

THE

KITE

NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN EDITION 2004

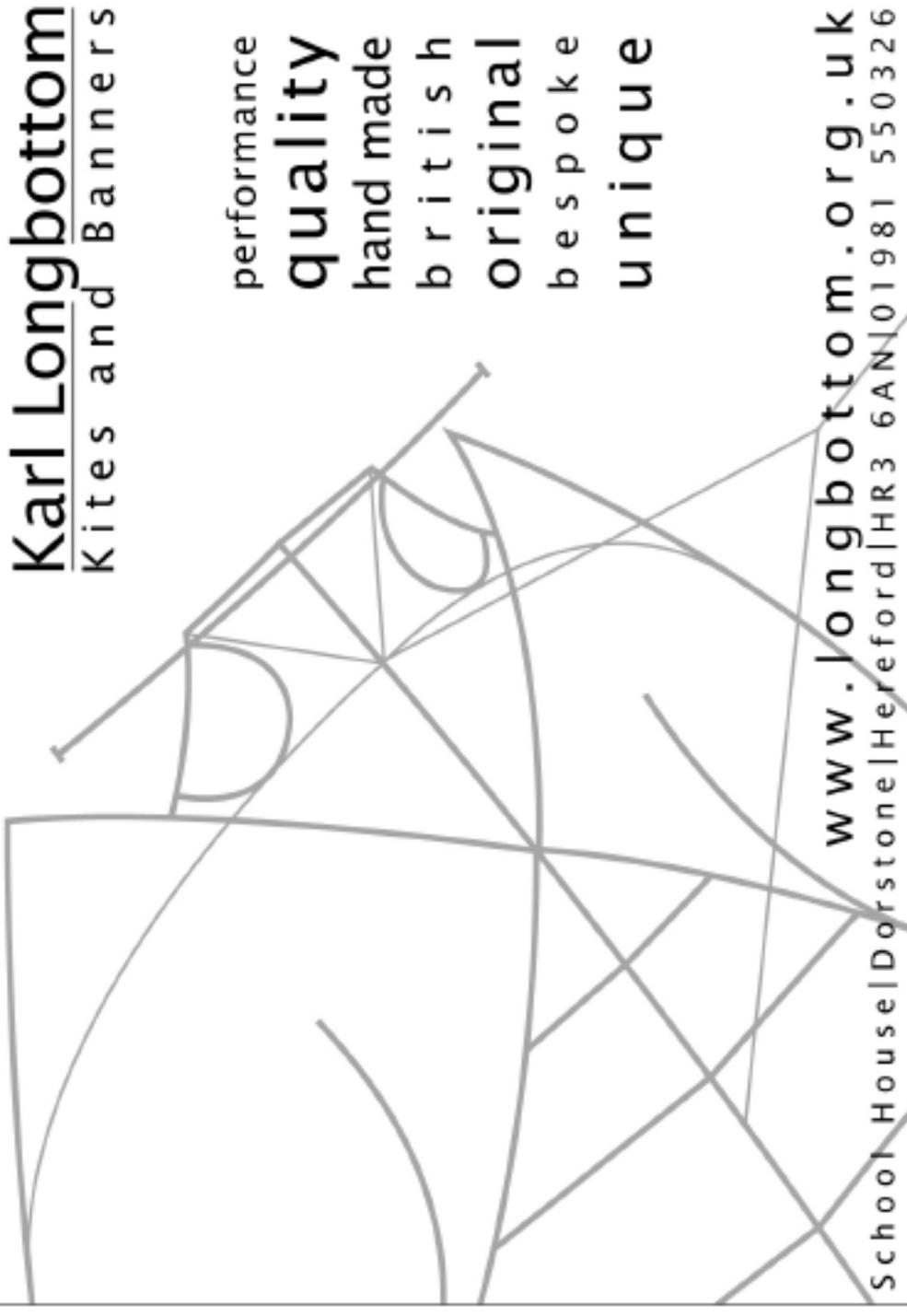


**NORTHERN
KITE GROUP**

www.nkg.org.uk

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A Note From Your Chairman

During the short time I've been chairman of the NKG (Me dad always wanted a lad) I've been up and down the beaufort scale!! I've just passed force 13!!! now with a bit of luck I'm on my way back down to force 5 and steady as she goes.

I think the flying season has been quite good, neither too hot not too cold, we could have done with a little more wind at times but at least you got your kite talking done. It's a pity there was a total wash out at Washington but look on the bright side, its got to be better next year.

The Beacon was brilliant, what a fantastic atmosphere, it was like a big family on a couple of days out, and we had loos! The Flying Circus events we attended are always good, I would like to think they benefited by us being there.



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Chester, the baby of festivals, had couple of tiny weeny teething troubles, having said that it also was brilliant. A big flying field with plenty of room for every one. Jim Potts and Phil Howden with their inflatables, Graham Lockwood (the one man wonder) and his trio of kites, Gene and Margaret Watson plus a group of NKG helpers with the teddy bear and sweet drops - boy did they work hard. But how rewarding to know the huge amount of fun and laughter had by the children of all ages (babies to ninety year olds). Also the NKG "Flying Colours" display team conducted and instructed by Dave Green. They have all worked very hard to reached the goal they have set for themselves. We must not forget our two tannoy men and auctioneers Dave Green and Neil Edwards for their work.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Neil for the work he has done for the group in his role as editor on the Spring and Summer editions of the newsletter. Unfortunately, he has found it necessary to stand down, but assures me he will still be an active group member. Our new editor Dazzz is already well known to quite a number of the membership, I'm sure he will soon be known to you all.

In the last few weeks I've had a baptism of fire by computer, did Mr Gates and Co really mean to put those of us born before the nineteen-fifties through such a steep learning curve? With the help of my local librarian I now have an e-mail address which I can access by booking a slot a one of our two computers at the village library. Our web master, Peter Binden, has already found a rocking chair to use as my icon for the day I dip my toes in the NKG Forum. Up to now I have only been able to read the Forum. At times it has been frustrating that I can't join in and give answers to some of the questions raised. Until that day arrives it'll have to be snail mail and good old BT.

That's all Folks.

You still have some flying time left so get out there and hold on to your bits of string. Your very own little rocker.

Enid Knowles

WELCOME TO ALL NEW MEMBERS

Graham Jones, John Hulme, David Holt
Richard Cooper, Simon Bernard-Smith & Natasha Bernard Smith
Rick Nice, Melanie Skelhorn, Emma Silcock

A warm kiting welcome to you all, it's lovely to have you in our group.

Hello from your new temporary editor, I've been co-opted by the committee to publish the next couple of issues of the newsletter due to Neil's resignation.

