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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.

# Guild Supplies

## Price List 2000

Item	Price
<b>Knot Charts</b>	
Full Set of 100 charts	£10.00
Individual Charts	£0.20
<b>Rubber Stamp</b>	
IGKT - Member, with logo (excludes stamp pad)	£4.00
<b>Guild Tye</b>	
Long, dark blue polyester, with knot motif	£8.95
Long, dark blue tie with Guild Logo in gold	£8.95
<b>Badges</b> - all with Gold Logo	
Blazer Badge	£1.00
Enamel brooch	£2.00
Windscreen Sticker	£1.00
<b>Certificate of Membership</b>	£2.50
parchment scroll signed by President and Hon sec for mounting and hanging	

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**

# Knotting Matters

**Newsletter of the  
International Guild of  
Knot Tyers**

**Issue No. 68**

**President: Brian Field  
Secretary: Nigel Harding  
Editor: Colin Grundy  
Website: [www.igkt.craft.org](http://www.igkt.craft.org)**

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Cover design by Stuart Grainger



*Talking knots at Weston*

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# Notes from the Secretary's Blotter

**M**y domestic problems are continuing to distract me from my secretarial duties, my apologies to those who have experienced delays in obtaining any sort of response from me. Whilst still on the Secretarial front, I can report that there has been significant interest in taking on this role as my successor, and the list of applicants has now risen to zero, which is just one short of what we need.

Quickly moving on, I was pleased to meet so many of you down in Weston Super Mare for the AGM, and I am looking forward to the autumn meeting in The Netherlands. Due to problems experienced with obtaining the Guilds Accounts in time for the AGM, the Autumn meeting has been declared an 'Extraordinary Meeting, in order to give the membership present the authority to approve the accounts, a copy of which you will find enclosed with this copy of KM., together with the Treasurers Report.

Also included with this KM you should find the latest edition of the Membership Handbook. This lists around 1100 names and address, and is produced from my records. If you notice any errors please let me know, and I will do my best to put it right in the next edition. The list of email addresses continues to expand, and keeping this up to date is a nightmare. Whilst every effort has been made to

maintain its accuracy, the rate of change of addresses defeats me. Should you find an address that does not work, Tony Doran, our Webmaster keeps the most recent information on file, and will do his best to help you out with a specific enquiry. I would ask that members using email adhere to the usual protocols and etiquette.

As knowledge of the existence of the Guild is spreading, we are beginning to be requested to attend numerous functions around the country. There are in fact far more events than there are knot tyers, however it would be a help to me if I could create a list of potential speakers/presenters. This may sound a little daunting if you have not 'performed' before, but it can prove to be a pleasant way of spending an evening, or weekend. There is not normally any question of a fee, but organisations such as the Women's Institute usually offer to pay for your petrol, and offer you a cup of tea in one of their bone china teacups. It should be said that a vast knowledge is not required, just the confidence to talk about or demonstrate a specific aspect. Even I can teach and demonstrate simple Turks heads, i.e. woggles for scouts and cubs.

The response for the 'Occasional Journal' has been better than expected and as a result the deadline for articles has

been extended. More details will no doubt be forthcoming.

The question of subscription levels has been raised, with the suggestion that in some parts of the world, £16 is a lot of money. The Council has debated this and has concluded, as did our founder members, that there should be a common membership fee. It is simply too complicated to devise a system that allows for differing levels in different countries. Who decides what the levels should be, and on what basis. Should hyperinflation be taken into account, the relative strength of the pound etc? At the end of the day, it costs approximately £16 per member to run the IGKT and provide all the membership services. This does not just include four editions of KM, there is a cost of the Guild simply existing, and our finances are not designed to operate at a profit but with only sufficient surplus to pay the bills and be in a position to book venues for meetings in advance and replace equipment as required.

It is appreciated that there is a cost of currency exchange, but from experience this is best dealt with using credit cards. I appreciate that there are security aspects of sending numbers over the Internet, but this can be overcome by sending the number in two instalments (make sure you let me know which is which) alternatively, the ordinary mail system can be used. If you are concerned about unscrupulous use of your number, this is a genuine concern, but is possible with or without use of the card, anywhere, anytime. My own card was 'cloned' earlier this year, and £4300 was stolen/spent in just two days in south London just after Christmas. If everyone

stopped using them for fear of this happening, then they would cease to exist overnight.

A practical suggestion would be for several members in the same area to get together, and send just one payment to me. This could be in credit card form, a cheque, in UK pounds, drawn on a UK branch of your own bank. Alternatively, if you are prepared to risk it, (and it is legal for you to do so), I can accept bank notes in UK pounds.

As the sun is now shining outside my office window, indicating that summer is now finally arrived, and hence by definition, is now over, and that the coffee is ready, I shall rip these notes off the blotter, and go and put my feet up - thus making it easier for Sylvia to vacuum around me.

*Nigel Harding*

## OBITUARY

### PETER HORNSHAW

It is with great regret that we have learned of the death of Guild member Peter Hornshaw.

Peter, who lived in Viersen, Germany, passed away during June this year. I am sure the members of the Guild would like to pass on their condolences to Peter's family.

# Letter from a President

Since my last letter life has been a little hectic. I am now recovered from my New Years operation but am finding the subsequent chemotherapy leaves me lacking some stamina. My thanks for all the cards, get well messages and e-mails that brightened up my convalescence.

On becoming President I promised to visit as many groups as possible during my three years in office. Events led to the cancellation of all but one of the invitations I had received but I am now fit enough to attend any group willing to invite me.

Thanks to the outstanding generosity of the Pacific America Branch I was able to attend the PAB/NAB meeting at the San Pedro Maritime Museum, California. The three day meeting was held out doors on the museum lawns in the much needed shade of a series of open sided marquees and was attended by members from as far afield as Texas, Alaska, and South Carolina. The work displayed showed a wealth of talent that was equal to almost any thing I have seen in the UK and attracted many of the museum visitors who wandered over to look and ask questions. My thanks again to the PAB for sponsoring me and to Tom and Irene Gergen with whom I stayed and whose hospitality was without bounds.

Following the visit to Los Angeles I was invited down to Texas as the personal guest of Wayne and Kay Lewis at La Vernia for a much-needed rest. The Texas group arranged for a branch meeting to be held at Wayne's house and the meeting and attendant barbecue were a great success. Following the meeting we took a three hundred and sixty mile round trip to the Texas Maritime Museum at Rockport on the Gulf coast in furtherance of Wayne's efforts to establish links between the Museum and the Texas IGKT.

These visits made me far more aware of the problems facing members in the USA and many other countries. Texas has about seventeen members in an area the size of France. Local group meetings which are so much a feature of the knotting scene in the UK, and which do so much to engender enthusiasm and raise standards are much more difficult to arrange when members may be involved in a round trip of up to, or over, a thousand miles. Members in isolation rely on K.M. and, where available, the Web, to keep in touch with knots and knotters. In a country where local calls are free, surfing the web, chat rooms and e-mails are widespread, and to some extent fulfil some of the functions of group meetings, allowing members to swap ideas, compare work, and avoid the feeling of isolation from the rest of the knotting world. Dan Callahan's

