

THE KITE

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2009

B
H
F
k
i
t
e
d
a
y





Picture courtesy of Andrew Beattie - Berck-sur-mer International Kite Festival 2009

A Note from your Chairman

Enid is still a bit unwell, so rather than ask her to write her piece for the newsletter I rang her and asked how she was doing. She said to tell everyone she is managing ok, and taking things very easy to build up her reserves for some outings in the summer when the weather picks up a bit so she can say hello to everyone once more. In the meantime, you all have to be good and be safe!

Dazzz



ENID KNOWLES
Chairman

E-mail: enidknowles@12freeukisp.co.uk
Tel: 01 704 894166

Canal House, Briers Lane, Lathom,
Ormskirk, Lancs.
L40 5TH



DAVE BLEASDALE
Group Secretary

E-mail: kiterdave@btinternet.com

Tel: **01257 453538**

107 Towngate, Eccleston,
Chorley, PR7 5QS



MARY JONES
Treasurer

E-mail: Mary@kiteflyers.net

Tel: 01942 201265
337a Downall Green Road, Ash-
ton-in-Makerfield, Wigan
WN4 0NB



DAZZZ
Editor

E-mail: Dazzz@kiteflier.co.uk

Tel: 01254 776819

39 Blacksnape Road
Darwen Lancs, BB3 3PN

Rumourmill

Rumours of Enid's electric buggy being equipped with air to air missiles to shoot down kites flying over the height limit have been circulating since early this year, these rumours have yet to be denied and Roger has been spending an awful LOT of time in the workshop.

Further rumours about spikes on the wheels of said buggy to mow down fliers not marking their anchors are also unable to be confirmed at this time.

Rumours of Roger fitting monster truck wheels to Enid's buggy for the purpose of crushing any cars that may get in her way have been denied, our source said the problem lay in the driveshaft being too short, but Roger may still be working on it.

Rumours about Enid's buggy being equipped with a paint gun that fires fluorescent orange paintballs that spell out the word SAFETY on impact can now be denied, our sources within the pentagon have confirmed that this technology does not yet exist....

...unless she has got hold of alien technology...

WELCOME TO ALL NEW MEMBERS

David Nash, Andrea Nash, Clarke Nash

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

EDITORS CORNER

Hello again everyone, this issue is a little later than usual as the last one was so late, but we will be returning to a more regular schedule as the year progresses. Thanks to Beryl Black who kindly took the time to write up the British Heart foundation Red kite day in February, I really enjoyed reading about that one Beryl.

We have the results of the first NKG photo competition as well which is being organised by Neil Edwards, I look forward to the next one with interest. You can see the winning entry on the back cover of this magazine.

My apologies to those of you who showed interest in a kite workshop, unfortunately a few folks were feeling the pinch (Myself included) in these harsh economic times so we had to cancel the planned workshop, but I am hoping we can get one organised towards the year end to make up for it.

I hope those of you who went to Driffield enjoyed the weekend and I'm hoping someone will be volunteering to do a write up for me for the next issue. And dont forget some we always like to see photos as well.

In this issue there is also a piece on Tony Slater by Dave Green, I've also included a piece that Tony sent me late last year that should have been in the winter edition that didnt make it out of the door, I've also included one of Tony's less well known plans the Happy Hex along with another simple kite plan I came across which also looked rather interesting as well as simple to make.

As ever please feel free to send me anything you would like to see in the newsletter, whither its articles, cartoons, jokes, photos, items for sale etc.

Dazzz

NKG AGM 18TH JANUARY 2009 (MINUTES)

Minutes of the Sixth Annual General Meeting of the Northern Kite Group held on 18th. January 2009 at The St Thomas's Church Hall, Moorside Oldham

Trophy Winners

There were No entries for either of the Best Kite competitions

Open Altitude Sprint (Beacon Park) Neil Edwards sent to him in his absence

Ladies altitude Sprint (Beacon Park) Mary Jones Presented by John Welborn

Present

Ron Ogden (Honorary President), John Welborn (Secretary), Mary Jones (Treasurer), Dazzz (Editor)

Karen George (Honorary Auditor),

Dave Bleasdale , Josie Bretherton, John Braidwood, Paul and Hilary Catchpole, Bernard Crick, Ken Cain, Dave Green Frank & Jennifer Hardman, Richard and Kath Hewitt, Dave Holt, Sally Humpage, Fiona & Aled Lewis, Peter & June Lightfoot , Kevin Mullarkey, Elsie Ogden, Geoff and Ann Othick Jim & Vanessa Potts, Stephen Ransom, Colin Savage, Fred Senior, Dave Stead, Jim & Carol Simpson, Raymond & Sheila Smith, Simon & Julia Tebbutt, Marie Welborn, Margaret & Gene Watson, Gwen Williams, Brian Williamson

(This is the list of members who signed in. The 44 present met the quorum required to conduct business. Members who are under 18 are not counted in the determination of the quorum)

Apologies

Enid Knowles (Chairman of the Group), Harry and Pat Allick, Rodney Burrows, Chrissy and Nigel Bailey, Joe and Flo Barnes, Beryl Black, Ken Bretherton , Dennis Chappell, David Gibbons, Rodger Dawson, Neil Edwards, Dennis and Pat Emslie, Keith Proctor and Lorna Carpenter, Phil and Lynn Howden, Peter Fisher, Selwyn and Joan Forster, Rod Jones, Mike Lewis, Peggy Lever, Ian Parkes, Dorothy Ransom, Denis and Janet Riley, Dave and Elaine Shakespeare, , Jock and Peter Walker, Mark Welborn and Zoe Lee, Vince and Cheryl Wilson, Gwil & Lena Williams

Chairing the AGM

In the absence of Enid Knowles the Group Chairman the members appointed John Welborn (Group Secretary) to Chair the meeting. proposed Dazzz Smith Seconded Margeret Watson that John Welborn (Secretary) be appointed to Chair the Annual General Meeting.

Passed unanimously

John made a statement to the meeting on behalf of Enid . Taking account of her health problems Enid wished it to be known that she was prepared to stand for re election as Chairman or to stand down this time depending on the members wishes. Everyone present wished her to stand again for re election.

