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THE BRITISH LEADER IN  
HANG GLIDING EQUIPMENT

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22 Eastbourne Gazette, Wednesday, March 2, 1983

## BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

# 19-6 VOTE FOR HANG GLIDERS

pretty responsible' he said. 'If there is any nuisance we can think again, but I think it will be unwarranted.'

The council agreed by 19 votes to six, with two abstentions to enforce a permissive by law.

### Control

For the permissive by law: Mr Alack, Mr Paul Hoasman (L. Downside), Mr Colin Beley (Cons, Hampden Park), Mr Dick McMahon (L. Hampden Park), Mr David Tuff (L. Langney), Mr Alan Shuttleworth (L. Langney), Mr Mepham, Mrs Stevenson, Mr John Hoaly (L. Roselands), Mr Colin Swansborough (L. Roselands), Mr John Martin (L. St Anthony's), Lady Houstoun Boswall, Mr Harfey, Mr Cullen, Mrs Raven, Mr Michael Tunwell (Cons, Devonshire), Mr Ted Dobell (Cons, Devonshire), Mr Ellis, Mr David Jeffries (Cons, Ocklynge).

Against: Mr Roland Hutchinson (Lab, Hampden Park), Mr Enser, Mr Bruce Kerr, Mr Mason, Mr Hindliff, Mr Aldous, Mr Abstantious, Mr Maurice Skilton (L. Downside), the Mayor Mrs Goldie Gardner (Cons, Upperton).

Mr Ralph Winsor, an Eastbourne committee member of the Southern Hang Gliding Club told the Gazette: 'We applaud the decision of the council. It gives the club more control over its activities as well as giving the council control.'

But Mr Harry Comber, representing the Sussex Ramblers Association was not so pleased. 'I am very disappointed with the decision. The councillors have effectively reversed the decision of earlier councils to preserve the Downs so that all members of the public might have unrestricted access free from all dangers.'

Key to the parties: (Cons) - Conservative; (L) - Liberal; (Lab) - Labour.

### REPORTS BY SHARON DAVEY AND CHRISTOPHER COWLEY

AFTER months of debate and speculation Eastbourne Borough Council have finally come down on the side of hang gliding at Beachy Head.

Fans of the controversial sport will now be able to fly high over the cliffs subject to a permissive by law passed by the council on Monday, which specifies that they must not cause a nuisance or danger to other members of the public.

But the council banned the use in the area of micro-light gliders with engines.

Representatives of the Southern Hang Gliding Club and local amenity societies, who have made known their aversion to the sport at Beachy Head, were both present at the meeting.

Ratton Conservative councillor Mr Adrian Bruce-Kerr asked the council to adopt a prohibitive by-law, which would ban hang gliding on the cliffs.

### Support

'I am not sure if there is any support for hang gliding in the town,' he said. 'The people who support it do not come from Eastbourne. I think we should support the people in this town and if every councillor did this they would be voting against the sport.'

Mr Steve Alack (L. Downside) retorted, 'I am very much in favour of a live and let live approach to our open spaces. I feel that hang gliding is a totally legitimate and acceptable sport that has the support of a large number of people of all ages.'

Lady Houstoun Boswall (Cons, St Anthony's) said, 'I don't see why we should prevent these people from having the simple enjoyment of this beautiful, unpolluting sport at Beachy Head.'

'Very little has happened to warrant the extreme measure of banning anything,' said Mr Derek Ellis (Cons, Devonshire). 'It is a healthy, quiet and attractive sport for which Beachy Head is eminently suitable.'

### Threat

Mr Charles Aldous (Cons, Upperton) said Beachy Head was bequeathed to the people of Eastbourne for their enjoyment 'without the threat and disturbance of people whizzing over their heads. There is great disturbance and suffering to the birds and wildlife in this area. There will be pollution of the environment up there. A permissive by-law will do very little to stop it.'

Mr Leslie Mason (L. Roselands) said the farmers on the Downs were very concerned about the sport there. 'I am not opposed to hang gliding, but I am opposed to it at this spot.'

Mr Andrew Mepham (L. Langney) said the Red Arrows, who frequently visited Eastbourne, were equally dangerous. He was in favour of the sport at Beach Head, he added.

Mrs Freda Stevenson (Cons, Ratton) said the sport only took place on the Downs on about 17 days a year. 'I feel there is a little

intolerance about it. I admire the spirit of these young people. I am sure many of the elderly in this town can remember the adventurous spirit when they were young.'

Mr Leslie Hindliff (Cons, St Anthony's) said he had received a letter from a man who was 'nearly decapitated' by a glider landing just above his head, and another from a person who witnessed a hang glider landing on the road.

Mrs Kathleen Raven (Cons, Meads) told the council, 'The sport seems rather fun. If it is controlled properly I cannot see any reason why it should be banned. If people get in the way they can expect to get hit.'

Mr Peter Harfey (Cons, Upperton) said the risks from golf balls and horse riders were equally dangerous on the Downs. He said the hang gliders had agreed to a code of conduct for safety reasons.

### Letters

Mr Pat Enser (Cons, Ocklynge) said, 'I am opposed to hang gliding. Beachy Head is a national beauty spot, and I implore you to think what we are letting ourselves in for.'

