

ISSUE 64 JUNE 1999  
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# Knotting Matters

Newsletter of the



INTERNATIONAL  
GUILD OF KNOT TYERS

The logo is a circular emblem. The outer ring contains the text "INTERNATIONAL" at the top and "GUILD OF KNOT TYERS" at the bottom, separated by small gaps. In the center of the emblem is a detailed illustration of a reef knot (square knot), also known as a reef knot or reef knot.

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<b>Item</b>	<b>Price</b>
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Individual Charts	£0.20
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IGKT - Member, with logo (excludes stamp pad)	£4.00
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Blazer Badge	£1.00
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<b>Certificate of Membership</b>	£2.50
parchment scroll signed by President and Hon sec for mounting and hanging	

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**PS** Dont forget to allow for Postage

**Supplies Secretary:- Bruce Turley**  
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**email 106077.1156@compuserv.com**  
**Telephone: 0121 453 4124**

# **KNOTTING MATTERS**

**THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF  
THE INTERNATIONAL GUILD OF KNOT TYERS  
ISSUE NO 64 - JUNE 1999**

**PRESIDENT Brian Field**

**HON VICE PRESIDENTS**

**Dr Vaughan Jones FRS and Frank Harris BEM**

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**Stuart Grainger - Glad Findley - Des Pawson - Robert Chisnall**

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# KNOTTING MATTERS 64

JUNE 1999

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## EDITORS BYTES AND PIECES

by Editors  
GUILD LIBRARY

By Colin Grundy

After a number of years in the care of Jeff Wyatt ably assisted by his wife Lesley, the Guild Library has now changed hands. The new librarian is now Colin Grundy. The address is 4 Hanwood Close, Eastern Green, Coventry, England, CV5 7DZ.

The Guild has a fairly extensive collection of books and papers on knotting, many of which have been donated by members and former members of the Guild. Members should be aware that it is a reference library. Due to the fact that we are scattered worldwide and the vagaries of the postal system, I am sure that members will understand that books cannot be loaned out. However, if you have a query concerning a particular subject where the answer may be found in the library, I will try my best to answer it. It would be helpful if you note the name of the book or the author. The library will

normally be available for you to browse through at the Guild AGM's and half-yearly meetings.

Finally, I would like to express thanks on behalf of the Guild to Jeff and Lesley for looking after the library and their hard work in cataloguing the contents.



Correction to "Re Gilwell Meeting" in KM 62 page 13. There are corrections to the author's original letter.  
Jack Sheehan changes to;  
Jack Sheahan.  
Chingford Hotel changes to;  
Chingford Hatch.  
Bridgette North changes to;  
Bridgette Smith.  
Stokehole changes to;  
Stokehold.  
SS Mahara change to;  
SS Mahana.  
Shaw Savill Clifton Line to;  
Shaw Savil & Albion Line.



2000 or 2001

COMMENT

From: Ken Higgs, Suffolk, UK.

My initial surprise, at finding space being given to the purely academic, and quite futile, subject of when year

2000 should begin, turned to utter disgust when the full import of Collis's final comment hit home. Disgust both for the writers' implication that I, and my family, and the millions of faith full people in this world are 'unintelligent' – and for the fact that an organ of a non-political and non-religious organization should print such an article. Please ensure this does not happen again – stick to knotting matters only!



East Anglian Branch Meeting  
Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> March 1999 at  
The Museum of East Anglian  
Life, Stowmarket

17 Members and friends attended and in the absence of John Addis, secretary, Ken Higgs opened the proceedings allowing everyone to lay out their specialties for the bring-show-and-learn session John had planned.

At 2.00 p.m. individual knotters took the floor to speak on their own theme with an interchange of question and answer sessions. Between us we covered rope making

machines, knot boards, split-ly braiding, unusual styles of crochet, new nets from old, mat making for Cornwall and crown sinnet & knob knots in space dyed skipping rope cord.

On the business side, because some members continually travel many miles to attend meetings, everyone was asked to review other possible venues and – with the retirement of John from the Secretary's job we appointed John Halifax to the office for the next year.

Out next meeting will be at the Stowmarket venue on 25<sup>th</sup> September at 1.30 p.m.

All are welcome to visit us there where, as my knot boards will say

“COME AND GET KNOTTED  
IN EAST ANGLIA”

Written by Ken Higgs and  
typed up by John Addis

*Thanks for your help Ken*

I (John) am still at 01379  
852064 (for the time being!)



East Anglian Branch Secretary

Open Letter

By John Addis

As you see, I am going to organise the next meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> September and then hand over to John Halifax. I shall be over 70 in November and thought I would give somebody else a chance! I would like to place on record how much Audrey and I have appreciated the friendship and help we have received from Branch Members, and others during the short time I have been Secretary. Long may they prosper and hopefully grow in number. I thank you for your attention and remain

Yours fraternally, *John*



**ALF LANGFORD**

By Dave Moore

Born 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1925

Died 21<sup>st</sup> March 1999

Alf was born in Tipton, near Dudley, in the west Midlands. Tipton is crossed by two major canals and had scores of minor arms serving local factories at this time.

Alf attended Tipton Grammar School, leaving at

14 to begin an apprenticeship as a plater and patternmaker. By then he was already developing his ropework skills, having befriended a boating family named Roberts who were based at Bloomfield Basin, close to Alf's home.

Alf was one of 7 Langford children and frequently had to help care for the younger ones. An industrial accident at the age of 16 resulted in the loss of one eye.

He joined the Army in 1944 and re enlisted in 1947. Alf contracted TB while on active service in Germany and was discharged in 1952. On returning to England he took up an apprenticeship as a surgical boot maker, later becoming a transport manager. Alf bought his first boat, "Mayfly", in 1966 and soon acquired "Imp", a narrowboat he shared with his brother Jeff. A few years later he had "Hexa" built for him by Midlands boatbuilder Dennis Cooper and it was this that his many friends associate with Alf. Some time on, Alf was looking to work full time as a fender maker and decorative ropeworker, and had a small workboat built as a tender to

"Hexa" – it served as a floating workshop. He plied his trade successfully for several years and also spent time as a demonstrator at the Black Country Museum. Here he met and married Cynthia and later his son Sam was born. More difficult times followed and Alf was forced to sell the boats. His marriage failed and David Baugh, another boatbuilder in the Black Country, provided accommodation and a workspace at his yard, where Alf again resumed his trade with rope.

Declining health eventually curtailed Alf's productivity and he moved to sheltered housing in nearby Kinver, where he spent the last few years of his life.

Everyone starts somewhere. More than 30 years ago, I started with Alf. "Daeve" he said, in his broad Black Country accent, " 'yo got nice 'ondwritin'- con yo' paent the naeme on the boat'.

The year was, I think 1965. As a schoolboy I'd been drilled in Italic handwriting and was a member of the crew of my school's narrowboat tied near to Alf and Jeff Langford's

"Imp", their first boat. That first commission took me all day and earned me 40 Park Drive cigarettes. Shortly after, I moved South, gave up smoking and lost touch. In the early 70's we met again, at a canal rally. By now Alf owned a new boat "Hexa". It was similar to many others, except for the exuberance of its ropework. The brass tiller extension, over 2 feet long, was covered in a dazzling array of intricate decorative knotting, a sight I've yet to see repeated. My wife and I joined him as regular weekend crew. At the time Alf worked in a local factory, but his heart and hands lay with the waterways and their ropework. We cruised and crewed, drinking and talking in canalside pubs. Those last two were high on Alf's popular activities list.

Alf's skills were, I recall, always in demand. A set of fenders here, decorative work there and plaited leather belts were ever popular- the kind of plait done without any free ends. One night in a pub he had a stream of boaters all with broad belts that required plaiting. The boaters waited eagerly to witness this work,

but Alf was loath to reveal his secrets. To their immense discomfiture he removed his one glass eye, dropped it into his nearly full pint and departed for the gents' clutching the belts, pausing to say "Now yo' kip an eye on me pint till I gets back!"

People and times change. Once again Alf and I moved in separate ways. I heard of marriage, then a child, and later that he was alone again. We met once more when I went to letter a boat in a local boatyard. There was Alf now living ashore and making fenders in his workshop, a converted pigeon loft. Their quality was such that he was always in great demand. The roof of his room was festooned with decorative pieces in various stages of completion. We swapped pints and reminisced of times long gone, promising to keep in regular contact. Irregular meetings were the norm. Failing health put Alf into sheltered accommodation in nearby Kinver, a stone's throw from his beloved "Cut". Working there often, we sometimes met. All too often, other pressures kept me from

calling in. It would always be "next time"

A recent phone call from a mutual friend closed that opportunity forever. As I turn the mast dropper (or "donkey prick" as it's known colloquially to boatmen) I recall a unique individual who was both obstreperous, opinionated and outspoken but with a kind and generous heart. The salt of the Black Country earth who leaves us poorer for his passing.

A letter received from Mr Michael Peters-Cornwall, England. (letter sent to Nigel – Secretary, requesting membership)

You may be interested to know that since I received the information from you I have received a letter from the son in law of Clifford W Ashley (The Ashley Book of Knots) concerning the IGKT. He says 'It's a grand organisation and that I would find it very enjoyable being a member'. I look forward to hearing from you and I hope this will be a long and enjoyable association.

*Ed: we do hope so Mr Peters-Cornwall and we hope we live up to such high praise.*

IGKT AGM MAY 1999  
T.S. ORION, NOTTINGHAM

by Lonnie Boggs

Photos by Richard Hopkins  
and Bill Hubbard

After a pleasant drive early Saturday morning I arrived at T.S. Orion, an island of green well kept lawn, clean and calm next to the river Trent in the middle of the city of Nottingham. The narrow road winds around between the long buildings to a long slipway between the flap poles and the boathouse where our



Colin Grundy, up an old tree

meeting is to be held. The slipway is lined by small sailboats and the flagpoles are lined with people going up and down on ropes! Colin Grundy has a group out on the climb. Yes, it is going to be a good meeting.

Two hours are 'time warped' away just saying hello to every one and paying for my meals, raffle tickets and some materials then it's time for the business meeting.

Ken Yalden called the rabble to order and greeted everyone to our meeting and introduced some people who have come to the meeting from Holland, America and Italy.

The Secretary Nigel Harding was asked to give a BRIEF report. Which to be fair, he did, just on for 20 minutes. Postal voting for Guild Committee members has been mentioned in the last three KM's and only three letters have been received, one for, one against and one suggesting an alternative way altogether. Therefore the question of postal voting is dead. Nigel then gave a verbal report on the management-training weekend that the council members went on. It

has pointed out changes we must make to our now out-of-date constitution as well as new guidelines and policies we must make concerning training and displays at shows and fairs under the Guild name. An outline of the changes we need to make and an action plan for the next one, three and five years will be described in the Secretaries Blotter.

Linda Turley, the Treasurer then gave the financial report. The Guild is well off now with one years operating cost in the bank. The largest single expenditure being KM and the membership list when it is published. The Giro Bank account has now been closed down and anyone covented to that account should ask the Secretary for a new coventing form to change the account destination.

The new Supplies Secretary, Bruce Turley pointed out that he has brought with him the new Guild tie with the logo in gold if anyone wanted one.

Ken then explained the way the voting for council members would go. Because Brian Field has accepted the request of the present President, Rob-

ert Chisnall, to come forward as our next President, he has resigned one year early from the committee. This causes a mid-term election for the remaining year of his term. There is only one candidate for the seat, Tony Doran. There are committee members at full term and are standing for re-election unopposed; Linda Turley, Ken Yalden and Jeff Wyatt. Therefore there is no need for paper balloting as no contests are made. Brian Field was unanimously and cheerfully elected as the new President of the Guild by a show of hands, as were the committee members now being elected for the full three-year term of office.

Future events are the Half AGM in Oct 9<sup>th</sup> 1999 at the Police Training College at Guilford in Surrey. The AGM in May 2000 may have to be changed. It should have been at the Brainsburry College, Pulborough Sussex, but Nigel has been unable to contact anyone there to confirm the provisional booking. A confirmed date and venue will be announced in KM soon.

A membership profile was given by Geert 'Willy' Wil-

laert from Belgium and from Bill Hubbard from America.

In discussing the problem of getting the IGKT better known to the public, it is important to get onto the lists both local and national of special interest groups. With great effort, the IGKT is now in the list of British organizations. The problem before was that we are an International organization not a British one. But now they have been convinced that we are British enough to be included in this list held in libraries and public places. This will help us to be visible to the general public when they try to look up anything to do with knotting. You can help greatly if you each go into your local branch library and make yourself known to them as a local contact for the IGKT. Make the local press, radio, freepress and voluntary bureaux aware too. You are then the local contact for any questions and if contact is researched by outside organization. We really shouldn't hear stories like 'Willy's', of people not being able to find a contact for us.

Brian Fraasier, new member over from the states for the meeting asked if any progress

has been made to get an Ashley stamp printed in the States? Brian Field answered that Dick Blackman is still working very hard and it is still in hand to do.

Ken then announced the domestic arraignments for meals and overnight beds. He gave our thanks to the C.O. Ian Dickerson of T.S. Orion for his cooperation and the use of his well laid out and maintained facilities.

Now a break for lunch. The buffet lunch was a very good spread of salad, hot sausage rolls and dips, all washed down with good hot tea and coffee or a can of amber nectar. There was plenty for everyone and left over. Now full we return to the boat deck to see the displays and demonstrations.

Now for a review of the stalls. The first stall as you get to the door is Edna Gibson demonstrating Karakumi worked on a Karakumi dai by a form of oblique twisting giving a lozenge motif usually used for belts and hangings in Japanese Temples.

On her stall is displayed very ornate Japanese Celebra





tion cards-for giving money at birthdays and weddings. Also on her stall are Tamari, embroidered balls then covered with rope braiding.