Report of the Committee

John outlined the years' activities and how successful the Festivals had been despite the bad weather , especially Beacon Park John asked Jim Potts to report on the Harewood Events for 2009. The Festival is on for 30th.& 31st. May 2009 with camping on the North Lawn from Friday. The NKG will receive £200 donation for attending this event.

Jim Potts reported on his discussions with St Helens's about Kite events at their Festival on 4th. and 5th July 2009 . The positive points are that camping is available on site a donation of £200 to funds and a variety of other activities are taking place, also. The Council were very keen to have kiteflying at the festival.

A site visit made it clear that the flying areas had trees everywhere and considerable care and strict time tabling would be needed by the flyers . Invitations to attend would need to be restricted mainly to NKG members.

Members were asked whether the Club should accept the invitation despite the obvious problems with the flying sites.

It was agreed that the Club should support it this year and decide what to do next year based on the experience this time.

Jim Potts reported that he was now obtaining tickets direct for Woodvale on 1st and 2nd August and full details would be published in the Magazine .

Dave Holt reported that dates for his Festivals were not yet decided

Note A few days after the meeting the Morecambe Festival date was decided as 19th. July 2009.

It was noted that the Wirral and Beacon Park dates clashed again but after approaching both Councils it was not possible to change either of the dates.

Editor's Report

Dazz gave a short report and apologised for absence of one magazine. He stated he would issue a small magazine after the AGM and a spring issue in April.

He thanked all those who contributed articles and photos over the year.

Treasurers Report / Annual Accounts

Mary reviewed the accounts. The healthy state of the finances was due to the donations received by the Club . Reserves are very healthy and are needed to keep the club sustained.

The full audited accounts version was available for inspection at the meeting.

The accounts had been audited by Karen George

The reserves had increased again despite spending more money during the year. The AGM lunch 2008 was offered free ; toilets had to be hired at Otterspool for Light Up the Sky (due to Pub closure for refurbishment) and half the Beacon Park auction proceeds were given to Light Up the Sky fund for Children in Need,

Proposed:- Dave Stead

Seconded:- Margeret Watson

The Accounts for 2008 be adopted.

Passed unanimously

Future Direction of the Club

Association with Dave Holt Festivals & Kite Collective

It was pointed out that the Club receives a donation if sufficient members attend the events. Dates yet to be decided

Festivals 2009

Beacon Park Festival –6th./7th. June

Chester Festival – 19 / 20th. September 2009 (this has been confirmed recently)

. They are organised by Local Councils with our guidance.

Wakefield Festival 27th. September 2009 Heath Common (organised by Faceless) it was cancelled last year but is to go ahead in 2009

Alan Poxon had asked that we bring the Bolton Abbey Festival on 3rd/ 4th October 2009 to members attention .

A discussion took place about the A1 Blooms Festival this year at Driffield on 4th.and 5th. May. In the past the Club has treated this as just another Festival and provided public liability insurance for members attending it.

Flying sites for Fly ins

The Club pays Wakefield Council a fee of £32 for a licence to fly at Pontefract Racecourse.

A discussion took place about fly ins and other commitments

There was a discussion about having more twin flying sites to cut down on travelling

Currently the Christmas dinner fly ins and the OSOW fly ins have twin sites.

It felt that the reduction in travelling should be considered against the possibility of fragmenting the Club activities.

More flying sites should be sought on the eastern side of the Pennines. John pointed out that the majority of the membership lived around the area of Liverpool, Leeds and Manchester

It was proposed that we have November and February added to October and December as twin location fly ins.

Proposed Gwen Williams

Seconded by Dave Green

Carried by overwhelming majority

The venue for the fly in on 15 November 2009 was discussed and different views were expressed about New Brighton or Beacon Park therefore a vote was taken as follows

Beacon Park	20
-------------	----

New Brighton	10
--------------	----

Therefore Beacon Park was chosen as the venue for the November fly in.

A discussion was held on the venue for the next AGM . Newton Heath is unlikely to be available again . The St Thomas's Church Hall Moorside Oldham was considered to be suitable unless a venue with better parking could be found.

Club Fly In List 2009 - 2010

2009

18th. Jan	AGM Moorside Oldham
15th Feb	New Brighton and Pontefract
15th. Mar	Roundhay
19th April	Crosby
17th. May	Pontefract
30th / 31st. May	Harewood Festival
6th/7th June	Beacon Park Festival
21st. June	Fleetwood
12th. July	Ainsdale
19th July	Morecambe Festival (date only known after AGM)
15th/ 16th. August	Bolton le Sands two day fly in
19th. / 20th. Sept	Chester Festival
27th. Sept	Wakefield Kite Festival
4th October	Taylor Park, St Helens
11th. Oct	OSOW Otterspool and Pontefract
Light Up The Sky	(date to be Confirmed) possibly 18th. October
15th Nov	Beacon Park plus another site to be decided
13th. Dec	Xmas Fly-in Stainland & Otterspool -

2010

17th Jan	AGM provisionally Moorside Oldham
21st Feb	New Brighton and Pontefract
15 / 22nd. Mar	Roundhay

The acceptance of the list was

Proposed by:- Mary Jones
Seconded by:- Jim Potts

Passed with an overwhelming majority

Public Liability Insurance

The Zurich Public Liability insurance Policy for a member to fly anywhere in the UK on their own has been set up with around 81 members taking part.

It was stressed that it is important that members respond quickly to the Secretary when asked to renew the insurance otherwise the insurance policy could be lost.

Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 implementation

John gave an update as follows

Start date is now October 2009 and the ISA taking barring decisions from 20th January 2009

Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 defines a child as a person under 18

Guidance on implementation is due in Spring 2009

A one off fee for registration is now set at £64 and umbrella group administration fees will be additional to this.

Voluntary group members are free but still pay an administration fee to the umbrella body.

Enid 's contact can do it very cheaply.

Note a "volunteer" on changing to a paid job will pay the full fee retrospectively.

The committee is asking again for enabling powers from the AGM to make rules when the guidance is published .

