

THE KITE

NEWSLETTER

SPRING EDITION 2005



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



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Karl Longbottom
Kites and Banners

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During the past season you may have seen me flying an edo in all weathers all over the world, I'm so impressed with it's performance I've decided to make more. So if you want a spectacular & unique kite that will fly in a wide range of winds give me a call.

I am now making a simple Hawk kite, ideal for flying in a train or from a pole in the garden to keep the birds off your soft fruit. Available in a range of colours at £15 each.

Also available this year is a 12 foot span delta based on a Mark Cotterell design, prices from £110.

See you on the flying field.
Karl



Spring Sale

10% Discount for kites ordered between now and the end of April

Special deals available on existing stocks, Rokkaku, Edo, Bee, Hexagon, Tangram, Dunton Delta please call for details

A Note from your Chairman

Thank you to all of our members who managed to attend the MARATHON A.G.M. We ploughed through a rather long Agenda, and I hope everyone was happy with the outcome.

Now we look forward to the 2005 season, which promises to be BRILLIANT. In the next couple of weeks Dave Green and I will be finalising the arrangements for the Beacon Festival with the Rangers who I have been in touch with frequently since the last gathering we had there, I have to apply to the C.A.A. for our permission to fly at 2000 feet, and contact the police to make sure they have no objections to our Festival. A couple of weeks after that, we do it all again for Chester, but I can only apply for 1000 feet height clearance, because Hawarden Airport is very close by.



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It is at this point in my ramblings that I would like to ask for your help as Club Members. As you know, the money the N.K.G. receives for attending The Beacon, New Brighton (Wirral) with Flying Circus and Chester, is our Life Blood, your N.K.G. needs you, not only to fly kites, but to volunteer an hour or two of your time to do the little jobs that need to be done, being Safety Marshals, ensuring the public are not in the Arenas etc., helping with the Teddy and Sweet drops, making sure there are kites in the air, if the tannoy announces we are going to fly Bird Kites or Fish Kites or whatever, making sure that N.K.G. members know about it.

Without your help, we won't be able to put on a show, and the Event Organisers won't pay us. Could you all keep your Membership Cards with you, they will be needed to gain entry to the Events.

I am about to put in an N.K.G. clothing order, so if you require any garments, please put your order form in the post to me. If you need the garments posted to your address, phone me first, I will let you know how much to add onto your cheque to cover the postage.

On a lighter note, the N.K.G. have been given eleven beautiful kite brooches by Harry Douglas and Rita Owen who are two of our members from Poole in Dorset, Harry has made the Brooches himself in a shell like material, and he would like them to be put in our auction, which will be held at the Beacon Festival. That's all for now folks, I look forward to seeing you all again at our Fly In's and Festivals.

Your own Little Rocker.....Enid Knowles

NKG 2004 Whilst every effort has been made to maintain accuracy within this magazine, neither the editor nor any club officers can be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained within. Opinions expressed within this edition are not necessarily the same as those of the editor, or Club Officers. No reproduction of any part of this magazine may be used without permission of the editor.

WELCOME TO ALL NEW MEMBERS

Alan Flower, Peter Southern, Paul Cliff, Ken Jones, John Casson

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

EDITORS CORNER

Welcome to the Spring issue of the Kite newsletter, I would like to thank those who have sent in contributions for this issue. Its looking like a busy year ahead for those who like to get lots of flying in and go to as many festivals and fly-ins as they can. The Haslingden fly-in this past weekend was great fun and great weather, hopefully a sign of some nice weather to come this spring and summer. I would like to thank Harry Allick for flying his great new flower kites at the fly-in, a pity we couldn't get all ten up and flying, well done Harry!

Many of you will know Aled and Fiona and have seen their keen fighter kite skills, well over the coming year they will be offering to help people at NKG fly-ins and festivals who would like to have a go at touchline competitions. I think some friendly fighter kite competitions sound like great fun and I'm hoping to find time to get some coaching and practice from them this year as I'm a real fighter novice. I know we have lots of members who enjoy their fighters so if enough people are interested in some fun flying and improving their skills we can hopefully look at adding a formal event to the calendar next year with a cup for the winner. Ask Aled or Fiona about it next time you see them on the flying field.

Remember I'm always on the lookout for articles, pictures, kite plans, jokes, hints and tips for the newsletter and if you want to see something in particular in the newsletter then let me know by letter phone or email. It was agreed at the AGM that the NKG would run a mailing list for events that happen at too short a notice to include in the newsletter. If you want to be included please make sure you provide me with an up to date email address or telephone no, either on your renewal form or by contacting me direct.

STOP PRESS: The April fly-in has been changed to Pontefract racecourse due to the Chinese state circus occupying Roundhay park that weekend.

Dazzz

To All Members

Congratulations to all who have paid their membership for this year. If you have paid you will find sticker/s to attach to the back of your membership cards. If for some reason you do not have a membership card please let me know I will arrange for one to be forwarded to you.

To all those members who have not paid there is a "Renewal Reminder" is enclosed, with the hope that you still wish to be a member. If you do not pay your subscription you will not receive any further magazine or other benefits of being a member.

