

Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

Weymouth

We were not alone in our struggles against one of the most difficult of strong/weak/blustery and constantly changing direction winds encountered (no pun intended) at Weymouth.

Doug Manners occasionally joins us as we endeavour to fly a team ballet with tails which is, in fact, actually choreographed instead of a few movies strung together.

Sunday's conditions didn't bode well as both Doug and Marilyn took turns at tripping over the seaweed and still flying whilst laying flat on their backs. There was me barking orders for them to get in to line, only to get the reply "Oh yeah – you try doing it from down here then !!!"

Immediately after take off on one of our pair's ballet Marilyn, being much the lighter of the two of us was caught by a huge gust which sent her careering down the beach. Unable to steer the kite to safety she couldn't help but let go and could only watch in horror as about three hundred pounds worth of kite and tails went out to sea. Fortunately, Joy, one of our faithful supporters and ground crew managed to put her foot on one handle and grab the other before she fell flat on her back too! Fellow helper Mags had trousers rolled up and was prepared to make her second recovery trip that day in the water when Doug noticed that the kite, now sunk was beginning to reappear as Marilyn was trying to slowly pull it toward the shore – much like trying to land a big fish on low poundage line. As far as I know kiting history was made as Marilyn then not only actually launched a full size kite and 100ft of tail, but came back up the beach whilst the music was still playing and finished the ballet with me. – PLEASE – does anyone have this on video?

Win a kite

Anyone who has not entered the competition - we have had some good photos sent in but the final judgement is not ours - so it is still wide open!

You can win a Prism Hypnotist and instructional DVD, together worth nearly a hundred pounds for just entering a photo of the good lady wife, Marilyn and me to our web-site www.closeencounters.co.uk.

The picture best liked by our sponsor, Kiteworld.co.uk will be announced on the Saturday of the Bristol Kite festival (Sept 1st).

Kite talk

Kite traders sometimes have to walk a fine line between customers' rights and what is often clear to

be downright misuse. Some kites are fragile things capable of giving fun and enjoyment within certain limitations, unfortunately they are not indestructible and occasionally the claim be made "it was like it when I took it out of the bag". The kite makers and sellers that I know are a good bunch they don't want just to sell you a kite; they want you to come back to buy lots of kites, each one a little better (and perhaps a little more expensive than the last. I make no apologies for talking about kites which are given to us by sponsors like Kiteworld. If other manufactures want to do the same, Marilyn and I will fly them in the main public arenas for all to see and write about them too – hello – I'm waffling again.

The point is HQ Invento have sent me another batch of kites and toys (including air-gliders) and some of those kites are pretty near indestructible. Michael from Kiteworld, was remonstrating with me not to deliberately slam these kites into the ground, as people would expect all kites to stand up to that sort of treatment, but I do try to make it abundantly clear at the time.

I also try to show that, although relatively inexpensive, kites like the Bolero at around £30, the Salsa at £45.00 ish and the slightly more expensive Jive around £55.00 are all excellent kites for beginners and novices. They can learn the basics of keeping a kite in the air and even move on to a trick or two (several more with Jive) without the breakages that are likely to deter them from keeping their next kite. If you only have the odd two line kite in your collection and it happens to be a bit of a blunderbuss Wellington bomber that you could never do much with I would indeed like to suggest the Jive. Its not overly expensive and produces a nice solid pull easily put into a stall from which you need to be able to do to start most tricks, the Jive is actually built for trick flying so no surprise to find that it will go on to its back for a lazy Susan and roll up manoeuvres, As usual all of these are in our bag for you to have a go with – just come over and ask. See more pictures on the web site



Still To Come

There are some other very interesting kites to talk about in the next issue including some good, single line lifters, some comical oddities such as Charlie and a zeppelin and, at last, the Phoenix has been superseded, to the better in my opinion

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by the Maestro. HQ have withheld sale of their fairly large Manta Ray due to a stability problem. I

have one and as I write Brighton Kite Flyers have accepted my challenge to find a solution – photos on website.

I heard a rumour that Dodd Gross might be making his way over here again with his "Flight School". I have not been a fan of Dodd's kites I only ever owned one - a vented jam session I bought from Scott Dyer of BFK in Las Vegas - and that broke almost every time I used it...! Perhaps I'll reframe it one day in Skyshark. However I now have a "Techno" by Newtech (in Close Encounters team colours of course). I have found this one to



be excellent for teaching with especially for axles and other flat spin moves. It doesn't appear to be designed for roll up tricks (confirmed by the lack of JoJo stoppers) but it's a lovely three quarter size kite to fly, strongly built and, amazingly, under £80.00. I am looking forward to the French Connection series including believe it or not a "French Kiss" in time for the next issue.

Also – look out for the new "Zephyr" from Prism

Bags of Kites

I'm always going on about fly before you buy – and we do carry a lot of kites with us when we go to club events, festivals or winter leagues – often providing practically the only kites flown on the day. Consequently we (me) often have the Mickey taken when it takes so long to get it all back in the car. This has started to make us a bit of an authority on Kite carry bags of late. Our top three are...

One custom made for us by Chalkie of Kiteworks. Its very strongly made, water proof and we have never had a problem with zips or seams despite all we regularly cram in to it. We had made an extra long outer compartment big enough to carry a large tube of spare rods and that must take quad line as well as a few other odd bits which would get lost in the main section.

HQ do a very nice, lighter, softer but still very strong bag (again in our team colours). This one has a compartment to keep kites separate and some excellent, see through inner compartments for lines, pegs, handles etc.

We have just acquired a rather good, strong bag from NewTech with two large outer compartments all well made with strong zips.



HQ Invento also make some lightweight bags. I found these really useful as long as I didn't try to give them too much punishment. They would be very strong but it appears that the thread used in their manufacture is not the best so you may want to get out the sewing machine (or in my case – call on one of your mates) to make it a really successful buy.

Apologies

Yes I know I said I would review the new John Barressi signature kite but I have not had time to do much more than balloon popping at festivals with it so far (Probably a bit like running a Rolls Royce on paraffin?).

I do have one in the bag which you are welcome to try – I think it looks quite good don't you?

.....team colours again!

See you at Brighton, Portsmouth, Margate and in the next issue

~ **Allan**