Such rules to be ratified or otherwise at the next AGM or a Special General Meeting .

Proposed Dave Stead

Seconded Josie Bretherton

The committee be given special powers to change the Club rules as they believe necessary to comply with the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 .

The changes made under these powers will only continue until the next AGM, or a Special General Meeting called for the purpose, where the rules will be ratified, amended or withdrawn. If necessary legal advice will be sought.

Passed by an overwhelming majority

Safety

Height Limits and Rules of Air

John Welborn made the following reminders to members

General rule

Maximum height 60 metres

5km from an airport maximum height 30 metres

Otterspool is less than 5km from an Airport

It should be noted that these rules apply to kites no matter what sizes or weights they are.

Height Clearance Permission to fly above 60 metres

John Welborn reported on correspondence with CAA

Height Clearance Permission does not create restricted air space.

Aircraft can cross the site below the height clearance limit provided they maintain safe separation above any kites flying at the time.

(this means 500 feet separation)

The NOTAM is only a warning to pilots about kite flying and they have a legal responsibility to check them.

This has been confirmed in writing by the CAA.

Jim Potts suggested an item is included in the magazine and in the pack for new members.

It should be noted that the Height Clearance Permission does not allow kites to enter cloud and requires there to be good visibility.

It is the responsibility of both the pilot and the kite flyer to prevent an incident.

We need to keep a good look out for aircraft and should report what we consider to be unsafe actions by pilots .

Risk Assessment

The following Risk Assessment has been used for those Councils and others that ask for it and is based on the principle that simplest is best . (one supplied by the Sunderland Festival 2008 organisers was used as a model)

Northern Kite Group

Kite Flying is regulated by the Air Navigation Order 2005 and the Civil Aviation Authority

Extract from NKG Constitution

Section 9 Safety

9.1 All members should act courteously and responsibly when flying.(If in any doubt as to what safe flying constitutes refer to the Flying Safety Officer)

Members should take special note of the following

9.1.1 do not fly higher than 60 metres, unless covered by CAA permission

9.1.2 do not fly within the traffic zone of an airfield higher than 30 metres

9.1.3 do not fly near overhead power lines

9.1.4 do not fly in thundery weather

Risk Assessment

What might go wrong	level of risk	What can we do to prevent it
<i>Someone might get hit by a kite</i>	<i>low</i>	<i>Be aware of where the kite may land</i>
<i>Someone might get a friction burn</i>	<i>low</i>	<i>Be aware of where the kite lines may drop if the wind drops suddenly</i>
<i>Someone may trip on an anchor peg</i>	<i>low</i>	<i>Mark ground anchors with coloured tape</i>
<i>Someone may trip on a kite line</i>	<i>low</i>	<i>Be aware of the kite lines of other flyers when moving around</i>
<i>Someone may get injured from ground anchors dragging</i>	<i>low</i>	<i>Ensure ground anchors are adequate for the size of kite and the wind conditions</i>
<i>Someone may get injured from a kite breaking free of its line</i>	<i>low</i> <i>low</i>	<i>Make sure kites are secured to line of correct breaking strength</i> <i>line of correct breaking strength for the kite and the wind conditions</i>

Any Other Business from members

Museum of Science and Industry Manchester (MOSI)

Dave Green

The NKG have been asked to provide a stand for the Dreams of Flight exhibition

14th. February 2009 to 22nd. February 2009

Dave Green is organising volunteers to attend each day . Tickets lunch and travelling expenses will be provided by MOSI and the NKG will receive a donation.

Frequency of Magazine issues Dave Green

A discussion was started on the frequency of the Magazine publication , currently it is quarterly but lack of articles together with other problems reduced it to three this year. A suggestion to restrict publication to two per year was discussed and also having three issues per year . Four per year was considered to be untenable in the future.

The Magazine is still the main method of contact for many members especially those who do not have email and Internet access.

It was proposed to have three issues per year of the magazine plus a small bulletin

Proposed Dave Green

Seconded Steve Ransom

Passed by a majority

Kite Workshops

The group had received a request for NKG Members to facilitate a kite workshop at Todber Caravan Park near Gargrave.

The group is getting an increasing number of requests of this sort therefore Dazzz asked for names of members interested in undertaking events of this type in order that a co-ordinated approach could be taken.

Best Kite Competition

There were no entries this year and Members were asked if they wished this competition to continue .

There was some uncertainty as to the actual rules for the competition, it was agreed that members should be encouraged to enter the competition. The committee should clarify the rules and publish them in the next magazine.

Vote of Thanks

It was explained to members that the Club's website existed because of the work of Peter Bindon Webmaster and because of Malcolm Pitcher's generosity in hosting it free on his own server.

Malcolm is retiring and emigrating and therefore website has been moved to a commercial server.

It was proposed that the committee arrange for a small gift be given to Malcolm Pitcher

Formal Votes of Thanks were given

to Peter Bindon Webmaster,

to Malcolm Pitcher Website hosting,

and also to Karen George Honorary Auditor .

The members voted unanimously in favour.

Ron Ogden asked the Chairman of the meeting to let everyone know that he has resigned as Honorary President .

Item 7. Election of Officers

Chairman offered to be re elected, Treasurer and Editor offered to be re elected, The Secretary resigned

It was proposed that Dave Bleasdale be elected Secretary
Proposed Brian Williamson
Seconded – Gwen Williams

Passed unanimously

It was proposed that the rest of existing officers be re elected en bloc

Chairman Enid Knowles
Treasurer Mary Jones
Editor Daryl Smith

Proposed Brian Williamson
Seconded – Gwen Williams
Passed unanimously

Karen George was elected Honorary Auditor
Proposed Brian Williamson
Seconded – Gwen Williams
Passed unanimously

It was proposed that the Existing Bankers HSBC be re appointed and that that any two of the appointed officers be empowered to sign cheques
Proposed Mary Jones
Seconded Daryl Smith
Passed unanimously

The officers are as follows

Chairman	Enid Knowles
Treasurer	Mary Jones
Secretary	Dave Bleasdale
Editor	Daryl Smith (Dazzz)
Honorary Auditor	Karen George

A presentation of a camp table with adjustable legs was made to the retiring Secretary

The meeting was declared closed by the Chairman

Best Kite Competitions Rules

- 1 Two Classes Large and small. Small kites cannot enter the large class
- 2 A small kite is one whose width plus spine length is not more than two metres
- 3 The Kite must have been made by the entrant
- 4 It can have been made at any time in the past
- 5 It must not have won the competition previously
- 6 It can entered in absentia by a representative.