The council received 178 letters against the sport and 13 supporting it, said Mr Dennis Cullen (Cons, Ocklynge).

'But I feel these people have shown themselves to be

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CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOMED FROM ALL, IF YOU HAVE AN INTERESTING STORY TO TELL OR JUST A GLIDER TO SELL. WRITE IT DOWN CLEARLY AND SEND (OR GIVE) WITH ANY PHOTOS TO CHRIS BARTRAM, WINDSOCK, 80, TRAFALGAR STREET, BRIGHTON. BN1 4EB. note SEND S.A.E. IF MATERIAL TO BE RETURNED. ALL ITEMS MUST BE IN BEFORE THE 25th OF THE MONTH, FOR PUBLICATION IN THE FOLLOWING MONTHS MAGAZINE. WINDSOCK IS NORMALLY POSTED ON THE 1st OF EACH MONTH.

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CHEQUES SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO THE " SOUTHERN HANG GLIDING CLUB ".

# EDITORIAL

WELL AS YOU CAN SEE THE CLUB HAS NOTCHED UP A VICTORY FOR COMONSENSE, AT BEACHY HEAD. HOWEVER HAVING GOT TO THIS STAGE IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO BECOME TO COMPLACENT ABOUT FLYING AT BEACHY. PLEASE LETS SHOW EASTBOURNE COUNCIL THAT THEY HAVE OUR SUPPORT, OBEY THE CODE OF PRACTISE AND BE POLITELY INSTRUCTIVE WITH MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC. SPECIAL THANKS ARE DUE TO RALPH WINSER WHO HAS TIRELESSLY WORKED FOR THIS AGREEMENT, ALSO DAVE BLUETT, ADRIAN WITMARSH, PETER HARRIS, AND THANKS TO SOUTHDOWN SAILWINKS, ULTRA SPORTS,, VINCE HALLAM AND OTHERS FOR LETTERS OF SUPPORT SENT TO THE COUNCIL.



## Facts about the hang gliders

I READ with interest the recent letters from your readers on hang gliding. In answer I would like to say the following.

Hang gliding is controlled at Beachy Head by the Southern Hang Gliding Club. This club is a member club of the British Hang Gliding Association, the national body who is ultimately responsible to the CAA.

A strict code of flying has been agreed between the club and Eastbourne Borough Council and in the 10 years that hang gliding has been at Beachy Head an excellent safety flying record has been evident.

Every member of the club has compulsory third party insurance up to £800,000 yet the premiums for this are less than £10 because hang gliding is classed as low risk.

The club does not seek any exclusive use of Beachy Head and wish to fly in harmony and peace with other users.

I hope the above points have answered most of your readers' questions. If any of your readers would like to know more please could they contact Ralph Windsor, SHGC, telephone Eastbourne: 448207 or myself, telephone Brighton 689499. — Chris Bartram, Sites Officer, Southern Hang Gliding Club, 80 Trafalgar Street, Brighton.

For this and other equally important reasons the council has passed on several occasions a resolution to obtain a by-law, banning the spectator sport of hang gliding from Beachy Head. Finance was the reason for delaying the application.

### REMEMBER THE DEED

CONSTANT pressure by hang gliders for the use of the downland is in our opinion a challenge to the Eastbourne Borough Council and we believe an important principle is involved.

We consider members of the council to be trustees of downland owned by the Eastbourne corporation, and as trustees, we suggest they are legally obliged to administer the property solely in accordance with the purposes specified in the original title over deeds. — *Leslie Hurley, Eastbourne Ratepayers Association, Buckhurst Close, Eastbourne.*

*EASTBOURNE HERALD 26-2-83*

### SAVE THE DOWNS!

*EASTBOURNE HERALD 26-2-83*  
THE downland of the Beachy Head peninsula was acquired earlier in the century by Eastbourne Council, to be held in perpetuity for the benefit of the people of Eastbourne. Since that time the council has been responsible for its upkeep and preservation as an area of outstanding natural beauty.

Over the years there have been a number of pressure groups wanting to use part of Beachy Head for their own particular sport but wisely this has always been resisted by the council, who rightly consider that the Beachy Head peninsula should be left as an important natural beauty spot and natural amenity and not be dominated by one particular activity.

For this and other equally important reasons the council has passed on several occasions a resolution to obtain a by-law, banning the spectator sport of hang gliding from Beachy Head. Finance was the reason for delaying the application.

Now I do not think that many of the residents of Eastbourne are aware of the fact that at the council meeting on February 28, there is to be a resolution before the council (which has already been passed by the health and public protection committee) to pass a by-law that will give

unlimited numbers of hang gliders from anywhere in the country total freedom to take off and land at Beachy Head at any time they want to and totally unsupervised by any council official.

This is contrary to all the resolutions passed before. Surely after all these years of careful management by Eastbourne council this is not going to be thrown away for if this resolution is passed it will be the beginning of the end for this nationally recognised area of outstanding Natural Beauty and Heritage Coastlines as we know it today.

If this resolution is passed I think it will be time for all societies and people interested in the preservation of Beachy Head to insist that the whole area be handed over to the National Trust for their responsible management of this unique area. — *R. H. Charlwood, Birling Gap Road, Beachy Head, Eastbourne.*

## Gliders win by-law backing

BIRDMEN at a picturesque Eastbourne beauty spot are not going to have their wings clipped.