Happy Kite Flying for the 2005 season
Mary Jones (Treasurer)

AGM 20TH FEBRUARY 2005

Decisions of the AGM 2005 held on 20th. February at Newton Heath

THE ACCOUNTS for 2004 be adopted

Proposed by David Stead Seconded by Rodney Burrows Passed by an overwhelming majority

THAT THE ASSOCIATION with Flying Circus should continue and that the Club be involved again this year with Beacon Park Festival and Chester Festival

Proposed Jim Potts Seconded Selwyn Foster Passed by an overwhelming majority

THAT CLUB MEMBERS be asked to attend the Wakefield Festival organised by Faceless only if the safety issues have been addressed by the organisers

Proposed by Darryl Smith Seconded by Jim Potts Passed by a small majority

THAT THE CLUB attend Oldham Festival in 2005 only in association with Flying Circus

Proposed Jim Potts Seconded Philip Howden Passed by an overwhelming majority

THE FOLLOWING Flying Sites were agreed

Year 2005

March 20th Sunday	Haslingden Sports Centre
April 17th Sunday	Roundhay Park, Leeds (<i>Now changed to Pontefract racecourse</i>)
May 15th Sunday	Otterspool
June 4th & 5th.	Beacon Park Festival
June 11th. & 12th	Wirral Kite Festival
June 18th. & 19th	Fylde Kite Festival
July 17th Sunday	Morecambe Catch the Wind
July 30th & 31st	Two day fly in Bolton le Sands
August 21st Sunday	Oldham Festival if arranged, otherwise Pontefract Race course
September 17th & 18th	Chester Racecourse Festival
September 25th	Wakefield Faceless (safety permitting)
October 9th Sunday	OSOW at Otterspool and Pontefract
November 19th Saturday	BBC Children in Need Light Up the Sky Otterspool only
November 20th Sunday	Pontefract Racecourse (<i>Now changed to Roundhay Park, Leeds</i>)
December 19th	Xmas Fly in at Otterspool and Stainland

Year 2006

January 22nd Sunday	Annual General Meeting at Newton Heath
February 19th Sunday	Manchester site to be announced
March 19th Sunday	Pontefract Racecourse

THAT THE POSITION outlined by the officers on Public Liability Insurance should be left as it is

Proposed by Rodney Burrows Seconded by Sheila Smith Passed by a majority.

THAT THE CLUB do not join BKFA until such time that the possible financial risk and detriment to the Club has been removed and after consultation with all club members.

Proposed by Jim Potts Seconded by Dave Stead Passed by an overwhelming majority

THAT THE FOLLOWING be added as paragraph 12.1 to the Constitution

If a General Meeting does not have a quorum at the start of the meeting, the Chairman must put the

following motion to those present :- “ The number of members present shall be the quorum” The meeting shall be deemed to have a quorum if three quarters of the members present vote in favour of the motion

If the motion is not passed, the Chairman must adjourn the meeting for no more than twenty eight days, to a time and place to be advised to members by the Secretary. At least seven days notice of the meeting shall be given. The business of the General meeting shall then be conducted by those present who will be deemed to be the quorum.

Proposed by Mary Jones Seconded by John Welborn Passed by an overwhelming majority

THE MEMBERS unanimously approved the A5 format for the magazine.

POLICY STATEMENT “Charitable giving is an individual matter for each person. The Club will not involve itself with its members’ personal choices on charitable giving. The only exception to this is the Children in Need Light Up the Sky Event organised in accordance with BBC Children in Need Guidance being held at Otterspool”

The organisers of the NKG Light Up the Sky event would be responsible for getting the permissions and licences that are needed depending on the type of event being run.

Proposed by Rodney Burrows Seconded by Neil Edwards Passed by an overwhelming majority

THAT PARAGRAPH 5.1 of the Constitution be amended to change the month for the Annual General Meeting from February to January. Location to remain the same.

Proposed by Jack Cunningham Seconded by Selwyn Foster Passed by an overwhelming majority

ALTITUDE SPRINT CUPS It was agreed to swap the competitions for these from Oldham to the Beacon Park Festival

THE EXISTING OFFICERS be re elected en bloc

Chairman	Enid Knowles	Treasurer	Mary Jones
Secretary	John Welborn	Editor	Darryl Smith
Proposed by Phil Howden	Seconded by Fiona Lewis	Passed by an overwhelming majority	

AUDITORS Karen George and Eileen Newsome were re elected

Other Matters from the AGM

Public Liability Insurance

The Secretary had attempted to obtain quotations for a more comprehensive policy but was unable to find anyone willing to quote therefore had renewed the existing policy in November 2004.

Members raised several questions of a detailed nature. The committee advised that the answers previously given by the Insurers should be interpreted and acted upon. Every new member gets a copy of the Public Liability Statement and the Constitution.

Jim Potts offered to obtain free tickets for members wishing to attend Woodvale Festival at the beginning of August. Numbers are limited and members should contact him direct

Vote of Thanks

Formal Votes of Thanks were given to Peter Bindon-Webmaster, to Malcolm Pitcher-Website hosting, to Karen George-Honorary Auditor and to Fiona Lewis for taking notes for the AGM minutes.

The members voted unanimously in favour.



Winner of the large Kite Category was Ray Smith.
(Picture courtesy of Simon Tebbutt)

Safety Statement

The Chairman reminded members of the need to be vigilant about safety even when attending an event run by another organisation.

Members are reminded also of the need to appoint a Flying Safety Officer for each of the NKG fly ins. This could be arranged on the day.



Marina receiving her trophy (Picture courtesy of Jim Potts)

Trophy Winners

Best Kite over one metre	Ray Smith
Best Kite under one metre	Karen George
Open Altitude Sprint (Chester)	Aled Lewis
Ladies altitude Sprint (Chester)	Marina Lockwood



Winner of the small kite category was Karen George
(Picture courtesy of Dazzz)

Late Breaking Events

The officers are to ask members if they wish to be advised of late breaking events. These will be sent out via e-mail or telephone. The officers will each ring a block of numbers for those needing to be phoned.

Gwen Williams proposed that the club should write to support Malcolm Goodman in his venture to open a kite museum. John Welborn to write to Malcolm on behalf of the group. (A letter has been sent)

Neil Edwards proposed that each of the main events i.e. Beacon, Chester and Wirral need volunteers to help run the event particularly

around issues of safety and organisation. Volunteers should liaise with Enid.