Voting is done for each class by those present at the AGM

Each member considers which is the best Kite and mark a kite as first, second and third on the slip for the class.

In case of a tie of first votes The winner is to be decided by counting the second votes of those tying ; if a tie still exists count the third votes of those tying . If a tie still exists the Chairman of the AGM meeting tosses a coin to decide. The Chairman allocates heads or tails to the entrants.

Note It sometimes went to second votes and the small kite to third votes

TONY SLATER 1940 - 2008

Most members will know that Tony passed away in October 2008 after a day's flying at his local flying site. Tony was a larger than life character and well known in Shrewsbury, where he was often on local radio discussing many different subjects. He was, for a time, Town Crier of Shrewsbury. We mostly new Tony for his kite flying interest, which was the love of his life, along with anything that flew.

In his early days he flew his homemade chuck gliders on Epsom Downs. It was at a ballroom dancing class in Epsom that he met his wife Chris and they progressed from being dancing partners to being partners for life when they married in 1967.

In 1969 Tony, a toolmaker by trade, successfully applied for a job at Stadco in Shrewsbury, and the family moved to Harlscourt. In the early 1980's Tony built his own hang-glider and jumped off Middletown Hill. It was at that time that Chris's hair turned prematurely grey lol! Then kites took over Tony's life, not only flying, but the making and designing of them. There are not many fliers who do not own a Fighter kite handcrafted by Tony.



It was in the mid nineties that I first met Tony at Sundorne, a kite festival he ran for many years along with John Southerton. I was impressed by the way he ran the event, and the fun and games and fine commentary made the event swing along. Those who went to the kite festivals at Clynog Fawr in the late 90's, would remember the effort that Tony put in, to make a great sociable weekend, with fun and games, film shows, diablos, paper planes, talks etc etc.

Just before Christmas I was sorting some videos and came across one of the events and placed it in my machine, and there, as large as life, was Tony doing his stuff on the mic. Let me know if you want a copy. It was the year Peter Powell was present, 1998, I think.

Those were the days, thanks to Tony. The event was at the Coach House pub and after staying in a tent, and then the bunk house, I shared a caravan with Tony, The final year, we stayed in the cottage attached to the pub. It was here he had me up until 2am in the morning listening to his vast knowledge of kites, how they flew, why they flew, and sometimes more importantly, why they didn't.

Not only did he excel with fighters but also Boomerangs and not many knew that Tony won the British Stunt Kite Championship way back in the 70's. The last time I met Tony, like most of us, was at Chester in late September. I was flying two off the bar, we chatted whilst he took over one of the kites and flew like a duck out of water, following me around in the sky. Only a person with his skill and knowledge of how kites fly, could have done that.

His service at Shrewsbury Crematorium was well attended by family and friends along with members of the NKG and other kite clubs.

Dave Green

YOUR CLUB NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT FOR THIS EVENT.

BEACON KITE & OUTDOOR SPORTS FESTIVAL 6TH & 7TH JUNE 2009

YOUR CLUB NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT FOR THIS EVENT.

Beacon Kite Festival as we call it has been a successful event for many years and a big attraction for the local public. The Northern Kite Group and Beacon rangers have contributed together to its success.

Earlier this year the event was under threat of cancellation due to budget reductions by West Lancs council but it is definitely going ahead and all arrangements are in place.

Unfortunately Beacon clashes with Wirral International Kite festival but nothing can be done about that this year.

There will be a full program of events over the two days as in previous years. You can camp free of charge from 12noon Friday through to Monday noon.

The now world famous auction will be held on Saturday evening which provides substantial funds for the club. That persuasive auctioneer Neil Edwards will once again be prizing your wallets open. Please contribute anything, not necessarily kite related and bring it with you to the auction or throughout Saturday.

Address: Beacon Country Park, Beacon Lane, Up Holland, West Lancs, WN8 7RU.

Finally your support would be much appreciated and help to ensure the future success of this event.

ST.HELENS KITE FESTIVAL. 4TH/5TH JULY 2009.

The NKG have been asked to put on a two day kite festival as part of the well established St. Helens Festival.

The event takes place at Sherdley Park, St. Helens and you will need a camping and or car pass in order to gain entry. I have already published details on the forum and many of you have requested a pass which I hope to be able to distribute at the Beacon Festival. There will be free camping with water and toilet facilities from 12noon Friday to noon on the Monday adjacent to the kite arena.

This is a new event for us and there will be a full program of events with commentary on both days. The area we have been allocated is not as big as we would have liked and trees are a hazard so as usual we will just have to try our best and see how it goes.

This event is free to the public and there are many other attractions to entertain you.

There is a vehicle movement restriction on both days which will be strictly applied from 10am to 6pm. I will supply you with a map with the passes.

For those of you who do not have access to the internet and would like either a car or camping pass please send a SAE to me Jim Potts at 15 Stonegate Close, Leeds LS17 6EN.

Jim Potts

Harewood House Trust have very kindly asked the NKG to arrange the 3rd Kite Festival which will be held as last year on the North Front directly in front of the main House. This is a two day festival with a

HAREWOOD HOUSE KITE FESTIVAL 30TH & 31ST MAY 2009

Harewood House Trust have very kindly asked the NKG to arrange the 3rd Kite Festival which will be held as last year on the North Front directly in front of the main House. This is a two day festival with a full program of displays on the same lines as last year. There are two changes to last year, firstly the staff at Harewood have promised to provide some wind and secondly the commentary over two days will be provided by that well known kite fanatic Neil (last one there's a ninney) Edwards.

Once again we are pleased to join with the North East Kite Flyers who provide substantial support at this venue. In addition to their members vast selection of kites they will be flying the unique European Air Gallery.