After months of controversy the council decided yesterday not to ban hang gliding at Beachy Head.

Eastbourne has set a precedent by becoming the first council in the country to introduce a permissive by-law, not a prohibitive one, to govern sport.

This means hang gliding will be allowed, but if sportsmen break a code of conduct laid down by the council and cause a danger they will be prosecuted.

"We are obviously very pleased with the decision as it is a sensible compromise," said Southern Hang Gliding Club chairman Dave Bluet after last night's meeting.

"We are entirely in support of the code of practice and we will report any of our own members who break it."

Members of local rambling and amenity societies called for hang gliding to be banned, saying it would be a danger. But councillors were told that over the last year the sport had been carried out at Beachy Head only 17 times.

Liberal councillor Steve Atack said: "There seems to have been a bit of a witch hunt against the gliders. I think there is plenty of space for everyone on the Downs."

On a 19-4 vote Tory councillor Adrian Bruce-Kerr's motion to ban the sport was defeated.

EVERYONE ARGUS 1-3-83

HAVE YOU SENT YOUR BHGA  
VOTE BACK TO THE CLUB YET?  
IF YOU ARE NOT GOING TO THE AGM  
LET THE CLUB USE YOUR VOTE.  
SEND IT BACK NOW.



## CLUB NIGHT

AT DEVILS DYKE CAFE.

NEXT CLUB NIGHT IS MARCH 26th SAT NIGHT 7.00oclock .FOR THE NEXT MEETING THERE WILL BE "THE BEACHY TV.AM VIDEO" ONE THAT JOHNNY CRRR AND MYSELF DID WITH TV.AM. ALSO MICHAEL CARNET AND DAVE CLAYTON GIVING A TALK PLUS BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND BILL (BLOB) NEWTON.

# THE E.G.M.

Extra-Ordinary General Meeting of the S.H.G.C.

Saturday 16th April 1983

Devil's Dyke Cafe

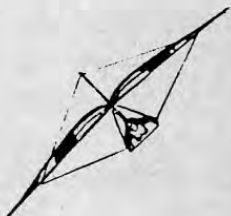
THIS WILL BE A MEETING TO DECIDE WHAT THE CLUB FEE WILL BE FOR NEXT YEAR.MARK IT DOWN IN YOUR DIARY AND DONT FORGET.

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(Nov '83)



# MAYOR GOLDIE BLASTS THE BEACHY HEAD GLIDERS

CODE OF PRACTICE HASN'T WORKED,

TUESDAY 15th FEBRUARY 1983

## GARDNER TELLS LEWES CONFERENCE

AT A countryside conference in Lewes, the Mayor of Eastbourne, Mrs Goldie Gardner, launched a bitter attack on hang gliding at Beachy Head.

She was replying to comments by Mr Bill Newton, of the Southern Hang Gliding Club, who told the conference, 'We need not money, but hills which face into the wind for take off and landing.

'Beachy Head has been a bone of contention but it was only used 17 days last year by a small number of hang gliders.'

He said hang gliders needed several sites to choose from according to weather conditions.

Mrs Gardner said hang gliders were not wanted on the Downs.

'I don't care two hoots if hang gliders hurt themselves,' she said, 'but you don't always know where you are going to land.

'You could plonk down on a picnic party. Downland was purchased for the enjoyment of the people.'

Mrs Gardner went on to say that the voluntary code of practice for hang gliders, agreed between the Southern

By CATHERINE  
RENDALL

Hang Gliding Club and Eastbourne Borough Council, had not worked and cars with hang gliders on top monopolised the car parks at Beachy Head.

Mr Newton disagreed. He said most people felt the code of practice had worked. The permissive by-law, due to be passed, would allow hang gliders to fly from Beachy Head under the club's control.

The day conference was called by the county council to discuss regional recreation strategy. It was chaired by Mr Noel Mackilligin, the chairman of the county council environment committee; Mr Albert White (Conservative, Hove); and Mr Robert Bromley (Conservative, Winchelsea).

Mrs Gardner attended the conference in her capacity as a county councillor. Eastbourne Borough Council was represented by Mrs Theresa Williamson (Liberal, Ratton) and Mr Bill Leach, the Downland manager.

Lewes District Council representatives included Mr Roy Bleach (Conservative,

Seaford), and Mr Richard Stammers, the chief technical officer. Wealden District Council representatives included Mrs Ann Haig McVitty, the chairman of the environmental health and recreation committee, and Mr Ken Tomlinson, the director of technical services.

Mr W. A. Kingaton, the estates officer for the National Trust, said public access to the countryside was essential but had to be gained without spoiling what people had come to see.

Facilities needed to be spread out as many leisure activities competed for space, he said.

Putting the farmer's point of view, Mr David Monnington, of Upper Stoneham Farm, Lewes, said a 1981 survey showed 38 per cent of local landowners provided more access to their land than was legally required.

But increasing public access to farmland introduced problems, including cattle straying, fire damage, litter and rubbish dumping.

'The population all expect to be fed but expanded rights of access carry with them responsibilities,' he said.