Anyone who wishes to see the full minutes of the AGM can find them on the NKG website or they are available by contacting John Welborn who will be happy to send you a copy

Appendix 1 NKG Newsletter policy document (Revision 2)

- All items to be published in full and not cut or altered (except for spelling and grammar, unless this will alter the context or meaning) without the authors express permission
- All articles to be attributed to the author
- All photos to be relevant to article
- All photos to be attributed except where from the author of article when this is deemed unnecessary
- Photos will not be 'doctored' but may be cropped to fit within the space available.
- The newsletter to be published 4 times a year, in Jan, Apr, Jul and Oct and include deadlines for submission of articles for the next newsletter
- As the newsletter is the groups official medium of communication, items from committee members/official group business must be included if the editor is made aware of them before the published deadline and they are submitted in time for printing
- Permission must be obtained from the author for any item that is not a submitted item
- No of pages increase / decrease with volume of submissions
- Advertising is limited to kite related adverts (No limit as increased revenue will cover any extra postage)
- Newsletter to fit within lowest second class postage band
- Cost to be within £150 - £170 per issue (2005) Advertising income to be accounted for in this cost
- Format will be A5 colour cover professionally printed and centre stapled as agreed at the AGM

THE HIGHWAYMEN

Pre-Season Sale

We need to make room for our fabulous new Spring stock, so we are offering some great bargains on a wide range of existing items including power kites, flying lines and clothing.

We have some great deals on
Flexifoil Bullets 04
HQ Beamers 04
Ozone Frenzy 04

But hurry, they won't be around for long
Contact us now.

Give us a call on 01455 230736

2 NEW BUILDINGS, HINCKLEY, LEICESTERSHIRE, LE10 1HW

2 NEW BUILDINGS, HINCKLEY, LEICESTERSHIRE, LE10 1HW

TEL/FAX: 01455 230736 OR VIEW OUR WEBSITE AT:
WWW.THEHIGHWAYMEN.CO.UK

BIRCHWOOD FLY-IN 16TH JANUARY 2005

IS THIS THE END FOR BIRCHWOOD?

It's the first time I've been to Birchwood forest park, but I couldn't help wondering if it would be my last.



All pictures courtesy of Mary Jones

We arrived there for the first fly-in of 2005. My first impression of the place was good. It was a bit muddy, but you can get that anywhere in January. The park which is surrounded by trees didn't cause any problems on the day and the wind managed to average around 5 mph, so all in all the place served its purpose, but would it stay on the N.K.G. calendar in the future I wondered !!!

Around fifteen N.K.G. members turned up and I don't think many went home without flying a kite of some description. There must have been 25 kites in the sky throughout the afternoon, old ones, new ones, black ones, blue ones, you name it they were coming out like hot cakes !!!



Everyone managed to enjoy themselves and have a really good time and also enjoy a good old chit chat about the year ahead, who was doing what, who was going where.

So come on everyone check your calendar and get flying those kites. !!!

Julie Tebbutt

SALES ASSISTANT REQUIRED

West Midlands based kite retailer requires sales assistant to help at kite festivals across the UK from April through to October 2005

Reliability is essential and a basic knowledge of kites and associated products is preferred but not necessary as full training will be given to the successful applicant.

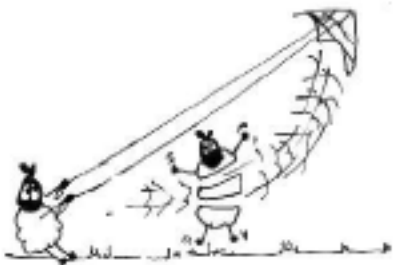
So if you like kites and enjoy travelling we would like to hear from you. For further details contact:

Keith White
Tel: 01922 624739
Mobile: 07775643746
Keith@kiteworks.co.uk



KITE SAFETY

NEVER fly near overhead power lines.
NEVER fly near roads.
NEVER fly near buildings.
NEVER fly near animals.
NEVER fly within 5km of an airport
(2miles)
NEVER fly using lines longer than 60m
(200ft)
ALWAYS check the wind before you
launch your kite, beginners should start
in light wind, and progress with experi-
ence.
BEGINNERS should avoid gusty wind
conditions.



Kite-oons are copyright Dr Mike Armstrong
<http://www.spec.u-net.com/kite-oons.htm>



ALWAYS fly within your ability, never underestimate the power of the wind.
ALWAYS be aware of people around you, spectators can become curious, if they move too close, land your kite and wait until they have moved on.
ALWAYS wear appropriate safety equipment for the activity you are doing.
ALWAYS pay attention to any local rules or by-laws.
CHECK your equipment regularly for signs of wear, replace any worn parts.
SAFE operation of your kite is your responsibility, please observe these rules each time you fly.

RIPSTOP FOR SALE

A quantity of Ripstop for sale @ £1.20/metre in a selection of colours.

- 1) Royal Blue Medium weight.
- 2) Florescent Yellow Lighter weight
- 3) White Lightweight suitable for large Ghost Deltas or tails etc.

RING ALAN ON:

Home: 0151 427 2176

Work: 0161 839 5800

Fax: 0161 839 9002

Mobile: 0779 1979 999

For Sale:

Singer 5430C Brand new in box
Unwanted gift £250.00
Contact: Alan Turner
01437 563422



HASLINGDEN FLY-IN 20TH FEBRUARY 2005

What a great day it was at Haslingden fly-in. It was the perfect spring morning. We arrived there around 11.30 and members were already starting to gather.



Picture courtesy of Helen Bentley

their routines throughout the afternoon. There was even a swarm of HORNETS in the air, which looked very intimidating from a distance!!!

Raymond brought his Rokkaku with him with the eye-catching design of the cat on it, which won him first place in the large kites section at the AGM. But I'm not sure whether Ray was playing with the cat or the cat was playing with him !!!

Towards the end of the afternoon we even had a display of several homemade roller kites, which was nice to see ranging from smileys to Homer from the Simpsons.

By this time it was getting cold and many members had packed up and gone home, so the remaining few said their goodbyes before setting off home for a well deserved rest, at around 6.15pm.