Admission to the grounds and other many attractions at Harewood are free on production of your current NKG membership card. Camping is free adjacent to the kite arena and you may arrive from 2pm Friday 29th May and stay until noon Monday 1st June. Water and chemical toilet emptying is available together with 24 hr access to a purpose built toilet and washing block. For those of you arriving late say after 8pm you may find the main entrance gate locked. Ring me on 07860-822211 and I will give you further directions for entry to the site.

For those of you who have not been to Harewood before this event is set in the stunning grounds of the Harewood estate with the famous Harewood House adjacent to the flying site. Free access is on the understanding that you are attending to contribute to the kite display on both days but we appreciate that not all family members are kite fanatics and so there are many other attractions available to make this an enjoyable weekend.

Further information is available on the Harewood House website www.harewood.org

Directions:

Postcode is LS17 9LG. From the west, M62 West leave at junction 27 and follow M621 to Leeds centre. A58 M follow signs for A61 Harrogate. Stay on A61 five miles north of Leeds you will see Harewood House entrance on left. Follow main entrance drive to pay booth, produce your membership card and continue on main drive with the house on your left. You will see some camping units on your right but please do not drive over the grass. Continue and bear right into the car park. Immediately after the toilet block which is on your right, turn right up the track to the top and pitch.

If you are attending from the North, South or East I suggest you look at the map to select your preferred route. I hope many members will attend to once again support this event. Harewood are making a contribution to club funds.

Confirmed display teams attending:

Wigsley Wings, Skyartists, Kite Collective, Graham Lockwood, The Lincoln Loonies, Two Bear dropping teams: Bear Drops & Jerry & Caroline Swift. Team 4 Mation, There will be a fliers meeting at the commentary booth 10am both days where a program will be available. Formal displays will be 10.30am – 5pm. Height limit 1000 feet.

Looking forward to seeing you all.

WOODVALE RALLY 1ST & 2ND AUGUST 2009

The NKG have been putting on a display at this massive rally for a number of years. For those of you who have internet access I suggest you view their new website www.woodvale-rally.org.uk/

The rally organisers recognise the contribution by the NKG and displays teams and therefore offer us free admission and camping which is a saving of £50 if you were camping over the weekend.

There is a new team of organisers at Woodvale and this years rally is expected to be bigger and better than in recent years. We have been allocated a larger flying arena in a slightly different location. This should be a great weekend with something to interest everybody, there are too many different attractions to list here.

Free camping is available from 10am Friday to 12noon Monday. Passes are limited and providing you are attending to add to the kite display you can obtain a pass from me free of charge by sending a SAE to Jim Potts, 15 Stonegate Close, Leeds LS17 6EN. The passes are per vehicle and you will need to send your vehicle registration number with the SAE. Passes will be allocated on a first come first served basis, i.e. in order of when I receive your SAE.

As in past years it would be much appreciated if those arriving Friday am assist us in erecting the arena.

Directions

RAF Woodvale lies on the A565, the main trunk road from Liverpool to Southport and can be reached from the East via the M62 and M57. From the North via the M6; M58 and after leaving the Motorway at Switch Island follow the signs for Bootle & All Docks/A5036 and then Formby/A5207/A565 and then Southport.

For those with satellite navigation, the post code for RAF Woodvale is L37 7AD

HEART FOUNDATION FLY 22ND FEBRUARY 2009

ness and also much needed funds for their research. I thought about it and in my minds eye I could see red kites and the flyers in red clothing, my mind was already running riot.

I mentioned it to Dave Green and Gwen and the others who make up Flying Colours and to Neil who is obviously medically minded and they were all quite keen. We mentioned it at the NKG Christmas dinner at Otterspool and everyone said they would support the event. We decided on Feb 22nd as the day, Neil put details on the forum for everyone to see. All systems go!



I rang up for the fundraising pack, the chap I spoke to on the phone was very interested as they had never had anyone do a kite event before and it sounded so novel. We had promises of Tents, Tables, Gas etc, so shelter and hot drinks were assured, Ray volunteered to provide sausage rolls, butties and chicken drum-

I rang up for the fundraising pack, the chap I spoke to on the phone was very interested as they had never had anyone do a kite event before and it sounded so novel. We had promises of Tents, Tables, Gas etc, so shelter and hot drinks were assured, Ray volunteered to provide sausage rolls, butties and chicken drumsticks, so food was also assured and I made some red jelly trifles to keep the red theme.



Gina Bellis is a genius with the hot drinks and she agreed to provide the storage flasks etc and that everyone had hot drinks all through the day. The manager at the Otterspool pub & restaurant opposite our flying field agreed to sell badges for us and advertised the event in the pub.

Via Dave Green some more of us had ordered Red heart shaped kites made by Helen at Raindrop Kites, these had arrived so we were ready for the day.

The day started cold, wet and blowing a gale (What a start!) members started arriving, some of them traveling quite a distance to fly at Otterspool and it was lovely to see Karl and Sarah Longbottom who had traveled all the way from Hereford to support the event.

Dave Green had provided the large tent but decided that it was too windy to try and erect it so we would have to have the food from the back of one of the vans. Then the wind decided to drop a bit and seven stalwarts managed to erect the tent and put the tables up inside. Gina got busy with the stove, Ray brought the food out and we were off! Unfortunately the wind was so strong it blew Gina's large black flask off the table and broke it, Kites will not be beaten though, Kevin went to his car and re-appeared with two flasks and saved the day as far as drinks were concerned, our Gina was back in business.

The wind finally eased a bit and the rain stopped and a very watery sun shone through the clouds and we started to fly. Neil put up a good display of flowing tails which could be seen for quite a distance and many others also started to go up. The red Hearts were very much in evidence flown by Denis, Ray, Gwen and Kevin and the car park started to get quite full with members of the public coming to watch. Flying Colours in the shape of Dave, Angela, Kevin and Gwen put on a display which mesmerised the watching public (Although Dave with his 3 kites is a display team on his own)



The tinkle of coins could be heard as people realizing that there were small collecting boxes around started to contribute. Gina kept the supply of hot drinks going as everyone kept going back to the tent for a drink a nibble and a natter every so often, by this time Ken had arrived with a large cauldron filled with his own beautiful home made soup, we didn't need a second asking to tuck in...