Due to the short notice in getting this job, myself Neil and Alan asked a lot of people for submissions and were rewarded with so many I couldn't fit them all in, if you did submit a piece and it isn't in this issue it will appear in another issue so keep an eye out, many thanks to all those who contributed and keep them coming! You can email them directly to me or send them on a disk to my address or even handwritten on paper. Dave Green kindly offered a bottle of wine for the best article submitted for this issue, so after much deliberation the winner is... Mary and Jack Cunningham for "The Survivors" on page 16. And in the same vein Karen George has offered a bottle of wine for the best Hint or Tip to be submitted for the next issue, so if you have any handy hints for your fellow kitefliers send them in!

One of my favourite areas of our hobby is kitebuilding and I hope to bring you more on that in the future so any articles or even simple tips for the novice or would be kitebuilders out there would be most welcome.

Many thanks to the following people for their help in getting this issue out to you, Alan Rogers, Neil Edwards and Karen George, I couldn't have done it without your support.

The next issue is due out in January so if you have anything you want included please send it to me by the 15th of December.

Dazzz

Flamin June!

June 2005 is set to be a busy month for fliers in the north of England with 3 festivals on consecutive weekends:

Beacon Country Park Kite Festival on the 4th & 5th
Wirral Kite Festival on the 11th & 12th
Fylde Kite Festival on the 18th & 19th

And don't forget the BIG one, Sunderland Kite Festival on July 2nd & 3rd

CHESTER RACECOURSE 18/19 SEPTEMBER 2004

Unfortunately this event coincided with the Dieppe bi-annual event and so some of our regular flyers were not available to attend, nevertheless, quite a good turn up of flyers were in attendance throughout the weekend.

The event was arranged by Chester County Council, unfortunately at rather short notice and too late to be included in the previous issue of the magazine. Details had been posted on the NKG web page for some weeks in advance.

A nice site with the grassed area within the racetrack perfectly level, well cut and cared for. Other events were being held at the site, with a fair ground, a miniature zoo, a Roman Soldier re-enactment society, and Cub Scout District competition. Three kite traders were in attendance along with the usual purveyors of hot and cold food. All of these were well out of the way of the kite flying but they had each contributed to the number of spectators in attendance.

The weather was reasonable, except that the tail end of 'Hurricane Herbert' (or some such low-pressure feature) had just whistled across the Atlantic and was thrashing itself out on the western side of the British Isles. Minor irritations like these don't stop proper kite flyers though, do they?

The usual kite festival activities were arranged, including altitude sprint, Indian fighter kites, Teddy dropping, sweet dropping. Graham and Marina Lockwood worked tirelessly with their displays of three kites in hand demonstrations, throughout the week-end and Gene and Margaret Watson worked overtime with their semi automatic, fully mechanised, power driven Teddy lifter. Well Done and thanks to each.

Following the cancellation of the Oldham event, Sunday afternoons altitude sprint competition was taken to be the annual competition for NKG members. These were won by Mr Aled Lewis for the 'open to all members' event and by Marina Lockwood for the NKG Ladies event. Congratulations to each and arrangements will be made for you to be presented with the appropriate trophies at the February A.G.M.

All in all a great kiting weekend and we hope that we can do it all again next year.

Jack Cunningham

IT WAS BEGINNER'S LUCK..... HONESTLY

There was no one more surprised than myself at winning the Ladies Altitude Sprint at the closing stages of the Chester Kite Festival! I'd agreed to Jack's [Cunningham] motioning me to join in because there were only Fiona and Karen at the 'starting line' and I thought "Well, at least there will be a first and a second and I'll be the third"! There was a late entrant with Vanessa joining us, as she'd already had a taste for this event earlier in the day. It was the first time I'd ever done anything like this before so expected to not even be able to launch the kite!

Unfortunately there was an early entanglement between Fiona and Karen so it was left to the two novices to carry on. There's no telling how the kite got so high as I was suffering from friction burn on both hands and nearly dropped the reel but, in true sportswomanlike fashion, I gritted my teeth and continued! After all, "There's no gain without pain"!

I was told that there is to be some sort of cup as a trophy

but am not sure when I will be presented with this, maybe at the AGM? Meanwhile I will practice my acceptance speech which might go on the lines of

"I wish to thank my husband for all his encouragement. I want to thank my family and friends for their support in this lifelong ambition. And finally and most importantly, I wish to thank my coach and trainer, Jack Cunningham for providing the kite and without whose help and dedication I could not have won this magnificent award"!

I will try to keep the tears to a minimum!

Seriously, it was just a beginner's fluke and I don't think the dedicated altitude sprinters amongst the NKG have anything to fear for next season. Although Vanessa has suggested that we do some secret training throughout the winter months!

Marina Lockwood

A few years ago Mr John Southerton arranged for a group of friends to come together on the beach at Barmouth and fly kites over a particular week-end. About sixteen interested flyers took up his invitation and enjoyed the experience. At the end of the flying sessions it was agreed that they should arrange for the group to come together in the following year and perhaps invite other kite flying friends to join them, the Barmouth Kite Festival was born and each year the number of people attending has grown.

This year (2004) over the weekend of 10th/11th of July approximately EIGHTY flyers, from various kite organisations, set up their cabanas, windbreaks, gazebo's, banners and tents in a highly colourful display, across the beach. They each then set about putting on an even more colourful display of kite flying. Kites of all shapes and sizes, crafted from all the colours of the rainbow (and a few more besides) were to be seen gracing the skies. Enough colour and movement to dazzle the holiday makers who were being distracted from their leisurely stroll along the promenade. Many were enticed down onto the beach to take a closer look at the skill of the flyers and to enquire how they themselves might get involved in such activities.

As is usual at these events, John had arranged for there to be a few competitive events and the NKG members present were well to the fore when it came to gaining the awards. Harry Allick (NKG) won the trophy for best banner, the altitude sprint was won by John Wellborn (NKG), the ladies altitude sprint was won by Di Mottram (NKG), the Indian Fighter competition was won by Aled Lewis (NKG) and the Rok fight was also won by an NKG member (although modesty forbids me from naming him). And so! We didn't do too badly, did we?

Aled and Fiona also provided all of the fifty Rokkaku kites used in the competition,

Thanks to each of you for all of your hard work.

Plenty of photographs of the presentation ceremonies were taken by Marie Welborn, . Too many, I would think, to be published in the Group Magazine. However, I would not be surprised if they turn-up on the website. www.nkg.org.uk Keep looking.

Another highlight of the event was a 'Fly A Kite for Ken'. This was as a token of respect for Ken Campbell, who sadly passed away after taking ill at the Cleethorpes Kite Festival in 2002. To show her appreciation for this tribute towards her late husband, Dorothy kindly distributed small colourful drogues, which Ken had made in happier times. Thank you Dorothy.

