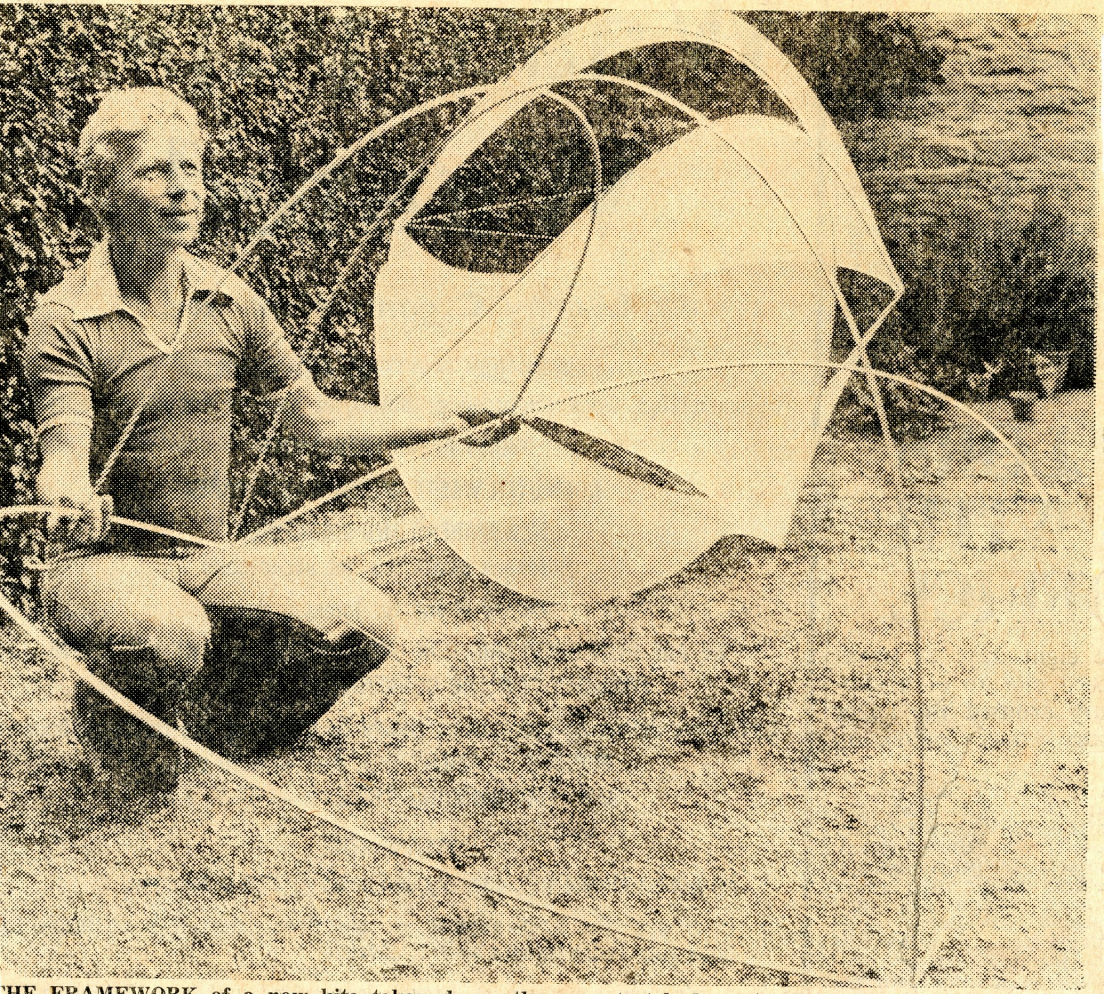
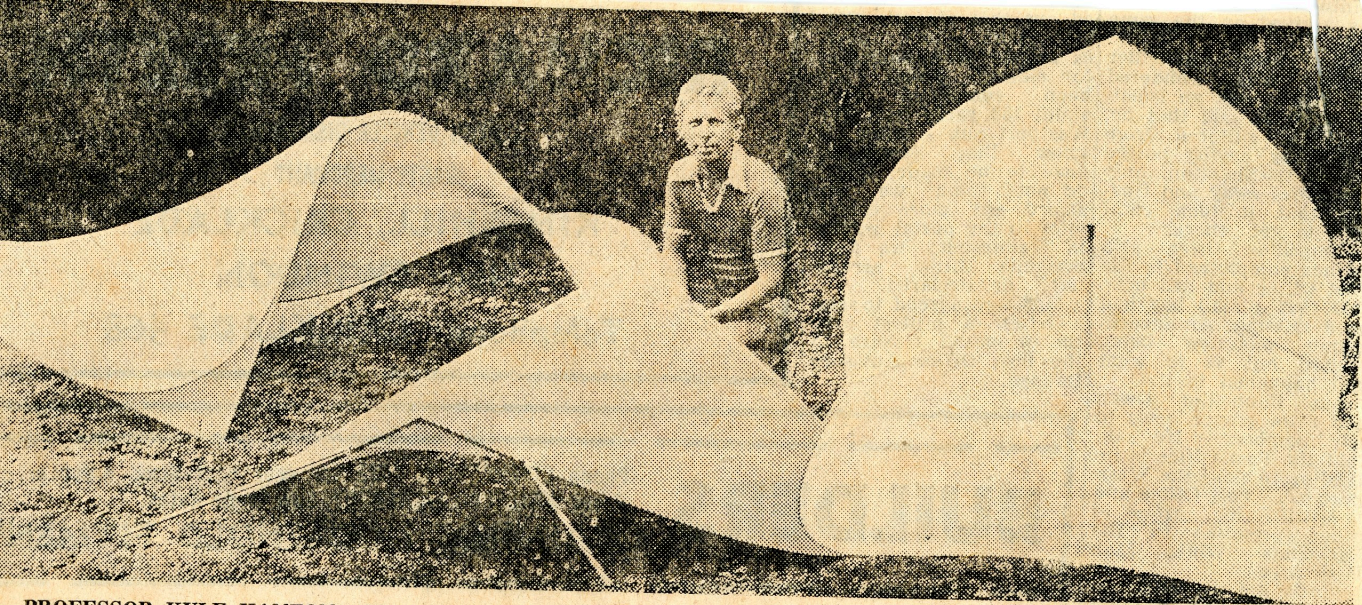