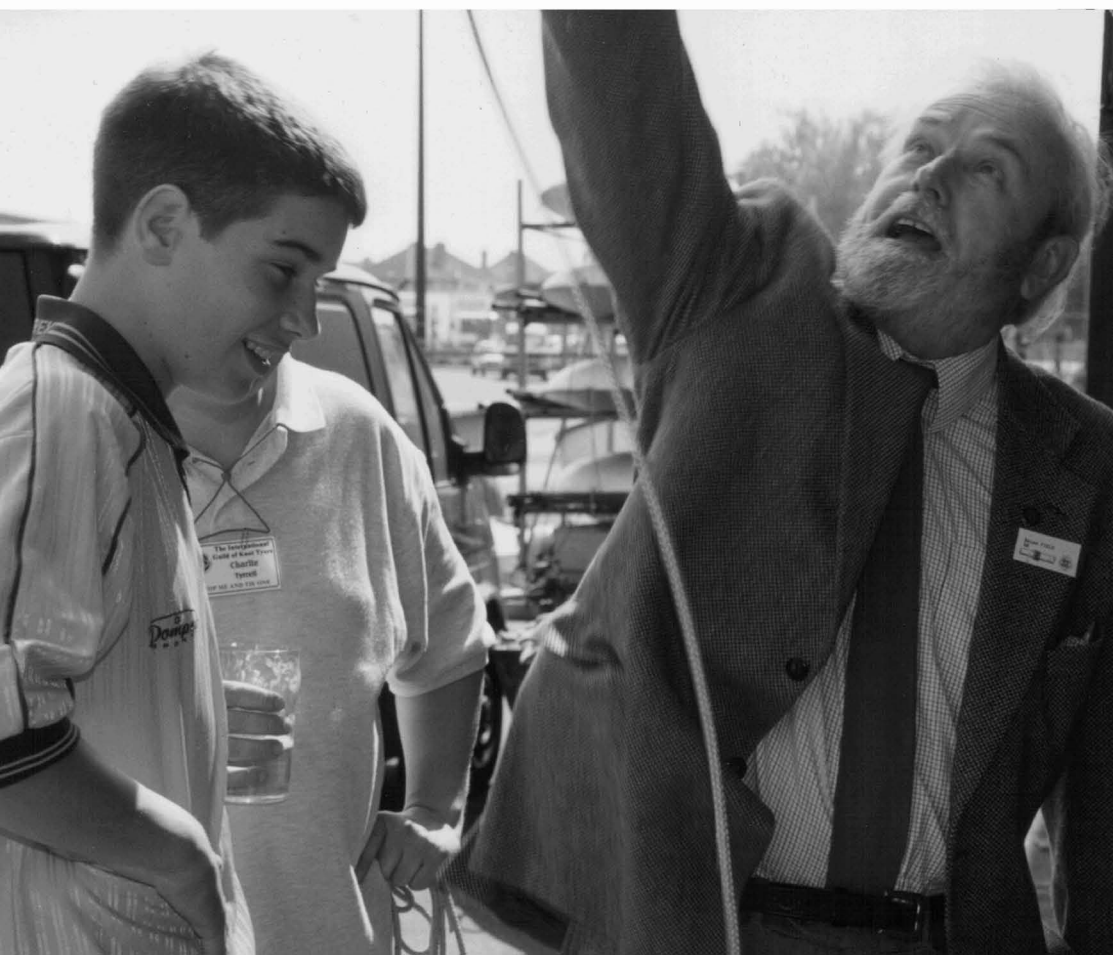
web site (more than fifty pages of Knotboards alone), has probably attracted more members to the Guild than any other single activity in the USA. Incidentally, our own web site run by Tony Doran attracted much favourable comment from US members.

When the cost of local calls in the UK drops to that in the USA, I would expect a similar level of activity to develop enabling closer links between British

members and those abroad. However, even in the USA only 50% of households own E-mail linked computers (25% in the UK) so for many, KM, surface mail and the telephone will continue to be the main means of communication and their needs must not be overlooked.

*Brian Field*  
(address in handbook,  
e-mail: [fieldb@freeuk.com](mailto:fieldb@freeuk.com))

***Brian demonstrating the amazing disappearing knot trick at T.S. Weston***



# AGM - T.S. Weston

Photographs by  
Bill Hubbard, Ken Nelson and Colin Grundy

Once again the knot tying fraternity were heading off for the West Country for the 18th Annual General meeting and weekend of knotting. This year we were in the familiar territory of T. S. Weston, the headquarters of the Sea Cadets of Weston-Super-Mare.

Friday evening saw the gathering of those hardy soles who would be staying for the duration, some to stay overnight at T.S. Weston, others who partook of the hospitality of this seaside town. As on previous occasions, the opportunity was taken by the Cadets to sharpen up their knot tying or learn new skills at the hands of Guild members. After this session, most members adjourned to the wardroom for a well-earned drink and chance to swap yarns.

Saturday dawned bright and clear. Following a hearty breakfast, it was now time to greet other members as they arrived for the days events. Outside, Charley Smith was busily creating four-strand shroud laid rope on his portable ropewalk. Inside, Bruce and Lynda Turley were manning the Guild Supplies stand, while other members were

talking and showing off their work.

At 11 am, the Chairman Ken Yalden brought the meeting to order to commence the business part of the day. Denis "Spud" Murphy welcomed everyone to T.S. Weston and dealt with the domestic arrangements. This was followed by a small speech by the President, Brian Field. Brian's instant recipe for friendship was to "take a bunch of knotters and stir in a generous amount of rope". Brian also welcomed members from New Zealand, America, the Netherlands, France and Ireland.

Secretary, Nigel Harding gave his report, where he told the meeting that membership was now almost 1100, with overseas members now outnumbering







*Willeke van der Ham signing in Frank Harris and Jan Hoefnagel*

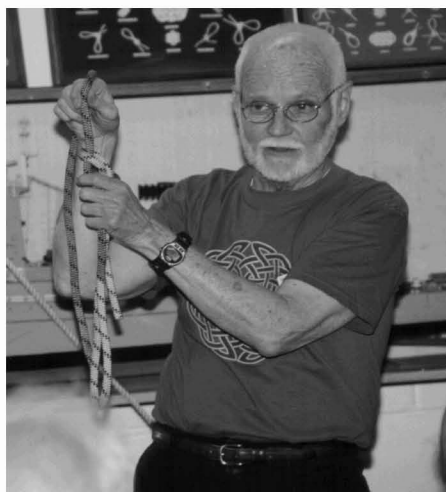
those in the UK. There are around 350 members in the USA alone. The IGTK is now truly international. Nigel also explained that the accounts for 1999/2000 are not available due to a delay by Mount Browne (the venue for the October 1999 meeting) in sending the bill. The next General meeting therefore would be declared a special general meeting to accept the accounts.

Brian Field presented a gift to Lonnie Boggs on behalf of the Guild for all the hard work he and His wife Margaret had put in to editing Knotting Matters. Lonnie replied that he had enjoyed his time as editor, but felt that after five years it was time for a change and a chance to do other things.

Lynda Turley explained about the problems with the accounts being unavailable, and gave an overview of the state of the Guild funds. Ken thanked her on behalf of the Guild for all her hard work.

The date of the next general meeting was confirmed as 14th October 2000, and Willeke van der Ham gave details of the venue, which will be in the town of Beverwijk in the Netherlands.

The election of Council members saw Lynda Turley, Tony Doran and Colin Grundy being returned for a further three years of office. Next year, Charley Smith, David Walker and Nigel are due to stand down. Nigel pointed out that it was time the Guild found a new secretary and he



**Dick Chisholm**

gave notice that he would not be standing again.

The main part of the business meeting over, it was time for Profile of a Knot Tyer where Ken Yalden got two members to answer three questions. How I became interested in knot tying; how I found out about the Guild and what interests other than knot tying do I have? First up was Michael Blake, who first became interested in knotting as a Cub then a Scout. He continued his interest in knots when working backstage with amateur dramatics, and then he became involved in Guiding. Michael found out about the Guild from Geoffrey Budworth's *The Knot Book*. He then met members of the Surrey Branch at Broadstone Warren Scout campsite, who convinced him to join the Guild. Michael's main interests are practical knots. His other interests include woodworking and the natural world.

Next up was Rod Orrah an ex pat Brit.

who now lives in New Zealand. In 1941, Rod had a neighbour who went off to sea training school at Sharpness. On his return, he showed an eleven year old Rod how to splice. In 1947, Rod went to the same sea training school and eventually to sea for nine years, where he continued to learn about knots. Rod found out about the Guild from Charles Thomason who lives in Australia. Charles was featured in an Australian magazine. Rod prefers practical knot tying and splicing, but also makes bell ropes, mats and dog leads. In addition to knotting, Rod also collects British and Commonwealth Army badges, works a wood lathe and has an interest in pottery and antiques. He also has a 1/3rd acre of land to look after (a very busy man).

