

COWPAT HILL

Journal of the White Horse Kite Flyers
Winter 2024 January - March



Dates for your diary

2024

January

- Sunday 14th - Club fly-in at Barbary Castle

February

- Sunday 11th - Club fly-in at Barbary Castle

March

- Sunday 10h - Club fly-in at Barbary Castle

April

- Sunday 14th - Club fly-in at Barbary Castle
- No date for the Jolly Up available yet

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

Firstly I would like to thank Arthur for his hard work and consistently getting Cowpat Hill out 4 times a year - its a key part of our club and takes effort, so many thanks and I'm looking forward to taking over as editor. Sorry this issue is 2 weeks late - not a great start but I will get more organised.

As always contributions are welcome - I will accept virtually anything that has even a hint of kite or WHKF related content. I am particularly after event reports as its unlikely I will get to many kite festivals this year, so if you are planning to go to Broadhaven in May or a northern festival or even had a great fly in your local park do send me something.

Last date for submissions April 7th email andrewrumming@me.com

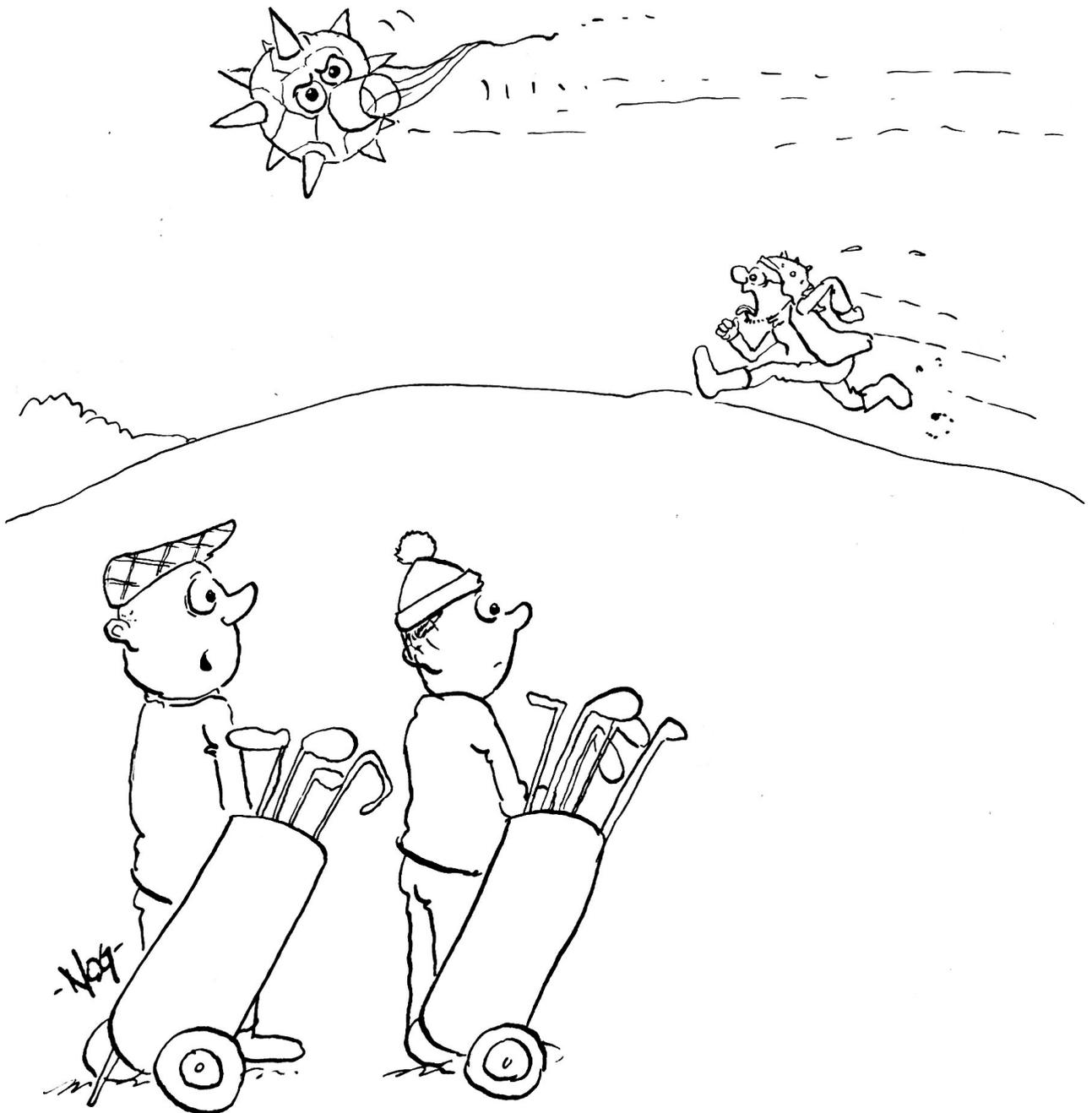
I'd also like to thank all those who organised and supported the AGM. It was a great attendance, and the raffle was as well stocked as ever. My kids had a ball and were very excited about their haul of preloved kites (at least 5 I believe), and I am working my way through them getting them up to scratch and appropriate lines ready so that when we do fly them a good experience for all ensues.