East Sussex

1983 COUNTRYSIDE CONFERENCE

"ACCESS TO THE COUNTRYSIDE"

ONE DAY THIS LETTER ARRIVED  
IT SAID AS SITES OFFICER OF THE  
S.H.G.C. COULD I GIVE A TALK  
TO "JUST" A 100 DELEGATES AND  
THE DELEGATE LIST READ LIKE A  
WHO, S WHO OF THE COUNTYS MOST  
INFLUENTIAL BODYS, IE MINISTRY  
OF AGRICULTURE, NATIONAL FARMERS  
UNION, ALL BOROUGH AND COUNTY

COUNCIL REPS, ETC. PANIC SET IN THE MOST I HAVE DONE IN THIS VAIN IS TO ABOUT 15 PEOPLE SO I APPROACHED BILL NEWTON WHO AS A TEACHER DID HAVE GOOD EXPERIENCE IN THIS AREA, FORTUNATLY FOR ME BILL AGREED TO GO ALONG. WE PLANNED A 15min LECTURE/SLIDES, THEN IT WAS SIT BACK AND TAKE THE STICK. BILL DID THE LECTURE THROWING IN SOME PUNS LIKE THE ONE ABOUT THE SPECTATOR STANDING ON THE EDGE OF BEACHY CLIFF WAVING TO BILL FLYING (MUCH TO BILLS HORROR AS THE CLIFFS ARE NOT SAFE) THEN WHEN BILL LANDS THE PUNTER COMES UP TO BILL AND SAYS "ISN,T THAT DANGEROUS UP THERE".BILL HAD THE CONFERENCE IN UPROAR AND DID A FANTASTIC JOB IN GETTING ACROSS THE FACTS ABOUT HANG GLIDING. AT QUESTION TIME ONLY TWO PEOPLE VOICED DISAPPROVAL MOST OF THE DELEGATES HEARTLY ENJOYED BILLS LECTURE. AFTERWARDS BILL DID AN INTERVIEW WITH RADIO BRIGHTON, AT THE END OF THE DAY HANG GLIDING CAME OUT WITH FAVOUR AND IT IS HOPED THAT THE CLUB MAY HAVE MORE OPORUNITIES LIKE THIS IN THE FUTURE.

CHRIS BARTRAM.

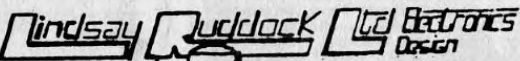
DALES FLYING HOLIDAY

Fancy a week's flying holiday in the Yorkshire Dales? We already have a cottage booked for 23rd-30th April and have a few places still available if anybody is interested. Cost works out about £20 each plus food and petrol.

What we are really looking for is a mini-bus (e.g. Transit or Sherpa type) that we can borrow, beg or hire cheaply.

If anyone has access to a mini-bus and/or would like to join in please contact me as soon as possible.

Adrian Whitmarsh  
Home (0403) 55761  
Work (0825) 5055



JAN  
84

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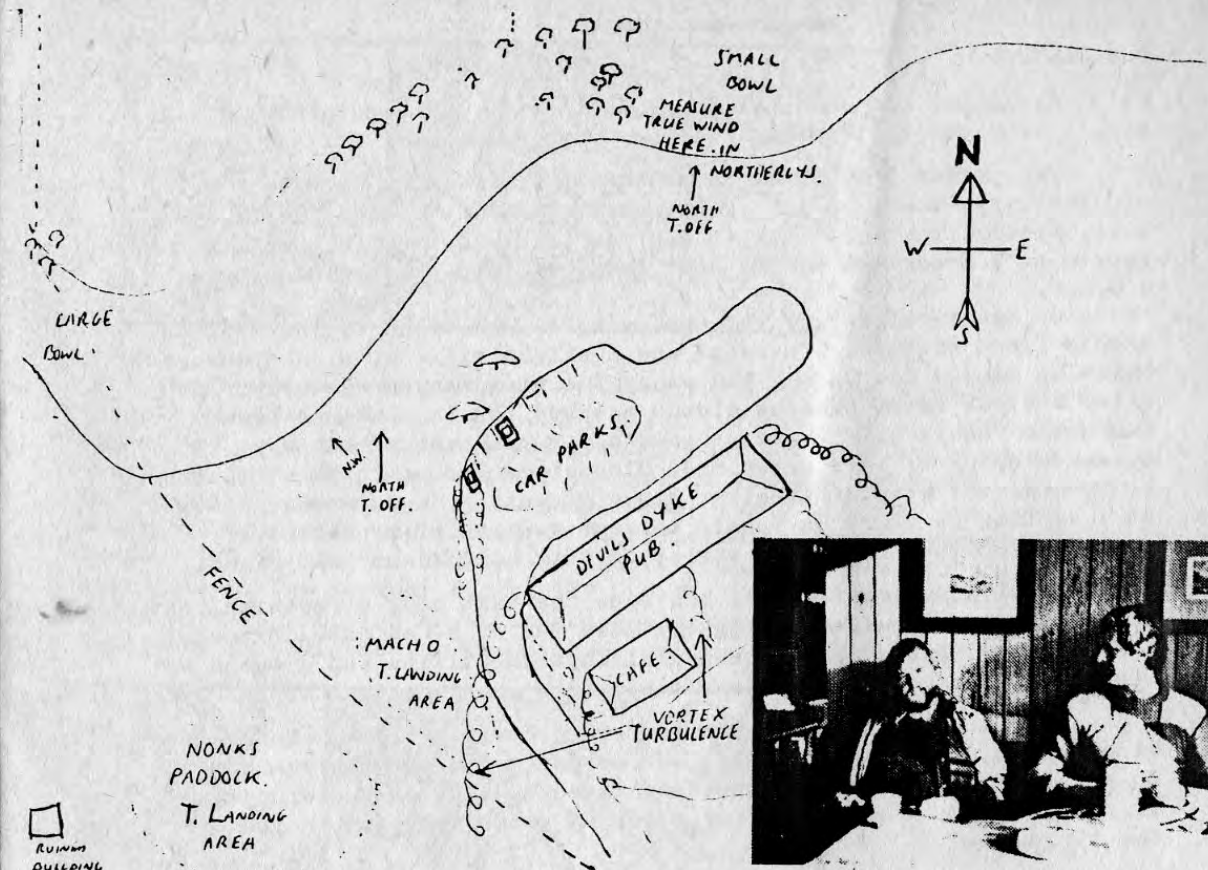
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DAVE C (ON RIGHT) TELLING DAVE BLUET ABOUT "THE NASTY BITS".