Within Any Other Business, David Walker suggested a register of members who would be willing to display, Janet Flack challenged the meeting to tie the Blair's Shoulder Knot and Willeke van der Ham spoke about the problems that members in New Zealand have renewing their subscriptions.

Following the excellent buffet provided by the staff of TS Weston, there was a number of speakers. Dick Chisholm from New Hampshire, talked about the structure of life support knots and in particular analysed the bowline. Willeke spoke of her visit to New Zealand that she undertook immediately following the meeting in October last year. Richard Hopkins gave a talk and practical demonstration of making bowstrings for longbows.

The evening meal was a splendid affair, excellently prepared by the staff of T. S. Weston. The cadets did an excellent

job of waiting on tables; they were a credit to their officers and instructors. Following the meal, those who stayed broke into small groups and continued they're knotting or adjourned to the wardroom. Festivities went on until well into the night.

The following morning, it was time to pack up the displays and clear the room out. Whilst some had to depart early, it was clear that there were those members who still wished to linger on, hoping the weekend of knotting would never come to an end. All in all, it was another splendid time with many new things learned, acquaintances renewed and spirits refreshed. Well done to "Spud" Murphy and the crew of T. S. Weston.

***Below - Jeff Wyatt explains the intricacies of a knot***



***Above - Fred Carrington***

# Tools for Tying

By Frank Brown

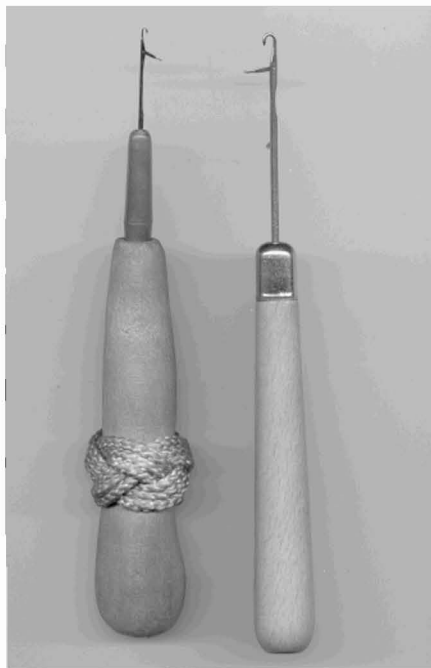
I am a constant admirer of those highly skilled people who indulge in “Fancy Knotting”, producing their gems of rope work. Having limited manual skills, I do not even try to construct anything more complicated than basic Turk’s heads and Knob Knots. Even with these simple jobs, I was always having trouble threading line through, over, under the intricacies of the construction. I have collected and made a range of standard

tools, including prickers, forceps, fids, spikes, pliers, as per advice of Ashley *et al*, and have been constantly on the alert for anything that could make the work easier. The result of this quest has been the acquisition of three tools used in other crafts, the Rug Hook (or Latch Hook), the Tatting Bobbin and the Fly-Tying Bobbin.

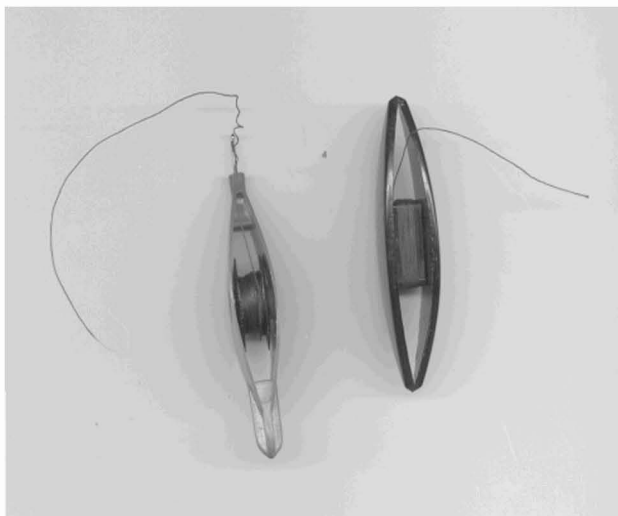
The first is used by poking the business end through the knot under construction, hooking on to the welded or whipped end and dragging it back through. This technique usually works but often needs a lot of wriggling, backtracking and the occasional invocation of naughty words. The end has a tendency to snag, the weld may split, or the whipping may slide off. I have used a small version of this tool to splice 2mm bricklayer’s twine. Not a commonly required task, but a good example of the tool’s capabilities. The tool has an advantage over the crotchet hook due to the hinged pin (latch) that covers the point of the hook when drawing the tool back through the knot.

The two bobbins are terrific for whipping line or cord of any size. They keep the whipping thread secure and untangled, and one can let the device swing free without it totally unwinding.

Rug Needles and Tatting Bobbins were obtained from a handcraft store and the Fly-Tying Bobbin naturally from the



*Rug Hooks*



### ***Tatting Bobbins***

sports fisherman's shop. All up costs were about \$A20.

My alternate hobby of leatherwork involves a deal of work with flat lace. Two lacing needles are available for this work, the Flat Needle and the Live Eye. I seem to remember reading an article that described the use of the Live Eye with nylon cord. The end of the cord was heated in a flame, rapidly moulded to a point and inserted and screwed into the threaded hole in the end of the needle. I have had absolutely no success with this technique. Either I am too ham fisted, too slow, or misread the article.

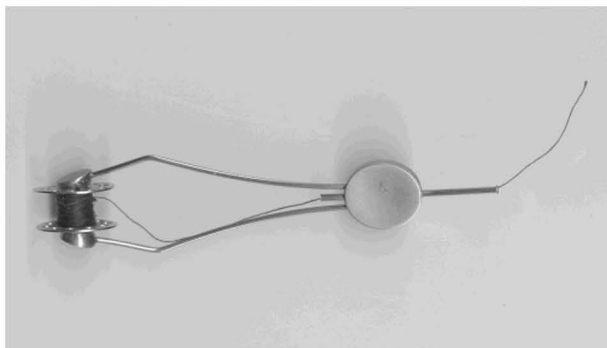
The concept of using a needle to negotiate the ins and outs of tricky knots was obvious and I have developed two solutions.

The first is to use heat shrink plastic tubing obtained from the local electrical gadget store. The staff tend to look at you strangely as you stand there try to poke bits of string down the tubing to determine what size is needed, but are usually happy to take your money. I use about 50 to 60 mm of tubing and apply heat with the wife's hair dryer. She also looks at you strangely, but is probably used to your funny little ways. The result is an end

of suitable rigidity for poking through a passage in the knot opened with a fid or spike. The tubing is not exactly cheap but it makes the task so much easier.

The second solution was to make a needle from Aluminium tubing of the right dimensions. This tubing was obtained from a modeler's shop and cost about \$A2 for 300mm. The needle is made from a 50 to 70mm length of the tubing, with a