Towards the ending of the festival the Mayor (Councillor Roberts), and Lady Mayoress came down onto the beach to demonstrate their appreciation. They showed a great interest in what we had been doing over the weekend and spent a considerable amount of time speaking personally to most of the flyers.

During the weekend a collection was made from amongst the flyers to help subsidise a visit to the United Kingdom for children from the area of the Chernobyl disaster. A total of £110 pounds was raised. Thanks to all concerned for the generosity shown.

As the festival came to a close, John Southerton announced that he would not be arranging the event next year. Never the less, the show will go on. The task of making all of the necessary arrangements will be undertaken by Mr Nigel Kirton and Mr David Montague-Smith of the Alcester and Worcester Kite Group.

Thanks John for all of your efforts, made on our behalf, over the past years. Well Done.

Jack Cunningham

YOUNG FLIER

In March 04 Liam Wareing along with his mother Sharon joined the NKG. They flew single line kites for the first couple of weeks but Liam was anxious to learn to fly a stunt kite, so on March 28 I gave him his first lesson using the club training kite provided by Neil.

It went something like this, Launch, Crash, Launch, Crash, Launch, Crash, Launch, Crash, Launch Stay Up 5 seconds, Launch, Crash, Launch, Stay Up 10 seconds, Crash, Launch Stay Up 20 seconds, Crash, Launch Stay Up 30 seconds, Crash, Launch Stay Up a minute. It progressed until after about 30 launches and 20 minutes, he was away, he was in control now doing circles and passing left and right. The joy of his achievement was written on his face, as his mother looked on in amazement at how quickly he had learnt to fly. Since that first lesson Liam has not stopped practising apart from his holiday in Greece when he was unable to fly. Then on his return in early September he was right back to the field again to get his kite in the air. As I watched him on that day I said to him you are ready Liam, come over and join us for your first team flying lesson. He stood behind us as we did some basic manoeuvre. It was now time for Liam to fly in a three man team, so with Jack Cunningham leading and Joe Barnes No 2, and Liam No 3, off they went into infinity, round to the left and up the ramp, round to the right and up the ramp, speed spot on and spacing perfect as he followed Joe and Jack around the sky, next into ground passes, no problem, good control, then into vertical climbs, up NOW, all in line, what a show, oh no, that wasn't all, the finale was to come. The dreaded wrap, we told him and showed him then for his first attempt at the wrap, in a two man team with Jack leading, off he went, wrapped left then unwrapped right, a bit shaky coming out, but he had done it at the first attempt, a few more then it was time for a three man wrap. Okay Liam don't panic, I said, these kites are only £4.99, from Aldi, and a good kite to fly in this 18 – 22 mph wind. As Jack led into infinity, wrap was called, Liam followed around and there was the Mercedes formation we look for when doing a 3 man wrap, then the unwrap no problem, he had not just flew team he had flown like an experienced flier. His mother was so proud of him as were our team, and all the onlookers who had been watching. How old is he they asked, 11 years I said. Job in.

David Green



OH THE SEASIDE

Oh! I do like a Kite fly by the Seaside, and on 13th and 27th June a group of Northern Kite Group flyers did just that. The Venue was Bolton le Sands, which has stunning views across Morecambe Bay over to the Lakeland Hills and Grange over Sands. This is a great site with plenty of flying space on the grassy foreshore and on well compacted sand. We met just before lunch and most people brought a picnic to sustain them through the kite flying hours.

The weather was kind to us, with enough wind to keep the kites in the sky and plenty of sunshine to give us all a nice glow. The Teddy Bears kept other seaside visitors entertained and regular visits from the Ice Cream Man kept our Chairperson very happy. All in all we had two great flying days and we would like to commend this site to you all for next year. We will post dates early in the new year. Hope to see you there.

Margaret and Gene Watson

A SHORT TALE!!!

I know a story about a kite...But it's a long tale!

KITE BUILDING SESSION

In October this year it was posted on the web that if anyone one was interested, that there would be a kite building session in Manchester, basically for novices at first ... but anyone was welcome.

Five members turned up with sewing machine in hand, plenty of ripstop and and a eager head to learn. We had a lot of yellow ripstop so it was decided to make 'Canaries' that looked like swallows...except the colour, three where made and also a crow.

A metal template was made, so each member could get used to cutting the ripstop with a hot knife, Selwyn's wife, Joan was there for 'expert' help in using the machines with Selwyn butting in every so often, (he's only made two kites and he's telling Joan who was a steamstress how to sew, well I never)



Photo Courtesy: Fred Kaz

The small event was enjoyed by those who attended, and hopefully is to be arranged on a regular basis, for those interested contact Dazzz or post on the NKG website.

Alan Rogers

MY STORY

Well now, Neil asked me to write an article for the next magazine, so here goes.

First of all I think I am like most kite flyers, slightly eccentric, wanting to show off my skills being either creative or technical or just flying. (In the 60s and 70s it was called being a poseur, or a show off).

I joined the group just after a meeting at Baildon about ten years ago, at which point in my life I had flown only one kite before, when I was about 7 years old. So apart from seeing pictures of Oriental and Thai kites in the travel brochures, my knowledge of kites was zilch, zero, null and nothing. I was thinking of packing in my other hobby of flying (real aeroplanes) because my deafness was becoming worse and the prices were going up a bit as well. So when I heard of an exhibition of kites at the Cartwright Hall in Lister Park, Bradford, I thought I'd go and have a look. It astonished me. In the first room was a train of 2/3 metre high penguins draped from one corner of the room to the other, about 25 to 35 metres long. Then there were stunt kites, Japanese kites (you know the big ones with fearsome samurai warriors on them. And in a small showcase in the centre of the room were tissue kites 1cm x 1.5cm (yes tiddly little things) with the same samurai warriors painted on them (It would be like engraving the bible on a matchbox). Plus, there were stars, flowers, and shapes I had never envisaged as kites.

So I was hooked and in the first magazine I received was plans for a Catherine wheel. I saw one at Baildon being flown by Eddie Megrath and I thought it was fantastic. I had never seen anything like it before.

At that time at Baildon, Tim Benson and his partner at that time Martin Thomas, ran a shop and business, where I bought materials and wisdom (picking their brains) and made my first kite. A SIX PACK, the plans of which were in "The Book of Kites" by Paul and Helen Morgan. It flew quite well and was bigger than the cheap plastic ones in the shops. Next was a tumbling box and then a stunter (2 lines even) I took it to Tenerife with me on holiday and learned how to fly it and get the back of your legs sunburned like tomatoes at the same time. The big trouble abroad is the grass and weeds are prickly and catch your flying lines, so you spend a lot of time pulling bits of twigs and prickly

things from them (you have been warned). Anyway back to the stunter.