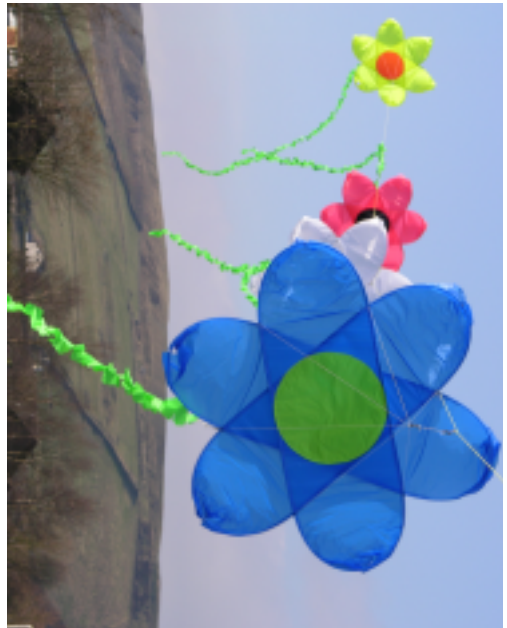
Julie Tebbutt

The footballers were still playing in the lower end of the field, so we all started to set up in the top end of the field. There were some terrific kites starting to appear and some large inflatables, and in the background were picturesque views of Haslingden and surrounding areas.

The second half of the fly-in was in the lower end of the field, due to a pre-booked football match in the top field. Some of the players were looking slightly nervous at this point considering there were large fish, spiky Balls and two foot ladybirds on their pitch!!!

By this time most of the NKG members had arrived. It was nice to see a good mix of East meets West. It reminded me of a mini festival there was such a large selection of kites flying in the sky.

Members of NKG flying colours were practicing



Picture courtesy of Mary Jones

*You are cordially invited to attend the second Beacon
Kite Festival at Beacon Country Park
4th & 5th June 2005*

Make sure you bring your Membership card to gain entry

Single line kite displays
Large inflatable kites
Oriental kites
Animal and Bird kites

Graham Lockwood, 1 man, 3 kites
Team "Flying Colours"
2 line kite displays including trick flying
4 line kite displays

Parachuting Teddy Bears and sweet drops (bring any of your own
toys that are brave enough - volunteers only)

Altitude Sprints - NKG open and ladies competitions
Fighter kites touch line competition (Something new just for fun)

*Bring all your kites and the family for two great
days of kite flying and catching up with
all your NKG friends*

Camping available
Contact Enid for details



Volunteers required

To help make the beacon park festival a success we need you to volunteer a little of your time to help out with some of the work that goes towards making it an enjoyable day for all the fliers and visitors. We need people to volunteer an hour of their time to help with the following jobs: safety officers and marshals, teddy bear catchers and escorts, helping to put up the arena and safety signs, and any other small jobs that may come up. You can contact one of the committee in advance or on the day to let them know you're available.

DUNSTABLE DOWNS 30TH JANUARY 2005

I don't normally set my alarm clock so early at the weekend, especially for a Sunday morning, but this day promised to be a bit special. STACK had arranged a Winter League and Coaching day to be held at Dunstable Downs, Bedfordshire, and as it was within striking distance several NKG members decided to make the journey. There would be four of us travelling down for the event, myself, Neil Edwards, Dave Green and Peter Fisher, who was making his own way down the day before. The remaining three of us agreed to leave at 7am from a meeting point in Cheshire just off the M6 then travel down together in Neil's "Hummer". We must have been keen as we all arrived within minutes of each other at about a quarter to seven so we got a good start.

We spent the two and a bit hours journey discussing the days events and who was doing what. It was a packed schedule with coaching in precision, tricks and quad-line flying with competitions for individual dual line, multi-line and dual line pairs precision and a Trick Thang trick competition, all of which had to be fitted in on a short winters day! We all had different intentions as there was really too much going on to be able to do everything. My intention was to enter the dual line individual and pairs competitions then possibly the Trick Thang if I had time and maybe get some coaching along the way.

After a short detour around Dunstable because someone couldn't understand the directions properly (ahem!) we arrived at the car park on a grey, overcast and typically miserable January morning to find a few hardcore flyers had beaten us there and were already flying.

There were a couple of Benson Airbows doing some nice tricks; flic flacs and axels, which was interesting and a cold looking Nirvana flyer who was doing some great stuff with an ultra-light. After watching for a few minutes I'd already started to think that the Trick Thang wasn't for me that day! For anyone who hasn't come across a "Trick Thang" before it's a quick format trick competition where each participating flyer does three 90 second rounds and performs to the best of their ability for each round. A score is given for technical and artistic content for each round and at the end of the competition the best round is taken as that persons final score. The Trick Thang format has been adopted by STACK for the winter league trickout competition as it is quick and easy both for judges and competitors.



Picture courtesy of Gary Matthews

So we fell out of the car and started to put on extra layers of clothes, gloves, hats, boots and anything else to help keep out the cold while a few other cars began to arrive. Before long a small group developed and acquaintances were made and renewed as people who were only known by name and already

familiar faces appeared, all eager to get on with proceedings. As we made our way over to the flying area we were greeted by Gary Matthews who had set up and organised the event with STACK. Gary explained the flying fields to us and what the intentions were. One of the areas we were flying in was actually a glider emergency landing area for the local gliding club! Fortunately it wasn't needed that day.

Spreading out across the hillside we began to work out what kites would be used for what event. At this point there was a lovely 3-4mph breeze blowing onto the hillside so Dave and I pulled out the ultralights which we were intending to use in the pairs competition, and started to practice the figures. Once everyone had arrived, the flyers' meeting was called and we all gathered together. The event was really well supported with about 30 fliers in attendance. I think there were two reasons for this, firstly there was such a large range of activities scheduled – some people were more interested in multi-line for instance, and secondly there would be some well known and respected people around. The head judge from STACK, Graham Webb, would be doing the judging so would be able to give some great critical feedback and the coaching team consisted of Roy Reed and Carl and James Robertshaw. Not a half bad line up.