### ***Fly Tying Bobbin***



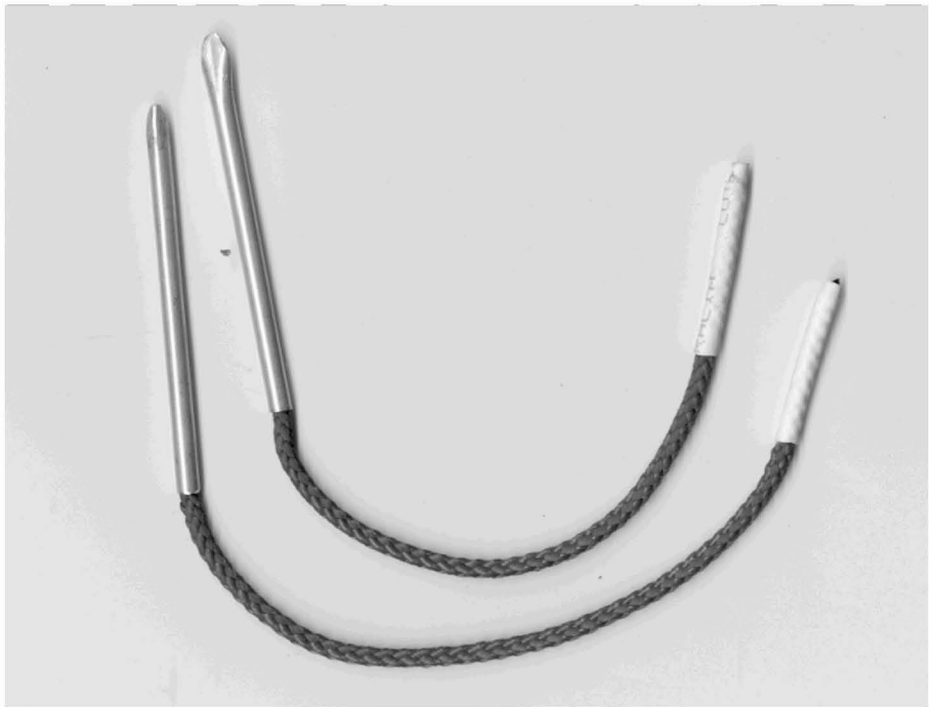
thread cut in one end using a wood screw. There is probably less than 5mm of thread cut, and I try not to expand the end by driving the screw in too hard. The pointed end may be made either by flattening and filing or by gently cold forging to close up the tube and filing a rounded point. To use the needle with artificial fibre type line, the end is melted carefully to produce a small knob. Provided this knob is not too big, the end can be introduced into the threaded end and screwed in to provide a reasonably firm connection. Obviously if the knob is too small it will not make a good connection and the cord will pull out at the first gentle tug.

To use the needles with natural fibres,

one technique is to use the heat shrink tubing to provide a suitable surface for threading. Another possibility, not yet tried, is to treat the end with some glue, allow drying and then screwing it in.

So far I have only been playing with the one size of needle and line. It seems that one would need a range of needles to cope with differing line sizes. Multiple layers of heat shrink tubing may be the way to effect adequate connection.

It has been suggested that one could “super glue” the end of a line to a sawn off knitting needle as a method of achieving the desired effect. I am a bit hesitant with that idea as I have a recurring vision of being well and truly “stuck” into the work.



***Line Needles and Heat Shrink Tube***

# Of Pointing, Grafting Cockscombing and Cat-o-nine Tails



## **VON HUNDEPINTS, SCHWEINSRÜCKEN UND NEUNSCHWÄNZIGER KATZE VAN HONDENPUNTEN, HANENKAMMEN EN DE-KAT-MET-NEGENSTAARTEN**

Deutsches Seilhafen Museum, Alte Pastori, Pumphausen 3,  
26409 Wittmund - Carolinensiel Germany, until 7th November 2000 open 10 until 6.  
Tel/Fax 04464 456/8433

Karl Bareuther of Glücksberg, Germany is one of the best practitioners of sailors decorative ropework I know, his chest becketts are probably the best I have ever seen, and he makes very fine blackjacks, cat-o-nine tails and bellropes. He also has a most enviable collection of old sailors' ropework and ropeworking tools.

Last year he managed to convince the Museum in Warnemünde to put on an exhibition based on his collection of sailors' ropework and ropeworking tools. This has lead to an expanded exhibition at the Deutsches Seilhafen Museum in Carolinensiel, which runs until the 7th November. Carolinensiel is on the North

Sea coast [Friesland coast] of Germany not far from Williamshaven. Later the exhibition will be moving on to Papenburg on the river Ems and then to Veendam in the Netherlands. Later on the exhibition will be seen in Flensburg and Bremerhaven [Deutsches Schifffahrtsmuseum].

To go with the exhibition Karl Bareuther and the Museum director have put together a fine well illustrated little catalogue. This has 48 pages, written in German and Dutch with all the 47 or so illustrations In your own language! There are photos of many interesting old and rare tools, examples of both new and old ropework, mainly printed in sepia, but some, for example a very fine old ditty bag, are in colour. There are illustrations of some of the basic knots, splices, pointing, grafting, cockscombing and serving, to give the public a taster of what can be done. The museum also has put together an excellent little kit for children, nothing like starting them young.

This exhibition and catalogue is bringing before the public the art and craft and skill that so many of us care for. It has raised the position of the much-neglected world of sailors' ropework. Well done Karl.

**Des Pawson**

*For those of you who cannot get to the exhibition, Des and Liz Pawson, Footrope Knots, 501 Wherstead Road, Ipswich, IP2 8LL can supply a copy of the catalogue for £6 at the Guild meetings or posted £7 in the UK, £8 for the rest of the world, payment in sterling on a UK bank please [or £ or \$ notes]*

# Knotmaster Series No. 6

***“Knotting ventured,  
knotting gained.”***

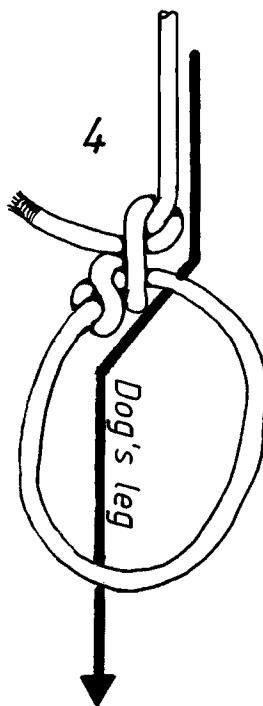
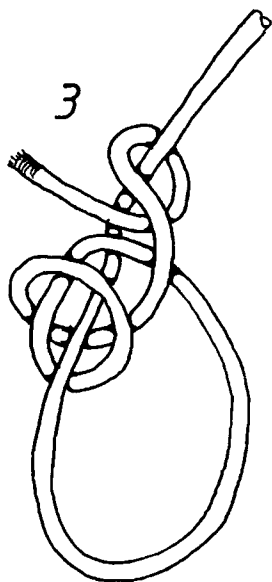
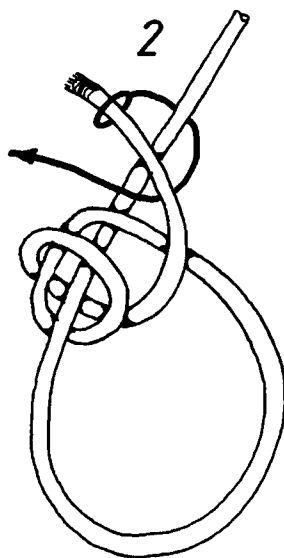
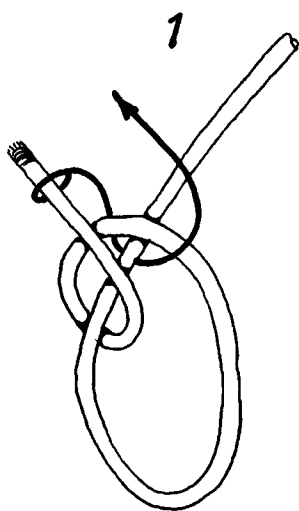
## Midshipman's Hitch

This is one of those s-l-i-d-e &- GRIP knots. The loop can be readily adjusted to the required size by grasping the knot and shifting it along the standing part of the line; but, when loaded, a dog's leg deformation created in the standing part of the line enables it to hold fast.

Use it whenever periodic alteration in length of a line is essential in guy-lines or mooring lines, as well as for any improvisation in craft studio or garage.

Form an overhand loop (one in which the working end lies on top) and then take a turn through it with the end (fig. 1). Jam a second turn tightly between the original one and the upper leg of the loop (fig. 2) and finish off with a half-hitch (fig. 3). For a temporary job, consider a draw-loop (not illustrated). Tighten the knot (fig. 4).