And finally word of explanation about this editions cartoon from Nog: "For the last few years a number of us have met to fly kites and swap mince pies on Minchinhampton Common on the winter solstice. This year was particularly blustery with 30+ mph winds and wasn't really suitable...but we went anyway! Twice during the day one of my spiky balls broke free meaning I had to do my Usain Bolt impression as it gracefully flew over the road and on the second occasion was skilfully caught by a golfer!"

And cover photo also from Nog at Minchinhampton Common October 23

Andy

WINTER SOLSTICE FLY-IN 2023



"MUST BE SOME KIND OF ANCIENT PAGAN
SUN WORSHIP CEREMONY"

KITE BUILDING TIPS

The middle aisle in Lidl is a place of many things, some useful, some utter rubbish. Last week they had these - heavy large doorstops with a nice non marking rubber base, about 8cm in diameter.

These are ideal for holding down paper patterns and or fabric when kite making. At £3 each you cant go wrong. Also good for other crafts (I use them with leatherwork patterns and heavy leather that wants to roll up on itself.

However stock changes regularly so you may or may not be lucky if you visit, but these seem to be popular so crop up regularly.



**Got a kite making tip? Share it!
email andrewrumming@me.com**

Agricultural KAP

Here's a few KAP shots from 2 fields where we make hay between Cerney Wick and Cricklade. Everything you see in the top picture is Wiltshire, and Cricklade church tower is just visible. The bottom picture is looking the other way and mainly Gloucestershire! The redish patches are where water reed is dominant, but is now reducing due to regular annual haymaking. Kite used is a large Fled. Andy R



Books on Kite making – the Good and the Bad

Every one who makes kites needs a bit of inspiration. I find festivals and meeting folk excellent and then in second place books, magazines and the internet. With the demise of Kitelines about 20 years ago, and the internet not always delivering, I believe the kite book that showcases what can be made and that provides great plans still has a place. I have quite a few kite related books, and over the years they have been really influential in what I've made. Not all have produced the results I have wanted, but a few have resulted in fantastic kites.

Whilst looking at my metre or so of kite books on the shelf it struck me that actually less than a dozen I would rate as really good, and several I should burn!

So here is a bit of a canter through the books that I think are brilliant and those in my opinion you shouldn't touch.

In terms of general kite books (to which there are a lot) I reckon 3 stand out, **The Book of Kites by the Morgans**, with excellent step by step plans to good kites (except the stunter which I couldn't get to fly). Their tumbling star kite was the first box I ever made and got me hooked on box kites. **Kites by Moulton and Lloyd (second edition)** is excellent. The plans are probably not for the absolute beginner but it has a good range and nicely captures the kite scene of the 90's. And finally **Kites for everyone (and the sequel) by Margret Gregor**. I have made loads of kites for kids from this book and they all work well.