It wouldn't fly as I later found out the bow was carbon fibre and should have been glass fibre which made it too strong and didn't bend enough. Eventually I put string between the tips to pull it in and hey presto, It flew majestically. (Not really, cos I hadn't practised enough, but I didn't manage to kill anyone, although I did hit a German chap, with the tumbling box, so OK.) Then the tip broke and not wanting to spend more money on it I modified it. Wasn't I getting clever?

Not really but It makes you feel good. So then I had a go at making the Catherine Wheel from the magazine, which turned out good. Ok. But I had to use it on a line on the ground, and then I saw a small one on a Big Stunt kite. Oh! heck I'll have to make one cos I cant afford £95 Quid + £20 Quid for Spectra lines. So with the brain picking from Leading Edge Kites, I made one. It must have cost me £400 in materials over a period, although I'd some left over. Still it will make another kite won't it? The stunt kite was a duplicate of the Benson Phantom, which when new looked good, flew good and by golly it didn't half make a hole in my bank account. And it pulled a 1metre Catherine wheel behind it. If you did a tight turn, the phantom flew round the Catherine wheel as if it was tethered. At Stainland, one winter day, I was wearing Moon Boots and not realising the grass was wet, the Phantom clone took off and dragged me feet first down the field. It was great, a bit like water skiing. The second time I tried it, my feet slipped from under me and I was dragged again feet first and flat on my back, for 20 to 25 yards. I got the kite to the left and brought it down and realised that my clothes from the waist up, were in a collar round my neck, my back was naked and rather cold, and I thought it's a good job I didn't go head first. All this at about 55 years old. Life begins at what age?

So, how about you lot out there. Make a big one and show Martin (Legs) Lester up. Strangely enough the people who have large kites all seem to have bought them. Must have money some of these kites. Enough for now.

Raymond Smith.

A VERY GHOSTLY EXPERIENCE



One fine Sunday, in August, I was thoroughly enjoying myself flying at Otty when I was very politely interrupted by a good looking, and courteous young chap by the name of Alan. I had met him before at Hough End and with him being a Scouser as I am, I knew he would be harmless. I was becoming frustrated, as I was 'trying' to fly my kites, when he mentioned that he had appropriated (as Scousers do) a very long piece of lightweight white ripstop. The conversation continued and low and behold he was looking for a 'mug' to help him make a rather large ghost. I must admit he very kindly offered to let me have what was left over, for my own use.

We agreed to discuss it further the following week. I thought very little more about it, but low and behold there was a phone call either the following day or it could have been Tuesday (but being very old myself I forget things). "Do you remember our discussion at Otty about the ghost?"

One thing led to another and I found myself at his workshop that evening at about 5.30 pm, along with my 'hotcutter', preparing to make this enormous delta kite with a heck of a long tail.

To work out how much material there was, we laid it out in two layers and paced it to get some idea of the length. One layer was approximately 77 feet. It was decided there and then, to make a kite much longer than that was going to take some handling, so we agreed to make a ghost for Alan and I could use the rest. He insisted on having a split swallow tail variation but I decided on a joined tail in order to have the surface area to mark the Scream mask on it, but leaving the last 25ft to separate. Something I now really do regret as Alan's flies much better than mine.

We completed the cutting out etc: by about 9.30 pm that evening and I suggested that Joan, my wife, might sew it up for us sometime. When I got home that evening I informed Joan of the task in hand, she wasn't very forthcoming. At about 1130 am the following day she decided to have a go at it, but I don't think she realised what she was letting herself in for. We completed the Delta part quite quickly and decided to have lunch. I thought that was the end of it for that day. She then decided differently and suggested that we start to sew the tails, all 75 foot of them. During this process Alan rang to discuss various items, little did he realise that his kite was near completion. As he was on business in Stockport, he said he would drop in on his way home. He arrived at about 6 o'clock and the kite was almost complete,

when I told him of this fast production he didn't really believe me, but on production of the finished article he was convinced.

I suggested that if we could muster up the spars between us we could actually take it out that evening to Hough End, for a test flight. With great apprehension we set out for Hough End, there was very little wind and dusk was on its way. With no more ado we set about launching the GHOST, after a short hesitation it was up and away, Success in just over 24 hours. Beat that!!!

The continuation of the story consists of the making up my material this turned out to be a much slower process. As Joan had had enough, what with making up the Banners as well. I set about sewing up the delta half of the kite myself and have to admit I coped reasonably well, when it came to making the tail end Joan suggested that we might overlock the outer edges, as it would be so much quicker than hemming 150 feet of material, if this proved useless we could hem it at a later date, to date it has proved satisfactory. It doesn't give the impression of being tailor made, but it certainly flies as if it was.



Selwyn Forster

A KITE FOR ALL SEASONS

It's a fighter, but it hasn't got a pointed nose or a hole in the middle. It's extremely adaptable - it can be slow and stately or fast and furious but it's always fun to fly - it's a Buka. I took up kite flying after retirement and almost immediately became hooked on fighter kites and, thanks to the internet, I discovered North American fighters - nimble short line fliers that they use in line-touch competitions in which the kites are usually flown at a maximum of 50 metres.

The classic Buka is a rectangular Japanese kite, unusual in that it is bowed along its long edge. I have been told that the fighting version of the Japanese kite is called the Tahara but in America they always refer to their version as the Buka. The American type is basically a miniature version of the Japanese kite and has a carbon fibre frame instead of bamboo. The American kite is commonly 15in by 10in but dimensions are varied slightly according to requirements. The ratio is usually 3:2 for whatever size you choose to make, and these kites have been made in a range from several feet across to the size of a credit card!

I have made them in various sizes using Mylar and Orcon which I bought from an American supplier. Orcon normally comes as a black material but I recently managed to bleach it and the result was a totally transparent kite.



Photo Courtesy: Paul Catchpole

I feel that the 15in by 10in Buka has a lot to offer anybody who wants a versatile, easy to fly fun kite and is a particularly good kite for introducing children to a single line kite that they can move about in the sky. If you want a very stable kite, then just add a couple of tails at the corners and move the bridle knot position.

One of the Buka's great virtues, I believe, is that it just loves to fly, even when there is almost no wind, and it is sad when you see children being shouted at by their parents as they desperately try to get a new kite into the air, often with little success. I have seen the delight on youngsters' faces when I let them take the line with a Buka at the other end.

I have made a curved-spar version which is amazingly light on the line and can be flown quite well in almost no wind and this is the one I often let children fly. At our recent Beacon Park festival a dozen youngsters queued to fly it and I only wish I could tell them where they could buy a kite like that. It is a question I am often asked.

