizontal line.

D. Thompson

Current WHKF Chair.

Reminiscences and kite videos – part 3

The last two parts were the story of how my late partner and I started with European and British kites, but because we didn't learn how to fly them properly, switched to an American brand as we felt more comfortable with them and the company's forum gave lots of useful advice and support.

This part takes us up to the present day. It is also a story of how we found kites that flew and tricked well in the light winds that we often experienced. The kites in the picture are all from Sky Burner. From left to right they are: Widow Maker standard, Ocius SUL, Pro Dancer and I-Nak. Those of you who watch YouTube kiting videos will probably recognise the last 3 from "Skyburner Kites Indoor Showcase". In real life they all fly much as in the video, except that for the Ocius, which was in development at the time of the video. The Ocius as sold flies much much better. Here is the story of how I came to acquire them.



By 2009 we had accumulated our pairs set of SUL, standard and vented Prism Quantum Pros (QPros), which allowed us to practice precision flying and a bit of tricking across a large wind range without having our arms pulled off. However we still couldn't trick that well, and despite Matthew McGee's "SUL Quantum Pro by Prism" YouTube video, QPros were not renowned for their tricking. So we were on the lookout for something else. Sky Burner's Widow Maker came up in conversation, often as a kite that people wished they had bought, so in 2010 we took the plunge and ordered one. With it, I found I could do tricks such as the backspin, which I'd never had success with before. But it is a big strong kite with the larger Skyshark Nitro spars, the kite equivalent of a tank – so relatively slow and ponderous. We found it good for beginners and for beginning to learn new manoeuvres, but despite tricking success, somehow it is not a personal favourite for flying.

There were several things that attracted buying more Sky Burner kites. Firstly the Prism Kites company was changing – Production was moving to China, and the forum contracted and eventually closed down. So I changed to the Gone With The Wind (GWTW) site for advice and tuition. Secondly we saw some of the videos put out by Sky Burner and their fans. Many of these, including some of the best, are no longer available. So I suggest looking on YouTube at the search results for “Skyburner Ocius SUL”. At the top of the list there should be a video on the kite by “Devin Cobleigh Morrison”. This and a no-longer available video set in 0-6mph winds on a snowy field showed the Ocius SUL doing all the tricks that higher wind kites could do. The Ocius SUL was the first kite with “Skyshark Zero” featherweight tapered spars. This gave the Ocius SUL a superb wing area to weight ratio far in excess of our QPro SULs, and I bought one on the strength of the videos. Was it a success? – Not at first. I struggled to get the kite to fly better than the well-worn QPros. However after around 3 months, something must have happened to the Ocius SUL’s fabric, and it started fulfilling its promise and has been excellent ever since. Further down the “Skyburner Ocius SUL” search results, there are two videos: Ocius SUL pts #1 and #2 by jvern57, which show how this very light kite is built. Over the years I have made some modifications, such putting epoxy reinforcing at the ends of the wafer thin tube walls where they were fraying, and changing the shapes of the uniquely styled sail grabbers to reduce how often the flying lines get caught in them. But fundamentally it is still the same kite, and, touch wood, I’ve never snapped a “Zero” spar, which is a particularly good thing as they are no longer available.

Since the Ocius SUL flew so very well, that in autumn 2013 its UL brother was purchased for slightly heavier winds. This arrived from the US, and was kept in the kite bag for several months, awaiting suitable weather conditions. The appropriate weather arrived in an unusual way. – I had arranged to show a friend some kite tricks, and on the day the winds were varying between +9 and -1.5mph. I didn’t think I had a kite that could stay up in these conditions, and in desperation took out the unused Ocius UL. It felt completely comfortable in my hands and tackled

the weather conditions and tricks admirably. It has remained my all-time favourite trick kite ever since.

In autumn 2014 an Ocius standard was ordered to complete the set of Ocius trick kites. However I have never really got on with this kite. It doesn't yet trick as well as its lighter brothers and I often tangle a line on it. – Don't know why this happens. Perhaps it will get better if I spend a few months constantly flying it.

Earlier I mentioned "jvern57". For several years from around 2010 onwards, he published videos every few weeks, showing himself flying. Few of the individual videos were anything special, but as he was at about the same level of ability as myself, they became inspirational, as I could study and review his progress and compare it with mine. Very few of these videos now survive.