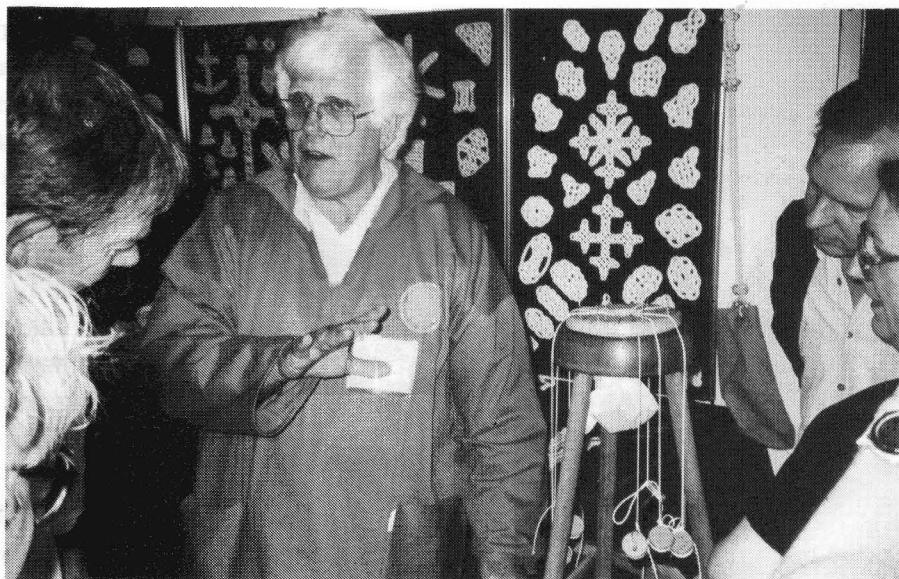
legged stool - for braiding, an old form of "French knitting".  
Vernon said he has now taken up wood turning to a good standard because of this braiding. He began by getting someone else to turn the legs and seats but soon became more interested in the

turning. Now he spends hours turning the legs, the seat with the hole in the middle and the pyrography used to mark



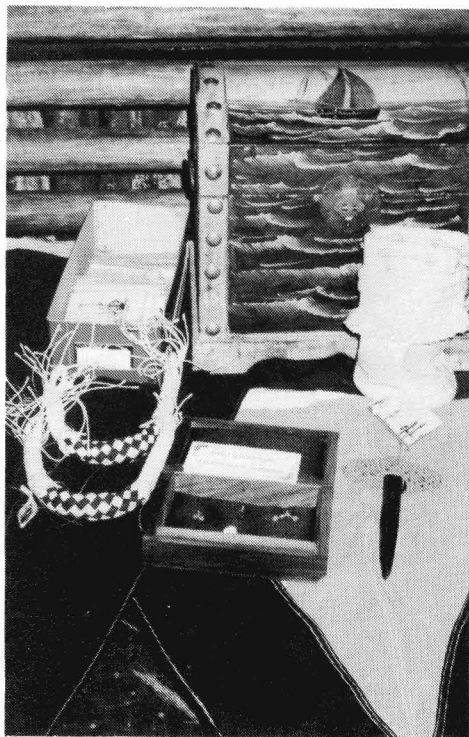
Next is Vernon Hughs and Jeff Wyatt demonstrating the use of the Maru Dai - a four-

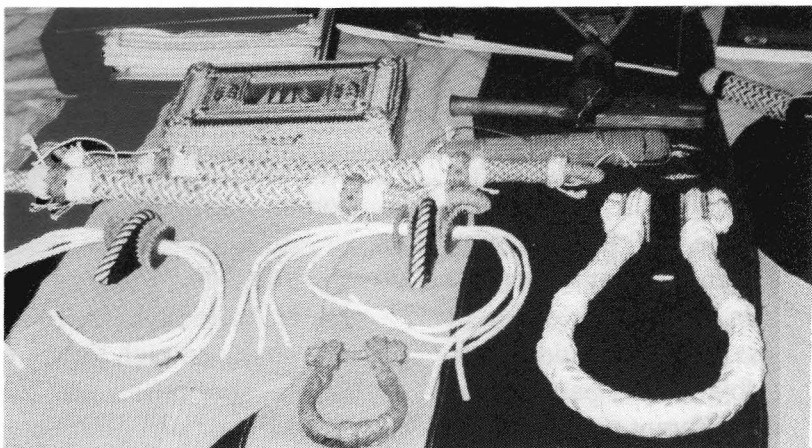
the scales and numbers. Excellent work I can tell you.



Besides helping to demonstrate the Maru Dai, Jeff Wyatt is displaying his own, always beautiful knot boards of Celtic knots and fancy knots. He seems to spend all day helping people either on the Maru Dai or doing fancy knots of his own. One on one classes!

Ken Yalden has laid out his fine, tinny earrings made in gold and black string, spun especially for him by Anne Norman of Bamton. Also there is a knotted fid by Yngve Edell on display next to the photo album of the Antwerp Collection brought over by 'Willy' Willaert.

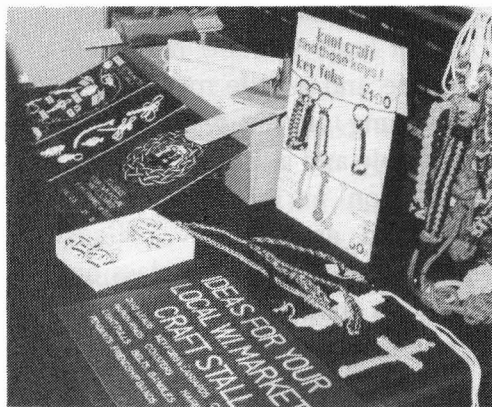




Collin Grundy spent most of the weekend (Saturday afternoon with Guild members and Sunday morning with Cadets) out side on the high rigging demonstrating and explaining climbing techniques. However he also has a display of copies of 'Technical Rescue' magazine, an organ of the fire and rescue services for advertising the latest products and techniques.

There is a large serving board, a knot covered brass needle case and jewel box (a jewel in itself), and several chest beackets and sinnets handles not yet made into beackets.

Ken Higgs had a large display of key fobs, leads & belts for selling at your local W.I. etc. (Not for sale here but used to show what can be done for local fetes etc.)



The card on the table reads:

**IDEAS FOR YOUR  
LOCAL W.I. MARKET  
& CRAFT STALLS**

Dog Leads, Key fobs, lanyards, crosses, napkin rings, anchors, costume hair bands, light pulls, belts, bangles, woggles, pendants, friendship bands.

There was a post card with 'Bug' knots on it and a map of East Anglia and knots glued on at different towns.

Sue Morris was here again, nice to see old friends, with her husband selling macramé materials, cords of different hardness, colours, and sizes, rings, dowels and patterns for making different projects from plant holders to wall hangings with animals woven in. There was a large (4 foot) macramé giraffe and a little round poodle hung on the wall behind the table and a frog on the top. Later on in the afternoon I watched as Sue gave Nigel Harding a one-on-one class on how to make a plant hanger. He did well too, working

through the different materials and knots and how to make everything even up.

Sheila Pearson displayed some Celtic crosses and a beautiful breastplate designed by the German Albrecht Dürer, called Sechs Knöten. I was lucky enough to win early on in the raffle and got a framed pair of breastplates, (a bell and a Turks head) donated by Sheila.

In the corner Bruce Turley laid out the Guild supplies and was doing a brisk business in the new Guild tie. The raffle table was once again loaded down with donations from members like large balls of string and cord, tools, books and finished items from the



Bruce Turley and Sr. Domenico Colonnese

framed knots and fancy key fobs up to a brown paper bag called "Pig in a POKE". On the back of the envelope it said, "Please don't open until all prizes are drawn".



Glad Findley and Brian Walsh

When they were opened it was a Real Swiss Army Knife on a Fancy lanyard for around your neck, donated by Brian Walsh. Good choice.

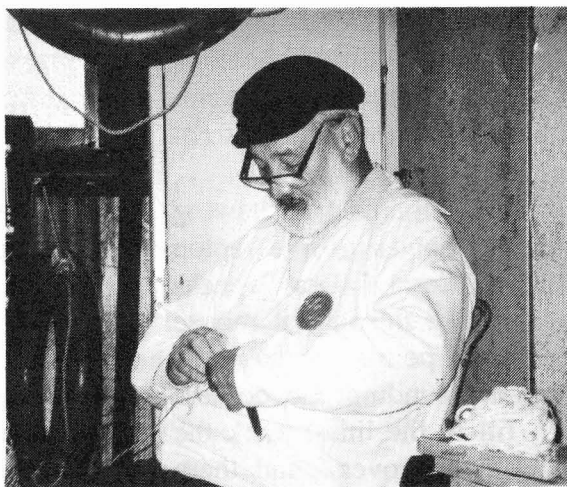
Most raffle prizes were donated anonymously but I do know that Sue Morris and especially Des Pawson donated a large amount to help the raffle raise enough to pay for any expenses for

running the weekend.

Bill Meakin was helping to organize the making of Turks Head candleholders for the tables in the mess deck. The challenge was from T.S.

Orion, for everyone who could, to make two 3L/4B Turks Heads, one flat and one in a woggle or barrel shape to then glue them together to make a rather decent candle

holder to remain here at T.S. Orion as a gift from the



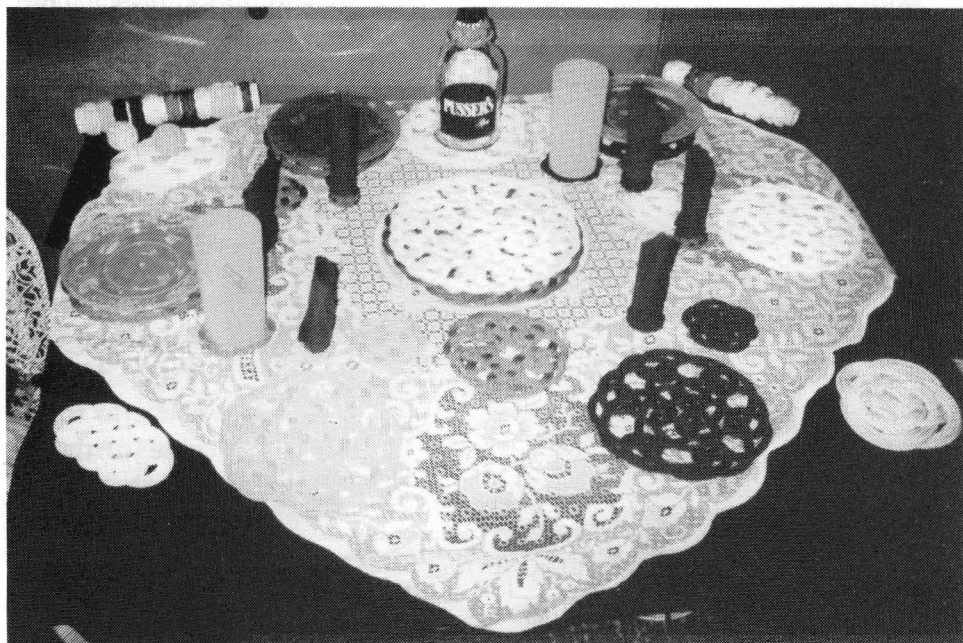


Guild.

Bill brings his knotted table services to each meeting and its always interesting to see.

ing reef knot. Ain't it wonderful! I want one!

Harold Scott (he of the two books on Turks Heads) had a

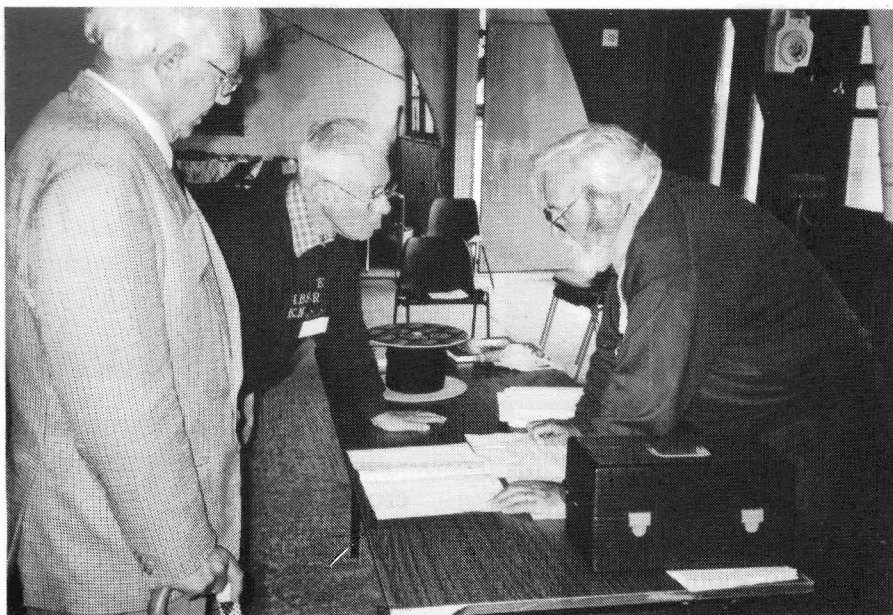


He has such high standards for the coasters, dinner mats, napkins rings, candleholders, center decorations and tablecloths. See the photo from KM62 page 46 as well.

Dave Williams was showing me the power of his laptop with a 'Coral 5 Draw' package. Using the inbuilt mouse to mark points to be connected, rounding the corners off, fill in the lines, mark the 'unders and overs' and there you have a really good look-

table full of Tubular Turks Heads in all shapes including crosses, T's, X's, a beautiful candelabrum and a walking stick covered in black and white Turks Heads.

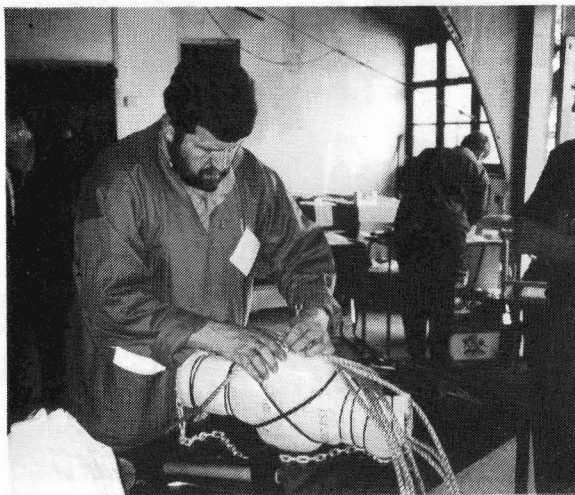
Brian Field has a table set up to explain his "Regular Turks Head Knot Tree"! Brian and I once had a discussion about this theory he has about all Turks heads being related. When he explained it to me, I felt like I understood it and pressed him to write an article



Here are Harold Scott, Don Bellamy and Brian Field discussing the merits of the Regular Turks Head KnotTree

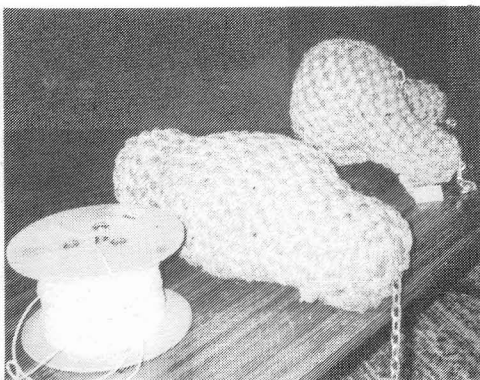
about it. Here he had three sides of A3 to show and explain his theory. There is an article for KM "On The Way", so I won't copy the tree here or try to explain how it works, but 'watch this space'.