One thing I have noticed, incidentally, is that while children are keen to try a single line steerable kite, the parents almost always decline the offer. Is it because they are afraid of failure in front of their offspring or because they think it is a childish thing for an adult to do?

They may not have the looks or the spin-rate of Indian fighters but the Buka is a kite I could not do without.

Paul Catchpole



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The NKG Forum - What's that all about then? - Part 2

If you remember in the last edition of the Newsletter I told you find your way onto the NKG Discussion forum (www.nkg.org.uk/forum or click "Forum" on the left-hand menu in www.nkg.org.uk). I then explained how to register, how to log-in and explained some of the terminology. I also promised to let you know how to post a message and give a few hints and tips to make your on-line life a little easier.

I want to write something on the Forum

The first question is - is it in reply to an ongoing subject or "thread" or do you want to start a new discussion subject? I'll cover the latter first.

So you've got a new subject you want to raise. First of all you need to work out which section you want to post the message in. The main sections are: "Administration", "Events", "Hints & Tips", "The NKG Lounge". Under each of these we have sub-headings, for example, "NKG Events/Fly-ins" and "Other Events/Fly-ins" under the main heading of "Events". Once you know which one suits best click on the name of the sub-heading and it will take you in to see the threads under that sub-heading. Believe or not to create a new thread you simply click on the "new topic" button. Enter a subject - this will appear as a title for the thread. Then type away in the main box for the message body. The various buttons above allow you to format the text or enter links. If you click on the smiley faces called emoticons these will go into your text. They are not compulsory and some people use them more than others.

The other settings are more or less self-explanatory. As you'll see if you wanted to you can even set up a poll for people to vote for various options. As soon as you click "submit" your message gets put in the relevant place on the forum for the world to see (so take care in what you write!)

To reply to a thread that is already set up, click on the "post reply" button on the relevant thread and follow the above instructions.

Hints and Tips

Hopefully some of these will help you speed things or make life simpler on the forum.

Preview before submitting - If you click the preview button you'll see your posting as it would show up on the forum (i.e. with all the formatting and emoticons, etc. showing). This is very useful as it can save you time in going back to edit any mistakes

I want to quote what someone said - Rather than copy and paste the words from their previous posting, click the "quote" button and you get taken in to the reply screen with their complete posting already in there. You can then edit out parts that might not be relevant.

What new has been written since I last looked on the forum - As long as you are logged on the forum remembers when you were last on. For any subjects, threads or replies that you haven't seen before the left-hand side symbol is coloured gold. There's even a smaller version next to the thread name with a little arrow which when clicked takes you to the first post in question. This saves you scrolling through all the messages that you've already seen. An even better way is to click on the "view posts since last visit" link on the forum index page. This only shows those threads that you haven't seen postings on before. This saves lots of time.

Want to send something you don't want others to see - The forum has it's own version of email called Personal Mail or PM. Clicking on the messages link at the top of the screen, clicking the PM button of the individual you want to send the message to all get you to a message screen similar to that used when posting threads. This time it will only go to the person you want it to. It won't be posted onto the main forum.

Can't remember where you read something - Click the "search" link the top of the screen

Got any others questions on how to use the forum - Click on the "faq" link at the top of the screen. There's plenty of frequently asked questions and the answers. Still can't find what you're looking for? Then post a message asking for help or head off to the world of Google and beyond.

Peter Bindon

www.peterbindon.com



This cartoon was brought to you courtesy of Peter Bindon via the NKG forum. If you have any kiting related cartoons, pictures or jokes you would like to include then send them to me at the usual address and I will see if I can include them in the magazine.

Dazz

SECOND AGM AND INDOOR MEETING OF NKG

February 20th. 2005 at The All Saints Church Community Hall, Newton Heath

Best Kite Competition 2 classes large and small (less than 1 metre).
Displays of Photographs Kites, videos etc.
Private sales of kites and associated bits and pieces.
Please note there will not be a raffle or an auction this year.
Lunch will be provided a contribution to the cost will be asked.
Further details and a map will be sent out before the meeting.



**NORTHERN
KITE GROUP**
www.nkg.org.uk

AGM Agenda

- 1 Report by the committee.
- 2 Receive and adopt the annual statement of accounts.
- 3 Any other business (see below).
- 4 Election of officers - Editor, Treasurer, Secretary & Chairman.
- 5 Appointment of two members to act as auditors.

AOB

- 1 Future direction of the Club.
 - a) Association with Flying Circus.
 - b) NKG Festivals Beacon Park (in association with the Council).
Chester (in association with the Council).
Festivals NKG were asked to attend Wakefield Festival (organised by Faceless).
 - c) Future association with Oldham Council.
 - d) Flying sites for Fly ins, suggestions and review.
 - e) Monthly programme of events / fly ins, including OSOW and Light Up the Sky.
 - f) Financing the Club, where we stand now.
 - g) Public Liability Insurance update.
- 2 BKFA to join or not to join.
- 3 Amendment to Constitution :-re meetings without a quorum.
- 4 Magazine Policy.
- 5 AOB raised by members at the meeting, (advanced notice would be helpful).

Flying Sites Review

As you can see from the Agenda for the AGM there will be a review of NKG fly-in sites, so if you feel that some of the fly-in sites are no longer good enough or would be better used at a different time of year or if you know of a site that could replace one of the current sites then let us know. I'm looking for ideas and short articles which let other members know what you think of the current situation that can go into the next issue of the newsletter before the AGM.

Personally I've heard a lot of good things about Bolton-le-Sands and think that maybe we could look at adding it to the calendar. Beacon Country Park has space but is not a brilliant site to fly at, as we now have a festival there in June should it appear twice more on calendar. What about some more sites east of the pennines like Pontefract racecourse? Let me know what you think

Dazzz



STACK

COMPETITIVE KITE FLYING IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

An excellent day for all those who turned out for the STACK coaching/competition day at Otterspool, we had over a dozen people taking part in Precision, Tricks and Team flying, along with lots of other regular fliers around the site. This was arranged by Neil Edwards and Peter Fisher, A big thank you to Andy and Doug from STACK UK who drove a long way to help everyone participate in the first Northern STACK event in nearly 5 years.

Also a big thank you must also go to Dot, Sally and Gwen for providing the NKG soup kitchen and other munchies it was excellent stuff and well appreciated by everyone attending as the wind was a bit on the heavy side.

Full reports will appear in the next issue of the newsletter.



