

# COWPAT HILL

Journal of the White Horse Kite Flyers  
Winter 2026 January - March



# Dates for your diary

## 2026

### January

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

### February

- Sunday 8th - Club fly-in at Barbary Castle

### March

- Sunday 8th - Club fly-in at Barbary Castle

### April

- Sunday 12th - Club fly-in at Barbary Castle

Subscriptions for new members for 12 months from December 1<sup>st</sup> 2025 £20 (including 4 issues of Cowpat Hill and kiteflying insurance at events). £7 for each additional family member. Renewals will be reviewed annually. Personal Liability Insurance £13 per person.

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"THERE'S YOUR PROBLEM... A BLOCKED VALVE.  
YOU NEED TO REDUCE YOUR CHOLESTEROL!"

## **A bit from the editor**

Many thanks to the committee for pulling the AGM minutes together and to Dave for the cartoon. Please if you have anything do get in touch at [andrewrumming@me.com](mailto:andrewrumming@me.com)

Good flying

Andy

## **And more dates for 2026**

May 2nd-4th	Broadhaven
May 8th -10th	Jolly Up
May 21st-26th	Margam Park
June 6th	Poundbury (Dorchester)
June 27th -28th	Aberdovey
September 5th -6th	St Annes
September 12th-13th	Portsmouth
September 26th-27th	WHKF Fun Fly

# Kite Making Tips

I love a gadget and recently purchased two. The first is a pair of magnetic LED flexible lights, one of which is for my sewing machine. These are not particularly new, but they work a treat. The magnet is really strong which on a metal black singer gives you loads of options. Its also great for other machines as long as they are metal bodied. £11 for 2 on eBay - you cant go wrong.

The second is a magnetic flexible lazer guide. I have a 1939 black singer that I use for 90% of my sewing and 99% of my kite making - it did not come with a lazer guide. For some reason at 11.30 at night whilst looking at eBay on my phone, between Christmas and New Year, after a beer, I decided that after 34 years of using my machine and getting on fine, what I REALLY needed was a lazer guide..... So after quite a wait it arrived. The build quality of the base was pants. Thats a technical term in case you were wondering. After finding all the bits in the packaging that had popped apart, I put it back together plugged it into the USB socket and had a go with it. It projects a lazer line, and by rotating the bezel you can focus and change the orientation of the projection. The bezel and lazer are fine and well made. Like the light it fixes to your machine with a strong magnet. So I was busy making a Peter Lynn heart kit and thought I'll use it for the seam allowance (no pencil line to sew along). So I did but to be honest it didn't add anything as I am used to doing this by eye with no pencil sewing line, or occasionally using a bit of tape on the edge of the bed of the machine. Basically I don't think I have a use case for it. I'll hold onto it for a while but unless you can think of exactly how it will add value to your sewing I would forget it. It along with the magnetic lamp also clutters the machine. Oh well!



# WHKF AGM AGENDA 2025

Date: 16/11/2025

10.00am Hook Village Hall

SN4 8EA

## **Welcome By President.**

Thank you all for coming to The AGM today, it is a bit different from our very first AGM which was held in a lambing tunnel up at Barbury.

I hope that you all have a good meeting and come forward with good, if not brilliant ideas for the future of WHKF.

First of all I must apologise for being a very poor President this last year. I have had a bad year, first I lost Sue in March after many years of poor health and by the way thank you for your donations to Asthma and Lung Foundation to which we donated just just short of £1,000. In the meantime I thought I was under stress because of the circumstances, but I was seriously ill with the co-occurrence of PMR which I had about 24 years ago and my COPD did not help. Being a stubborn old cuss I would not accept that I was ill for longer than I should have. This meant my energy levels were very, very poor so it was an effort to do much at all. Hence me not being around that much, on top of that I keep on getting chest infections which knocks me back even further. Which even caused me to miss this year's Fly-in to which I am sorry for. The trouble is when I put the pedal to the metal there is no response, the connection is broken.

I must thank the Committee for all the hard work they have done during the last year and in a year when many of them have had their on health problems and I do hope that they like me look forward to a better year next year. Old age never comes alone, I was wondering whether we should call the Club "The Grey Old Nags Kite Flyers" but that would be an insult to our younger members. Still I hope that we all can find that magical fix in 2026!

I had a great boost to my moral when I saw the "BIG LEGS" being flown at Lytham St Annes this year by our trusty members. It filled my heart with pride to see them in the air and what we as a "Club" have achieved over the years. I would love to see "The Beast" fly again sometime? Those were the days!

We now come on to the present day and the future of "The Club"? As I have already said most of the committee have past their sell by date and cannot do what they want to do for "The Club" and we will have to rely on the younger members but we are short on these and will have to try and encourage more to join our merry band. It is not just a problem for our group but all types of clubs at the moment and I do not know what the answer is. Maybe someone today will come up with that answer?