Moving up the complexity rankings comes another 3 highly influential books. **Stunt kites by Nop Velthuizen** provided a real turning point for me and got me into technical kitemaking. I remember buying it from Pat Dell at the Kiteability tent at the Swindon Festival in 1993. It was ground breaking as it got people making stunt kites as good as the commercial ones. I got so into making his version of a flexifoil that I have metal rib templates. I even sold them to my brother as a teenage. This book also gave me the plans for my first quad line, which was a devil to fly being completely flat. This along with the other 2 books in the series have always provided good accurate plans and encourage the reader to experiment and explore. The translation from dutch can be clunky (it talks about shoving spars into leading edge pockets!) and there are a few errors in a few of the plans which you should know about.

Wolfgang Schemelphennig has written some great kite building books including **Phastastic Drachenwelch** is rather fine.

The stinkers (in my opinion, not necessarily everyones and in no way an official WHKF opinion!)

- Kites and Windsocks by Jim Rowlands
- Box Kites by Bill Cochrane

Both have resulted in a lot of wasted ripstop and nearly put me off kite making – Don't be fooled by the hard back and nice pictures, I don't understand why publishers didnt get the designs tested, wait yes I do, money!

And also a curved ball and brilliant book about kites the **Tao of Kiteflying by Harm Van Veem** – if you haven't read it do, you will be stood on chairs dropping paper spinners before you know it.

I realise that all the above books are about 20 years old or more – any good modern ones out there I have missed?

Andy Rumming

Caption competition



Mid raffle at the AGM:

Whats Dave saying or Keith, why is David looking glum?

No prize but give me your best thoughts, winner will be judged by the editors children.

WHKF AGM 19/11/23 12.30PM

The meeting started at 12.32.

Welcome from the President

Welcome to you all to this AGM and to Kevin for arranging this meeting here. I hope we all have a good and productive meeting.

When I started to sit down to write this speech down, I was hit by my immortality (not my immorality). I cannot do now what I want to do even if I had the energy to do it, the mind may think it but that is as far as it goes. I have to admit to these things, and it is Bloody hard.

After all these years of being able to get up and go to find that it has got up and gone is very, very hard to accept. After it has given me so much pleasure And I have done things that I never thought I would have done or seen. For this I am eternally thankful for. So it is with much regret that I will not be able to do as much as I would like to do for "The Club" and for members as I would expect ME to do. With your blessing I will carry on doing as much as I can possibly do for as long as I can. With this in mind we have to think that the younger members will have to step up to the mark and do even a small amount more to make up for all the rest of us Old Fogies. Anno Domini stops for no-one. Over the years "The Club" has come a long way and we have done many things in the Kiting World which we should and are very proud of, but it must not stop here, we should and can meet the future with open arms to enjoy and spread the beauty of our hobby with as many people as we can. I must thank the Committee for all the hard work they have done over the last year, although things have been better, they still have not got back to pre-Covid days and I am afraid I do not think they ever will, we can only hope that we can expand again.

I must also pick out two committee members for special thanks for their work over the years who both have not been in the best of health in recent times. They are Arthur for all his hard work as Editor of "Cowpat Hill" who is hanging up his quill, very many thanks Arthur and Dave R and when we say Dave, we also must link in Janet for stepping down from being Hon Sec. Without their very hard work "The Club" would have never reached the heights we have achieved.

I am honoured to have served along with you both.

Now let us get on with "The AGM" and I hope we have a very, very good one. Thank you All.

Attendees

28

Apologies

Sally Meadows

Martin Croxton

Ron Miller

Pat and Chris Mabon

Sara and Dave Lyth

Roy Martin

Mike and Shiela Stephens

Jill Ferrer

Minutes of last year's meeting

Agreed as an accurate record.

Proposed by: Charlie Peace

Seconded by: Arthur Dibble

Unanimous

Matters Arising

No Matters Arising

Chairman's Address

2023 has proved to be a somewhat erratic year as regards Kite flying with the disappearance of several festivals from the calendar, especially in the south of the country. The year started with several of our members attending the "unofficial Broadhaven Kite Weekend." (Unofficial, insomuch that the "tides were wrong" and MKF were not in attendance.) Those present made the most of the opportunities to fly and again their efforts were well received by the locals, 2024 is already booked!