Photo Courtesy: Fred Kaz

Dazzz

Results

Individual League:

1st Neil Edwards	64.25
2nd Peter Fisher	63.00
3rd Bryan Beesley	60.62
4th Dazzz	55.00
5th Ian Parkes	47.80

Team League:

1st Flying Colours #A	53.00
(Jack Cunningham, Colin Savage, Dave Green)	
2nd Flying Colours #B	47.00
(Joe Barnes, Mike Lewis, Gwen Williams)	

Wild Thang Trick Competition:

Round One:

1st Neil Edwards	60.00
2nd Bryan Beesley	58.00
3rd Peter Fisher	52.00

Round Two:

1st Pete Fisher	68.00
2nd Bryan Beesley	64.00
3rd Neil Edwards	63.00

Round Three:

1st Bryan Beesley	78.00
2nd Peter Fisher	74.00
3rd Neil Edwards	70.00

ONE SKY ONE WORLD 2004

This year, One Sky – One World at Otterspool Promenade saw possibly the largest gathering of NKG members since the Beacon Park Festival. A simultaneous event was also held at Pontefract Racecourse. This ‘once a year event’ is held to symbolise and promote peace and freedom on our planet.

This years flights were co-ordinated and recorded very kindly by Jim Cronin of MKF, so that all the kites flown at each event around this country are ‘logged’ alongside all the other kites that are flown around the World on the same day.

We had a total in excess of 65 fliers and 270 kites to count toward the Global total.

One unfortunate occurrence on the day was that a group of youths bombarded some members and their cars with eggs. The recipients of the ‘egging’ – Jim & Vanessa Potts with Phil & Linda Howden said it was an ‘eggstrodinary’ thing to happen and it was ‘no yoke’... they were ‘shell shocked’ but managed to ‘scramble’ themselves together.

The highlight for the day was also provided by Jim & Vanessa, who had made a 2 meter Rok with the NKG logo emblazoned on it – especially for the day (see photo) – thanks Jim & Vanessa, and everyone else who attended this unique day. I hope no-one will need to be ‘egged on’ to attend again next year.



Photo courtesy: Neil Edwards

Neil Edwards



Photo courtesy: Simon Tebbutt

Just a few of the NKG members who turned out for the one sky one world event at Pontefract Racecourse . A good day was had by all that attended . Twelve of us in total and around forty eight kites were flown during the afternoon.

Simon Tebbutt

NKG CLOTHING THE ORIGINAL DESIGN



After much hunting round I found this picture of Neil Edwards displaying his “Original” design of the NKG club clothing, at the time I had good authority he was going to sell them as Official club clothing for beach wear, much to the dismay of fellow NKG member Dave Green, as he liked going topless on the beach to show off his lovely tan whilst flying his kites. Thankfully Neil put on too much weight and didn’t think it would be appropriate to model the clothing anymore, and this is why we now have the clothing we now love... and not Neil’s!!!

Alan Rogers

JUST FOR FUN



Find 10 words related to kites and the initials of a well known kite group.

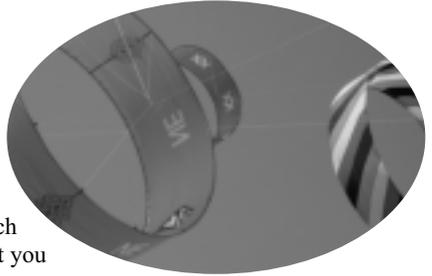
The words are written in straight lines which may be vertical, horizontal or diagonal and may be read backwards or forwards.

Paul Catchpole

THE SURVIVORS

One of the nicest things about being a member of the Northern Kite Group is the age range of our membership. We have active members who are still pre-teens age, sometimes as family members along with their parents and members who are well into their retirement years. Members of every age group between these two extremes are able to enjoy each other's company whilst sharing the pleasures of kite flying. Mary and I are fortunate enough to belong to the upper end of the age groups, being born in the nineteen twenties.

We were born before television, penicillin, polio jabs, frozen foods, Xerox, contact lenses, videos and the pill. We were before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams, and ballpoint pens, dish washers, tumble dryers, electric blankets, air conditioners, drip dry clothes and before man walked on the moon.



We were married first and then lived together (not much of that these days). We thought that fast food was what you ate during Lent. A big Mac was a large raincoat and crumpet we ate at teatime. We existed before house husbands, computer dating and sheltered accommodation was where you waited for the bus. We were before day-care centres, group homes and disposable nappies. We never heard of FM radio, tape decks, CD's, artificial hearts, word processors or saw young men wearing earrings. For us, timesharing meant togetherness, a chip was a piece of wood or a fried potato, hardware meant nuts, bolts and nails and software wasn't even a word. Before 1940 'Made in Japan' meant junk, the term making out referred to how you did in your school exams, 'stud' was something that fixed a collar to a shirt and 'going all the way' meant staying on the bus 'till it reached the terminus.



In our day, smoking was fashionable, grass was mown and coke was kept in the coalhouse. A 'joint' was what you ate at Sunday lunchtime and 'pot' was what you cooked in. Rock Music was a fond mothers lullaby, Elderado was ice cream and a 'Gay' person was the life and soul of the party, whilst 'aids' just meant help for someone in trouble. We who were born so long ago must be a hardy bunch, considering how the world has changed during our lifetime and yet, I don't think we would like to swap places with to-days youngsters. Nevertheless, here we are all enjoying together in a pass-time that has been around for many centuries.

Mary and Jack C.



**NKG Baseball Caps Now reduced!
Blue with a Black Logo £3.50 + 50p P&P**

Contact Mary Jones (Treasurer)

GO INDOORS WITH THE NKG

In December of 2003 and February of 2004 the NKG held two indoor fly-in's at a sports centre in Chorley, Lancashire. An article was published in the club magazine at the time but for those who missed the events or are new to the club and are interested we will be having a regular monthly indoor fly-in each month through the winter from now until March 2005.

No indoor experience is necessary to take part in the events. I'm sure it's possible to get a complete indoor novice flying within 10 minutes. Some outdoor dual line experience is helpful and if you can keep a dual line kite in the air outside in a light wind you should have no problem with picking up indoor skills quite easily. None of us at the previous two events had any prior indoor experience but we soon put into practice what we had seen and read mixed with outdoor light wind flying and before long we were all able to keep a kite in the air and perform some basic tricks.

Although some small single liners were flown last year and it is possible to build indoor fighters for anyone that is interested (Bruce Lambert has some good plans for indoor fighters) we are talking here primarily about dual line kites as that is what most of us fly. It is also possible to fly quads indoors and Revolution make an indoor version, the "Rev Indoor" which I would imagine is quite a handful.

The venue we use is a large (100ft sq.) sports hall with a ceiling clearance of around 18-20ft so lines need to be short and light. It's mostly down to personal preference but the lighter the line the better. Some people choose to fly on braided dacron fishing line of around 20lb test strength. This line is very light and soft and is fine for flying but did break once or twice during hard relaunches. The line I use is 50lb Laser Pro Gold spectra which won't break under normal circumstances but it is a little stiffer to use. Line lengths tend to range from around 12-16ft. This may sound short but you need to remember to allow for your height with outstretched arms for ceiling clearance.