I have been going on for far too long so let us get on with the proceeds and have "A Good AGM"

Thank you.

## **Apologies/Attendance**

### ATTENDEES

David Cross  
Alan Holden  
Andrew Ruming  
Gerry Monaghan  
Martin Crowther  
Allen Coates  
Mike Houghton  
John Elvin  
Charlie Peace  
Steve Parsons  
Paul Parsons  
John Browning

### APOLOGIES

Arthur Dibble  
Mike Stephens  
Sheila Stephens  
Pat Mabon  
Chris Mabon  
Stuart Parson  
Paul Chapman  
Alan Outram

## **Minutes of last meeting.**

Agreed.

Proposed Alan Holden

Seconded Dave Cross

Unanimous

## **Matters arising. (not elsewhere on Agenda)**

No Matters Arising

## **Chairs report/address.**

Another year passes into the annals of WHKF, a year that yet again was marked with both joyous and sad times. The saddest being the passing of Sue Harvey, the ever supportive and long-suffering wife of Neil our President. The members' thoughts and

prayers continue to be with Neil and his family. Members of the club ensured that WHKF was represented at numerous events, and I thank them for flying the flag (kites) on our behalf. Both Arthur and I attended the “non-event” at Broadhaven and can confirm that it remains a wonderful beach for flying.

2026 sees the return of the WHKF/MKF Kite Rendezvous, this is a completely relaxed, unstructured weekend on one of the most scenic beaches, where flying is only restricted by one’s own ability and the state of the tide. The club continued to provide children’s workshops and supply kits to schools and youth groups.

The club, thanks to the auspices of Mr. Bob Cruickshank, also held several Indoor flying sessions which proved popular, NB. the flying does not appear to be restricted to kites!

September saw the annual Fun Fly take place and whilst support was somewhat lower than in the past a good time was had, and I must thank all those involved for their hard work and continued support.

For the first time in several years the club held a kite making workshop, the kite involved was a “FLAKY 24 S” designed by Johannes Reisser who led the workshop. Over the course of two days 8 participants attempted to complete this unique kite with varying degrees of success.

The innovative design and construction techniques proved to be challenging. I have since learnt that all participants have now completed the kite and some have made more than one. Thanks once again to Bob C for all his work organising the workshop.

Moving forward the club needs your continued support if it is to survive, the significant few are getting older and fewer in number. The club really does need more members to step up to the plate and take on roles and tasks if it is to survive another year.

In closing I thank those significant few who have supported both the club and myself over the past year.

## **Officer’s reports.**

### **a.Cowpat Editor.**

Challenges this year with location of equipment for running the newsletter.

Next year will be smoother because of the set up.

Please keep sending articles through.

Thanks, from Nog for the cartoons.

### **a.Hon Treasurer.**

Looking at the balance sheet, the club is still strong with a value of over £4,000.

Looking at the income and expenditure for the year, income is made up of 2 core sources, general and the fun fly, with expenditure similar. Looking at just general income and expenditure, membership has remained strong, but the insurance costs have increased by an above average amount.

Looking at the fun fly shows a difference picture, with income significantly down, due to numbers, but fixed expenditure, for hire of equipment and venue, remaining high.

The club has declared a £1,400 deficit but this is totally predicated by the loss on the fun fly.

Cash and Bank Balances sit at c£2,700, making the club still a viable going concern.

Hire and food for today's meeting is included in the figures as it relates to the 2024/2025 year.

As the auditor has stepped down after this year, for personal reasons, Martin Crowther has offered to become auditor from 2025/2026.

### **Acceptance of accounts.**

Proposed Martin Crowther

Seconded Alan Holden

Unanimous

### **Election of officers:**

a.Chair

David Thompson

No other nominations

a.Hon Secretary

NO NOMINATIONS

a.Hon Vice Chair

Andrew Rumming

No other nominations

a.Hon Treasurer

Helen Peace

No other nominations

a.Hon Assistant Treasurer

Arthur Dibble

No other nominations

## **Election of Committee Members.**

David Cross  
Martin Crowther  
Kevin Griffiths  
David Robinson  
Janet Robinson

All agreed

## **Appointment of Auditors.**

Martin Crowther has volunteered.  
Proposed David Tompson  
Seconded Alan Holden

## **Close Official AGM Business**

### **Future for WHKF.**

WHKF exists not just to provide membership and insurance, but to grow the appreciation of kite flying. There is a political agenda of moving things to the North and kite flying is no different.

There is a glimmer of hope with Poundbury festival in June 2026. It is a unique village environment, run by the duchy of Cornwall. It would achieve an opportunity to add something to the southern kite festival agenda.

Local interest may be high, and it may well benefit the future of the club. Please support this event and, if you know of other events, where WHKF could attend and put on a show, let us know because we will willingly attend.

If we can get into local school and get children flying kites it will benefit all. If you know of schools who may be interested, please let us know.

An article of the back of the kite flyer contains erroneous statements regarding the event so please don't use this as the source of information for the festival.