This brings us back around to the front door, but before we go outside just a note about a big crowd puller in the middle of the room.





David Walker set up his 'Workmate' and a bow fender shaped core and began to cover it. In about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hours he completely covered and made



a new bow fender, ready for the boat. There was a good crowd around all the time. There is nothing like a man at work to draw a crowd.



Morris Smith, Terry Barnes and Dave Walker

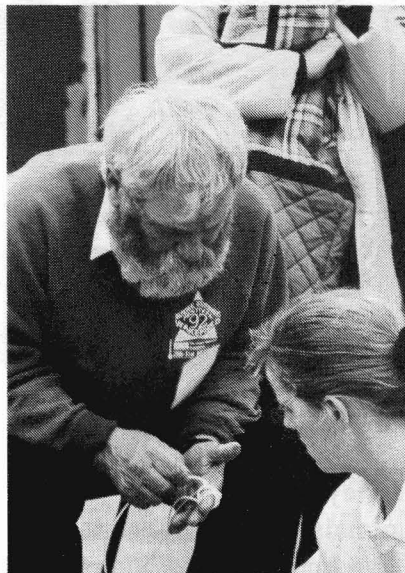




Bernard Cutbush, Fred Parker, Charlie Smith, (behind Charlie) Liz Pawson, Dave Pearson's back, and sitting behind Dave is Lt. (S.C.C.) R.N.R. Michelle Welsh. From the side are Sr. Domenico Colonnese and his wife all the way from Italy for the second year.

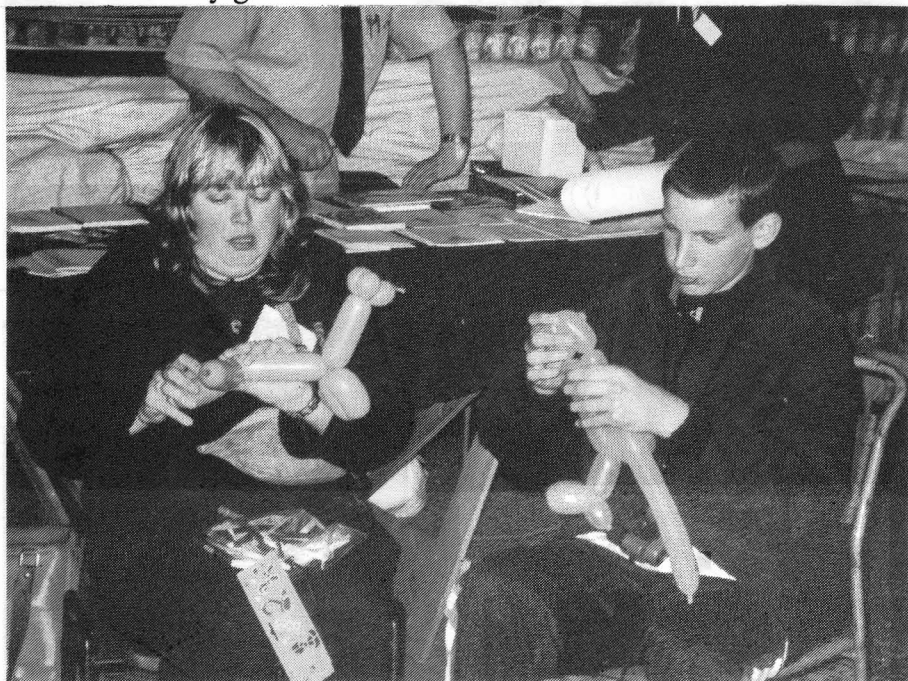


Fred Parker (Surry Branch)



Charlie Smith and Michelle Welsh

Outside Liz Pawson Peter Goldstone, Fred Parker, Charlie Smith, and Michelle Walsh were all busy doing their part to fill the quota of candleholders. Peter is organizing the Half-AGM in October at Guilford and had a beautiful nametag in sealed plastic that also said "STOP ME AND TIE ONE". Very good Peter.



Just inside the door Willeke van der Ham sits with Jamie Turley 'Tying' balloons into animals. Jamie and his Grandmother sold almost all the raffle tickets. Thank you.

On the way over to the Wheelhouse and Footrope knots to get some more stuff, 'Willy' Willaert showed me a new fancy knot and how to tie it. I can't do it now but I did tie it twice then. He has promised me he will write it up as an article for KM. He has called it the "Ellen" knot after his sister.

The afternoon melted into evening far too quickly, as these things do, and it was time for dinner. It was a good meal, inexpensive wine and good company. The service was excellent and we were all

jolly and jolly full by the end of the meal. After a few words from Ken Yalden in appreciation for the cooperation of our hosts, the hat was passed around for the tip. Fred Carington then impressed many people who didn't know he could play the organ by entertaining us all on his mighty organ with show tunes, Beatles, country and western, and even a little Jazz. Go for it Fred. We had to clear out for half an hour as one of the officers has a birthday today and we are all invited to the party later. We find the Wardroom to hide away from the rain in and very soon return to the mess deck to see streamers, presents, a beautiful cake and yet more food.

Frank Harris, Charlie Smith and I sat at one table in the corner but the rope was out almost before the beer. The evening was spent shifting around from table to table and group to group, doing, watching and talking knots. To the amusement of some, I ended up playing cards with several of the Cadets the rest of the night and all to the live music of Fred's organ. "Any requests?" Through the evening

people began to peel away, as they do, to homes, to hotels and beds. Eventually we had to move what was left of the party to the wardroom so they could clear up and make ready for breakfast in the morning. The party continued until the WEE hours with everyone jammed together in that little room doing knots, cats cradles (Memorable line from that night was Petty Officer Teresa Davie saying, "No, no. You did it wrong Charlie! Here let me show you how!"), trick knots, stories and jokes, helped along by various alcohols.

Sunday morning came crashing into me when someone stumbled in from going for a wash. After two cups of coffee and a huge breakfast (the sausage alone would feed a family dinner for four), we prepared either to leave or set up to teach. Some people had trains and buses to catch and we are always sad to say goodbye.

I went for a walk down to the river to see these canal-boats that had brought some members. Ken Nelson, his wife and their grand children Adam and Leann Prescote

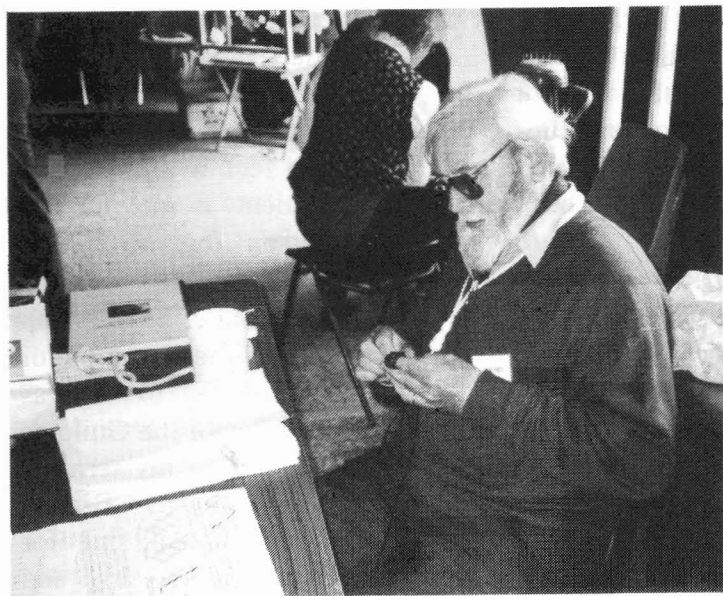
were living on two canal boats. Or perhaps more accurately, they lived on one canal boat; the other one was pulled along behind the first and was a fully equipped and laid out workshop. It had room to store and cut 4x8 foot sheets of plywood, turning, sanding sawing, painting and a sealed off corner (can you have a corner on a long thin boat with a point at both ends?) for delicate work. We got into a conversation about the ropes hanging down near the chimney pipe and what they are used for. Ken has promised to make an effort to write up what his experience is with these ropes. If it is just a copy of what he explained to me that morning, then you will all be very interested, I was!

Ken Yalden coordinated who was doing what and where. Out side Colin Grundy and Richard Hopkins were teaching practical rope climbing and the Prusik, sending Cadets up and down the tall rigging. Inside the Boat deck, Brian Field, Jeff Wyatt and Harold Scott were teaching the older new Cadets fancy knots, breastplates and Turks Heads. Most of the kids



came away with a fancy keyfob or a bracelet of Turks Heads. Tim Field, Don Bellamy and myself did basic practical knots with the younger Cadets. There was enough time to do a single Zipper Toggle keyfob (KM 51 page 14) with them and a few did a monkey fist keyfob as well. We all had to stop eventually and that was sad.

Like all really good weekends, old friends get together to enjoy each others company, greet first timers and generate lots of energy before sadly leaving very tired but happy. I'll go into work on Monday for a rest!!



## LETTER FROM A PRESIDENT

By Brian Field

On Saturday the 8<sup>th</sup> May, the Guild chose me as their ninth President and for that, I thank you all.

My early interest in ropework was in working knots and was fostered in childhood by a nautical neighbor and a brief session in the Scouts. "Scouting for Boys" held less interest for me than scouting for girl, so I left!

I came across serious fancywork during a twelve-week course at the Knottage Institute in Wivenhoe, Essex. This

institute was founded — by Captain John Knottage to teach the youth of the village the arts of navigation, boat building and ropework to ensure their employability in what was, in the last century, one of the

leading yachting centres in Britain. The ropework course is now run by IGKT member Frank Thompson but I learnt my work from Tom Harvey, a former Bosun of the Royal Yacht Britannia.

My career as a teacher left little time for my knotting interests to develop but a nine-month break from work soon led to improved techniques. When I finally left hospital, my crutches were adorned with ropework and most of the doctors and nurses who had looked after me had key rings or crosses as thank you gifts. A later spell at a rehabilitation centre lead to a nurse being

invited to “look at Mr. Field’s ropework”. She did, we met and married, and without Margaret’s tolerance and support my subsequent knotting activities would have been impossible.

Enforced early retirement from teaching, (the results of many years after effects of the broken back) forced me to consider my financial future. Retirement was great as a job description but the pay rates were poor and non-negotiable. I started to sell my fancywork on the quayside at Maldon, where I live and seem, over the years, to have become a minor tourist attraction in my own right. This has enabled me to expose the public to knotting and even to recruit a few members into the Guild.

Over the years, my chief interest has been in ornamental flat knots, and my accumulated notes were eventually published by the Guild (“Breastplates”). There followed a flirtation with Celtic knotting (“Concerning Crosses”) and I’m now looking into aspects of the “Regular Knot Tree” with a view to publicizing its very real bene-

fits to any one who ties, or tries to tie, Turks Head knots.

I will be the first President to enjoy a three-year term of office and feeling as I do that the President is not just a spokesperson for the Guild, but should also act as a means by which member’s views can be drawn to the attention of Council. I intend to visit as many branches of the Guild as is feasible during my term of office. The Surrey Branch have already booked me for their Christmas meeting and any other invitations will be welcomed (winter half of the year only, please.)

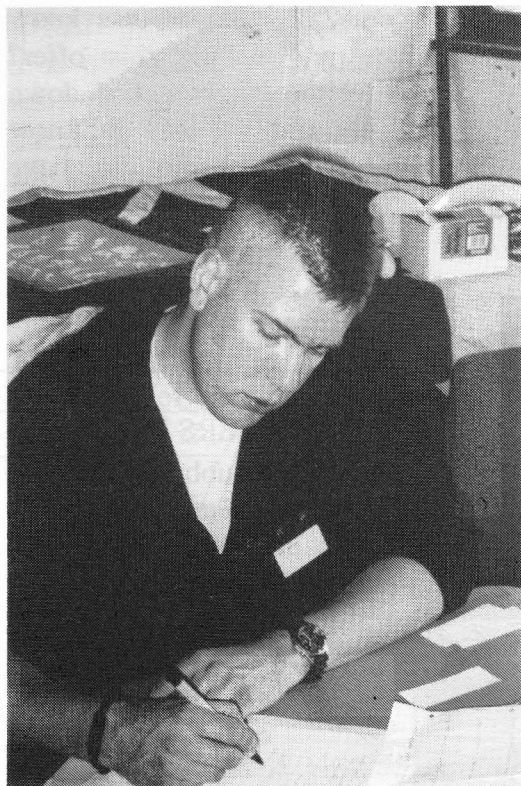
In conclusion, the congratulations of ones colleagues and the plaudits of one’s peers form an intoxicating brew. I fervently hope that my friends and colleagues in the Guild will not let this brew go to my head.

For the kind things said, for the chance to serve and for the help I know I will receive during my term of office, once again, I thank you all.



## MEMBERS PROFILE

by Geert "Willy" Willaert



When I was 13 years old I joined the local scout troop in my village of Bornem. There I learned my first knots and now, 16 years later, I have become a very interested knot tyer.

In 1990, I heard that there existed a Guild of Knot Tyers, so I started searching for it, to

join up. I looked until 1994 before I found the right address to write to. One day I went into a ships chandlers in Antwerp, where they gave me a catalogue of Des Pawson's "Footrope Knots". So I wrote to him and he did answer. After four years of searching I finally found the Guild.

My main interest in knotting at the moment is working with leather and doing some braiding. I also like to make key fobs with Turks Heads. I also make some Bow fenders and normal side fenders too. But I like to have some variations in my ropework and to learn new types of work.

My other interests, besides knotting? I'm a passionate paraglider, which I started about ten years ago. Let's say, in winter I make a lot of knots and ropework but when the sun is shining, its time for me to take off and do some flying in the Alps!

Now I have organized the Exhibition of Knots in the Museum De Zilveriger near Antwerp with the help of



many members of the Guild and there is a large photo album showing the work and displays on a stand at the back. I thank you for all the great work that has been sent in to me for the displays. If anyone wishes to come to Antwerp, my family home has room for up to two or three to stay with us. You are all welcome but please call first.

---

Ken Yalden interrupted here to ask; "Knowing how carried away young people can become, do your parents know you are making this offer? After the laughter died down Willy said, yes they did know and were happy to have guests.