The Heart Foundation had supplied us with a Red Heart sweepstake game which we had a go at a £1 a time as we came back to the tent. Colin was in charge and by the end of the afternoon it was full (That lad

(That lad could charm the birds from the trees when it comes to collecting for charity). We scraped off the winning square to see who had won and the very worthy winner was John Bellis (husband of Gina and famous for his fighter kite skills and fabulous reels). The prize was a bottle of Red wine and numerous red related items (red label tea bags etc). John wanted others to share in the prizes, so he shut his eyes and picked out some other winners for the other small prizes as well.

Practically all the Otterspool flyers had turned up to support such a good cause (many of them like myself had personal reasons to be grateful). Everyone had made the effort where possible to dress in something red and fly red kites. There was also a really happy atmosphere all day, everyone saying that they had enjoyed the day and making me hopeful that god willing we could repeat it again next year. After the bad start weather wise it had cleared and made for a good flying day.



Jan had appeared with some good cheesecake and Kevin and Gwen had added to the table as well so the tent was still quite full of happy eaters, As dusk fell people started to make their way home, tired but happy that they had contributed to a worthwhile cause and enjoyed themselves in the process.



Everyone had contributed to the success of the day and I couldn't single anyone out to say thank you, but a big THANK YOU to everyone for at the end of the day, when all was counted up with the sale of the badges included we had raised £300 for the British Heart Foundation.

The day ended in reverse to how it began with the seven stalwarts finishing off the butties and the tea etc, prior to taking the tent down. I have sent the

cheque off to the BHF and received a certificate of thanks in recognition of everyone's hard work which I will show round on flying days. Thanks everyone and hopefully here's to next year.

Beryl Black
(Pictures courtesy of Neil Edwards)

NKG LIBRARY RULES

You must be a paid member of the NKG to use this facility. Requests from non-members or those whose membership has expired will not be accepted. If you break or lose an item you agree to replace it or have it repaired to its previous condition as when you received it.

The first post in each thread will contain details of the item, and the current borrower and the date they received the item (more or less.)

You should post requests for the item in the appropriate thread. The item will be sent to each person in turn in the order they appear in the thread. Requests will be pruned from the top when they are filled.

Chatter will be removed from the threads to keep them clear. No other posts may be made in this section of the library. Please post reviews, questions etc. in the appropriate section of the forum.

Items may be held for a month and then must be sent to the next person in the 'requests list'. If there are no further requests then you may keep the item until someone does request it. You can hold up to 2 items from the library at any time but please don't request a 3rd item before discussing it with the librarian (currently me) as this reduces availability for other members.

Items can be requested more than once but if multiple requests are made then priority will be given to those requesting the item for the first time.

You are not allowed to pass the item to anyone else without them requesting it on this library forum - that way we can keep track of things. The only exception to this rule is for those members without internet access who want to request things via the magazine - if they want to request anything they must do so in writing to the Editor of the magazine and their contact details must be included in the mag. The mag is a quarterly publication which means people may be deprived of accessing library items if that person is anonymous - details will then be posted on their behalf onto the relevant thread.

The deal is you agree by the above rules and pay for the packaging & postage to the person who requests the item next (or arrange a suitable handover venue such as a fly-in). Apart from that it's free.

If you use the Library then you are agreeing to abide by these rules - that way we will all get to share in people's kind donations to the club.

FLYING LINES CAN BE A SAFETY ISSUE

I have been flying kites seriously for about forty years, and in all that time I have come across hardly anyone who actually checks the strength of the line on which they are flying their kite. It seems rather silly to me that having a) spent possibly a lot of money on purchasing a particular kind of kite or b) after so many flyers have spent an awful lot of time and effort in making their own creations, taking sometimes months to make a kite, that none of them ever check the strength of the line on which they are going to commit their creation to the vagaries of the wind and the weather.

Even the majority of kite stores that sell line to you do not test the line they are selling. The majority only go by the manufacturers recommended line strength which they are given when they purchase the line for re-sale.

It seems that more and more of our flying sites are encompassed by hazards: trees, power lines, roads, railway lines etc, and don't forget you cannot make an insurance claim if the line on which you are flying the kite is not strong enough for the type of kite you are flying, or the wind conditions. This of course then becomes a safety issue.

I personally for many years have always checked the strength of the line on which I fly. It is a very simple procedure. It only takes a few minutes and gives you peace of mind. To check small poundages of line, i.e. from 0- 50lbs breaking strain a simple spring balance can be purchased from an ironmongers or a fishing shop. There are larger spring balances available. I have one that goes to 400 lbs. This was obtained from an abattoir.

When you purchase the line, if it is of good quality there is always a safety margin built into the line, e.g 50lbs breaking strain should not break until it reaches a poundage of 62lbs. There is a sliding scale of safety margins which can be obtained from the manufacturers of the lines themselves. One such company is English Braids of Malvern, Worcestershire. They also supply cards with samples of line on them.

Also remember that although your line might be rated at a certain poundage, as soon as you start tying knots in it the strength is greatly reduced. The other thing I find is a good plan – at the end of the flying season, reverse the use of the line. In other words take the line off the reel and rewind it from the other end so that the unused part of the line will now be used.

Some years ago I came across a gentleman selling stunt kites and I looked at the line he was supplying with the kites and asked him the strength of the flying lines. He said that the flying lines had been supplied by a manufacturer who had assured him that the breaking strain was 50lbs. I remarked that I did not think by looking at the line that it was that strong. He then asked me if I would mind testing it for him, which I did. It turned out to be only 32lbs breaking strain. This concerned him somewhat as it was a safety issue. In consequence he sent all the lines back (there were several hundred of them) to the supplier.

So the moral is spend a few minutes checking the strength of your flying line for your own peace of mind and also check it after you have tied knots in it.