Kite ranges are frequently changing - the Ocius has not been available for nearly 4 years now – since its introduction there have been 3 more Sky Burner 2-line kite ranges. But the last two kites on the right side of the picture are much older models. The Prodancer SUL is still in Sky Burner's range, and was bought in autumn 2013 for precision flying in the lowest winds. In Spring 2014 The I-Nak was sent to me by jvern57 for light wind flying. Despite being a small kite, it comes with full length spars, and when packed up it is 51 inches long, and doesn't fit neatly in the boot of many cars. To enable it to be transported easily, the following winter I split the lower spreader and leading edges with ferrules and advice from Sky Burner. – It flies as well as before.

...And as no other new kites have been bought since 2014, that brings the story up to date. If single line and quad-line kites are also included, then an inventory shows that between 2006 and her death in 2011, Debbie and I purchased 37 kites. With the 5 Sky Burner kites and a couple of others acquired after her death, that makes a total of 44 kites, which will be far more than some readers own, and much less than other readers have. So far, I've not felt the need to buy more. But if I can't make the Ocius standard trick like its lighter wind brothers, perhaps there will be room in the bag for just one more new trick kite. – The latest YouTube videos show that Sky Burner is developing yet another new 2-line kite.Perhaps that will be the answer....

Skychat

Here I am sat at the computer instead of flying a kite and eating Christmas Pud at Barbury. What makes it worse it is a lovely day of sunshine with a good wind and not just of Brussels Sprouts. What a year! Little did I think that this year was going to turn out like it has. All we can hope that now we have vaccines on the scene it will improve and we can get back to something like normal. I do not think everything will revert back to how it was but we have to make the most of what we get.

Now after that bit I have to wish you all a Happy New Year and much, much better than the last one and we can at least see one another. Also can I thank you for your congratulations on Sue and me Golden Wedding, (some said it would never last, never bet against me) we may plan to celebrate this and other missed things at a later date? This last year has been very trying in the things we have not been able to do that we have come to expect to do without thinking. Family and friendship things like birthdays, weddings, baptisms and funerals because of number restrictions and all the other events we would have attended. It has meant that we have had to think of doing things alone or in pairs, this has brought about people doing completely different things, just how many of you have taken up walking, even just around your local area and seeing and hearing things that you had not noticed before. You may not be able to teach an old dog new tricks but you can at least note them.

On about new tricks, I have been thinking (I know it is dangerous at my age) but with some of this spare time on hand into building a new kite that you have had in the back of your mind but considered it just a bit more difficult than you think you are capable of. I have a couple of ideas that I think I am going to have a go at, nothing may come of them but on the other hand I may and I say may produce a masterpiece. Watch this space!

In the meantime keep health and fit and hopefully take advantage of clean winds and tight lines. God Bless.

Neil.

Robinson's Ramble,

I hope you and yours had a great Christmas.

With the Pandemic in full swing there isn't much I can write about Kite flying, of course you can't go out in a group, I suppose you can go out on your own, if any of you have been going out flying, why don't you write an article for the next magazine, telling us all what it was like for you during the Pandemic. I know Arthur would appreciate some articles about flying or about Kite Making!

I had a drive up to Barbury on one of my Furloughed days, I just wondered if the local Authority had done anything with the grass, unfortunately they have done nothing,

Just to cheer up those members who were regulars at the Dieppe Kite Festival, I thought I would include a photo from one of the year's events. It is one of Janet & I favourite events, we have only missed one event in 30 years, I haven't included this year in that, because as you all know [The Virus] has put the Kibosh on that. They have published a date for next year, let's hope this happens.



Dieppe

I am writing this when the vaccine had just been delivered to the UK, Let's hope that this is the start of the ending of this terrible virus.

I hope you have all seen the article from the Chairman, please make sure you have read it!

Regards

David Robinson

BALANCE SHEET TO SEPTEMBER 2020

Fixed Assets	2020	2019	
Balance b/f	0	0	
Additions	0	0	
Sales	0	0	
Depreciation	0	0	
	0	0	
Net Value of Fixed Assets	0	0	
Other Assets			
Stock	1075	1097	
Bank	8616	9283	
Cash	458	1510	
Prepayments	0	0	
	10149	11890	
Liabilities			
Loans (from Initial Members)	240	240	
Accruals	0	0	
	240	240	
Net Value of Assets	9909	11650	
Represented By			
Retained Funds brought forward	11126	11649	
Surplus/Deficit	-1216	-524	
	9909	11126	

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 aerals.

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 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.

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Subscriptions for new members for 12 months from December 1st 2019 £16 (including 4 issues of Cowpat Hill and kiteflying insurance at events) and is free for existing members. £5 for each additional family member. Renewals will be reviewed annually. Personal Liability Insurance £13 per person.

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