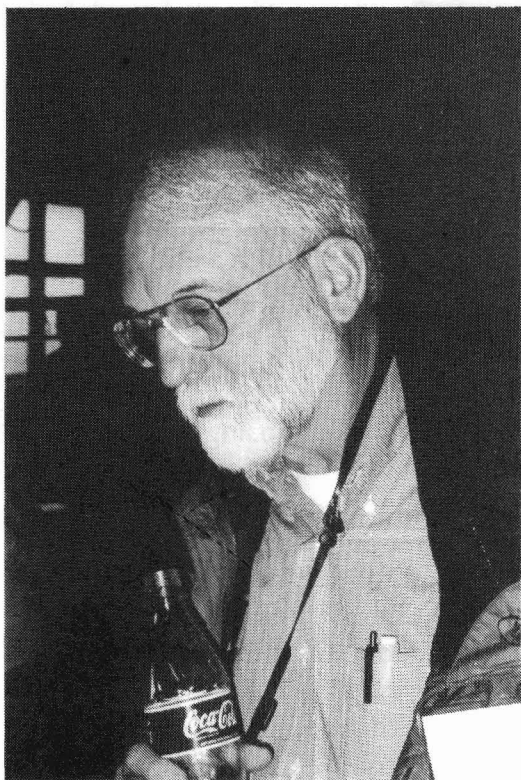


#### MEMBERS PROFILE

by Bill Hubbard, US(TX)

I appreciate the hospitality the IGKT members showed to me at the AGM. I enjoyed the day and will likely return next year.

My interest in knotting comes from Scouts. I have been active in Scouts for many years. My present interest in knots other than just tying knots is teaching Scouts and Scouters to tie knots. I learned some new things at the AGM that I am anxious to show the Scouts in the troop that I work with. I also have some pictures that I took at the AGM and have sent copies to use in KM.





## POSTBAG

### Finish the Ships Wheel Knot

From: Robin Gray, Berkshire.

I sent the following letter to Ron Haralson and said I would copy it to you.

Dear Ron,

I saw your letter in KM 62 about the ship's wheel knot. I expect other people will have different and useful suggestions, but just in case no one else responds I offer the following on the rigidity angle.

I am not familiar with the building materials industry in the States, but I assume you have access to water-based PVA glues, especially as America is often more stringent about prohibiting organic solvents than the UK. You could use acrylic brass lacquer or white shellac dissolved in alcohol but I would use PVA glue for preference.

In England these materials are found as wood glues, so-called building adhesives and also as non-toxic glues for use by children at home or in school. I have used such products in the past for stiffening fabrics and they definitely work. They are

colourless when dry, although some formulations can give a slight sheen when concentrated. (I would not expect this to be a problem in your case.) PVA glues can be diluted with water quite a lot and still give some degree of rigidity. However, you don't mention the type or weight of cord/rope you are working with, nor do I know what decisions US manufacturers might make about the percentage weight of water in their formulations. Both these factors may influence what you do.

I suggest doing trials on small sections of your selected material using

- 1) Undiluted glue (rather messy);
- 2) One part glue to two parts water;
- 3) One part glue to four parts water;

Then make the appropriate decision. If you are using a flat horizontal work surface, heavy-duty polythene is quite a good backing sheet as it peels away fairly readily, especially from diluted PVA. In a worst case scenario, move the workpiece before it is quite dry to another backing sheet and re-shape it.

You can accelerate drying with

a hairdryer, although in your part of the world I wouldn't expect that to be an issue. You have warmer weather than we do.

Hope this helps. Best wishes.  
Robin Gray

Back to my email. Sorry for the delay in sending this, but I thought other members would submit interesting advice so it probably wasn't earth-shattering news anyway and sadly communications have never been my strong suit

*(Ed: Yours was the only answer to this question, which I also wanted an answer to.)*



### More Turks Heads

From: Jim Caswell, AU (NSW)  
<jimcas@Per-Se.com.au>

Love getting my KM's. Always filled with very interesting discussion, very interesting people and a wealth of material and insights. Have been particularly interested in the material on Turk's Heads of late. Mike Wilson's explanation and illustrations of "The Disk Method" in KM61-p62 has finally "switched on the light". Thanks Mike.

However, I am prompted to write for the first time after reading the throwaway line from David Fukuhara, in his Member's Profile (KM62-p7) - which I thoroughly enjoyed David, thank you.

David, you confess that; "after 10 years of research, I made a breakthrough discovery...the easy way to tie the large running Turk's Head knots."!!! Come on David, that is not fair! You simply cannot leave it there. If it took you 10 years, what hope do I have? What is the "easy way"? Please share this with us. Thanks to Mike's article, I now understand how Turk's Heads work but this does not necessarily make them any easier to tie. How about it David? An article is called for?

I enjoyed also James Harvey's contribution on 3 x 4 Turk's Heads (KM62-p53). James' reference to "The 3 x 4 Scouting Woggle" brought back some memories. One of these was an instruction sheet I wrote to help (sort of) new "Wood Bearer's" tie their first "Gilwell Woggle". Obviously a lot of members come from a Scouting background so I thought there might be some interest.

Please note that the instruction was written with tongue firmly in cheek. Absence of illustration is intentional. This was intended as a sort of "describe a spiral staircase without using your hands" test. I actually headed the paper "Telephone Instructions for Tying Gilwell Woggle" and, every effort was made to be accurate while not adding to the confusion that most new Wood Beader's experience with this traditional task. Instruction is intended to be accurate for both right and left-handers. Please do not take the following seriously:

### PHONE INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE GILWELL WOGGLE

By Jim Caswell

Step 1. Pick up leather thong. Inspect carefully and note *the one end* and the *other end*.

Step 2. Hold *the one end* under thumb of one hand. Take *other end* with other hand. Loop the thong one complete turn over and around index and second finger of one hand, laying thong over the top of itself at completion of turn.

Call the strand that is on top, at the top, the over strand. The

other strand is the under strand, understand?

NB: The secret to tying the Gilwell Woggle is recognition of the underlying pattern of the over and under strands. The under strand always remains under the over strand, understand?

Step 3. Pick up other end, which is now on other side of over strand on one hand, with other hand (continue to loop in same direction). Cross other end over the over strand. Pass other end under the under strand from one side and back over the over strand, finishing with other end on other side.

Step 4. Hold strands together with one hand. Pass under strand from one side, under the over strand to other side with other hand.

Step 5. Pick up other end on other side with other hand and, from other side; pass other end under the under strand and over the over strand.

Step 6. Hold strands together with one hand. Pass the under strand back under the over strand to one side with the other hand.

Step 7. Pick up the other end on one side with other hand. Pass the other end under the

under strand and over the over strand.

You have now made three complete turns and, in doing so, formed a three part, five bight Turks Head of a single pass. To complete Woggle you now upgrade single pass Turks head to a double pass Turks Head. OK? Fine, then:

Step 8. Take the other end in the other hand and, following one end strand, weave the other end on one side of one end strand, under the under strands and over the over strands. Continue for three complete turns, keeping other end strand on one side of one end strand while weaving other end under the under strand and over the over strand until you have returned to one end with other end on other side of other end strand. That's it! Now, to be neat and tidy;

Step 9. Adjust diameter as required and finish by trimming the one and the other ends for neatness.

Congratulations! You have completed the Woggle.



## NAVAL NICKNAMES

By Michael Peters, UK (Corn)

As a new member of the IGKT, I have noticed that there are a number of members who have come to knot tying from a naval background. My question is; have any of you a knowledge of naval nicknames? My reason for asking is as follows. The town where I live is far from large but several of the family's have nicknames. My family's is Froggy. I have heard various theory's but I noticed in (ABOK page 367 onwards) the mention of frog knots as used on naval uniforms, mainly dress uniforms. I would be grateful for any information either through Knotting Matters or to my address.

Mr. Michael Peters  
24 Treverbyn Road  
St Ives Cornwall  
TR26 1EZ



## DECORATED WALKING STICK

By J.C. Whitelaw  
30 Beauclerk Dr.  
Top Valley  
Nottingham NG5 9BA

During a recent visit to Devon I picked up a copy of your magazine, Issue 62. I found it very interesting and my attention was immediately caught by a photograph on page 44 taken at your AGM at Gilwell Park. It showed Colin Grundy's display of his knot work, and I noticed that he had decorated a walking stick.

My wife had an accident a few years ago – has been told that she will only ever be able to walk even every short distances with the aid of two sticks. (Anything more than 20 yards and she needs a wheelchair.) I thought that it would be rather nice to buy her some really unusual ones as a surprise present.

Could anyone possibly put me in touch with the Gentleman concerned as I would like more details and if possible a more detailed photograph of his sticks.

*Ed: That very gentle man lives in Coventry and I'm sure he will be contacting you directly. I have passed your letter on to Colin and to several other local (to you) members who are excellent knot tyers and live in Nottingham. I think you may be being contacted by one of more of them to help you make your own stick for your wife.*



## NATIONAL MARITIME DAY

By Joseph Schmidbauer  
IGKT-PAB

We had a show and demonstration at the Los Angeles Maritime Museum on Saturday May 22<sup>nd</sup>. We were part of the celebration for 'National Maritime day'. They dedicated the Merchant Marine Memorial and all of the groups affiliated with the Museum showed their stuff. We had the Branch collection of knotted items on display. This by itself is, I think, getting to be something to see. We set up a tripod from which we were able to make up rope fenders as a show and tell. Some of the fenders went to friends of ours and the best one went into the collection. The members all had a good time anyway!



## POSTBAG COMMENT

By Pat Flannagan, US (GA)

Hello from Athens, Georgia. Now a few comments for the newsletter. I am so glad Ken Yalden is keeping alive Tony Fisher's idea about the Millennial Knot escapade. I had intended to write and thoroughly rave about the idea when Mr. Fisher wrote about it some issues back. After all, who could resist the photo of him waving from high atop a flagpole somewhere in New Zealand? Lets do it, I say. We could all agree to tie a knot at the same moment and/or we could tie a ceremonial knot at midnight in our own time zones. I intend to make this part of my millennial ritual in any case.

I hope you don't feel neglected Nigel, because of lack of mail. The last few issues of Knotting Matters have been wonderful. I particularly loved the series on the Prehistory of Knots by Charles Warner and Pieter van de Griend. I loved the detail and great thought these two gentlemen put into their research, and also the speculative parts about how our ancestors first figured these knots out. I tried many of the

hitches I hadn't attempted before and learned a lot. Thanks for presenting this to us. I am very isolated as a Knotter here in Athens, Georgia and I don't feel so solitary when I have beautiful, thoughtful articles to peruse in Knotting Matters.

Advice to Ron Haralson and anyone else about stiffening knots. Commercially available fabric stiffener can be applied to an entire knotted piece or even just the back to give extra body and help preserve it. In America the most widely available product is Aleene's brand but I'll bet a similar product is available in fabric stores WorldWide. Just be careful to test some samples and see how much you might want to dilute the stiffener with water. You can achieve anything from a rock hard Carrick Bend to a malleable bowknot by adjusting the mix of water to stiffener.

International knotters might be amused by one of the latest fads in America. Macramé jewelry kits using hemp cord and beads have turned up in mainstream fabric stores. Another go round on the macramé cycle. Unfortunately, most of the kits are not very well designed but will

keep some interest in knotting alive to younger generations. Fortunately, this means hemp cordage often dyed in lovely bright colors is available widely for the first time in the US.

Lastly, on a lighthearted note, I'm always looking for ways to integrate my knotting into everyday life. Display pieces just hanging on a knotting board don't do it for me. Since I don't work in a profession that uses any knots like lots of Knotting Guild guys, I'm always looking for new uses. So ladies and gentlemen, here's a way to utilize knotting in the kitchen. Take that ugly twist tie off the loaf of bread wrapper. Go fetch a length of moderately thick, attractively colored line, and start practicing your slipped knots each time you go for a slice of bread. If you don't know it already, try the Miller's knot first and you'll see why it is called that. Wrap it around your bread wrapper in ten seconds or less. Then go and try some of the single and double constrictor knots...slipped versions so you can get at the loaf again. The Linfit Quick Release Hitch submitted by Owen Nuttall from KM 62 looks great as

a breadtie knot. Tying a different slipped knot each time keeps you in practice and provides a handmade, cheery look to the kitchen counter. Additionally you can use these slipped constrictors for decorative touches to gift bags and even on recycled bottles or vases and around CD's and cassettes as gifts as well.



### CATS CRADLES

By Geoffrey Budworth, UK-KENT

Many who read the letter on page 7 of KM-63 from Philip Noble may be unaware that, while working as a missionary with the Anglican Church, he wrote the seminal book "*String figures of Papua New Guinea*" Published in 1979. A stalwart supporter of the IGKT since our early days, the Rev<sup>d</sup> Noble was also a founding member of the lively International String Figure Association and from 1978 to 1993 co-edited their annual Bulletin. Contact Philip (UK-Ayr) to find out more about the ISFA and his intriguing world of string figures.





## Early Notice

**Autumn Meeting**      **OCT 8,9,10<sup>th</sup> 1999**

**Venue**                    **‘MOUNT BROWNE’ GUILDFORD**  
**[Surrey Police HQ - Don't be put off!]**

**Hosts**                    **IGKT Surrey Branch**

**Want to volunteer to help?**

**Need a display location?**

**Wish to demonstrate?**

**Accommodation?**

**Any other needs?**



**Contact**                **Peter Goldstone**  
**‘Chouette’, 23, St Johns Rise,**  
**Woking, SURREY GU21 1PN**  
**tel    01483 763054**  
**E mail    goldstpg@apci.com**



## THE BLACKJACK.

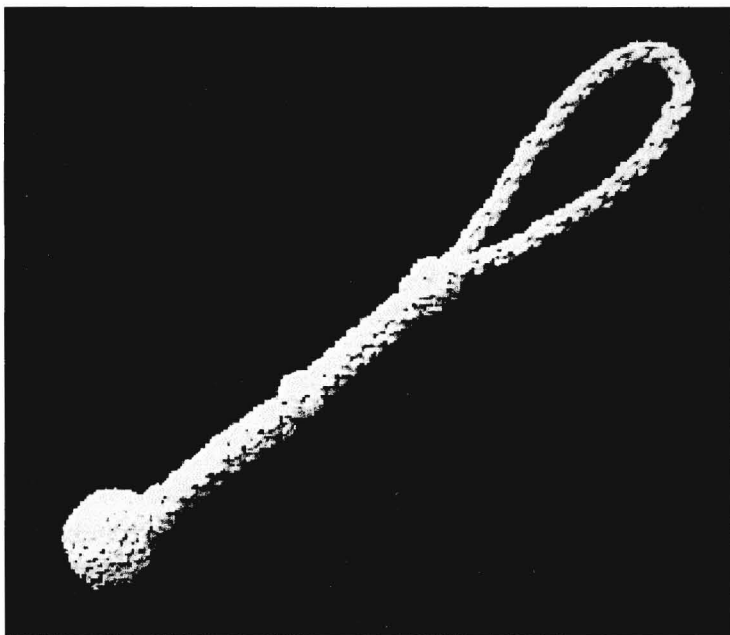
The Blackjack shown in the photograph, right, was made from instructions supplied by Karl Bareuther to Joe Schmidbauer of the Pacific Americas Branch of the I.G.K.T., who passed them to me, with a half-completed example, so that I could make a drawing. Unfortunately neither of us were able to fully decipher the instructions, so I have had to try a “free” interpretation of my own, which I believe to be quite near the original.