**"D. EVILS" AT THE DYKE.**

CHRIS BARTRAM HAS ASKED ME TO WRITE AN ARTICLE ON THE NASTY STUFF YOU CAN GET AT THE DYKE. (FORTUNATELY NOT OFTEN). FIRSTLY, IN STRONG NORTHERLY STABLE WINDS i.e. INVERSION DAYS, THE NORMAL "MACHO TOP LANDING AREA" IS IN "WIND SHADOW" FROM THE PUB AND CARPARK. ROTORS & TURBULENCE ARE GENERATED AS THE WIND CURLS ALONG THE PUB BUILDING AND OFF ACROSS THE REAR OF THE LANDING AREA. THE UNWARY FIRST SUSS THIS WHEN YAW TURNED BY ROTORS TOWARDS THE PUB, EVEN JOHNNY CARR HAS BEEN "LOCKED OUT" ONCE HERE. IN CONDITIONS LIKE THIS NONKS PADDOCK IS A SAFER BET (BUT REMEMBER THAT THIS AREA SLOPES AND YOU CAN GROUND EFFECT ALL THE WAY, IN NORTHERLYS, OFF THE SLOPE) SECONDLY IN WESTERLYS (NOT A GOOD DIRECTION FOR THE DYKE) IF YOU FLY ALONG THE RIDGE INTO THE BOWL (LARGE) EXPECT A VERY NASTY SHOCK, AS THIS BOWL IN WESTERLYS IS IN WIND SHADOW FROM THE NNE RIDGE IN FRONT OF IT.

DAVE CLAYTON (SAFETY OFFICER)

ED. NOT SO LONG AGO A SUPERSCORP PILOT DISCOVERED THE HARD WAY WHAT WIND SHADOW MEANT IN NORTHERLY WINDS (STRONG). ON THE GROUND IN THE NORMAL TAKE OFF AREA THE WIND APPEARS 15-18mph BUT WAS IN FACT 20-25mph (IF MEASURED OUT OF SHADOW IN SMALL BOWL) THE SUPERSCORP PILOT ENDED UP WITH A WRITTEN OFF GLIDER, HE WAS UNHURT LUCKLY.

WEATHER SPOT

The weather

DI

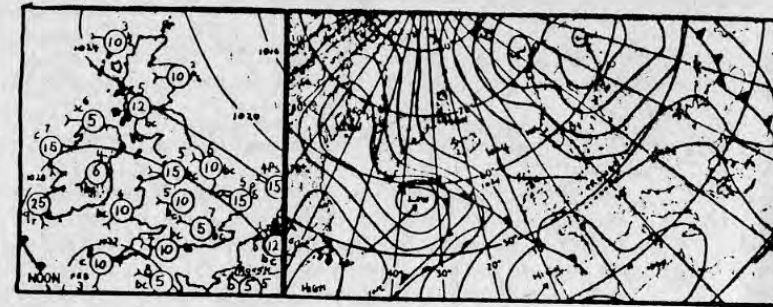
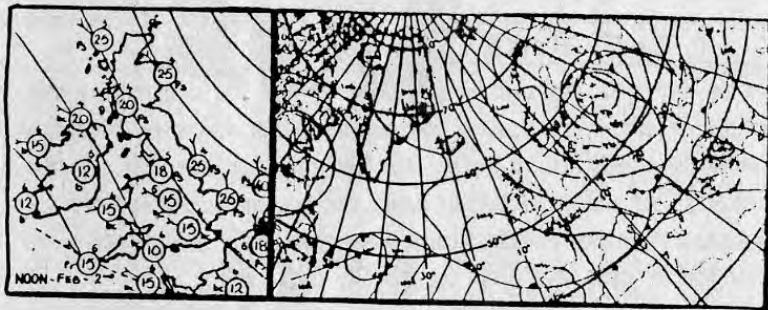
Apologies for not having any weather in last month's mag - I didn't find out that Adrian Whitmarsh was doing it until too late.

The period I'll cover this time is from mid-January to mid-February, smack in the middle of winter. The weather has been, well, wintry. The last week in Jan was fairly uneventful, with a couple of depressions coming and going, but though the wind stayed W or SW.