Down to business then and the lists were drawn up for who would be taking part in each event and getting scratch teams together. I think there were around 11 entrants into the dual line individuals and, initially, only two teams in the dual line pairs. As it happened there were myself and Dave against Neil and Peter. As there would be three prizes we were pretty confident at this point! Then Bryan Beasley and Faith Morrison decided to enter as a scratch team (still no problem, 3 prizes!). A little later Close Encounters (Allan and Marilyn Apothecary) arrived and entered then later on again Carl and James Robertshaw decided they were going to enter as Evolver. No prizes for us then!

During the rest of the morning there was some individual coaching and practicing going on with people getting tips on how to improve certain figures or perform certain tricks better (or at all). Unfortunately I didn't manage to get any coaching as there were so many people there, though others did. The trick competition was held during the coaching time as was the multi line precision, as there was so much to get through. Neil and Peter both entered the Trick Thang and did quite well, especially in the conditions, as all the time the wind speed was increasing. Throughout the morning I had switched from ultralight to standard then vented and even super vented as the wind eventually picked up to around the high teens. We had lunch back in the car and watched Chris Goff flying his Fury.85 in huge winds and making it look easy. Chris is currently one of the best trick fliers in the country and you can see why when you watch him. Very nice indeed.

After a quick sandwich it was back to the field and ready to start the rest of the competitions, dual line individual first followed by dual line pairs. We drew numbered balls from a bag in FA Cup style to decide the running order and Dave managed to get the first slot. It was unfortunate because no-one had had the time to set anything up and test the conditions. We knew it was blowing hard but weren't sure which kites to use. Eventually, under pressure, Dave settled on a Dark Star for his figures and managed quite well. I had intended to use my Fury but in the end I borrowed Dave's super vented Matrix for my round and even that was a bit of a handful in the high wind. Neil and Peter both flew Nirvana's for the precision competition and both did very well, though unfortunately not well enough to win a medal on this occasion due to the high number of more experienced flyers.

After the individuals it was time for the pairs. Due to a technical issue (we weren't around) Dave and I didn't take a numbered ball when we should have done and almost weren't even in the competition, which would have been a shame as we'd spent several hours practicing over the previous couple of weeks! After we realised, Dave did a bit of negotiating with the judges and managed to get us added to the pairs list before it was too late. Neil and Peter didn't enter in the end as the wind was quite strong at

the pairs list before it was too late. Neil and Peter didn't enter in the end as the wind was quite strong at this point and unfortunately they didn't have a vented pair of kites to use so we all stood back to watch the competition. First off Bees Knees (Bryan Beasley and Faith Morrison) looked like they were doing quite well followed by Close Encounters looking better, then Evolver. What can you say about Evolver? They even make the warm up look good! Then it was our turn – hours of practice for a couple of minutes in the arena. The first figure, Parallel Rolls was less than perfect, the second 'H' felt better at the time but later turned out not to be and then the Inverted Eights with snap landing was our best figure of the three. Even Close Encounters came over to give us a pat on the back for that one but I think we both knew that it was going to be between us and Bees Knees for third place. So after all the excitement it was time for the judges to work out the rankings and award the prizes for each section of the competition.

Multi Line Precision:

1st Chris Goff (57.75)
 2nd Gary Matthews (57.25)
 3rd Roy Ashton (50.88)

Dual Line Precision - Individual:

1st Matt Binns (55.50)
 2nd Allan Potheary (52.25)
 3rd Roy Reed (47.50)

Trick Thang Competition:

1st Chris Goff (100.00)
 2nd Roy Reed (96.55)
 3rd Gary Matthews (91.95)

Dual Line Precision - Pairs:

1st Evolver (58.00)
 2nd Close Encounters (51.50)
 3rd Jnt Bees Knees / Flying Colours (43.82)

Dave and I came in joint third in the pairs with Bees Knees after Evolver and Close Encounters so we had to have a tie breaker. A coin was flipped and we lost so it was the wooden spoon for us this time. I can't feel too bad about it though as it was only my second competition and first time flying pairs and I feel I have learned an awful lot in a short time so for that it was worth every minute. The final thing that gave me great inspiration was from head judge Graham Webb. When we asked for an assessment of our figures at the end of the afternoon it turned out that our Inverted Eight figure scored higher than any other team that day (remember, this includes Evolver!) so it serves to point out that anyone is capable of improvement given some practice, effort and coaching. It certainly put a big smile on my face, anyway.

So it was off back up the motorway after a long day and an early night ready for work on the Monday. After being initially sceptical about STACK I have become a big fan of these winter events. It gives people a chance to take part in some light-hearted competition with friends and gives you the opportunity to improve your skills without any great pressure (except from yourself). It also gives you a chance to benchmark yourself against other flyers and see where and how you can improve. How often do you get the chance to fly pairs against a team like Evolver, for instance? So it's all great experience and its great fun at the same time. See you at the next STACK event?

Ian Parkes



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

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Contact Mary Jones (Treasurer)

NEW BRIGHTON 27TH FEB 2005

Sunday the 27th of February saw the STACK organisation (Sport Team & Competitive kiting) come to our region for the second time in the last few months to hold a competition for individuals, pairs and teams of both dual-line & multi-line kites.

The interest in this competitive side of our hobby/sport is growing handsomely. For those of you not familiar with the format, you are given a few weeks notice of a set of figures to practice flying in the sky – and you turn up on the day and give it your best shot.

To help all who want to learn, the first half of the day is spent on coaching. On this occasion we were blessed with one of the countries top coaches – Andy Phelps, who had driven up from London to help with the coaching and judging, as well as teaching a few of us the finer points of judging ourselves so we can help more fliers improve their skills.

Before the afternoons agenda began, lunch was taken in the hospitality tent and free hot beverages and food was enjoyed by all. A big thanks to all of you that contributed to providing this, your efforts helped to give a fantastic impression of our group.