The eye is made by forming a six strand round sennit and tucking the ends to make a Diamond Knot. (The instructions say a half round sennit and Footrope Knot). The sample sent to me had the eye formed of six strand square sennit and, below the eye is eight strand square sennit. In my effort, below the Diamond is six strand round (really hexagonal in section) sennit of alternating Crowns, culminating in a six strand Wall and Crown, tripled.

Below this point the remaining four strands are doubled back on themselves and the ends tucked into the Wall and Crown, to make eight strands, uncut at the ends. These are then formed into eight strand double chain sennit. At the end of the sennit, the double ends are passed through the hole in a lead weight, passed back over the outside of the weight and then seized together at the lower end of the sennit. Finally the whole weight is covered with Half Hitching in cord about one third the diameter of the original cord and of the same material (braided white glaze cotton).

Note that the original sent to me was of 2mm three strand material where I have used 3mm braided glaze cotton, for the sake of my shaky hands and dimming eyesight!

The instructions required the Half Hitching to be made using the unlaidd strands of the original material, but this was not possible with braided line. Fortunately I had some identical line available in a smaller size, (about 1 mm.)



I found it impossible to reconcile the instructions with the sample, because the terminology of the translation made inadequate sense. For instance the word “join” is used to indicate different concepts. The method of measuring the original strands and seizing them together is not entirely clear from the instructions and the term “half round” is used to describe both sennit and Diamond knots, but this is not apparent in the sample. I have not been able to find a Half Round Diamond Knot in any of my reference books, although there are at least three examples of half round sennit in The Ashley Book of Knots.

Stuart Grainger, Dunchurch Hall, Warwickshire, England. 10/5/99

## ARTICLES

### TRAINING AND THE INTERNATIONAL GUILD OF KNOT TYERS

A PAPER BY KENNETH W.  
HIGGS

#### PREMISE

A motion of the Council, following requests over the years, that aspects of training should be part of the Guilds' work.

To enhance the prestige and usefulness of the Guild by providing a basic, readily available and GRADED Training Course.

#### PREAMBLE

An analysis of percentages from the following categories may prove the viability of this PURPOSE: -

- A count at any one time of the members who joined SPECIFICALLY TO LEARN as distinct from those who may be considered to be COMPETENT.

- A count of those who have not renewed their subscriptions in any year under the same categorizations.

From a limited experience it would appear that the latter percentage is much greater on the side of those who WISH TO LEARN. If they should be situated away from a Branch that

has a definite teaching facility, there is little the Guild can ACTIVELY offer other than a list of books. Knotting Matters is an informative publication - NOT a teaching organ. For a person joining today, who wishes to learn why & how to tie a clove hitch; a bowline; or put on a whipping, we cannot contain such instruction in our quarterly magazine nor do we offer an "advice" sheet on the most suitable book(s) on our lists.

A learned paper from Charlie Smith at the Council Meeting of Feb. 1992 on this subject pinpointed the difficulties of face-to-face teaching facilities whether or not a local Branch is available.

#### ACTION

To achieve the PURPOSE I offer the consideration that the only way ahead in this matter is to use the POSTAL TUITION SYSTEM

This method is flexible, low cost (to the Guild and the student) and immediately available to the student ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD.

The requirements are to devise a '10 lesson' format of progressive learning sessions involving work and theory.

Provide a Central Address to

which completed practical and theory work can be returned.

Provide a panel of adjudicators to receive, review and comment on the progress made.

Apply a cost to cover production and mailing charges - in advance.

### COMMENTS

Over the years I have successfully taken 5 postal courses in various subjects and am confident of the systems ability to cover our subjects for the VERY IMPORTANT class of person this Guild needs as Members, namely, the future Instructors and Prophets in our Cause!

REQUIREMENTS - suggestions

Each 'lesson' contains 3 separate aspect of the craft. For instance, a series of Practical Bends & Hitches, a Practical Function (a whipping, mat making, netting, etc) and a Decorative subject (half hitching, macramé, braiding, etc.) Each 'lesson' will progress through these subjects from Basic to Advanced categories in a pre-ordained sequence  
- BUT

A facility to home-in-on specific aspects could be considered as an optional extra.

A Working Party would be required to:

1. Decide the Content and Progressions of each lesson.
2. Arrange the Layout and artwork of each assignment.
3. Decide the 'examination' procedures.

Consider the most suitable costing - either per lesson' or for a 'complete course'.

Calculate the production costs, postal charges, profit margin, etc. Also consider the viability of making a 'training package' - complete with materials sufficient for the assignment.

Decide on amount of 'stock' to be held at the central address. (In this context a set of Originals could be used to provide photocopies as-and-when required)

In offering this paper for consideration I also include my services as a member of the Working Party, as an Adjudicator in my own specialties and as a Central Address.

I joined the Guild to become a Member of a Fellowship of Like Minded Persons whose interest lay in knot work. Also I expected to be able to encourage others to achieve the joy and satisfaction known to myself through this craft. MY

CONCERN IS THAT THE GUILD SHOULD DO LIKEWISE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. In this spirit this Paper is offered for your further consideration.

#### Addendum

Random thoughts for consideration.

1. This is a BASIC training exercise.
2. It is to be made clear that any method shown need not be the ONLY way of forming a knot. Others can be shown and learnt LATER.
3. No 'Gimmicky' methods are to be shown or used.
4. To maintain interest a wide range of expertise is to be covered.
5. My suggestion of 10 lessons' is to be the maximum.
6. Each 'lessons' length is to be controlled by the information and drawings able to be contained on the 4 sides of 2 sheets of A4 paper.
7. In this latter respect a suggestion is to have ONE SUBJECT per side.

Such a proposal is as follows:

Lesson 1. Side i. 3 or 4 Bends/Hitches - Why and When and How.

Side ii. Constrictor Knot and 1 method of whipping. W&W&H.

Side iii. 3 and 4 strand Flat Plait & 4 strand 'lariat' Plait.

Side iv. General notes and 'Test Piece' to cover forgoing.

Lesson 2 Side i. 3 or 4 more Bends and Hitches - W&W&H.

Side ii. Crown Knot and a Back Splice - Why & How.

Side iii. 6 strand Half-round Plait & 4 x 3 Turks Head.

Side iv. As before.  
Lesson 3. Side i. Exercise is tying a Bowline - and why.

Side ii. Short Splice and another Whipping.

Side iii. 8 strand Square Sinnet & 5 x 3 Turks Head.

Side iv. As before.  
Etcetera...

8. As far as face-to-face training is concerned (as per Charlie's Paper) once a students' whereabouts are known, it could be possible to contact any experienced person in that area to see if personal contact can be made.

9. While being aware of some peoples' interest in 'awards' - my own inclination is against anything other than a very BASIC certificate.

10. Information from persons; interested in; with knowledge of; or dealing in; BOOKS, would be included in the 'lesson' as appropriate for further reading. But the prime objective is to -TEACH OTHERS OUR CRAFT



### 'Elliot's Eye

by:Thomas Simpson UK-Tyne

Are there any KM readers with any historical and/or technical knowledge of an Elliot's eye, or are aware of any sources where such related information may be filed?

Whilst doing some nautical research in another area, I came across an Elliot's eye. Having spent fifty years at sea (Merchant Service) and never having heard of this eye, my curiosity was aroused.

Visiting the main libraries in the Tyne and Wear conurbation, I managed to find five entries in various nautical books. These entries all seemed to have a certain sameness about them; they were all eager to point out that the eye was introduced by Admiral the Honorable Sir George Elliot R.N. The construction details all conveyed an

indefinable vagueness - very vague regarding the manner of usage. My impression was that none of the compilers had any first hand knowledge of the eye and were basically just paraphrasing from earlier sources, whose practical knowledge must have also been suspect. Ashley's explanation (Ashley #2765) was the best of an indifferent collection

The sheer size of cable laid hemp anchor rope and the requirement to pass through the hawsehole, dictated that Elliot's eye was a reduced thimbled eye, spliced in the end of large hemp anchor cables (up to twenty-seven inches in circumference, on some first rate ships). This enabled two cable eyes, shackled together, to be 'bounced' through the hawsehole (without too much trouble), when anchoring in deep water. Elliot's eye may have become the preferred method, replacing the normal practice of the day - the short cable splice.

Attempting to date the eye's introduction has not been very successful with the limited information at my disposal. The earliest I have seen it mentioned is in Biddlecombe's *Art of Rigging* (1848), but I think it was



around a long time before this date. One contemporary event, which must have had some influence on the working practice and life span of the eye, was the arrival of chain anchor cable in the Royal Navy. I believe chain cable was introduced for evaluation in 1811, and started being issued for bower anchors in 1817.

Checking Elliot's sea career for clues, one can't help being impressed by his rapid progress in his early years at sea. He joined HMS *St George* on 11 June 1794, seven weeks before his tenth birthday. Passed for lieutenant on 12 August 1800, eleven days after his sixteenth birthday, with the aid of a false birth certificate (minimum age for lieutenant was twenty). Promoted commander, by Nelson, on 14 April 1802 and then post captain, also by Nelson, on 12 January 1804 (still only nineteen years old).

In 1806, he was posted to the East Indies station, where he captained the frigates, HMS *Modeste* (1806-1812), then HMS *Hussar* (1812-1814). While on this station he possibly became adept in deep water anchoring. This was one likelihood for the introduction of the

eye, or at least the idea may have started to develop at this time, and been brought to realization at some later time.

The anchor cable situation of the 1860s was given a little further clarification by Captain John Wells RN, in his book, *The Immortal Warrior*, the story of the Royal Navy's first iron-clad, HMS *Warrior* commissioned in 1861). He mentioned that *Warrior's*, for'ard ground tackle consisted of two bower and two sheet anchors, each weighing 5.6 tons. Three of the anchors used studded chain cable, the fourth, a sheet anchor, had 37.5 fathoms of studded chain cable, attached to the anchor as a 'ganger' that was then shackled to 100 fathoms of 18.5 inches (circumference) hemp cable. The chain cable 'ganger' was used to save the hemp cable chafing on the seabed. The connection between the chain and hemp cables was probably an Elliot's eye, or a ropemaker's eye. It appeared to be standard Royal Navy practice to have one sheet anchor rigged in this manner. It may be possible to check this on the restored HMS *Warrior*, open to the public at Portsmouth.

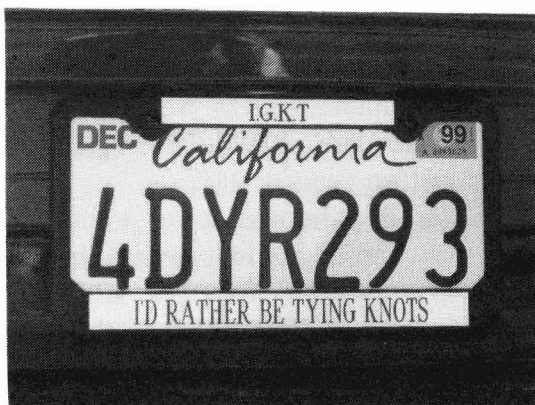
This might be a fitting time to mention tile ropemaker's eye, which was plainly related to Elliot's eye (I am not aware, which came first). The ropemaker's eye had an Achilles' heel - it could only be formed while the cable was being constructed in the factory ropewalk (Ashley #2764). Elliot may have devised his method, of forming his eye on board ship, after seeing the ropemaker's eye in ships' cables; it was clearly advantageous to be able to fashion the eye on location. Alternatively, seamen coming in contact with Elliot's eyes, may have started asking the ropeworks to supply the cables with the eyes factory fitted - hence the 'ropemaker's eye.

#### LICENSE PLATE

By Joe Schmidbauer, US(CA)

I thought you might enjoy this photo for Knotting Matters. My wife and daughter bought this license plate frame for me last Christmas. I can't imagine what their inspiration was, can you?

Venturing to guess when large hemp cables and Elliot's eyes disappeared; it was obviously due to the arrival of the stockless anchor, occurring (in the Royal Navy) in March 1904, when they were installed on two new battleships - HMS *Queen* and HMS *Prince of Wales*. Allowing for a phasing out period and additional time for the First World War, they probably died out during the 1920s. The life span of the eye must have been about 100 years. One outstanding question - did Elliot's eye find acceptance in the Merchant Service and other navies?



## TYING TURK'S HEAD KNOTS with "THE CYLINDER METHOD"

by David Fukuhara, CN (BC)

### PREAMBLE

For this discussion of "The Cylinder Method",

1. Some knot tying experience is assumed.
2. Knowing how to tie simple Turk's Head knots is not necessary, but useful.
3. The definition for the term "Large Turk's Head Knot" shall be; Any Turk's Head knot that is too complicated to tie in the hand.

### INTRODUCTION

After years of half-hearted attempts at looking for alternate methods for tying Large Turk's Head Knots, I set aside some time for another look. This was in November of 1984, a good time to look at those books again. Each description still seemed to go around in ever widening circles, but the photographs planted a firm picture in my mind. With those thoughts, I began another disk diagram for a large Turk's Head knot.

As I was drawing the disk diagram, the photographs of the large Turk's Head knots seemed to stay with me. I asked myself, what would it look like if this disk diagram, in its circular shape, were redrawn onto a straight shape? Ashley had some similar drawings, but without any useful detail. I began another drawing to try it. Instead of using solid lines, I used broken lines, so that I could see the underpasses, as they would occur. After a few trial drawings trying to duplicate the photographs, I changed to squared engineering paper, set it at 45 degrees and managed to complete a small diagram. I wrapped the new diagram into a cylinder and the Turk's head knot became apparent immediately, even before the knot was tied. There it was, the answer to the puzzle that had plagued me for years.