Tony Slater



Photos courtesy of Mike Lewis

The NKG was asked to provide a stand for the Dreams of Flight exhibition 14th. February 2009 to 22nd. February 2009 at the Museum Of Science and Industry (MOSI) in Manchester. Dave Green organised volunteers to attend and provide a showcase for Kite flying and the NKG.

The event went very well with nearly 500 people a day visiting the exhibit and making hundreds of kids kites into the bargain. A big thank you to all those volunteers who took part in helping make the event a great success.

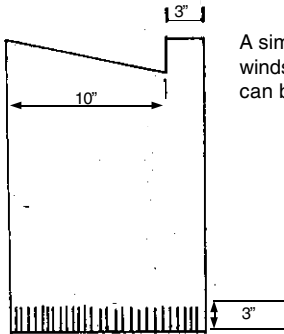
KITE BUILDING

The NKG has always had a tradition of kite building, from the smallest cheapest sleds to attempting world records, recently however we have seen less and less in the way of home built kites at the AGM, and this year we only had one entry for the kite competition. It may be due to all those cheap kites being made in China these days or maybe down to people doing more flying and having less time to build, or merely down to people thinking that their kites aren't good enough to enter into a competition, whatever the reason I'd like to encourage more people to have a go...

In these recessionary times, building your own kites is one way to get something new and different into your kite bag. I own a lot of expensive kites, I also own some cheap ones too, when the wind blowing at 30 mph I reach into my kite bag for a 4ft Delta, it was built by Mary Jones and she sold it one of the AGM's for a fiver because she didn't like how it flew. I bought it and replaced a spar, and it flew ok, but where it really comes into its own is those high wind days, I attach a thin tube tail (2 x 100ft) and it happily sits in the sky when a lot of those expensive kites would just come tumbling down in a pile of broken carbon.

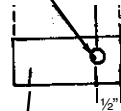
There are lots of online resources for kite plans, one of the most up to date is Kite Plan Base <http://www.kiteplans.org/> which has lots of plans old and new from around the world. And if you're really new to kite building you're going to have lots of questions, as well as our own NKG forum there is also the excellent <http://www.kitebuilder.com/forums/> which is based in America but has members all over the world and is packed full of help for beginners and experts alike.

Dazzz



A simple plastic kite that flies well in light to moderate winds. Sizes shown are for a 30" span kite but this design can be successful in sizes ranging from 14" to 48".

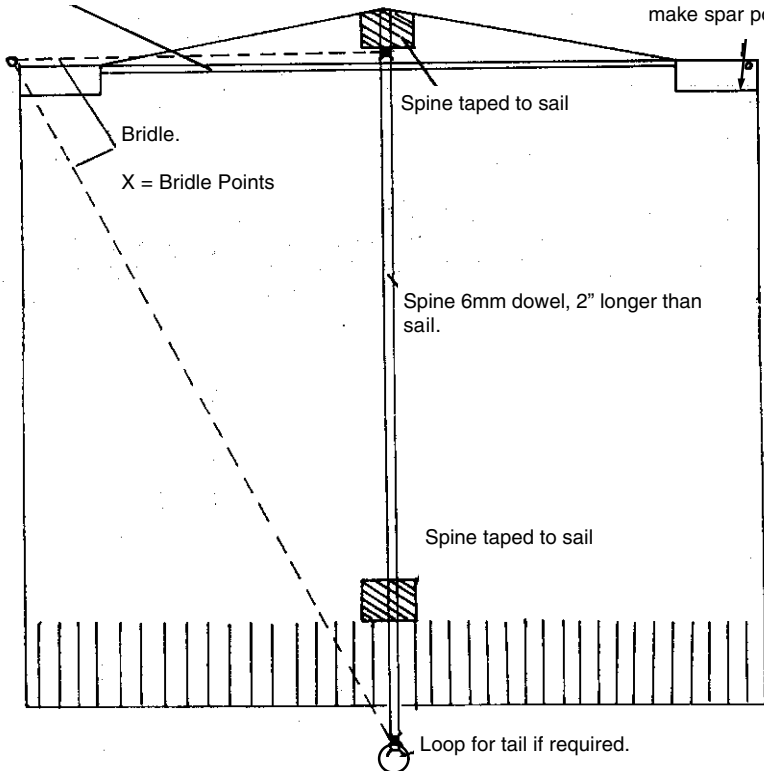
Hole for removing spar through.



Fold a 30" by 30" sheet of plastic in half and cut out wedge shape. Also cut fringe on bottom as above.

Spreader 3/16" dowel 1 1/2" shorter than span of kite.

Fold down and tape to make spar pocket.

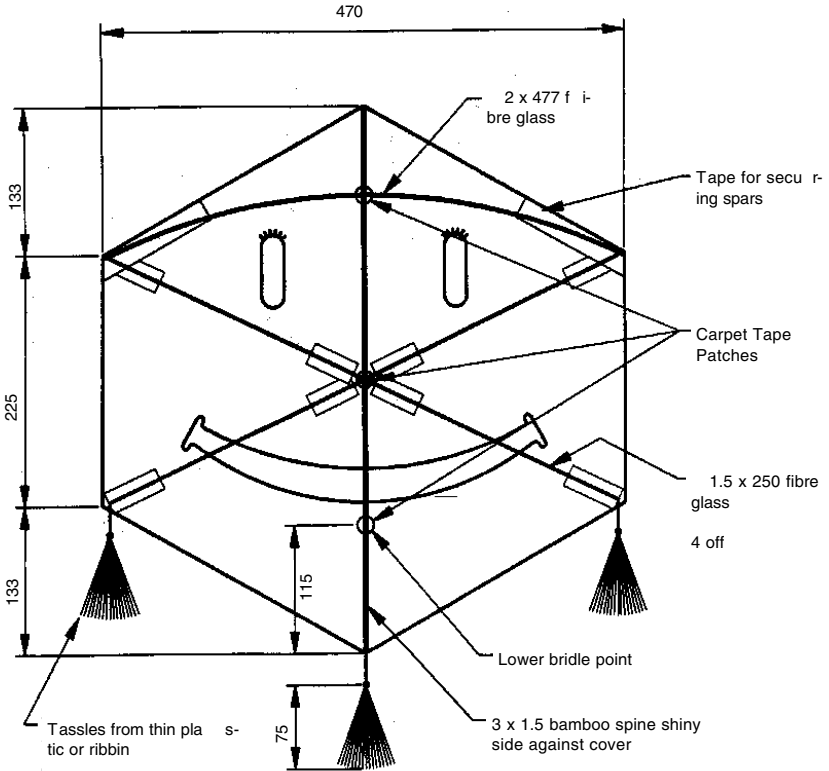


Here is one of Tony Slaters older fighter plans for those of you who may not have come across it before.