On the day there were 12 fliers who entered the 'individual' competition and 10 people who entered the 'pairs' competition with a further 6 fliers entering the 'team' comp and a small field in the 'multi-line' competition.



The increased interest in multi-line flying within the group could see a good few more entering this category soon, plus an excellent display of pairs and team flying can only inspire others to join in & take part. The success of these recent events has prompted STACK to hold a 2-day coaching event at this same venue (known as a 'boot-camp') to which you are all invited, see details elsewhere in this issue.

The results of the day are not important, but what is – is that everyone felt they learnt a great deal and had improved on their skills level. The outstanding performance of the day was from NKG member Liam Waring who at 8yrs of age flew in his first official competition and came 8th out of 12 in the 'individual' comp – putting in a display that had many experienced fliers looking on in awe.

At the end of the day after watching the sunset, some of the guest fliers from other areas of the country made a nice little speech thanking the NKG for their hospitality and said that this was the best kite club they come across – so thanks to all who made this day so special and look forward to seeing you again in April.

Neil Edwards



Picture courtesy of Paul Cliff

Seven thirty in the morning, 27th February, the day of the STACK competition at New Brighton, open the curtains to find.....SNOW. Will the event be cancelled? Better ring Neil and find out. No answer, perhaps he's already on his way. Ring Dave Green at Liverpool, he'll know.

Snow? What are you talking about? There's no snow here, get your gear together and get over here to New Brighton. He was right you know. Only about ten miles down the M62 and all traces of snow had disappeared. Upon entering New Brighton the sun was shining, the spring flowers were in bloom and blossom on the trees but by heck, with the tent already erected and the kettle just beginning to boil. Thanks Neil! Having arrived so early on a wintry morning there was ample space for parking, all along the promenade. It would probably be a different story in summertime though.

Kites were soon erected and by 10am they were in the sky. Mr Andy Phelps of STACK spent the morning coming round coaching each group of flyers and giving advice on how to achieve the standard of flying which would be required by the judges in the afternoon events. There were to be several different classes in the Precision League, (1) **Individual**, each flyer to fly 3 compulsory figures, (2) **Pairs**, each pair to fly 3 compulsory figures, (3) **Team**, each team to fly 3 compulsory figures, (4) **Multi Line Individual** figures and (5) **Multi Line Pairs**, again flying 3 compulsory figures. Of course not every flyer had to take part in each discipline. We were allowed to enter whichever suited our flying skills. At about 1pm the tuition was finished and everyone retired to the shelter of the tent and a bellyful of warm soup worked wonders on froze fingers and toes.

In the afternoon came the competition proper, just as the wind speed began to drop. Some of the attempts to complete the requirements of the competition had to be aborted, part way through the routines, simply because, even the ultra light kites could not find enough wind. On a couple of occasions the judges had to call for a 10 minute delay, in the hope that things might improve. Even some of the giant wind generators, off shore at Crosby, had stopped turning. Gradually the wind direction veered 180°. It had been an off shore wind in the morning, now it was coming off Liverpool Bay, but just as cold! Spirits were still high amongst the competitors, the only thins that were low were the mercury in the thermometers, the readings on the anemometers and the kites, which were lying on the ground. This change in wind direction saved the day and soon the competitors were flying again. The competition ended just as the sun was dipping below the horizon, a full day flying.

Thanks to STACK, particularly to Andy Phlelps, a big chap, a knowledgeable chap and a man with infinite patience. Trophies were awarded to the winners of each section and everyone, winners and losers, went home smiling. Thanks to the NKGers who came along to give their support, even though they were not entering the competition.

Jack C

Stack Results - New Brighton 27th February 2005

Dual Line Individual

1. Neil Edwards	63.00
2. Bryan Beasley	61.75
3. Ian Parkes	61.75
4. Roy Ashton	58.25
5. Peter Fisher	57.50
5. Dave Green	57.50
7. Liam Waring	53.25
8. Colin Savage	48.50
9. Jack Cunningham	46.50
10. Stuart Baldwin	46.25
11. Gwen Williams	45.00

Multi Line Individual

1. Roy Ashton	45.75
2. Neil Edwards	34.75

Dual Line Team

1. Flying Colours #A	54.66
2. Flying Colours #B	53.66

Trick Thang

1. Peter Fisher	68.00
2. Bryan Beasley	67.00
3. Ian Parkes	66.00
4. Neil Edwards	63.50
5. Stuart Baldwin	45.00

Dual Line Pair

1. Davian	64.33
2. Synergie	62.33
3. Bees Knees	58.33
4. Jack-Col	57.33
5. Dont Take the Mick	52.00

AN INVITATION TO IMPROVE YOUR SKILLS

April 9th & 10th will see the first STACK 'Bootcamp' to be held in the North West. The event will take place at New Brighton Promenade.

This is a tuition-based event in dual-line & multi-line flying. If you wish to improve your skills this event will have some of the countries leading instructors to assist you. Suitable for beginners up to advanced fliers you are all welcome.

For further details please contact Neil Edwards:

Home: 0161-3390778

Mob: 07881-825899

Email: kites4neil@msn.com

INFLATABLE DICE PLAN

Materials:

- Enough ripstop to make 6 x 2 foot squares
- Enough ripstop to make 21 spots – for making face numbers
- 4 x ripstop tabs/loops to attach line to
- 1 x snaplink swivel

Assembly:

1: Cut out six 2 foot squares and mark a line on the inside edge of the material as shown in Fig 1 – This is your sewing line/mark

2: Take the spots that you have made and attach them to each of the 6 squares to make a dice face - I made my spots by using a saucer.

3: Attach the squares as per Fig 2 – make note only to sew on the inner line (Fig 1) as this will make a neat edge when you turn the dice inside out.

4: When sewing the faces together make sure that the faces are all facing upwards

5: When attaching face number 2 and 5 to face number 1 place the ripstop tabs at the four corners of the number 1 face these will act as attachment points for the bridle.

6: Once you have sewn all the faces together you should have a dice which is inside out.