Within hours, every pencil and screwdriver I could find had a large Turk's Head knot on it, just to make certain I hadn't made a mistake. Recently, I found two of those pencils. One of them had a 4B x 15L knot and the other has a 5B x 14L knot.

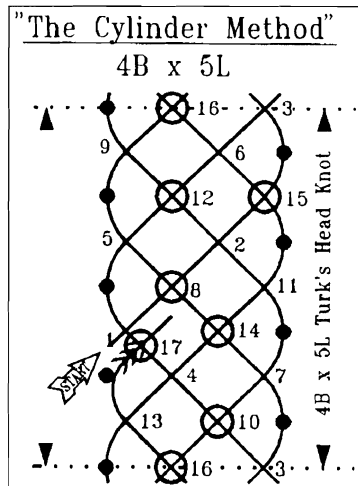
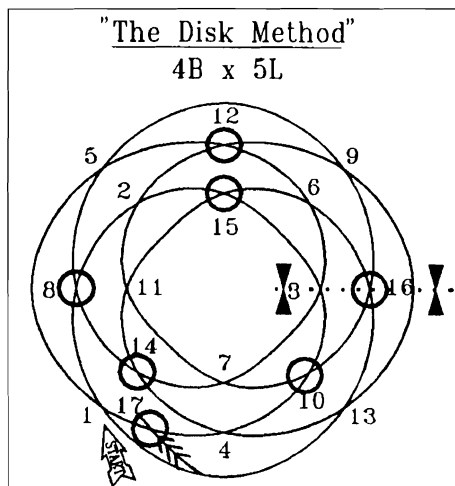
Since that heady period in 1984, I have tied hundreds of different Turk's Head knots using the new method. As I gained proficiency. I tied Turk's Head knots with patterns, loops, hitched, open space, and

appendages. I teach the method in my introductory course on Fancy Knotting.

### SAME KNOT - DIFFERENT DIAGRAMS

This diagram (fig. 1) is the usual disk diagram, as illustrated in the book "The Ashley book of Knots", knot number 1363, a 4 bight by 5 lead Turk's head knot.

This diagram (Fig. 2) is the same 4 bight by 5 lead Turk's head knot, drawn in that "straight shape". I have called it "The Cylinder Method."



The numbers, circles, and arrows on the diagrams are the same as those used by Ashley in many of his diagrams. The other arrowheads, dotted lines and small dots are additions I inserted, to help my novice students in the Fancy Knotting Course.

### The METHODOLOGY

The step by step procedure set up in 1984, for making diagrams, remains the same. To make diagrams easier to draw, I made a box with a circular fluorescent lamp in it and put a piece of plate glass over it, for the drawing surface. I placed a transparent underlay sheet of diagonal squares on the glass to use as a template for the base diagram. The base diagram was drawn onto a blank sheet of paper with broad broken lines. The broken lines were used to indicate the underpasses of the cord

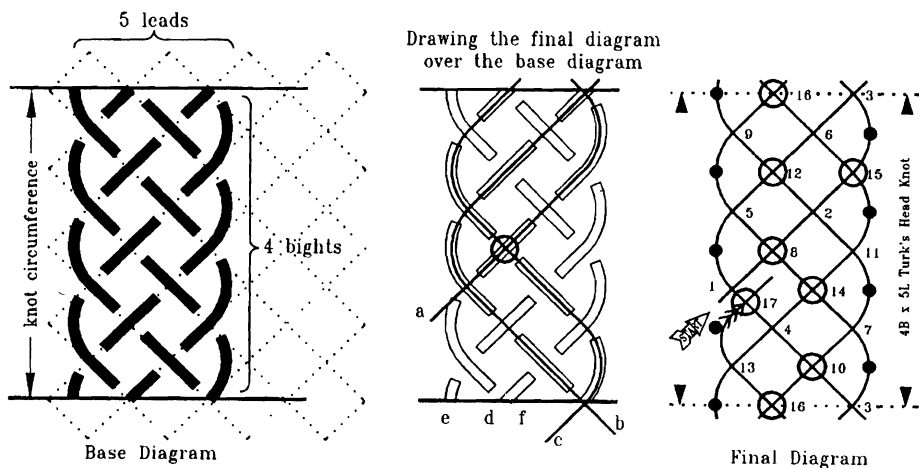
through the knot. The final diagram was made on another sheet of paper using the base diagram as the guide.

Before making the final diagram, each running Turk's Head knot was checked for its continuous path statement. After this was established, drawing the final diagram was begun. Starting at crossing #1 (arbitrarily chosen), the solid lines were then drawn, following the path of the base diagram as if lying on the actual cord. At each encounter with another solid line and the base diagram indicated an underpass, a circle was added. The numbers were added later, as with the rest of the items. Diagrams for multi-stranded Turk's Head knots have been made this way as well.

Today, the computer saves time, stores the information, and produces legible diagrams. The following drawings (CAD) illustrate the basic system I use for drawing the diagrams for large Turk's Head knots.

### THE CYLINDER METHOD

The illustrations use the same 4 bight by 5 lead Turk's head Knot.



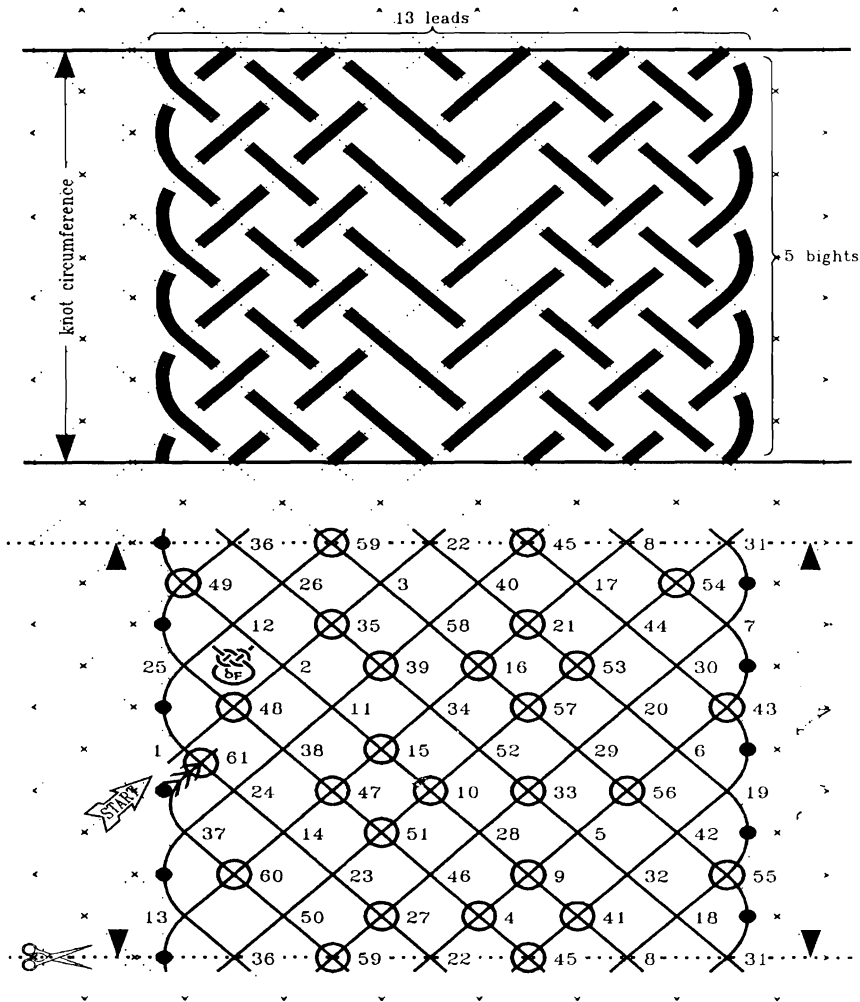
When the diagram is folded around into the cylinder, the four arrowheads on the dotted lines are there to aid aligning the bottom of the diagram to the matching top part. After the joint is taped together, foam is pressed into the centre. This is followed by putting straight pins into the dots on the arcs.

To use the diagram around a closed object, such as through the handle of coffee mug, thumbtacks are put through the dots from the back of the

diagram and taped into place before taping the diagram onto the mug. The diagram of the 13 bight by 7 lead knot on the last page was made to fit around a coffee mug with a circumference of about 10”.

Straight pins and thumbtacks are used to hold the cord in place during the initial placement of the cord over the diagram. The diagram is used only for the first pass of the cord. Additional paralleling cord is placed beside the initial pass.

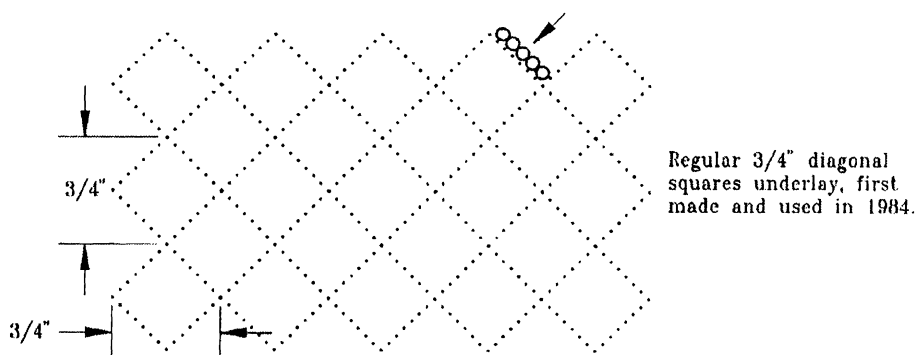
### EXAMPLE



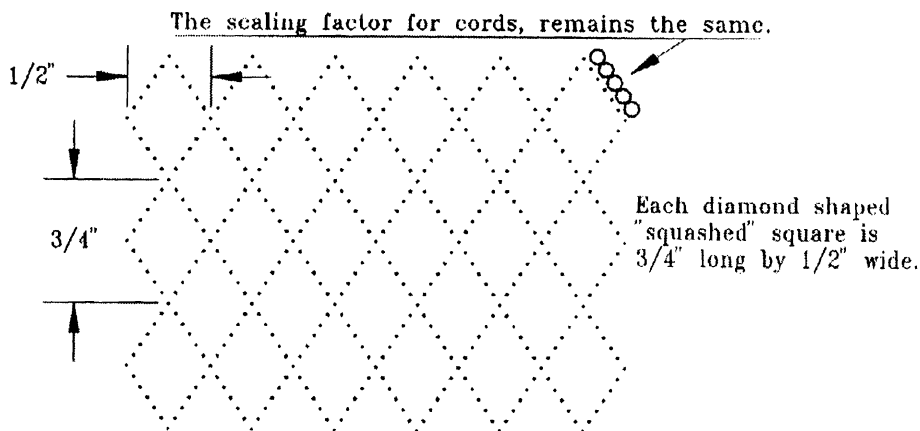
## SCALING THE DIAGRAMS

For many years I have been using a locally made cord called #3 starter cord, a braided nylon cord with a firm core and a diameter of almost  $\frac{1}{8}$ ". This cord is found on the recoil starter of almost every portable gasoline powered machine, such as a lawnmower or an outboard motor. The cord should be available everywhere.

The #3 starter cord fits the diagrams drawn to the  $\frac{3}{4}$ " size of the diagonal squares. The dimension of the side of a square is equal to, 5 times the diameter of the cord.



In my efforts to make diagrams more user friendly, I now use an altered underlay of "squashed" squares for Turk's Head knot diagrams. The squares (diamonds now) are still  $\frac{3}{4}$ " in height for the bights of the knots, but the leads part of the space has been reduced to  $\frac{1}{2}$ ". These squares resemble the lay of the cord in completed Turk's Head knots.





## KNOT DIAGRAMS

Many knot tyers will want to try their hand at drawing and tying Turk's Head knots to dimensions of their own choice and that is the intent here. However, from my experience teaching Fancy Knotting, many more knot tyers are very satisfied tying the knots from the diagrams provided in the course book. Most of them on completion of the course, buy the next book which has more diagrams.

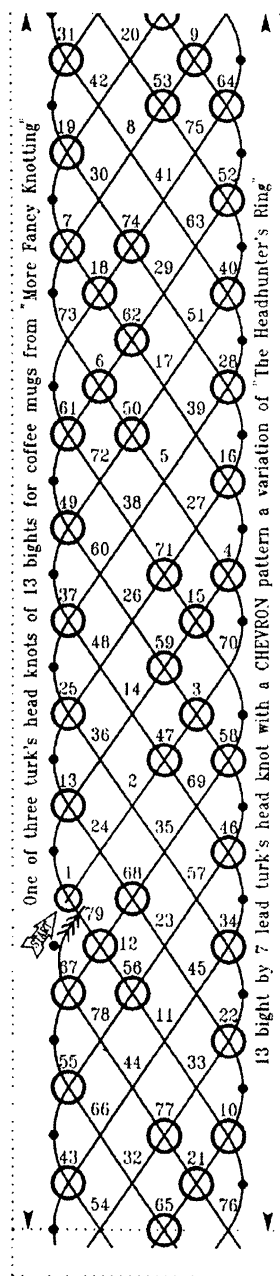
Therefore, without sounding too commercial about this, I would be willing to sell the books to those interested in trying my diagrams.

## THE FANCY KNOTTING WORKBOOK

The first book is called Fancy Knotting; the contents include flat mats, Turk's Head knots and monkey fist knots. All diagrams of the aforementioned knots can be used directly or scaled to fit cords on hand. The book also contains illustrations of some useful, but often neglected knots. The instructions are basic and deal with the use of the diagrams.

The instructions for making diagrams is done in class, as is splicing, the Matthew Walker knot, manrope knots and the 3 lead by 5 bight hand tied Turk's Head knot and its extended form.

The second book is called "More Fancy Knotting". This book came about because of the demand from former students for more diagrams. The contents include Celtic style rectangular and circular mats, Celtic border pattern reproduction, a Celtic style camera



strap (expanded border pattern) and, of course, more Turk's Head knots. Most of the diagrams can be used directly. All can be scaled for different cord sizes. There are no illustrations and instructions are minimal (the users are usually former students).

## REFLECTIONS

The cylinder method allows the knot tyer to estimate with reasonable accuracy the final size of the knot and the length of cord required to tie it. Also, duplicating any large Turk's head knot tied in the past, requires only the "Knotical" dimensions of the original knot.

My greatest pleasure in using the method is in experimentation. The method has the flexibility in it for trying new ideas.

My reason for teaching knotting is simple. I feel it is a responsibility to pass on knowledge gained to others, and for the benefit of future generations. I enjoy teaching knotting and the response my students have given me is gratifying.