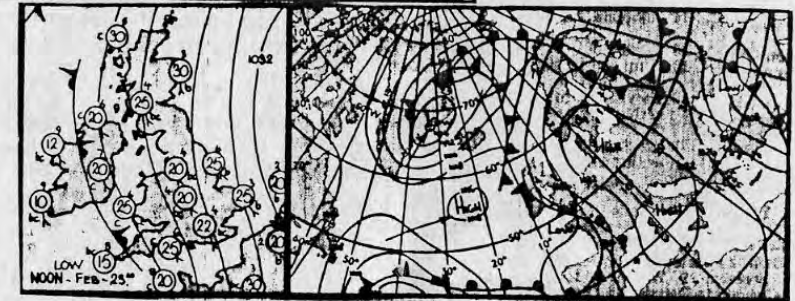
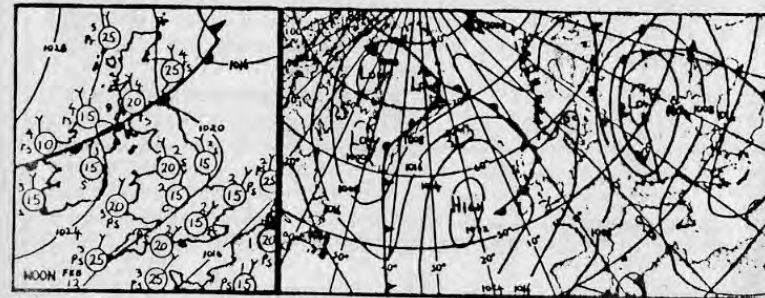
On the first day of Feb, however, things began to look better. A cold front cleared, (Tuesday) and a slight ridge of high pressure built up behind it. On the Wednesday the wind stayed westerly, but after a clear start cumulus clouds started forming (around 10am) and a slow convective cycle proceeded for the rest of the day, it overdeveloping by late afternoon. Cloudbase seemed to be a reasonable 2-3 grand, out with distinctive cloud streeting, a rare enough sight at this time of year. Obviously the combination of lapse rate, condensation level and wind variation with height was just right.

Conditions were exactly the same the next day, streetwise, but the pressure had built up slightly more the wind had come further round to the north, cloudbase had if anything lifted and a bunch of midweek fliers couldn't believe their luck when they got to the Dyke.

Conditions were excellent for cross-country flying, though the wind was in fact too northerly, and nobody opted for the run down to the beach. The more adventurous headed upwind, as the wind was light enough, and sustained large height gains well out in front of the ridge.



The weather over the next three weeks varied according to where our air was coming from. In the map shown for the 12th we were getting arctic air from the NE. This was passing over the relatively warmer waters of the North Sea, and sea thermal convection was causing Cumulus to build up, which swept in as heavy snow storms all down the East coast. Those fliers who turned up at Firle suffered the ravages of these, flying between the showers and retreating to the car park during them. The weather eventually had the last word, and everyone ended up deriding in near-blizzard conditions at half past four. I'm sure they'll all remember it as a very wintry day at Firle!



The clear frosty nights which persisted for the next couple of weeks allowed the snow to stay as a memento, and in general the month was very cold.

As the anticyclone moved away the wind slowly went right round the clock, drawing in much drier continental air from the east and then the south. It stayed cold and clear, though light clouds developed on some days and not on others, showing that things were less constant aloft as they were on the ground.

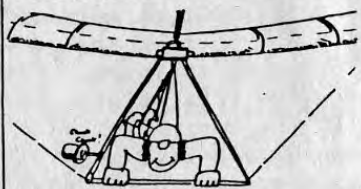
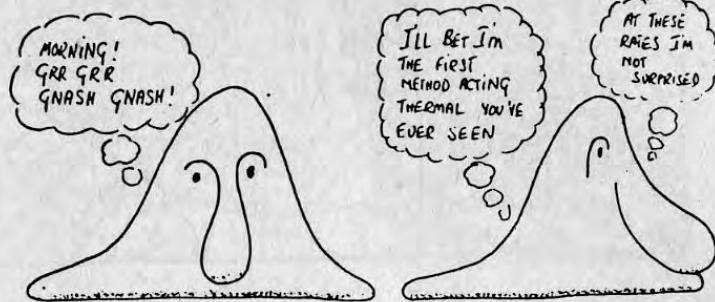
The last map shows the state of things on the 22nd, showing the high still there, (the same one as in the map for the 3rd opposite!) though the winds are by now round to the southeast, so I assume a few dangled at beachy.....

CONT'D OVER →

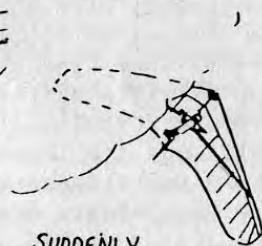
AND NOW! MORE TERRIFYING  
THAN "JAWS"!  
MORE NAUSEATING THAN  
"THE SOUND OF MUSIC"

**BLOB!**

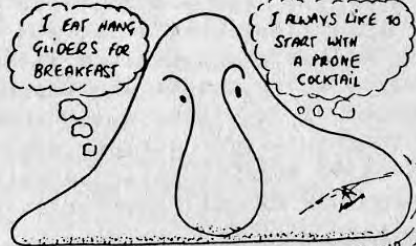
THE GREAT WHITE THERMAL!  
in DAZZLING NARROW SCREEN  
2D MONOPHONIC BLACK & WHITE!  
(BY BILL NEWTON)



MEANWHILE, ONTO THE SCENE IN A  
BRILLIANT SERIES OF LUFFING  
SIDESLIPS, COMES ACE SYMMETRICAL,  
HANG GLIDERIST EXTRA ORDINARY!