Dazzz



Issue 67—April 1996—Happy Hex—Tony Slater



Cover—Mylar
Upper Bridle Leg = 260
Lower Bridle Leg = 350

All dimensions in mm
[Jim White]

Designed by Tony Slater
Shropshire Kite Group
- 1995 -

Happy Hex

WWW.KITECALENDAR.CO.UK

MAY 2009

- 17 NKG fly-in, Pontefract Racecourse, Pontefract, Yorkshire
- 24 GOKF fly-in, Ferry Meadows Country Park, Ham Lane, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire
- 29 - 31 3rd Exmouth Rotary International Kite Festival, The Imperial Recreation Ground, Exmouth, East Devon
- 30 & 31 7th Bedford International Kite Festival, Russell Park, The Embankment, Bedford
- 30 & 31 3rd Harewood House Kite Festival, Harewood House, Harewood, near Leeds, North Yorkshire

JUNE 2009

- 3 - 7 Houlgate Plein Vent, Kite Festival, Houlgate, near Le Havre, France
- 5 - 7 Margam Park Kite Festival, Margam Park, near Bridgend, South Wales
- 6 & 7 7th Wirral International kite festival, "The Dips", New Brighton, The Wirral, Cheshire
- 6 & 7 Basingstoke Kite Festival, Down Grange Sports Complex, Pack Lane, Basingstoke, Hampshire
- 6 & 7 Beacon Park Kite Festival, Beacon Hill County Park, Up Holland, nr Skelmersdale, Lancashire
- 7 Ashdon Kite Festival, Ashdon, nr Saffron Walden, Essex
- 13 & 14 Blackheath Kite Festival, Blackheath Common, London
- 13 & 14 Teston Bridge family kite weekend, Teston Bridge picnic site, Teston Lane, Teston, Maidstone, ME18 5BX
- 14 Peterborough Kite Festival, Ferry Meadows Country Park, Ham Lane, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire
- 18 - 21 25th Fano International Kite Fliers meeting, Fano Beach, Denmark
- 20 & 21 14th Southampton Kite Festival, Lordshill Recreation Grounds, Five Acre Field, Redbridge Lane
- 21 NKG fly-in, Fleetwood Beach, Fleetwood, Lancashire
- 27 & 28 "A Lark In The Park", Market Bosworth Country Park, Park Road, Market Bosworth, CV13 0LP
- 28 GOKF fly-in, Ferry Meadows Country Park, Ham Lane, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire

JULY 2009

- 4 & 5 Sunderland International Friendship and Kite Festival, Northern Area Playing Fields, Washington,
- 5 13th Rushcliffe Kite Festival, Rushcliffe Country Park, Mere Way, Ruddington, NG11 6JS
- 11 & 12 31st Annual Brighton Kite Festival, Stanmer Park, Brighton, West Sussex
- 11 & 12 Barmouth Beach Kite Festival, on the beach opposite the new Lifeboat Station, Barmouth, Mid Wales
- 12 GOKF fly-in, Ferry Meadows Country Park, Ham Lane, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire
- 12 NKG fly-in, Ainsdale, near Southport, Merseyside
- 18 & 19 Leominster Kite Festival, Berrington Hall (National Trust), north of Leominster, Herefordshire
- 19 Morecambe 'Catch the Wind' Kite Festival, The Beach, Morecambe, Lancashire
- 19 Dunstable Downs Kite Festival, Dunstable Downs, near Dunstable, Bedfordshire
- 25 & 26 3rd MKF "Family Fun Weekend" and 30th Anniversary Party, Carnfield Hall, DE55 2BE
- 25 & 26 Silloth on Solway Kite Festival, The Green, Silloth on Solway, Cumbria
- 26 GOKF fly-in, Ferry Meadows Country Park, Ham Lane, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire

AUGUST 2009

- 1 & 2 Kite Displays at Woodvale Rally, RAF Woodvale, Formby, near Southport, Merseyside L37 7AD
- 1 & 2 Sheffield Kite Festival, Parson Cross Park, Off Buchanan Road, Parson Cross, Sheffield, S5 8AL
- 2 18th Royston Kite Festival, Therfield Heath, Royston, Hertfordshire
- 8 & 9 Whitley Bay Kite Festival, The Links, Whitley Bay, Northumberland
- 8 & 9 Kite Weekend, RHS Garden Hyde Hall, Hyde Hall Road Rettendon Common, Chelmsford, CM3 8ET
- 8 & 9 Teston Bridge family kite weekend, Teston Bridge picnic site, Teston Lane, Teston, Maidstone, ME18 5BX
- 9 GOKF fly-in, Ferry Meadows Country Park, Ham Lane, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire
- 15 & 16 1st June Webster Kite Festival, Moorcock Pub, Eggleston, Teesdale, Co Durham
- 15 & 16 26th Shrewsbury Kite Festival, Sundorne Sports Village, Sundorne Road, Shrewsbury, Shropshire
- 15 & 16 NKG fly-in, Bolton le-Sands, near Morecambe, Lancashire
- 22 & 23 Rufford Abbey Summer Kite Weekend, Rufford Country Park, near Ollerton, Nottinghamshire NG22 9DF
- 23 GOKF fly-in, Ferry Meadows Country Park, Ham Lane, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire
- 29 - 31 Portsmouth International Kite Festival, Southsea Common, Portsmouth, Hampshire



NKG Photo competition QTR 1 2009
3rd Place was Chrissy Bailey (Above)
2nd Place was Dave Bleasdale (Below)
1st Place was Neil Edwards (Back cover)