Since finding the cylinder method approach to the Turk's head knot in 1984, my passion for knotting has risen to a higher level. I have a better understanding and appreciation for the art of knotting than I ever had. I may not have solved any world problems, but I hope some of the things I have done, will make life a little more comfortable, at least in the "knotical" world.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Clifford W. Ashley, The Ashley Book of Knots, published 1944, by Doubleday and Company Inc. Garden City New York, USA.

Raoul Graumont and John Hensel, Encyclopedia of Knots and Fancy Rope Work, published 1939, by Cornell Maritime Press Inc., Centreville, Maryland, USA. Fourth Edition 1952.

## WORKBOOK SALES

In Vancouver, there is limited demand for my books. I have copies done when the classes are about to start each year. There are only a few copies available at any given time. If the demand increases, there could be delays. The price is \$20.00 Canadian, for either book. Add \$15.00 Canadian for international and \$5.00 for domestic postage and handling. Please use bank drafts or postal money orders and send them to me at this address: David Fukuhara, 1325 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue East,

Vancouver, BC  
CANADA V5V 1C7.

## THE HANGMAN

by Owen K. Nuttall

Jack Ketch a name synonymous with the Hangman and the noose. Jack Ketch was a factual figure who was the official Hangman for London and Middlesex from 1663-1686. For one hundred and fifty years after his death in November 1686, The Hangman was called Jack Ketch, such was his notoriety, even superseding William Calcraft 1824-1874 Britain's longest serving Hangman.

The Anglo Saxons introduced hanging into England during the fourth century AD. Prior to this date the earliest form of capital punishment was by drowning in quagmires. In the first century BC, after the first invasion by the Romans, beheading was introduced, though this was not confirmed until 300 AD, with the victim Alban, the first English martyr. Alternative forms of capital punishment carried out by the Hangman, were beheading by axe. In Scotland beheading was by the Scottish maiden and in England the Halifax Gibbet (a forerunner of the guillotine. There is a street called Gibbet street in Halifax,

Yorkshire). Other forms of punishment carried out by the Hangman were Hanging, Drawing and Quartering. (For the capital offence of treason and religious matters) Blinding, Burning, Castration and Whipping, 'Peine forte et dure', (pressing of prisoners who refused to plead). Pressing was used to either ensure a plea or death. This form of punishment was used between the fifteenth and eighteenth centuries. A conviction for a capital offence entailed forfeiture of goods to the crown. Refusing to plead enabled the accused to avoid being tried. Pressing was by spread-eagling the victims, face up and a board with weights is placed on his chest, increasing the weight until a plea or death. This form of punishment ended with the reign of George III, 1738-1820. In 1722 a new law was passed where refusing to plead was to be treated as a plea of guilty. This changed to a not guilty plea in 1828. The only known case of pressing in America was in Salem when Giles Corey was pressed to death in 1692, he was aged

eighty, and his crime, witchcraft.

Although much has been written about the Hangman, little is written about the noose. References were frequently made about the noose slipping, or the rope breaking, or the standing part tied to the overhead support slipping. The most comprehensive list of Hangman's nooses is in Ashley Book of Knots (ABOK 1119-1125). Though the noose known as 'Ketch's neck tie' noose is not shown. Ketch's noose, according to J. Tom Burgess 1884, was a multiple overhand knot over a simple slipknot. I have been unable to find out if Jack Ketch used this knot himself, or one of his successors who was nick-named Jack Ketch. William Calcraft, 1824-1874, was known to use a crude slipknot. I found it easier to tie the overhand loop first then tie the slip knot underneath, slipping the slipknot tight under the multiple overhand slipknot. If a simple knot was used, this probably explains its failure on some hangings. As hanging in Ketch's time was simply removing the support from under the victim's feet and no drop. Thus a simple slipknot would

suffice, as weight on the knot would be gradual. With the introduction of the first type of drop that was twenty inches or half a meter, the noose would be subjected to a sharp jerk, which would spill a poorly tied knot. As the Hangman came from the civilian population, his knotting skills would be minimal (Butchery skills would be more appropriate). The only known Hangman who would have knotting skills was an ex-navy man, John Price 1714, and he was hung by Banks in 1718, for the murder of Elizabeth White. With the introduction of the first short drop, 1760, a better noose knot was needed. With a simple slipknot finished with an overhand knot of the slipknot's standing part. This knot would be adequate when the drop was increased to three feet, point nine of a meter in 1783. Ketch's necktie noose looks like Ashley's noose #1119 from one side but quite different on the reverse. Jack Ketch was from the civilian population, along with his predecessors in London. He had to provide the ropes for hangings, probably skimping on the quality of the ropes, resulting in frequent breakages of the ropes during

Hangings. One of the perks of the Hangman was that he could sell the ropes after the Hanging. If the victim was a notorious villain, the rope could even be sold in short lengths (even a few inches 50-70 millimeter's) this practice ceased in 1886 when ropes were provided by the prison and burnt after use. Another of the Hangman's perks was that he could sell the victim's clothes, if the body was unclaimed. An unclaimed body could be sold for anatomy.

Over the years there have been a few improvements in Hanging. The noose knot was replaced by an eye-spliced rope with a metal thimble in 1868. Later this was changed to a brass ring spliced into the rope. This is credited to the inventor of the long drop William Marwood 1871-1883. James Berry 1884-1891 used Italian hemp 5/8" inch thick after stretching (15 millimetres) and a leather washer to prevent the noose slipping. During Berry's reign as Hangman, the scaffold was replaced with the pit method of Hanging. For humane reasons victims should not have to mount steps to the scaffold (and difficulties with getting struggling victims up the steps).

Victims were to have a hood over their heads before entering the execution chamber. Spring clips on the platform prevented bouncing back and preventing a clean drop. The standing part of the noose was secured to a chain on the overhead beam for accurate length of drop. The drop was calculated from 1260 divided by the victim's weight in pounds, to give the length of drop in feet, depending on the victim's build. This was used until the Aberdare report in 1888, fixing the formula at 1000 divided by the person's weight in pounds for the length of drop needed for a specific victim.

Thomas Pierrepont 1914-1943, improved the washer from leather to rubber for fixing the noose. Henry Pierrepont, also referred to as Harry Pierrepont, took a man from the condemned cell to executing the victim in less than ten seconds. Going back to the infamous Jack Ketch, he was well known for being a brutal person and of a surly countenance. On the 20th May 1685, he whipped Titus Oats (the author of the Popish Plot) from Aldgate to Newgate, and two days later from Newgate to Tyburn. The

sentence was that if he survived the whipping he would be imprisoned for life. The whipping administered by Ketch was so severe that witnesses were amazed he survived. The whipping was carried out while Titus Oats was tied to the back of a cart.

Jack Ketch was known to have bungled many executions. The worst two were Lord William Russell on the 21<sup>st</sup> July 1683 at Lincoln's Inn Fields, (where he used three blows with the axe to behead him) and the Duke of Monmouth's execution 15th July 1685, at Tower Hill which was even worse. Taking five blows with the axe to behead him. He was given military protection to get from the scaffold, because of the hostility of the watching crowd. Although it was customary for the victim to give his executioner monies, for a clean blow, Ketch was not above grumbling about the amount paid to him. He was known for his heavy drinking, and fortified himself on important occasions when the victim was well known. Probably seeing double and accounting for his inaccurate aim. He was removed from office in March 1686 for affronting the sheriff

of London. He was reinstated to hang his successor Pacha Rose who was convicted of house breaking and hung in May 1686. Jack Ketch remained Hangman until his death in November that year.

While there is no evidence of Ketch going to the West Country, to put to death the followers of the Duke of Monmouth. There where seventy-four were hung in Dorset and two hundred and twenty were hung, drawn and quartered in Somerset. However it was a well known saying that 'while Jeffrey's is on the bench, Ketch on the Gibbet sits'.

London had two main hanging places, Tyburn and Execution Dock. Tyburn's first hanging is believed to have taken place during Norman times, in the twelfth century but documented from 1450 during Henry VII reign. Hanging was from real trees but due to London's expanding population and the roads into London becoming congested (start of the M25) the trees were removed and replaced with a triple tree in 1664. The triple tree consisted of three posts with cross beams in a triangular formation. The overhead beams could hold eight

people to each beam. The triple tree remained until 1759 when Tyburn was becoming a fashionable place to live, The triple tree was replaced with a horse drawn portable scaffold. Which was kept at Newgate prison, and taken to Tyburn on hanging days. The last man hung at Tyburn from the portable scaffold was John Austin, November 1783, by Brunskill.

Tyburn was close to Marble Arch and at the junction of Edgware Road and Bayswater Road, and near 'Speaker's Corner' at Hyde Park. Confusions of hanging reported at Tyburn have occurred because York's main hanging place was also called Tyburn. York's Tyburn was situated where York race-course now stands, close to Micklegate. There were eight hanging days at London's Tyburn. These were public holidays commonly called 'Paddington Fair'. Hanging days had large crowds, with stall holders selling food and drink with numerous thieves and pickpockets (hanging even then seemed to be no deterrent). On Hanging days, the convicted were taken from Newgate prison (near St Paul's) to Tyburn a journey of two and a half miles. A cart or

carts depending on the number of convicted persons, took them. The noose was pre-tied around their necks and their hands bound. They were plied with drinks by relatives or friends to dull their senses, or pelted with stones or rotten vegetables if they had committed a vile crime. The cart was halted under one of the cross beams, the standing part of the noose secured to the beam and the cart was then simply drawn away, leaving the victim to their fate. Death was by strangulation if the noose had been pulled tight prior to the cart's removal, the victim soon lost consciousness due to pressure on the carotid arteries. If the noose was slack the victim died slowly of asphyxia. This type of Hanging was called dancing the Tyburn jig, or more crudely pissing when you can't whistle. It was not unknown for relatives or friends to swing on the victim's legs to hasten his or her death. After the victim's bodies had hung still for a quarter of an hour, they were taken down and handed over to relatives for burial. Notorious victims were taken down covered in tar. The body was then secured in chains to be hung from a Gibbet (usu-

ally at a cross roads as a deterrent to criminals of that town). Some of the victims were handed over to surgeons for dissection, by a teacher of anatomy (a law dating from 1500, Henry VII, allowing the surgeons a certain number of Tyburn victims to train apprentices in surgery). The convicted feared dissection more than the sentence of hanging (believing that their body would not go to a better place if not intact)

London's Hangmen were selected from the civilian population where York's Hangmen accepted the post in preference to being hung themselves. Then his sentence was commuted to imprisonment, and served his sentence at York jail. During the six hundred years of hangings at London's Tyburn, an estimated 50,000 were executed there.

London's other hanging place was Execution Dock. This was situated on the river Thames at Wapping. The Gallows were on the foreshore. It is not known when the first hanging took place there. Though it appears to have been in use during the reign of Henry VIII 1509-1547. By the late 1500 it was the usual place for hanging pirates

and persons who had committed crimes whilst at sea. It was customary at Execution Dock to leave the victims body to be washed by three tides. This custom ceased in the 1700's. The largest number to be hung at Execution Dock were twenty-four Frenchmen, on the 13th November 1700, who were captured off the coast of Virginia. The most famous to be hung there was Captain William Kidd on 23rd May 1701. The rope breaking at the first attempt, he had been found guilty of piracy. Documents found two hundred years later proved him to be a privateer

The last hanging at Execution Dock was John Pater 1<sup>st</sup> February 1820. The main differences between being hung at Tyburn and Execution Dock, was that Tyburn victims were hung from a cart whilst Execution Dock victims were hung from a platform which was lowered or dropped (accounts vary) but the 'through the platform method' was used. The victim was secured to the overhead beam with very little slack in the rope. So when the platform was lowered or dropped the victim was still in full view on the scaffold and death was by strangulation.



The long drop invented by Marwood in 1882, where he stated his predecessor's nearly hung their victims. He executed them. With the long drop death was by dislocation between the second and third vertebrae with the noose placed under and slightly behind the left ear. A method tried for a short while in America was by reverse hanging. This was by weights, which were dropped onto a mattress and the victim was snatched upwards. This method proved to be unreliable. While England preferred the mechanical bolt and lever method, America preferred ropes to secure the trap door. At San Quentin prison, a large scaffold had a small cubicle in one corner. Three guards in the cubicle had in front of them a rope each to cut. Only one was connected to the trap door. The other two were connected to weights. On a signal from the hangman each guard cut his rope. Only the hangman knew which rope held the trap door. The largest known mass hanging in America was of thirty-eight Sioux Indians who were hung in Minnesota, December 1862. The purpose built scaffold was twenty-four foot square (7.3 metres). On three of

the four beams were hung ten Indians to each beam and eight on the fourth beam. Abraham Lincoln signed the death warrant.

The first man to be hung for murder in America was John Billington on the 30<sup>th</sup> September 1630 at Massachusetts, and was believed to have landed in America from the Mayflower.

In September 1872, Patrick Morrissey was hung by the Sheriff of Eire Country named Grover Cleveland. Who was elected in 1884 as America's President.

The world's longest serving hangman was Johann Michel Widmann of Nuremberg from 1665 to 1736. England's shortest-term hangman was Pacha Rose, March 1686, hung May 1686. Britain's longest serving family of hangmen was the Otways. Joshua Otway, hangman for Somerset 1804, was believed to have had family hangmen who held the post since 1685. As against the Pierreponts, of which Henry 1901-1914, Brother Thomas 1914-1943, and then Henry's son Albert, who resigned 1956. (Confusions have arisen about the names of Albert Pierrepont's public houses, they were 'Help

the poor struggler' and the 'Rose and Crown'. Harry Allen, one of England's last Hangmen, was the landlord of the Rope and Anchor).

When Albert Pierrepoint went to hang thirteen war criminals after the Nuremburg trials, he was made an honorary LT. Colonel.

One of the myths about hanging was that after three attempts the victim went free, not so. At St Michael's hill Bristol on May 4 1739, John Kimmarly was hung three times, the rope breaking each time. He was hung on the fourth attempt.