7: On face number 1 cut a cross as shown in Fig 3 – this will act as a valve to let air in.

8: Turn the dice inside out by pulling it through the cuts you have just made.

9: Attach 4 lines about 3 foot in length, one to each of the tab/loops that you have made on face number 1 attach these lines to a snaplink swivel and from the swivel a further line can be attached which will be attached to either a kite/line or spike in the ground.

Fred Kaz

Fig: 1

Sewing Line

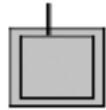


Fig: 2

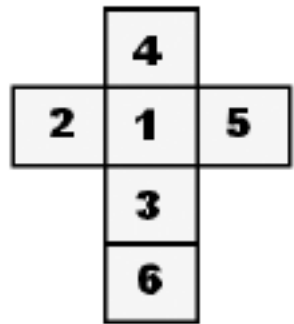


Fig: 3



PROFILE: VANESSA & JIM POTTS

Location: Leeds, West Yorkshire

Ages: Jim – 57 Years. Vanessa – a lot younger don't you think

Kippers: Tom (25) & Katherine (21)

Our Story:

Vanessa was born in Kendal, Cumbria and trained as a nursery nurse and moved to Leeds to work. She met me there where I was a policeman with hair. We have been married thirty two years!

Vanessa has always been skilled on the sewing machine making her own clothes, Wedding dress and bridesmaid dresses etc.

Our first kite was a Peter Powell dirigible but when Tom was about thirteen he came home from Leeds reporting that there was a new kite shop, The Leading Edge, run by Martin Thomas and Tim Benson. Tom came home with a book called Stunt Kites Two and all the bits and pieces to make a stunt kite and said "make me a stunt kite please mum because I can't afford to buy one" The kite was made and to our collective amazement it flew.

As a family we joined the KSGB and that July we took the caravan to Washington and that really was the beginning of the end, we were gob smacked at the spectacle. We attended a few festivals that year and bought more kites than perhaps we should.

It was not long before Tom built up a collection of Kites designed and made by Maurizio Angeletti, to this day he is our favourite although he has not been seen for many years.

I think it was 1996 at Washington we saw a Dutchman with a flock of swallows (I cannot remember his name unfortunately). Like almost all kitefliers/makers I have met he enthused in teaching me how to make the swallows and form a flock. I bought the swallows and all the materials. I made a pattern, cut them out, Vanessa sewed them and then I took them to Roundhay Park in Leeds to test fly them. They fly and my head swelled as a crowd gathered in admiration.

The following year I met the Dutchman at Washington and he gave me permission to make and sell them in the UK as I had explained other fliers were asking us to make them a flock. The birds are still popular today, all thanks to the Dutchman.

By the time Tom was eighteen we had built up quite a collection of kites. Tom has also discovered beer and women and was persuaded that kite flying was 'sad', understandable I suppose. Tom advertised his collection in the Kiteflier magazine and they all sold within hours. Vanessa was so annoyed she immediately set about making a copy of each. That is really where we got our kite making ability from.

Vanessa and I continued attending kite festivals all over the country and made many like minded lunatic friends. We became particularly friendly with Phil, Lyn and Neal Holden



Tom realized kiteflying is not 'sad' only those who said it was and started rebuilding his collection again. Our collection of kites grew, the kite bag became the kite bags and boxes and the car became the kitemobile. The priorities became clear, from April to September I would have to work a 3 day week in order to fit the festivals in. As a consequence money was a bit tight so we made some kites to sell to help finance attending festivals. It gave Vanessa and I great joy to see somebody flying something that we have made.

A few years ago we acquired a large authentic Chinese Dragon, one of our favourite kites.

Wigsley Wings invited us to go and fly with them at some events, imagine that, we've arrived.

Last year we attended the most festivals ever, flying together with Phil and Lyn. Our joint kite collection was now humongous which is reflected by the bank balance. One of the highlights of 2004 was meeting Peter Lynn and acquiring his prototype tropical fish (See photo).

During 2004 somebody identified that the four of us had a reasonable collection of kites and invited us to display at some festivals so one evening after flying all day and relaxing with a couple of glasses of orange! We set about a name for a kite display team. Several glasses of orange later 'SKY ARTISTS' was born.

Another highlight of 2004 was joining the NKG and getting to know you all.



I have written this article because Dazzz threatened me with physical violence if I didn't and he's bigger than me.(I just threatened to deprive him of his drink... Ed)

Seriously though this article would be more appropriately titled 'THANKS TOM'