WHEN THE framework is complete, the fabric covering is stretched, and glued into position. It sometimes takes several tries to get the right result.



THE FRAMEWORK of a new kite takes shape, the pre-stretched wooden formers being glued together, and braced with string.



PROFESSOR KYLE HANTON with some of the kites he has made in this country, and which will be on show at Bampton.

BAMPTON'S GREAT SHIRT RACE

IT WOULD take more than grey skies and a chill breeze to keep the crowds from Bampton on Spring Holiday Saturday evening to enjoy the annual frolic organised by the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Junketing, the Great Shirt Race.

This year more than ever packed into the town centre, many of them visitors who as members for the Camping Club of Great Britain, had pitched their site at nearby Lew for the pleasure of joining in some of the Bampton festivities.

There were many more competitors also with a field of 30 pairs in the senior race and a large crowd of youngsters in the junior event. Their wheeled vehicles were as diverse in appearance as ever, but one could not but wonder where all the prams came from and the costumes of the competitors, whilst no longer the "Shirts" of the original race of 1952, were highly comical. Many men competitors were hard to distinguish as males for with liberal make-up, wigs, and false bosoms they ran close to being second to Danny La Rue. Neither indeed is the Great Shirt Race still limited to males only for women's lib has crept into this former male stronghold with several female entrants.

HARD TASK

There was much hilarity as competitors made their way to the Market Square to line up for Judging before the race and this year's judges Mr. and Mrs. Don Rouse had a very hard task indeed before they decided that Neil and Andrew Hitchens as "Some Mothers do have them" in the Junior section were the younger winners and Frank Piercy and John Fox as "The Potty People" deserved the prize in the senior section. The oldest competitors Mr. Ernie Hunt and Mrs. Win Woodley who topped the century between them were also awarded a deserved prize.

By courtesy of Mr. Horace Hollifield who provided a handsome broadcasting cabin, Mr. Paul Bovington was able to keep the crowd informed of items of interest, viz — that the competitors hailed from all parts of England — from Hammer-smith, Swindon, Kelms-cot, Northmoor and Leicester with the Bampton Inns well represented.

At 7 p.m. the juniors made their way to Fisher's bridge where Mr. Ernie Buckingham was waiting with his starting gun to set the wheels turning and the youngsters off on their tough task of pushing one of each pair in a rickety vehicle and drinking half a pint of lemonade at each of Bampton's nine hostelrys en route. By the time the first two pubs had been visited and the Town hall reached on the outward journey, it was obvious that this year's race would be run in good time at Anthony Collett and Andrew Bathe streaked around the corner in Broad Street. Well ahead of their nearest rivals, this pair did in fact break the finishing tape in the record time of 6 mins. 47 sec. It was some seconds before the next couple rounded the bend to the home straight and a big cheer went up for the Mary Poppins team of Jocelyn Mills and Jeffery Adams. The third place competitors were Richard Elliott and Martin Beresford.

Then it was time for the senior competitors to push down to Fisher's Bridge

to be given the "off" by Mr. Buckingham and it was not long before the field had separated into the "determined" and the "fun raising". Crowds lined the mile-long route and the merry bursts of folk in holiday mood could be heard for some distance as vehicles weaved their way along the course, with seemingly near spills at corners. The inns too were popular vantage spots for seeing the fun of trying to down a half-pinta (beer offered this time) almost on the run.

ANOTHER RECORD

Mr. Bovington had great pleasure in announcing that yet another record had been broken as last year's winners Michael Smith and Richard Snooks completed their double in 5 mins. 36 secs., closely followed by Bob and John Hudson (of London but with strong local connections) and John and Alex Wixey in third place. These last four have completed successfully many times previously and are old favourites with the crowds.

The presentation of a "pin" of ale at the pub of their choice was made to the senior winners and cups and plaques to all other prize winners by Mrs. Robert Colville, wife of the President of the S.P.A.J.E.R.S.

Collections were taken during the evening for the S.P.A.J.E.R.S. funds for distributing to Bampton's elderly residents at Christmas.