John Lee was to hang at Exeter prison 1885. The trap door failed to open on three separate occasions. But worked each time Lee was taken back to his cell. The only explanations for failure of the trap door to open were that, with the weight of the convicted, the Hangman, his assistant, the Chaplain and the warder caused the trap door to warp before leaving Lee to his fate. His sentence was commuted to life imprisonment. Released after twenty-five years. Believed to have died in America aged sixty-eight in 1933. Another myth was that titled people were hung with a silk

rope. Laurence Shirley, was the fourth Earl Ferrers and was hung at Tyburn from the new portable scaffold on the 5th May 1760. With a short drop and a hemp noose, he was given too much slack and his feet touched the ground. Turlis, the hangman and his assistant had to pull on his legs. Horace Walpole wrote "he died badly but was dead in four minutes". There have been a number of people who have survived hanging; one was Ronald Seth in Estonia 1942, when the lever was pulled to open the trap door it only opened a few inches, it was believed to have been sabotaged the night before. No more attempts were made and he lived to write about his experiences. Another was Sam Kessel, Auschwitz, 1943 the rope broke, no further attempts were made, he also wrote about his experiences

The most amazing case of surviving hanging was Margaret Dickson hanged 2nd September 1724 at Grassmarket, Edinburgh. She was nailed into her coffin for burial at Musselburgh. On the journey to Musselburgh there was a confrontation with apprentice surgeons, who wanted her body for dis-

section. After the struggle, in which the coffin was damaged and after beating off the apprentice surgeons, they continued on their way to Musselburgh. A short while after hearing noises from the coffin it was opened up, the victim showed signs of movement, She was taken to the local magistrate at Musselburgh who kept her overnight. She made a complete recovery. Under Scottish law no further attempts to hang her could be made, as her sentence was considered to have been carried out. She remarried her former husband, as her first marriage had been dissolved on her being hung. (Doubts in later years about its validity).

There were other ways of avoiding hanging. One was to plead benefit of clergy. The convicted person would have to satisfy the court that they were literate by reading the first verse from the 51st psalm from the New Testament opened by the clergy. (This was nicknamed the neck verse). If the prisoner managed this in the competent manner his life was spared. The sentence was then commuted to imprisonment. The hangman branded him on the left thumb. As this privilege was only al-

lowed once. Another way was for woman to plead there bellies (pregnancy) on examination by matrons if proof that the unborn child showed signs of movement the woman was spared until her child was born (sentence was rarely carried out when the child was born)

In Tudor times hanging for trivial crimes was very common. By 1660 there were nearly 50 crimes punishable by death. By 1840 there was over two hundred. An act of 1698 made it a capital offence to steal from a shop to the value of five shillings. An act of 1713 made it a capital offence to steal from a dwelling house to the value of forty shillings. The Waltham Black act of 1723, under which wicked and evilly disposed persons going armed in disguise could be hanged for hunting deer, poaching fish or any other of a great number of crimes. Even though the convictions were numerous. Hanging was only carried on twenty to twenty five of the offences. In 1908 the death penalty was abolished for persons under the age of sixteen. In 1933 the age limit was raised to eighteen. The death penalty was further restricted by the Homicide Act

of 1957, which specified five categories of murder for the death penalty. All other categories punishable by imprisonment.

I. Murder in the course or furtherance of theft.

2 Murder by shooting or causing an explosion.

3. Murder in the course of or for the purpose of resisting, avoiding or preventing a lawful arrest or effecting or assisting an escape or rescue from legal custody.

4, Murder of a police officer, in the execution of his duty or a person assisting him.

5 Murder of a prison officer in the execution of his duty or a person assisting him.

In addition to the five categories of murder the act retained the death penalty for persons who committed a second murder on a different occasion from the first.

The death penalty was formally ended in 1969. Hanging still remains on the statute book for treason, piracy, violence and

arson in a royal dockyard. The death penalty may be imposed in times of war for military offences. The gallows is still kept in working order in Wandsworth prison. The last hanging in England was the 13th August 1964, Peter Allan hanged at Liverpool, and John Walby Alias Gwynne Evans hanged, Manchester. Hanging had its black humorous side too. In 1797 at the hanging of Martin Clench and James Mackley, by Brunskill, the trap door collapsed during the last rites, with the hangman, his assistant the two condemned, the Chaplain of Newgate and a Catholic priest. The four officials fell at the feet of the two condemned, one of the clergyman was hurt. John Thrift was drunk when hanging two men 1738 at Hereford. He thought there were three for hanging and was prevented by his assistant from putting a noose around attending parson's neck

William Curry, hangman for York 1802-1835, nicknamed Mutton Curry for sheep stealing, serving sentence at York jail, was so drunk when hanging William Brown 14<sup>th</sup> April 1821 he had difficulty in climbing the steps to the scaffold and putting

the noose around the victim's neck. He was mocked by the crowd who kept shouting, "hang Jack Ketch", meaning Curry. In September 1821 he was to hang five men, but was so drunk that after pulling the lever to release the trap door, stepped back and fell through the opening, to the amusement of the crowd.

Alexander Green sentenced to transportation for life, January 1824, became hangman for Sydney 1828-1855. On the 23rd August 1830, at Windsor, he was to hang Thomas Tierman, a bushranger. With the noose about his neck, he barged Hangman Green off the scaffold, falling over the edge himself, Green broke his arm in the fall. Green managed, with his assistant to drag Tierman's dead body back on to the scaffold, and released the trap door so that the sentence would have been seen to be carried out. As you will have read, hanging has never been a deterrent, it was a barbaric form of revenge. Most Hangmen had psychiatric problems, and some committed suicide brought about by their work as hangman.



## THE CORKSCREW KNOT

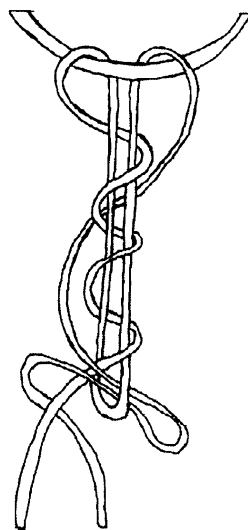
by Olivier Peron,  
Chemin de Vauran  
84160 Cadenet  
France

04.90.68.22.25

<OLIVIER3@wanadoo.fr>

If you have seen, used, can tie or know this knot, please give me all the information you have. I have registered this knot with the Guild in November under the name: "The Corkscrew knot". Two booklets have already been written called "Corkscrew", and "The Corkscrew Knot Now Tied On Several Anchors with 3 New Techniques". Further publications with technical features could be planned, depending on your interest in this knot?

*(Ed: Anyone know anything?)*

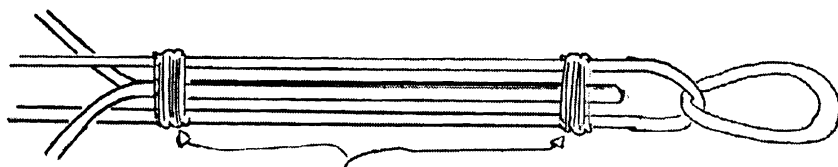


## STANDING TURKSHEAD KEYRING

by Brian Walsh

Here is the article that I promised, for the key fob I gave you at the Nottingham meeting. I hope to see you in Surry.

Begin by doubling two strands and a temporary lashing top and bottom.



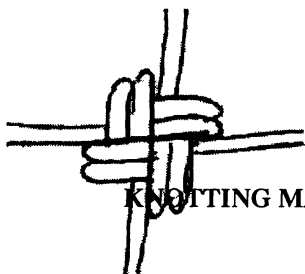
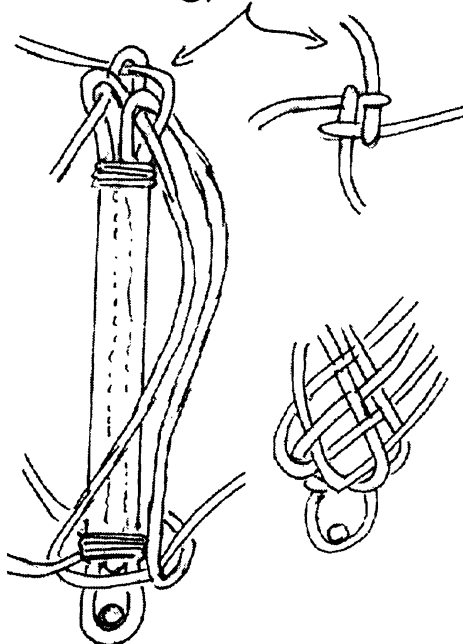
*TEMPORARY LASHINGS  
ABOUT 8 CMS APART.*

Make a Right-handed Crown knot and return to the top, spiraling to leave something like the final shape before another Right-handed Crown at the top.

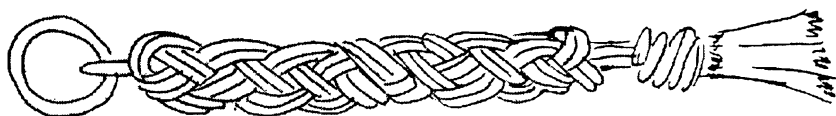
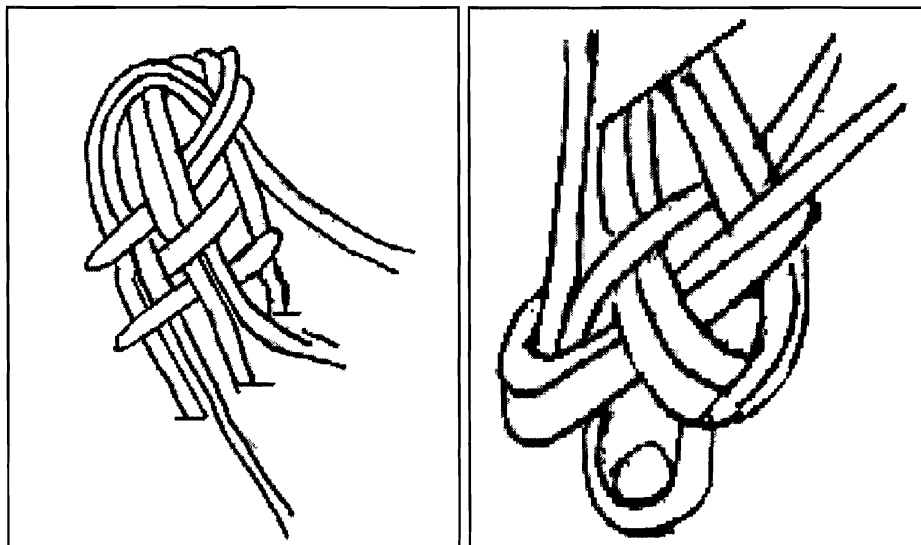
Using the OVER-UNDER pattern begin OVER one to the right, then UNDER one to the right and repeat tucking to the right O/U for six tucks.

Take all the cord ends in one hand and the split ring in the other and gently pull the knot into shape, but not too tight, yet. Then double the Crown knot turns on the INSIDE.

*RIGHT HANDED  
CROWN KNOT.*



Now work down, doubling the left hand cord, one tuck at a time until you reach the bottom. Then double the wall knot on the inside and work up, doubling the right hand cord until you reach the sixth tuck.



Now tuck through the center of the Crown knot; work all loose cord out until the knot looks neat and tidy. Tie a Matthew Walker in the ends and tease out

I hope this text and my drawings are ok for KM and that the knot is easy to understand and tie.

*Ed: Thank you Brian, for being true to your word and putting this together in such short order. This is just the sort of "Simple to the author" article that encourages the younger and less experienced knot tiers to have a go and get pleasure from a job well done.*

## KNOTTING DIARY

Contact Jeff Wyatt at 91 Luton Road, Dunstable, Bedfordshire, LU5 4LW

Tel: 01582 664504 E-mail <jeff@wydon.powernet.co.uk>

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>	<u>TELEPHONE</u>
APRIL to OCT 1999	Exhibition of Knots	Museum De Zilverrigger near Antwerp	Geert "Willy" Willaert Dulftstraat 21 2880 Bornem	(0032)(0)3/889 86 03 <wwwill@caramail.com>
5-9 AUG 1999	IGKT- NAB	The Hampton Inn Fall River/Westport NEW BEDFORD	US-John Burke UK-Brian Field Reserve Room (\$93.25 pn)	US 313 562 4393 01621-850491 US 508 675 7185
9 OCT 1999	HALF AGM	Mount Browne Police Training Centre Gilford, Surry	Peter Goldstone "Chouette" 23 St John Rise Woking, SURREY GU21 1PN	01483 763054 E-mail <goldstpg@apci.com>
14 May 2000	IGKT AGM	PULBOROUGH WEST SUSSEX	Nigel Harding	01825 760425



BRANCH AND RECURRING EVENTS

Last Sat of every month	West Country Knotters	Scout H.Q. Almondsbury (Bristol) At 1400 hrs.	Dave Pusill 19 Cross Street Burnham-on-Sea Somerset TA8 1PF	01278 789545
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21 July	West	Meeting at Beulah Hotel	Contact David	0113 257 2689
15 Sept	Yorkshire	Farnley, Leeds 8 p.m.	Pearson before	
17 Nov	Branch		departing to	
<b>ALSO</b>	<b>JOIN US</b>	<b>AT:</b>	meetings.	

18 July		Dewsbury Canal Festival
31 July-		Whitby Captain Cook Museum
1 Aug		
14-15		Leeds Canal Festival
Aug		

25 Sept 1999	East Anglia Branch	The Museum of East Anglian Life, Stowmarket	John Addis	01379 852064
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# Guild Supplies

## Price List 1998

Item	Price
<b>Geoffrey Budworth</b>	
Knotlore <i>a miscellany of quotes from fact and fiction</i>	£2.50
Much Ado About Knotting <i>history of the 1<sup>st</sup> 10 years of the Guild</i>	£2.50 *
The Knot Book	£3.99
<b>Brian Field</b>	
Breastplate Designs	£2.50
Concerning Crosses	£1.50
<b>Eric Franklin</b>	
Turkesheads the Traditional Way	£1.50 *
Nylon Novelties	£2.00 *
<b>Stuart Grainger</b>	
Knotcraft	£3.60 *
Ropefolk	£1.30
Turks Head Alternatives	£2.20 *
Creative Ropecraft	Hardback £9.95
Knotted Fabrics	Hardback <i>price includes UK postage</i> £9.00
<b>John Halifax</b>	
Something Different <i>with over 50 Button Knots</i>	£3.20 *
<b>Harold Scott</b>	
On Various Cruxiform Turks Heads	£2.50
Sliding Template Method for Designing Cruciform Turks-Heads Vol. 2	£3.00
<b>IGKT</b>	
Knotting Matters <i>copies of past editions</i>	£2.50
<i>(Some past editions available – contact the Secretary for details)</i>	
* bulk purchases of these items available at a discount – phone for details	

Cheques payable to IGKT, or simply send your credit card details  
**PS** Dont forget to allow for Postage

**Supplies Secretary:- Bruce Turley**  
**19 Windmill Avenue, Rubery, Birmingham B45 9SP**  
**email 106077.1156@compuserv.com**  
**Telephone: 0121 453 4124**