The club has a long history of adopting innovation when it comes to kites and due to the efforts of Bob Cruickshank has moved into holding "indoor flying events". These have been well supported and have seen a varied range of "flying machines". The events have seen state of the art ultra-light kites as well as rubber powered planes and "ducted fan" jets. Further events are planned and the next one is already in the diary of several members.

A firm favorite with many members, "The Jolly Ups" suffered from the vagaries of the British weather which saw the main marquee being turned into a mass of shredded vinyl and twisted steel. A band of stalwart supporters pitched in and ensured that both Jolly ups happened and were well supported.

Last minute interventions by the weather saw other planned events cancelled, the annual "WHKF Food Festival with flying" however did take place and was deemed a success by all those who attended.

As a club we rely heavily on a small band of original and long-standing members to ensure the club continues, this dedicated band is growing older and whilst the spirit and enthusiasm are undiminished in some cases the physical abilities are waning. The result being that we need some new members or existing members to step up to ensure the club has a future. We are not unique in finding ourselves in this situation as the BKFA is experiencing similar challenges and one has to ask the question what the future for Kite flying is.

Several festivals still attract large numbers of participants, so evidence seems to suggest there is still enthusiasm out there but the key to a lot of these events is support from local authorities or sponsorship. For the first time I attended the festival at Lytham St Annes, a wonderful event with extremely "light touch" organization with room for everyone, supported by the local authorities and sponsored by local traders. I shall certainly return.

In closing I must thank all those who supported the club events and especially my colleagues on the committee for their support over the past year.

Members the future of the club is in your hands.

Reports

Hon. Secretary

Barbury

Intermittent communications from the Local Authority regarding Barbury Castle. We had been assured by new colleagues at LA that the toilets were open; however, this currently isn't the case.

We will keep you posted.

Fun Fly

Thanks to Janet for the communications and work done on the Fun Fly arrangements. Even with changes, she will continue with this.

Vote of thanks for Dave and Janet

Hon. Treasurer

Income has been consistent this year, with the only areas being Membership, Personal Insurance and Fun Fly. The absence of a workshop makes the reconciliation very straightforward.

Within expenditure, the greatest risks have been around the costs of club insurance and the running costs of the fun fly.

The fun fly has year on eyra made a loss and this has been funded by the club because we have needed to reduce our surplus. There are reduced numbers coming to the event, whilst some of the overheads are fixed, regardless of the attendance, within reason, Examples of these are the cooker, fridge, marquee and toilet hire.

Insurance is also an expensive overhead, and the future includes further increase in this area.

As we have now managed to achieve reductions in our surplus, we reintroduced membership fees last year, after a 3-year hiatus. With the increases in insurance, and the desire to continue with the fun fly, as the clubs only 'event' each year, a proposal has been agreed to increase the membership fees from 2024/205 renewal. The fees would increase to £20.00 for a personal membership and £7.00 for an associate membership. Oversea membership would remain the same. We put this proposal to you now.

Proposed by: Helen Peace

Seconded by: Bob Cruickshank

Majority (One abstention)

Cowpat Editor

Arhtur has decided to step down from the role as he is running out of content and the volume of work.

Andrew Rumming has offered to take over as Editor and that will be put to members today.

Arthur expressed his best wishes to his successor and asked that the members please support them.

A vote of thanks was taken for Arthur, for all the work he's done.

Election of Officers

Chair

David T is willing to stand. No other nominations. Duly elected.

Treasurer

Helen is willing to stand. No other nominations. Duly elected.

Assistant Treasurer

Arthur is willing to stand. No other nominations. Duly elected.

Cowpat Editor

Andrew Rumming is willing to become Cowpat Editor.

No other nomination.

Duly elected.

Secretary

Dave and Janet R have been involved in the club since its inception. They have stepped down from Secretary etc. Janet will provide all the details of contacts etc.

We seek nominations for Secretary of the club.

We meet 4 times per year and need someone who can play an active part.

No nominations so unfilled.

Q. Are there any descriptors for the role?

A. Janet provided a list:

Barbury bookings

- CAA annually

Fun Fly

- CAA

- Brookings, Equipment, field etc.

- Holding Cash and Carry Crad

- Publish agendas in conjunction with the Chair.