SUDDENLY  
ACE IS ENVELOPED  
FROM ABOVE...



IT'S BLOB, THE GREAT WHITE  
KILLER THERMAL!  
(YOU GUESSED, DIDN'T YOU?)

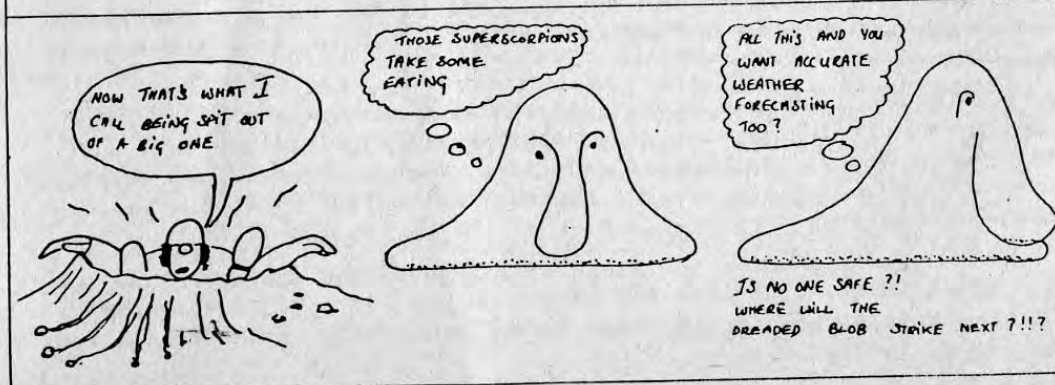
-CHOMP  
CHOMP!



SUDDENLY, ACE IS SPIT OUT  
OF THE THERMAL...

IN A FLASH  
WE REACHES FOR HIS EMERGENCY  
BACK UP SYSTEM...

AND SWALLOWS TWO ASPIRINS  
AGAINST THE COMING IMPACT



NOW THAT'S WHAT I  
CALL BEING SPIT OUT  
OF A BIG ONE

THOSE SUPERSCORPIONS  
TAKE SOME  
EATING

ALL THIS AND YOU  
WANT ACCURATE  
WEATHER  
FORECASTING  
TOO?

IS NO ONE SAFE ??  
WHERE WILL THE  
DREADED BLOB STRIKE NEXT ???

# 'FLY IN'

HASTINGS CHARITY FLY-IN MAY 7th & 8th

We have been approached by the Hastings and St Leonards Observer to launch a fund raising appeal to purchase medical equipment for the lazer treatment of spinal cancer. This will enable patients to undergo this life saving operation in England by British Surgeons instead of travelling to the U.S.A.

A working party is now being formed to organise a fly-in similar to our successful Stoke Mandeville effort at the Dyke eighteen months ago when we raised over £1000 which was subsequently delivered personally to Jimmy Saville at the Hospital by microlight.

Naturally the papers want to see the flying tasks undertaken at Hastings Cliffs and it will get full Sussex press coverage although we will strike out for National and T.V. South. As a large scale supporting feature there will be a microlight meet on the cliffs and a number of these aircraft will be doing their thing for the benefit of the media and spectators so that something happens even if we cant do the tasks in the event of wrong wind directions. Something has to be laid on at Hastings for this weekend for the benefit of the supporters, sponsors and public. Certainly all the credit and reflected glory will go to the Southern Hang Gliding Club.

If we cant fly, then the task will be done the next flyable weekend on ANY Southern Site - e.g. Firle, Dyke etc. As before there will be trophies for best flying results and for outstanding sponsorship/contribution efforts. This time there will be equal opportunities for intermediate flyers as well as the Aces. Trophies will be awarded for both catagories and everyone entering will receive an impressive achievement certificate.

Next issue of WINDSOCK will contain full information sheet and sponsorship forms. In the meantime please phone me if you are prepared to assist, be a marshall, or put your wives or girlfriends at my disposal !!!.

If you havent already got one, we have an illustrated booklet 'Soaring Hastings Cliffs' send an s.a.e. and 30p (cost of printing only) and this will put you in the picture if you have not already flown Hastings Cliffs.

Peter Harris Tel (0402) 432042

**AIRTIME**  
hang gliding

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NEW SCHOOL COMING ON THE SCENE,  
KELVIN WILSON AND DAVE PERRIN ARE STARTING UP A NEW TRAINING SCHOOL ON THE DOWNS.  
KELVIN & DAVE WHO WORK FOR SOUTHDOWN SAILWINGS AT PRESENTHOPE TO START THE SCHOOL  
IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS.

ONE FOR THE NOSE

By Peter Harris

On the rare occasions that I achieve something (in my biased opinion) just the teeniest bit above average, or notch up a personal best - I immediately seize the opportunity to boast. With characteristic hang gliding immaturity I let as many people know in the shortest possible time.