*Midshipman's  
hitch*

# KNOTTY LIMERICKS WANTED

It's the sort of poem we have all heard, read and recited. The English artist and humorist Edward Lear popularized the limerick in his *Book of Nonsense* (1846) but this curious form of verse emerged from the South West of Ireland as early as 1800, and by 1907 had become quite a craze - with competitions and lavish prizes (in one instance a freehold house, a horse and trap, and £2 a year for life). Poets and writers as notable as Dante Gariel Rossetti, Arnold Bennett and Rudyard Kipling all had a go at the limerick. Now K.M. readers are invited to submit for publication their own limericks on knots, ropework or closely allied subjects. These limericks must consist of five lines which rhyme a a b b a. The more ingenious the rhyming, the better. Contrary to the practice of older limericks, the last line should NOT merely be a weak repetition of the first one, but should - if possible - be the strongest of the whole verse. The following specimen obeys these guidelines:

*There was a Guild member from Kent  
Whose knotting was truly well-meant;  
But his hitches proved slippery,  
And quite un-shape-shippery,  
While his joining knots all came unbent.*

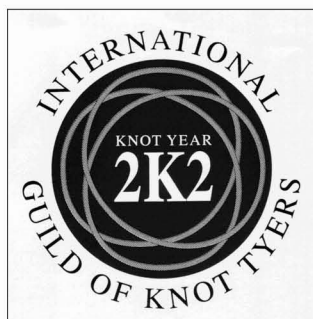
Now it is your turn. Enable us to celebrate and augment two centuries of limericks with an abundance of knot-inspired whimsy and amusing nonsense, which the editor hopes he may be able to publish a few at a time in future issues of Knotting Matters.

# MILLENIUM KNOTs

Tony Fisher first made the proposal in KM 57, that to signal the start of the new millenium, every member of the Guild should tie a Turks Head knot. This suggestion was taken up by the Guild to herald the start of the Knot Year 2K2, the run up to the Guild's twentieth birthday.

Whilst the suggestion was changed to allow each knot tyer the choice of knot, Millenium survival packs were sent out to all Guild members. In these packs were included a postcard to return to Ken Yalden, giving brief details of the knots tied. Details included who, where (including lat. and long.), what and time.

To date nearly 180 cards have been received, showing a splendid effort by members of the Guild to celebrate the start of the new millenium in our own special way. Whilst space does not permit all the details to be included in Knotting Matters, the list of knots will be included in this and the next issue of KM.



NAME	PLACE	COUNTRY	KNOT TIED
Wright, Gerry	NWT	Canada	3L x 4B
Ide, Rodger	Sutton Coldfield	England	1L x 5B
Peron, Olivier	Cadenet	France	
Schmidbauer, Joe	Corona, California	USA	Bellrope
Doyle, James L	Salem, Mass	USA	4L x 3B
Doyle, James L for Reg White			3L x 4B
Wilson, Mike	Alexandria, Virginia	USA	4L x 3B
Chisholm, Dick	Rumney, New Hampshire	USA	Key ring
Dyer, Anne	Craven Arms, Shropshire	England	pendants & tassels
Flannagan, Pat	Athens, Georgia	USA	4L x 3B
Brown, Frank	Lindisfarne, Tasmania	Australia	Mini bellrope
Callahan, Dan	Anchorage, Alaska	USA	
Nortje, Ken	Harare	Zimbabwe	4L x 3B
Chardon, T	Orleans	USA	Ocean Mat
Walsh, Brian	Ipswich, Suffolk	England	3L x 4B
Walsh, Brian	Ipswich, Suffolk	England	4L x 3B
Lee, Arthur Clair	Fort Collins, Colorado	USA	4L x 3B
Rempe, Don	Mercer Island, Washington	USA	4L x 3B
McLaren, Raymond & Kate	Moonbi, NSW	Australia	4L x 3B
Skyner, Peter	Blackham, E Sussex	England	Granny
White, Reg E	Aberystwyth	Wales	4L x 3B
Palmborg, Marianne	Beguia, St Vincent	W I	Love Knots
Ford, Jade	San Francisco, California	USA	Knife Lanyard
Smith, Barry	Geelong, Victoria	Australia	4L x 3B
Higgins, Rob	Dallas, Texas	USA	4L x 3B
Grundy, Colin	Bickenhill Fire Station	England	Chair knot
Neville, Gary	Griffith, NSW	Australia	Tenkai rope trick
Findlay, Glad	Guildford, Surrey	England	Love Knots
Delmotte, Christophe	Fleurus	Belgium	4L x 3B
Gerry, Bill	Victoria, British Columbia	Canada	4L x 3B

NAME	PLACE	COUNTRY	KNOT TIED
Kohanzo, Keith	Northbrook, Illinois	USA	3L x 5B
Ling Kay Kah	Hong Kong	Hong Kong	4L x 3B
Weller, James	Farnborough, Hants	England	4L x 3B
Kitchiner, Nick	Amsterdam	Holland	4L x 3B
Norman, Ann	Bampton, Oxfordshire	England	4L x 3B round a Millenium candle holder
Slijckerman, Theo	Nijkerk	Holland	Crown Sinnet - Ashley 2917
Boro, Thor	Sogne	Norway	4L x 3B
Walker, Ron	Denton, Texas	USA	4L x 3B
Hodgson, M L	Rotterdam	Holland	4L x 3B
Sexton, Richard P	Fort Worth, Texas	USA	Bend - Ashley 1452.
Doyle, James L	Salem, Mass	USA	4L x 3B
Allen, Garwood	Baker City, Oregon	USA	Double knife lanyard - Ashley 788
Stask, Chris M	Sidney, British Columbia	Canada	4L x 3B
Reed, Tom	Sandbridge, Virginia	USA	4L x 3B
Nuttall, Owen	Huddersfield, W Yorkshire	England	4L x 3B
Deheneauw, Henri	Blankenberge	Belgium	4L x 3B
Yalden, Ken	Horndean, Hampshire	England	Single strand 8 plait grommet
Bellamy, Don	Fareham, Hampshire	England	Icicle hitch
Turner, Tuffy	Battisford, Suffolk	England	7B x 13 L doubled (on a large bottle)
Crago, Peter	Missoula, Montana	USA	Carrick Bend
Scott, Harold	Brixworth, Northants	England	4L x 3B
Blake, Polenth	Hastings, E Sussex	England	Monkey's Fist (tied in edible strawberry laces)
Wouters, R	Schoten	Belgium	Star Knot
Hughes, Vernon	Warminster, Somerset	England	3L x 5B
Goldstone, Peter	Woking, Surrey	England	'unauthodox' Turkshead (Spanish ring knot)
Perry, Colin	Cowes, Isle of Wight	England	4L x 3B
Udall, F G	Birmingham	England	4L x 3B
Kvickland, Rolf	Karlsberg	Sweden	4L x 3B
Sassu, Giovanni Marco	Cagliari	Italy	4L x 3B
Nash, Richard J	Barnstaple, Devon	England	Jensen's rosette

NAME	PLACE	COUNTRY	KNOT TIED
Chisholm, Dick	Rumney, New Hampshire	USA	Theodore Knot
Heapy, John A	Glasgow	Scotland	Ashley 3834
Lahdenpera, Jouni	Mariehamn	Finland	4L x 3B
Ault, Eddie	Hayling Island, Hampshire	England	4L x 3B round a champagne(!) cork
Fruis-Christensen, Jorgen	Tonder	Denmark	5L x 4B
Smith, Terry	Dartford, Kent	England	4L x 3B
Pearson, D	Leeds	England	Overhand knot (love, peace & unity)
Pearson, S	Leeds	England	A Bell (to ring in the Millenium)
Hawkshaw, Mke	Holme Moss Transmitting Station nr Huddersfield	England	3L x 4B
Long, Ron	Runcorn, Cheshire	England	4L x 3B
Tingle, C B	Stockton-on-Tees	England	4L x 3B
Noble, Bill	Southport, N Carolina	USA	4L x 3B
Hooper, D O	Colchester, Essex	England	4L x 3B
Lanham, Sam	Fredericksburg, Texas	USA	4L x 3B
Schwalm, Jurgen	Waltrp	Germany	6L x 5B
Judkins, Steve	Portsmouth, Hampshire	England	Gaucha of three passes
Stankiewicz, John	Weirton, West Virginia	USA	Bowline with half double fisherman (grapevine) safety
Smith, Pamela C	Wheaton Aston, Stafford	England	3L x 4B
Smith, S Maurice	Wheaton Aston, Stafford	England	3L x 4B
Jones, Nick	Stourbridge	England	4L x 3B
Nelson, Ken	Weeton, Northants	England	4L x 3B
Little, Bill	Sheringham, Norfolk	England	4L x 3B
Huntington, R A	Wells next the Sea	England	4L x 3B made as a cummerbund using 1" dia warping
Jones, A E	Stroud, Glos	England	4L x 3B
Hopkins, Richard	Keynsham, Bristol	England	4L x 3B
Steggles, John	Bransgore, Hants	England	4L x 3B
Burt, Victor	Essex, Connecticut	USA	4L x 3B
McPartlan, Maurice	Deptford	England	4L x 3B
Maidment, Edward	Trowbridge, Wilts	England	4L x 3B
Pawson, Des & Liz	Ipswich, Suffolk	England	