Looking forward to seeing you all on the kite field in 2005

Jim & Vanessa

WWW.KITECALENDAR.CO.UK

April				
2&3	Valencia Kite Festival, The Beach, Valencia, Spain	5	Severn, Worcestershire	Balsall Common Kite Day, Balsall Common, Coventry
3	Apedale Kite Fliers fly In, Apedale country Park, Blackbank Rd, Silverdale, Newcastle-Under-Lyme, Staffs			CANCELLED
8-17	18th International Berck sur mer Kite Festival, Berck sur Mer, France	5&6		Sanjo Giant Kite Fighting Festival, Igarashi river bank, Sanjo, Japan
9&10	Rufford Abbey Kite Weekend, Rufford Country Park, near Ollerton, Nottinghamshire	10-12		Skegness Windfest, The Beach, Skegness, Lincolnshire (provisional - may be cancelled!)
10	8th Streatham Common Kite Day, Streatham Common, London SW16	11&12		3rd Wirral Kite Festival, the "Dips", next to New Brighton promenade, The Wirral, Cheshire
10	Boldmere Kitefliers Fly-in, Sutton Park, Boldmere Gate entrance, Sutton Coldfield, near Birmingham	11&12		Margam Park Kite Festival, Margam Park, near Bridgend, South Wales
17	Calke Abbey Kite Day, Calke Abbey, Ticknall, near Melbourne, Derbyshire	11&12		Teston Bridge family kite weekend at Teston Bridge picnic site, nr Maidstone, Kent
17	Alcester & Worcester Kitefliers fly-in, The Worcester Countryside Centre, Spetchley Road, Worcester	12		Peterborough Kite Festival, Nene Park, Ferry Meadows, Peterborough, Cambs
17	NKG fly-in, Pontefract Racecourse, Leeds	16-19		21st International Kite Fliers meeting, Fano Beach, Fano, Denmark
20-25	22nd International Kite Festival, Weifang, China	18&19		Shrewsbury Kite & Boomerang Festival, venue to be confirmed
22-24	Woolacombe Windfest and Kite Boarding Tour, Woolacombe Bay, North Devon	18&19		Fylde International Kite Festival, The Beach, Lytham st Anne's, near Blackpool, Lancs
23&24	North Coast IPKA Challenge, Benone Strand, north of Limavady, County Londonderry, Northern Ireland	18&19		10th Southampton Kite Festival, Lordshill Recreation Grounds, Redbridge Lane, Lordshill, Southampton
23-1/5	Cervia International Kite Festival, The Beach, Cervia, Italy	19		Alcester & Worcester Kitefliers fly-in & BBQ, The Worcester Countryside Centre, Spetchley Road, Worcester
		25&26		Bedford International Kite Festival, Russell Park, Bedford
May		July		
1&2	8th Beverley Kite Festival, The Racecourse, Beverley, near York, East Yorkshire	2&3		Sunderland International Kite Festival, Northern Area Playing Fields, Stephenson, Washington, Tyne & Wear
1&2	Weymouth International Beach Kite Festival, Weymouth Beach, Dorset	4-11		6th International Kite Festival, Lebanon
2	Alcester & Worcester Kitefliers fly-in, The Worcester Countryside Centre, Spetchley Road, Worcester	9&10		Brighton Kite Festival, Stanmer Park, Brighton, West Sussex
4&5	Showa Giant Kite Festival & National Kite Fly, Edo River Dry Riverbed, Showa, Japan	16&17		Thatcham Kite Festival, Henwick Worthy Sports Field, Thatcham, nr Newbury, Berkshire
5-8	Nordic Kite Meeting 2005, Blokhus, Denmark	17		Catch the Wind Kite Festival, Morecambe, Lancashire
7&8	Swindon International Kite Festival, Science Museum, Wroughton, near Swindon, Wiltshire (Provisional)	17		Petworth Kite Festival, Petworth Park, Petworth, West Sussex
8	Boldmere Kitefliers Fly-in, Sutton Park, Boldmere Gate entrance, Sutton Coldfield, near Birmingham	17		Alcester & Worcester Kitefliers fly-in, The Worcester Countryside Centre, Spetchley Road, Worcester
14&15	8th Suffolk International Kite Festival, Rougham Airfield, Bury st Edmunds, Suffolk	23 & 24		Tewkesbury Kite Festival, Tewkesbury School, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire
14&15	8th Cleethorpes International Kite Festival, Lower Promenade, Cleethorpes, Lincolnshire	30 & 31		The Blackpool International Monster Kite Show, The Beach, Blackpool, Lancs
14&15	20th International Ostend Kite Festival, Ostend, Belgium	30 & 31		NKG fly-in, Bolton le Sands, near Morecambe, Lancashire
15	Poole Kite Picnic, Baiter Park, Poole, Dorset			
15	Alcester & Worcester Kitefliers fly-in, The Worcester Countryside Centre, Spetchley Road, Worcester			
15	NKG fly-in, Otterspool promenade, Liverpool			
21&22	Hardelot Plage Kite Festival, The Beach, Hardelot Plage, France			
28-30	Tewkesbury Kite Fun Weekend, Tewkesbury School, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire			
28-30	Wallop One 2005, Army Air Museum, Middle Wallop, nr Andover, Hampshire			
30	Alcester & Worcester Kitefliers fly-in, The Worcester Countryside Centre, Spetchley Road, Worcester			
June				
4&5	Basingstoke Kite Festival, Down Grange Sports Complex, Basingstoke, Hampshire			
4&5	Northwest Kite&Outdoor Sports Festival, in association with NKG, Beacon Hill County Park, Up Holland, nr Skelmersdale, Lancs			
5	River Meadows Kite & Fun Day, Stourport upon			

Camping contacts

Cleethorpes - Annabel Colinger-Jones
42 Alexandra Road, Cleethorpes, North East Lincs, DN35 8LE
£10 per night on the campsite, £5 per night in the field next door.

Bolton-le-Sands - Mark Archer Tel:01524 823196
Red Bank Farm, Bolton-le-Sands, Carnforth, Lancs, LA5 8JR
www.redbankfarm.co.uk £6 per night

Wirral - Parkfield Farm Tel: 0151 6323519
Park Lane, Meols, Wirral, CH47 8XT £9 per night
Will consider tents if booking en masse, vans and motorhomes ok
15 mins drive to new brighton with nearby train and bus connections

Church Farm Tel: 0151 6487838
Church Lane, Thurston, No tents, but has a cafe, shop,
toilet and showers on site. Unit £4, Adult £3.50 Child £3 Elec £2.50

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Please note: visitors are most welcome, call first to ensure we are available



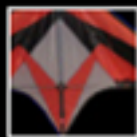
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Late News, Errors and Omissions Spring 2005

The STACK Bootcamp on 9th and 10th of April will now take place at Otterpool Promenade not New Brighton as advertised. The change of venue is for safety reasons due to the circus occupying one of the dips at New Brighton.

Start time is 9.30 on both days, the full agenda is available on the NKG forum or from Neil.

(<http://www.nkg.org.uk/forum/viewtopic.php?t=489>)

Costs are per day - £7.50 for STACK members, £10 for non-members to cover all training, transport costs for our coach, plus refreshments (though it would be appreciated if others can help with the refreshments also.)

Please contact Neil if you are planning to attend or require any further details.

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The deadline for the next Newsletter is June 15th