General Committee Vacancies

Some general committee vacancies. We seek nominations.

No nominations.

Close of AGM business by Chairman

The meeting closed at 13.26.

Members Forum

Members are keen to have workshops again. John Browning offered to do a Bee workshop.

| WHKF | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Balance Sheet | | | | |
| 2022/2023 | | | | |
| | 2023 | | 2022 | |
| Fixed Assets | | | | |
| Balance b/f | 941 | | 1046 | |
| Additions | 0 | | 0 | |
| Sales | 0 | | 0 | |
| Depreciation | 94 | | 105 | |
| | 847 | | 941 | |
| Net Value of Fixed Assets | | 847 | | 941 |
| Other Assets | | | | |
| Stock | 900 | | 956 | |
| Bank | 4208 | | 4425 | |
| Cash | 258 | | 158 | |
| Prepayments | 0 | | 0 | |
| | | 5366 | | 5539 |
| Liabilities | | | | |
| Loans (from Initial Members) | 0 | | 0 | |
| Accruals | 0 | | 483 | |
| | | 0 | | 483 |
| Net Value of Assets | | 6213 | | 6963 |
| Represented By | | | | |
| Retained Funds brought forward | | 6963 | | 7219 |
| Surplus/Deficit | | -750 | | -256 |
| | | 6213 | | 6963 |

| WHKF | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Bank and Cash Reconciliation | | | |
| 2022/2023 | | | |
| Bank Reconciliation | | Cash Reconciliation | |
| Balance @ 30/9/2022 | 4705.92 | Balance @ 30/9/2022 | 257.52 |
| Income LESS Expenditure | -655.76 | Income LESS Expenditure | 0.00 |
| Balance on Bank Statement | 4050.16 | Balance of Cash Held | 257.52 |
| DIFFERENCE | 0.00 | DIFFERENCE | 0.00 |
| Difference Explained | | Difference Explained | |
| Outstanding Debits | 0.00 | | |
| Outstanding Credits | 158.00 | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| Total Adjustments | 158.00 | Total Adjustments | 0.00 |
| Adjusted Bank Balance | 4208.16 | Adjusted Cash Balance | 257.52 |

| WHKF | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Management Accounts | |
| 2022/2023 | |
| | |
| | |
| | Year to date |
| | Total |
| | £ |
| <u>INCOME</u> | |
| Membership | 630.00 |
| Personal Insurance | 362.50 |
| Kits | 398.50 |
| Donations | 6.40 |
| Miscellaneous Income | 83.19 |
| Write Off Capital Loans | - |
| <u>WORKSHOP INCOME</u> | |
| Food and Drink | - |
| Raffle/Auction | - |
| Evening Meal | - |
| Other Income | - |
| <u>FUN FLY INCOME</u> | |
| Food and Drink | 493.00 |
| Raffle/Auction | 393.20 |
| Camping | 56.00 |
| Other Income | |
| Donations | - |
| | - |
| TOTAL INCOME | <u>2,422.79</u> |
| <u>EXPENDITURE</u> | |
| Kit Costs (excluding postage) | - |
| Kit Postage | |
| Postage and Stamps | 82.59 |
| BKFA | 70.00 |
| Storage Fees | 200.00 |
| Stationery | |
| Club Insurance | 723.06 |
| Depreciation | 94.10 |
| Meetings | 117.17 |
| Miscellaneous Costs | 219.98 |
| <u>WORKSHOP EXPENDITURE</u> | |
| Professional Fee | |
| Accommodation | |
| Food and Drink | |
| Room Hire | |
| Evening Meal | |
| Other Expenses | |
| <u>FUN FLY EXPENDITURE</u> | |
| Food and Drink | 423.40 |
| Room Hire | |
| Equipment Hire | 1,183.85 |
| Other Expenses | 58.50 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE | <u>3,172.65</u> |
| INCOME LESS EXPENDITURE | - 749.86 |
| <u>Cash/Bank/Capital</u> | |
| Net Bank | - 655.76 |
| Net Cash | - |
| Non Cash Adjustments | - 94.10 |
| | - 749.86 |

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