# On the History of the Boa Knot

By Heinz Prohaska

Starting climbing in the early sixties, I'm concerned with knot problems for more than 30 years. The first solution of a problem is seldom the best one. As a rule a number of alternatives has to be developed and studied. Sometimes quite a big number. Within the scope of such activities, I tested over 1000 knots. Knots published in **KNOTTING MATTERS** by members of the guild and claimed, supposed or hoped to be new don't always be new for me. One of these knots is the boa knot.

Knowing the danger of abseiling on a single piton, climbers try to use two. The question is how to connect the rope with the pitons. To use two slings for that, one in every piton, is often recommended (fig. 1). For equal loads on both pitons the angles between the rope and the slings must also be equal. If the angles are different, one of the slings is too long and has to be shortened. But untying of climber's knots can be difficult, and abseiling is a technique for

situations that don't allow you to loose much time. Moreover, sewn slings have no knot. Many years ago, in the eighties, I had the idea to shorten the sling in a way shown in a book on sailor's knots [1] (fig.2). The length of the sling can easily be adjusted. Maximal extension of the shortened sling leads to the constrictor knot.

The method works well, but the sling can only be shortened half of its length. Therefore I tried a doubling (fig.3). Maximal extension of the shortened sling led to a double constrictor knot, named boa knot today. Tests showed that the double shortened sling could have a tendency to slip and get longer in synthetic ropes and slings. A use for abseil anchors couldn't be recommended.

I sometimes using the constrictor knot in climbing/mountaineering, but I had no use for the boa knot till now.

## References

[1] Lund, Kaj: Bändsel, Leinen, Trossen. Bielefeld 1975, p.173

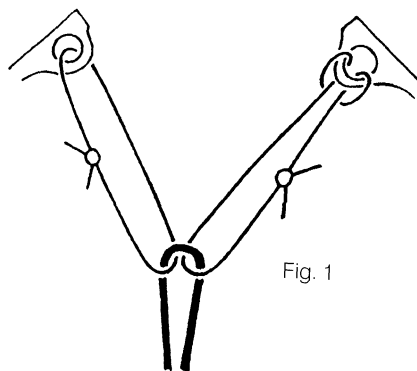


Fig. 1

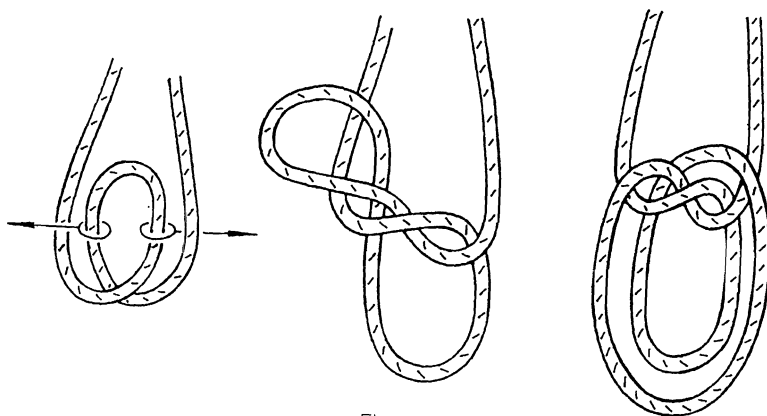


Fig. 2

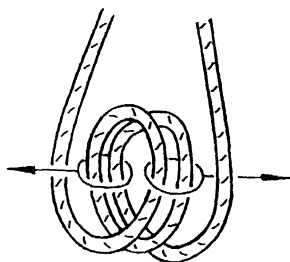


Fig. 3



# Historical Netmaking

**By Richard Hopkins**

This picture was spotted in the “Art Source Book” compiled by Nick Rowling in 1987. ISBN 0948872950 I noticed it as a small illustration in the corner of a page.

Geoffrey Budworth noticed that the artist has shown both right- and left-hand laid rope. I found the other details about rope and net making also of interest, wondered if any other members might be

able to add comment, and was sure that they would enjoy seeing the picture.

Pictures of the Old Masters often provides detail on contemporary activities, such as building techniques, seen in the many depictions of the Tower of Babel, as just one example. The history and development of woodworking tools rely heavily on scenes of Jesus and Joseph the carpenter.

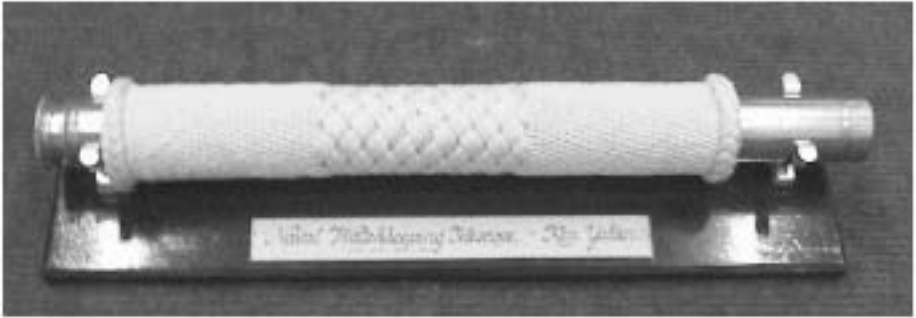
*BAL28599 Men with nets, by Gaston Phebus*

*Livre de la Chasse, (begun 1387)*

*Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, France/ Bridgeman Art Library.*



# Knot Gallery



*Above - Naval Watchkeeping Telescope  
Made by Ken Yalden*

*Below - Turks Head Bracelets  
6L x 19B in 2mm Cotton  
5L x 17B in 3mm Cotton  
Made by George Haycraft*