Now we know what lines to use, what kite should we choose? Well, firstly it needs to be an indoor or SUL (Super Ultra Light) kite capable of flying in zero wind. There are several of these on the market and I think they are well represented in the kitebags of various members. Prices range from relatively cheap to frighteningly expensive with some in-between for good measure. Most seem to have been around for some time and as indoor kiting is a little bit specialist, designs don't seem to have changed that much. Until recently indoor kites have been what I would term "old skool" (I don't like the term but it best describes what I mean) in that they will fly well and do the basic "old skool" outdoor tricks such as axels, slides, flat spins, cascades and the like. Traditionally they haven't been designed for the new radical style of outdoor tricks such as Jacob's Ladders, Backspins, Yo-Yo's and other cutting edge tricks seen outdoors on flying fields these days. Until now, that is. I think it's fair to say that manufacturers such as L'Atelier of France and Level One Kites of Germany with their "Double Zero" and "Amazing" respectively, have recently raised the bar by a huge margin. Cutting edge outdoor tricks that you wouldn't have imagined possible 18 months ago are now available to indoor fliers as well, opening up a whole new avenue for people to explore and experiment with. Of course, we are all still indoor novices at the moment but the ultimate goal is to be able to perform the tricks we can do outdoors, indoors (some of us still need to be



Dazzz with Benson Innerspace

able to perform outdoor tricks outdoors, but that's another story!). The list below shows a selection of indoor kites worth a second look, arranged in approximate price order:

Up to £100

Babytana	apx. £35	4ft Wingspan 0-6mph, twitchy but fun
Siebert's Sweety	apx. £60	6ft wingspan, 0-3mph, quite trickable
Prism 3D	apx. £70	4ft wingspan, 0-10mph, small, older floaty style

£100 to £200

L'Atelier '00'	apx. £150	6.5ft wingspan, 0-3mph, new style radical tricks
Level One Amazing	apx. £150	6.5ft wingspan, 0-3mph, another radical trickster
Benson Inner Space	apx. £170	7.5ft wingspan, 0-5mph, responsive, very floaty
Prism Ozone	apx. £180	6ft wingspan, 0-12mph, floaty style

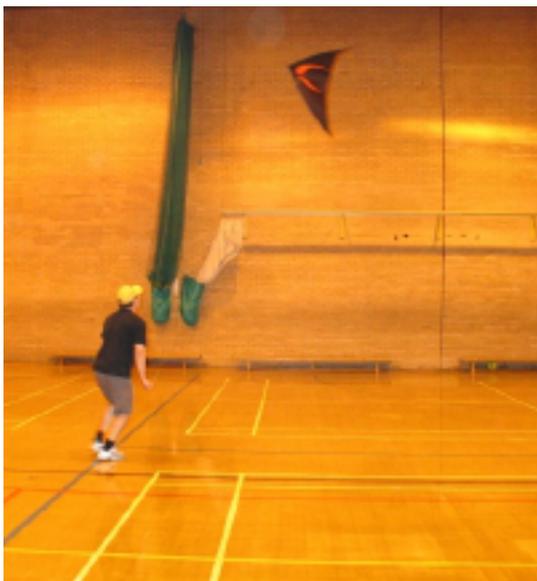
£200 and more

Revolution Indoor	apx. £220	8ft wingspan, 0-2mph, Quadline
Prism Vapor	apx. £300	7ft wingspan, 0-5mph, big and beautiful, floaty

Apart from the indoor Revolution and the Prism Vapor there is at least one of the above kites owned and flown by one or more club members so if anyone would like to try before you buy, just ask. The list above is not exhaustive and only gives a brief indication of what each kite is like. However, one thing worth taking note of is the wind range as this can make the difference between an indoor only purchase and a kite which is more generally useable outdoors in low wind. For example, the Prism 3D and Ozone can both be flown outdoors on low wind days whereas the '00', Vapor and Innerspace would be mainly indoor kites. Perhaps there will be some more in depth reviews of these in future articles as we gain experience and get to try out different kites.

So you have chosen your kite and selected a lineset, you're standing in the sports hall, what next? If you've never flown in zero wind before there are a few basic things to remember and some simple moves to get you going. Firstly, it's important to maintain a smooth 'wind' for the kite to fly in. Indoors, wind is generated by moving away from the kite steadily. As you slowly walk backwards at around, say, 3mph, you generate a 3mph wind on the face of the kite. For a SUL this is enough to provide lift and keep the kite flying quite easily. Of course, being in a confined space you can't walk back forever or you'll hit a wall. This is where the 360 is very useful. A 360 is simply moving backwards in a circle away from the kite whilst pulling it behind you at an angle. This can be done with the kite pointing in the direction it is moving or with tips toward the ground in a 360 side-slide. Both these moves are harder to describe than to perform.

Another important move is the "up and over" which requires the flyer to pull the kite up and



Neil Edwards with Sieberts Sweety

over the head in a sweeping motion and then down the other side in a smooth movement, turning up again at the last minute or flaring away from the flier. This is a useful move for setting up a 540 or just to make a change from 360's. It can also be used to gain ground in the opposite direction.

Launches can be done in a conventional way, i.e. a two handed short pull and step back, but usually need to be done with the kite leaning against a wall due to the fact that there is almost no purchase from the floor as there is outdoors. Another launch method is the throw away where the flier pushes the kite away in a flat orientation, either nose toward or away, pulling the lines and catching the kite before it hits the ground. A more challenging launch could be from a Yo-Yo or a pop-up off the floor. Landings can be simple or can include catches either from above or in front of the flyer.

All in all it's a lot of fun and I hope this article has given people who have never tried it an idea of what is possible with indoor kiting and whet some appetites enough for some to give it a go. As I noted earlier, no previous indoor experience is necessary and you don't even need your own kite. There are also plenty of people to help newcomers if necessary so there really is no excuse. As a bonus, we are also considering adding a nearby daytime venue to make it an outdoor/indoor fly-in, possibly making it more attractive for people travelling from further away.

The upcoming events all take place on Saturdays and dates and times are as follows:

November 13th	4-6pm
December 18th	3-6pm
January 8th	3-6pm
February 12th	3-6pm
March 12th	3-6pm

If you are interested in coming to any or all of these sessions please contact one of the regular indoor flyers (myself, Neil Edwards, Peter Fisher or Dazzz) and we will pass on the necessary details. You can get in touch either in person at another event or via the NKG website forum.