It is with pardonable pride therefore that I claim the January "Idiot of the month award". Having selected a spot immediately above a slab of concrete I hurled myself down vigourously for a pre flight hang check having forgotten the elementary task of clipping in.

This was greeted by hoots of derision and uncontrollable laughter from people who hitherto I had considered my friends. On reflection I don't think it was so much my bloody nose and grazed chin - as what was obviously a bewildered and rather stupid expression on my face.

I feel that this qualifies for a 'boobs prize' from a more sympathetic and compassionate SHGC, and would more than compensate for my humiliation, discomfort and injured pride. How about it Ed?

COMPASIONATE'''' THE S.H.G.C.? THE S.H.G.C. IS ABOUT AS SYMPATHETIC AS ONE CHAIN SMOKER TO ANOTHER WITH ONLY ONE CIGARETTE BETWEEN THEM. **ED.**

THIS SPACE COULD BE  
YOURS FOR JUST A SMALL RATE  
CONTACT  
THE EDITOR FOR FURTHER  
DETAILS.

British  
**TELECOM**

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Telex 87321  
Giro a/c 301 0007  
Our ref: S22

A P Whitmarsh Esq  
1 Maple Close  
HORSHAM  
West Sussex

8 February 1983

Dear Mr Whitmarsh

Thank you for your letter of 1 February regarding the provision of a telephone kiosk at Devils Dyke.

The matter has been investigated and whilst we have every sympathy with your Club members, the provision of this facility would not be justified because local knowledge and experience shows it would be a constant target for vandalism. Whilst your members may be prepared to 'keep an eye on it' during the periods they are in the locality, there are the hours of darkness etc which provide ideal opportunities for vandals to cause considerable damage. This would result in the kiosk being constantly unusable and involve extremely high maintenance costs.

JOKE → We unfortunately have to carefully weigh up the need against both the practical and financial aspect, and we know the income from a kiosk at this site would by no means pay its way. British Telecoms loses millions of pounds on kiosks each year and we can claim no Government subsidy, even on the grounds of social needs. The loss is made up within the rental charges raised for people who have telephones installed in their homes etc, and we cannot add to this burden.

ANOTHER JOKE → As an alternative to a kiosk, is it possible for your Club to erect a suitable brick structure to house a rented exchange line and coinbox, and keep this available for the use of your club members? The charges for installation are as follows:-

	CONNECTION CHARGE	QUARTERLY RENTAL
Exchange line	£80.00	£21.00
Coin Box (abated)	£61.00	£20.50
TOTAL	£141.00 plus VAT	£41.50 plus VAT

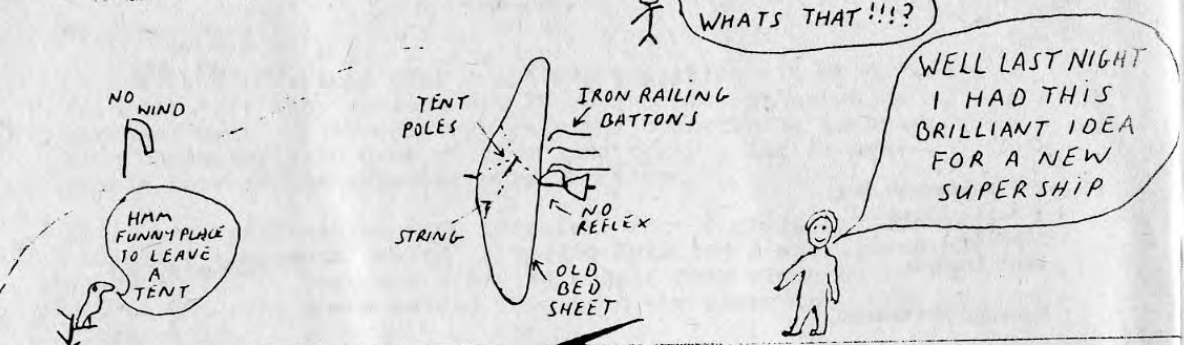
The renter receives a 26.1% rebate on all calls billed to the renter except operator connected overseas calls, transferred charge calls etc.

If it is not possible to erect a brick structure on site for this form of installation, perhaps the licensee of the hotel would allow an exchange line and socket to be placed in the entrance hall of the hotel to which your club could connect a portable type coinbox, and which would be removed when not in use. A brochure is enclosed giving details.

**ED.** THIS PUNTER THINKS THAT ITS JUST THE S.H.G.C. WHO WANT A TELEPHONE AT THE DYKE SO IN CO-OPERATION WITH IAN THE DYKE PUB MANAGER WE ARE ORGANISING A PETITION. WHEN YOUR NEXT AT THE DYKE REMEMBER TO SIGN IT.

"OH NO"  
IT'S WHIPSTALL WILLIE AGAIN!!!!

WILLIE'S BACK AT THE SITE



WILLIE DECIDES TO LAUNCH



WILLIE "LANDS!!!"



ANOTHER CLOSE SHAVE FOR OUR HERO. LOOKS LIKE HE'S SURVIVED TO COME BACK NEXT MONTH.

ANOTHER HEAP OF WRECKED GLIDER

C. TRARMAB

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