*Knot Jewellery, Pendants and Tie Tacks by Dan Callahan*

*Pendants - "wee lighthouse knots" all components 6 strand*

*[Pink] star knot (doubled) [Blue] Star Knot*

*Mathew Walker*

*(the beginning of) Manrope knot*

*Crown sennit*

*Crown sennit*

*7 lead footrope knot*

*7 lead footrope knot*

*Tie Tacks - star knots*

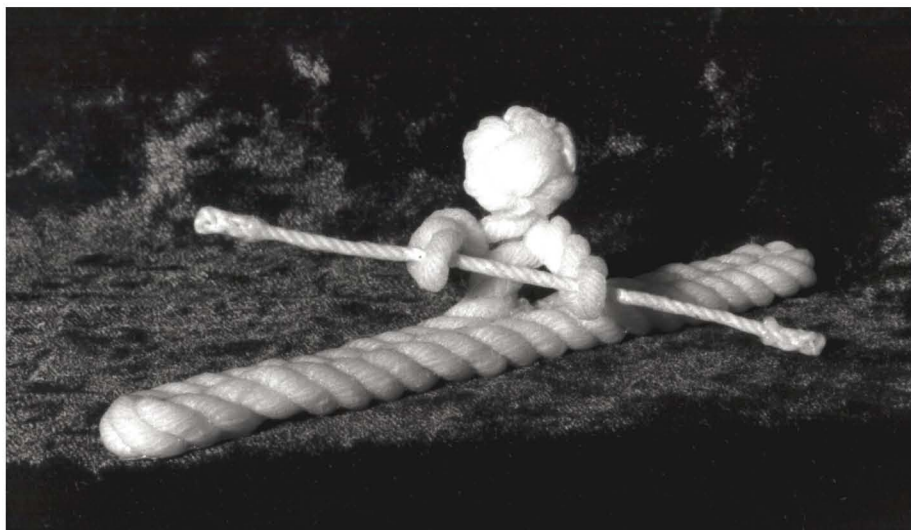
*Material 1.4mm venetian blind cord*

*Left - Macramé bag (one side of) by Joe Schmidbauer*

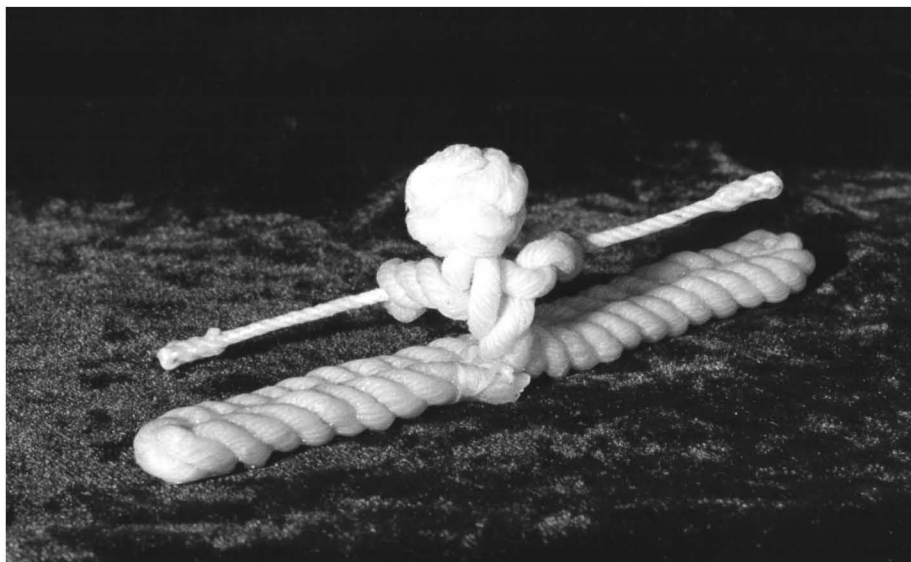
*Dimensions 305 x 178mm - Material 2mm brown parachute cord*

*Knots various square knot, half knot twist and half hitch work*





*Cordage kayaker by Jill Jenner (UK) who is an IGKT founder-member  
Rear view of Jill Jenner's kayaker (note the realistic muscle definition of  
neck and back)*



*Right - Fenders by Yngve Edell, Sweden  
The four strand rope is 32mm diameter, the long fender 800mm x  
150mm dia. the round pudding fender 500mm dia.*



# The Parsimony Principle A Tentative Hypothesis

by Cy Canute

*Knotting is based upon specific limitations and constraints, leading to the recurrence of common knot-tying manoeuvres and knotted configurations, which collectively justify the description parsimonious.*

Parsimony in human affairs is defined as: unusual or excessive frugality, especially with regard to money; extreme economy; meanness; stinginess. In nature, too, there exists a parsimonious streak whereby, once a solution to some physical, chemical or biological hurdle has evolved - such as the skeleton, hormones, vocal communication, *et cetera* - that same solution appears again and again in all kinds of disparate species.

In knotting too - it seems - parsimony exists. The process of tucking either over or under (with no other option) combines with the simple forms of bight and loop to create ubiquitous knotted forms and textures. The unwanted knots that commonly tie themselves in tangled garden hoses and electric leads (the overhand, figure of eight, pretzel and slip knots) are evidence of this limited power of invention, while the most imaginative and pleasing macramè designs are merely artful combinations of reef or square knots and clove hitches.

Some apparently complex knots resolve themselves into simpler ones, or vanish altogether. For instance, a few

heraldic badges and Celtic knot designs are incapable of holding their designed forms in real cordage. Then again, deliberate entanglements (like those shown in Fig. 1) may be simplified just by shaking them; and the manipulations that were necessary to create them in the first place can, when analysed, be reduced to just three discrete actions - the classic Reidemeister<sup>[1]</sup> moves.

The bowline and sheet bend share a similar layout and this fact encouraged Harry Asher<sup>[GKT<sup>[2]</sup>]</sup> to devise other loop knots from bends, and vice versa (Fig. 2). He also described how, by simply swapping a working end for a standing end, different knots could be achieved without altering the basic arrangement. In this way a reef knot can be transformed into a thief knot.

Desmond Mandeville<sup>[GKT<sup>[3]</sup>]</sup> mapped routes by which bends could be altered, one tuck at a time, to yield a series of related knots; and he observed that bends close together (in terms of tucks) could have extremely different characters - the reliable sheet bend was only one tuck away from the unbalanced thief knot which (like Robert Louis Stevenson's Dr.