### **Future of Fun Fly.**

We have had quite a lot of feedback from the fun fly and camping has been mentioned by a few people. The general view is that we are charging a derisory amount for camping so that is something we will look at next year.

The biggest financial impact, however, is the equipment hire and we need to look at alternatives around that.

Various options are available to discuss, e.g.:

Could we use the cricket club in its entirety? This would reduce the equipment hire costs.

Are there other venues we can use and re-site the event?

We are considering all options and will look at the fun fly again at our next meeting in January. If you have any suggestions, prior to that meeting, please let us know.

We do know that, if we don't make a decision on changing the event, we will have only one year left as future viability become impossible.

### **Future of BKFA/ INSURANCE.**

BKFA is dormant, Barbara plus us keep the club going, prices should not change much, issue is we are the only club with above 50. May be some benefit to clubs who have members who don't fly.

8 clubs in BKFA.

Northern and Midland have their own groups. IN southern England we have 7 small and WHKF.

Current situation with Northern and midland regarding Personal insurance. Their membership includes personal insurance based on their understanding. Hasn't been tested and none would survive a serious test. Northern have different insurance provider but large numbers.

### **AOB**

AR mentioned a workshop he would like to organise. Initial interest is good so will proceed, arrangements to follow.

Allen Coates suggested we reinstate the Christmas Pudding Fly-in. This was agreed – he will organise.

The KIT volunteer post was raised again to see if anyone is interested. Gerry has said he will take this on – he will liaise with Janet.

Suggested charities for the annual 50/50 donation were requested. Sue Harvey charity, plus Children's Hospice South West both suggested.

<b>WHKF</b>	
<b>Management Accounts</b>	
<b>2024/2025</b>	
	<b>Analysis for Year</b>
	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	
Membership	667.00
Personal Insurance	500.00
Kits	104.90
Donations	-
Miscellaneous Income	346.00
Write Off Capital Loans	-
<b>FUN FLY INCOME</b>	
Food and Drink	297.00
Raffle/Auction	404.50
Camping	35.00
Other Income	
Donations	28.50
	-
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>2,382.90</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
Kit Costs (excluding postage)	-
Kit Postage	7.45
Postage and Stamps	40.80
BKFA	70.00
Storage Fees	200.00
Stationery	-
Club Insurance	997.25
Depreciation	84.70
Meetings	99.00
Miscellaneous Costs	236.00
<b>FUN FLY EXPENDITURE</b>	
Food and Drink	306.98
Venue	200.00
Equipment Hire	1,495.20
Other Expenses	67.99
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>3,805.37</b>
<b>INCOME LESS EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>- 1,422.47</b>

<b>WHKF</b>			
<b>Balance Sheet</b>			
<b>2024/2025</b>			
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	
Balance b/f	847	941	
Additions	0	0	
Sales	0	0	
Depreciation	85	94	
	763	847	
<b>Net Value of Fixed Assets</b>	763	847	
<b>Other Assets</b>			
Stock	888	900	
Bank	2097	4208	
Cash	612	258	
Prepayments	0	0	
	3597	5366	
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Loans (from Initial Members)	0	0	
Accruals	431	0	
	431	0	
<b>Net Value of Assets</b>	4791	6213	
<b>Represented By</b>			
Retained Funds brought forward	6213	6963	
Surplus/Deficit	-1422	-750	
	4791	6213	



**An excellent raffle at the 2025 AGM a kite makers paradise! Many thanks for the donations.**



# White Horse Kite Flyers Code of Practice

**Always** fly safely

**Always** be considerate to others using the same area be it noise or physical intrusion into their space.

**Always** fly legally taking in to account all National, Local and CAA restrictions. **Never** fly at a height of more than 60m above ground level, in the UK unless a CAA clearance is in force. (as at festivals) IF YOU DON'T KNOW.....ASK.

**Never** fly a kite in wet or stormy weather. Always try and keep you line dry.

**Never** fly near power lines, transmission towers or aerals.

**Never** fly near airfields.

**Never** fly a kite with anything metallic in the line.

**Always** when tethering a kite ensure that the ground anchor is suitable (see BKFA report 6 June 06).

**Always** use a brake line when flying large kites.

**Always** wear good quality gloves when flying large powerful kites.

**Always** give priority to domestic animals particularly if they are showing signs of distress.

**Always** clear up after yourself, especially lines, tails and bits of plastic that could trap, choke or injure domestic or wild animals.

**Never** fly near kite-eating trees.

**Note the use of traction kiting at Barbury Castle is forbidden by law.**

**Finally remember.....your kites can get really quite lonely up high in the sky; just occasionally, look up and give them a SMILE. It will make you feel better too.**

WHKF meet at Barbury Castle country Park on the second Sunday of each month

This issue edited by Andy Rumming, Please send articles to [andrewrumming@me.com](mailto:andrewrumming@me.com)