Ian Parkes

LEEDS CITY COUNCIL FITNESS WEEK

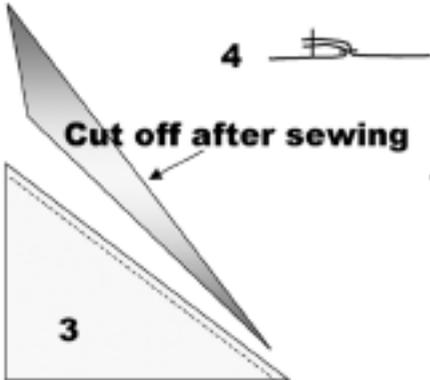
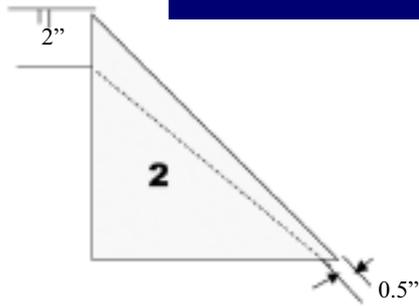
The NKG were asked to fly kites on Friday 29th October to support the "kite give away " ending the weeks activities.

Several of our members attended at Roundhay Park and set up a colourful display of kites in the Council's Gazebo. This was supplemented by flying demonstrations in the park. Kite arches and large inflatables were provided by Jim and Vanessa Potts, Vanessa being particularly proud of her newly acquired fish prototype made and signed by Peter Lynn. Graham Lockwood provided his display of flying three stunt kites at the same time ably assisted by Marina, the press photographer returned later especially to see it. Thanks also to Ray Smith, Simon Tebbutt, Marie and my son Mark for flying a variety of Flowforms, deltas and fighter kites. The Leeds Council representatives were suitably impressed and further co operation is likely in the future.

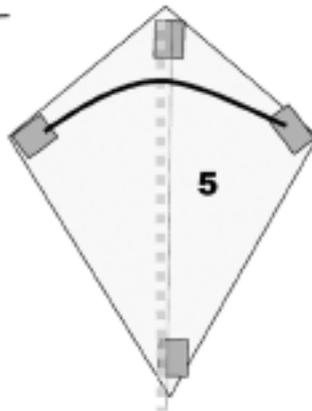
I would also thank those who agreed to attend on the Saturday event including Wigsley Wings who had agreed to fly with us. The Council cancelled this day at short notice. Unfortunately these are the frustrations which can occur when dealing with local councils.

John Welborn

SIMPLE STUNT KITE

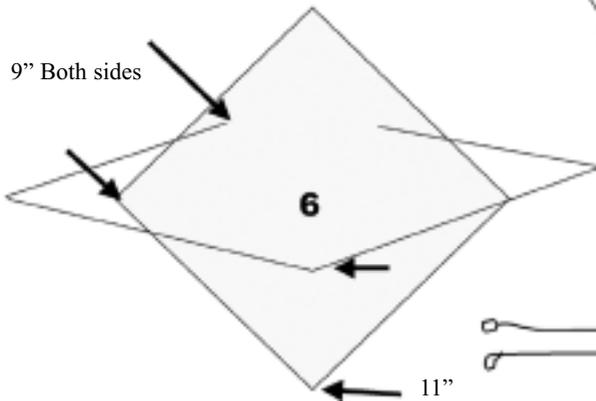


Cut off after sewing



9" Both sides

Top bridle 14" Bottom bridle 18"
Both sides



1. Start with a 20 " square of ripstop nylon. Then fold corner to corner.
2. Measure 2" down from top and 0.5" in from bottom. Draw a pencil line and sew along it.
3. Cut off leaving 3/8" (1 cm) extra.
4. Open out, fold down the two 3/8" extra bits and sew down the middle.
5. Sew 4 pockets on to corners Fit 2.5 mm fibreglass rod for spine. Bow is 2.5 dia fibreglass, length 22mm longer, than side to side, to make it bow as shown. Make 3 holes as shown for bridle.
6. Easy Bridle. 36" long line. Double/ make small loop in centre/ Loop at each end / Larkshead a small ring to line 14" from the loose end, on both sides. Larks head to spars.

Superray (Ray Smith)

NKG Fly-Ins

- 21 Nov Beacon Country Park, Skelmersdale, Lancs Up Holland/Selmersdale W.Lancs. Junc. 26 on M6 or Junc. 5 on M58 then A577. Follow brown coloured 'Country Park ' road signs. Map ref. Sheet 108. SD 598063
- 19 Dec Otterspool promenade, Liverpool Near Liverpool. The flying site is a grassed area alongside the River Mersey, just to the southeast of the A561 road. Turn off the A561 at the traffic lights at Jericho Lane.
- 16 Jan Birchwood Forest Park, Off the M62 at junction11. The Car Park is opposite the end of Gorse Covert Road (white patch on map) at the mini roundabout. A height restriction applies to anything taller than a private car or small van.

Kite Calendar (WWW.KITECALENDAR.CO.UK)

November

- 4 – 7 Round 5, British Kite Surfing Championships 2004, White Stuff Grand Prix, Extreme Academy, Watergate Bay, Cornwall
- 7 Brighton Kite Flyers Fly-in, Telscombe Tye, near Brighton, East Sussex
- 12 – 14 Fuerteventura International Kite Festival, Corralejo, Fuerteventura, Canary Islands
- 28 STACK coaching day and Sport Kite League competition, Castle Farm Sports Centre, Fishponds Road, Kenilworth, near Coventry, Warwickshire
- 28 4th St Andrews Kite Festival, West Sands beach, St Andrews, Fife, Scotland

December

- 5 Brighton Kite Flyers Fly-in, Telscombe Tye, near Brighton, East Sussex
- 12 GOKF fly-in, Ferry Meadows, Peterborough, Cambs

2005

January

- 1 Brighton Kite Flyers Fly-in, Devils Dyke, Brighton, East Sussex
- 21 & 22 Nelson Kite Festival, Neale Park, Nelson, New Zealand
- 29 & 30 Hawkes Bay Kite Festival, Tareha Park, Napier, New Zealand

February

- 5 & 6 Rotorua Art in the Sky Kite Festival 2005, Arawa Park Racecourse, Rotorua, New Zealand
- 12 & 13 Winter Kite Festival, Festi-vent sur glace, Saint-Placide, Québec, Canada

Light up the Sky Events (WWW.LIGHTUPTHESKY.CO.UK)

November

- 13 Idsall School, Shifnal, Shropshire
- 13 Walton High School, Walton-on-the-hill, Stafford
- 18 Weston Super Mare
- 19 Rougham Airfield, Nr Bury St Edmunds
- 20 Otterspool
- 21 Ferry Meadows, Nene

WAKEFIELD



Photos Courtesy: Peter Binden