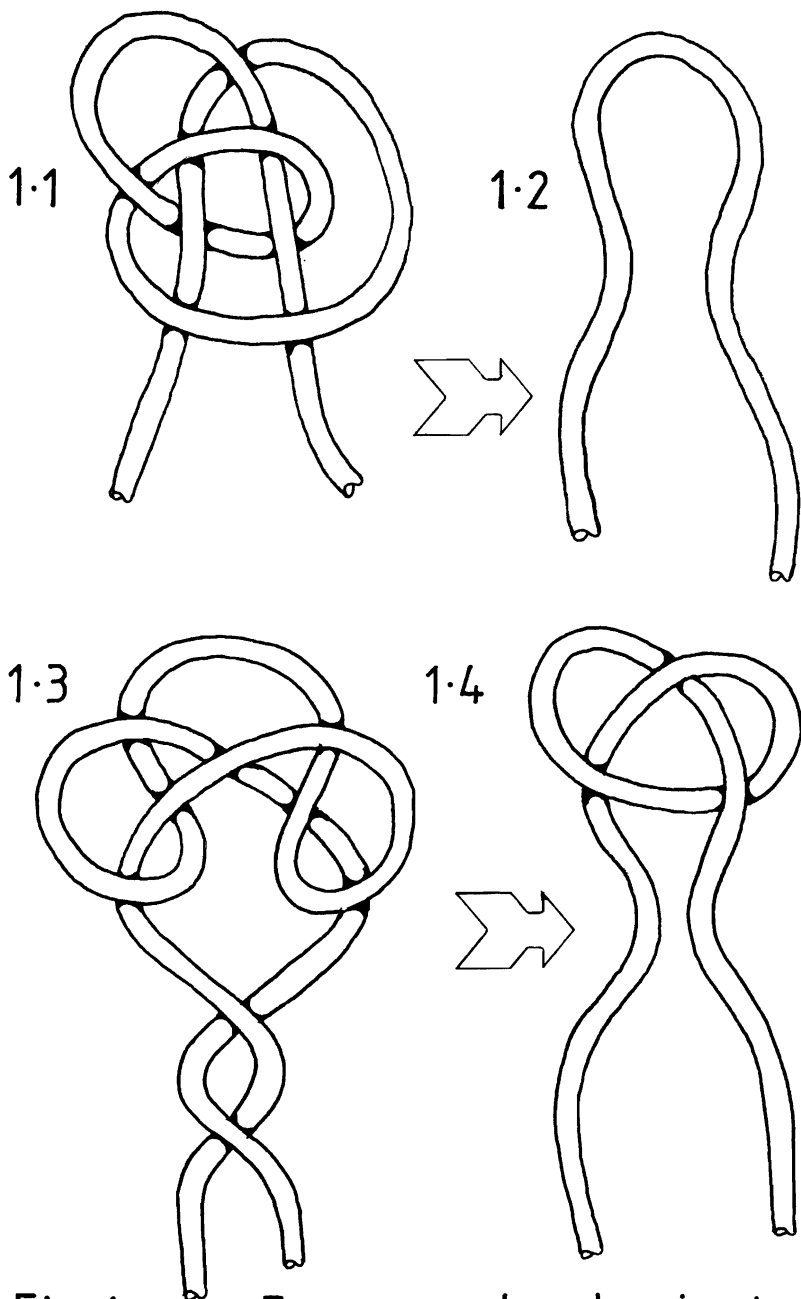


Fig. 1 From complex to simple

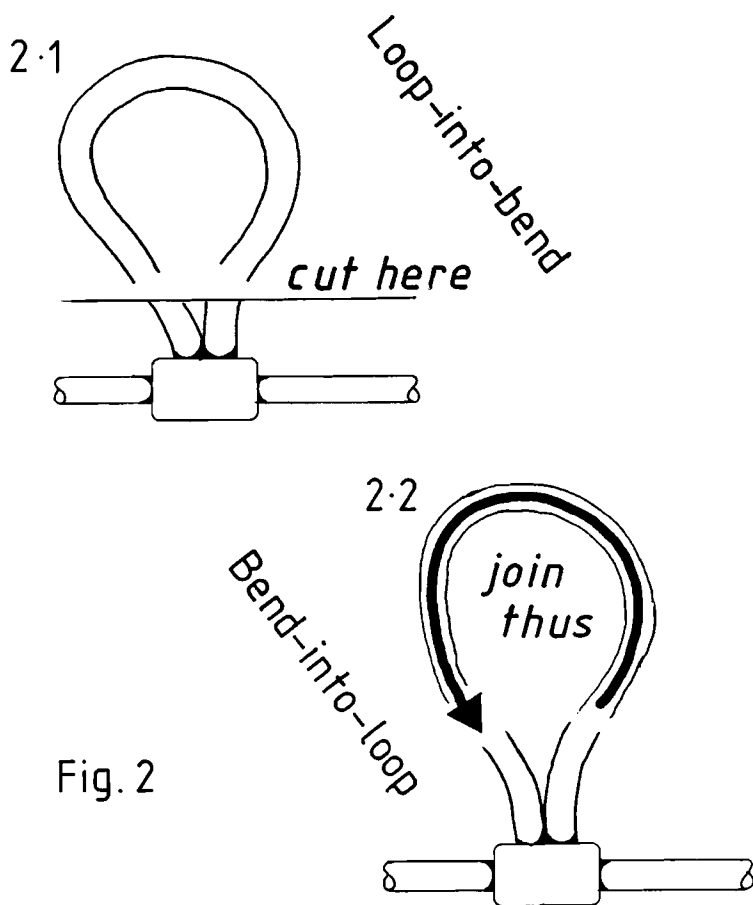


Fig. 2

Jekyll and Mr. Hyde) existed in two forms, one stable, the other very unstable.

George Russell Shaw<sup>[4]</sup> had earlier considered 20 possible layouts of the classic carrick and reef patterns tied in two cords, from which he could make only eight viable knots or bends, and these were linked by a series of tucks (Fig. 3). Indeed, the number of experimental knots that prove to be both useful and good-looking generally seems to be a small fraction of the total.

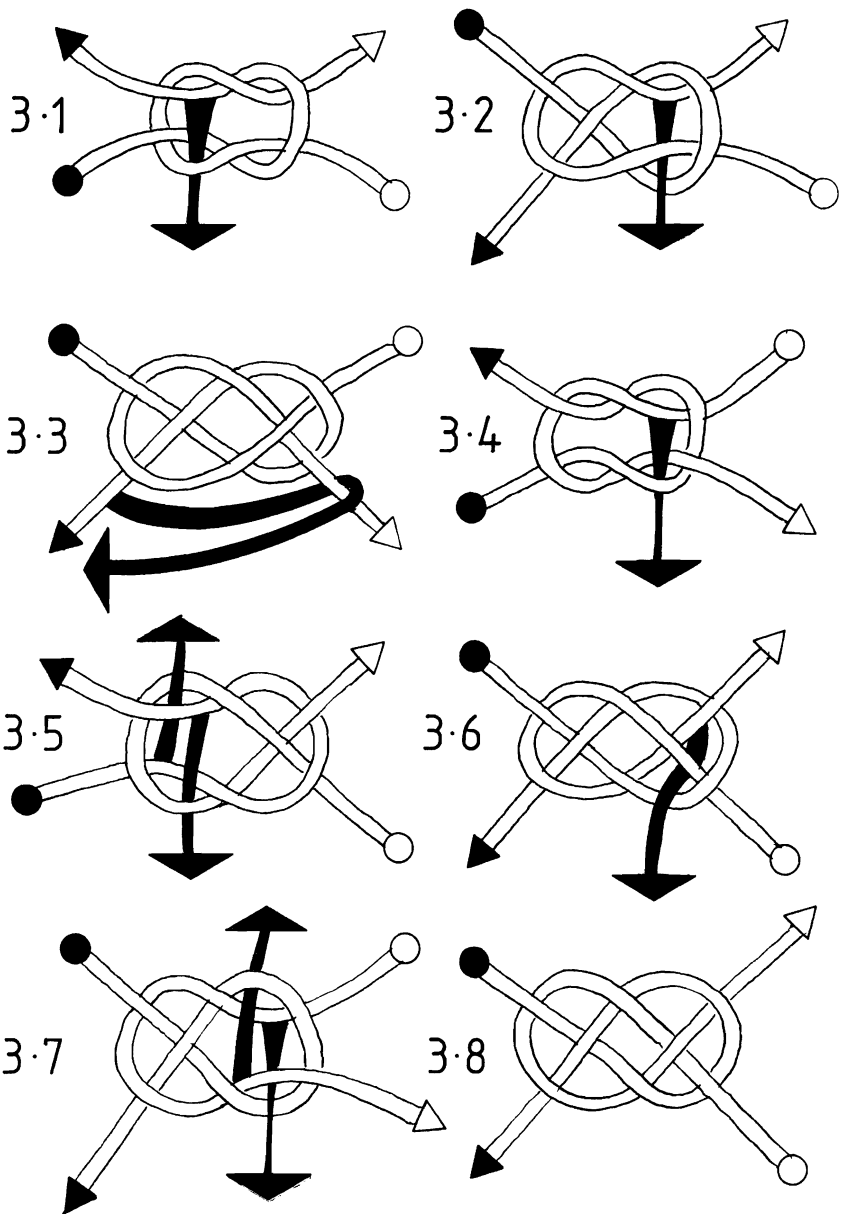
Of the 85 possible neck-tie knots described by Thomas Fink and Yong Mao<sup>[5]</sup>, only four are in widespread use (and an analysis of their aesthetic criteria revealed just nine further possible candidates for adoption).

It is not overly fanciful to imagine a kind of natural selection which imposes a species-specific fitness upon some knots and so ensures they are preferred to others. Pursuing this neo-Darwinian analogy, it is possible to state:



# The Shaw Series

Fig.3



- \* there are more than enough knots;
- \* they compete for niches in the knotting repertoire;
- \* individual knot viability varies over time (depending upon usage, as well as changing cordage materials and construction);
- \* knot tyers select those they prefer and so determine the 'fitness' of those knots to prevail over the remainder.

This evolutionary process has already been discussed by Pieter van der Griend<sup>[IGKT]<sup>6]</sup> as 'Survival of the Simplest'.</sup>

Those who seek the holy grail of a comprehensive knotting taxonomy (classification) are, I suggest, tacitly acknowledging the possibility of a parsimony principle as they strive to impose order upon a fairly haphazard conglomeration of knots, bends, hitches and the rest; for where they discover regular and predictable patterns, it may be argued, parsimony must exist. From the arbitrary knot groupings employed by writers of knotting books, and the helpful cryptic algorithms of numerous Turk's head practitioners, to the abstruse formulae of the knot theorists, the foundation underpinning these various architectural styles seems to be a parsimonious one.

In attempting to pin down one aspect of what that pioneer of knot theory Peter Guthrie Tait<sup>[7]</sup> called 'beknottedness' with an apt expression - the Parsimony Principle - this hypothesis is proposed (as all worthwhile hypotheses must be) in

order that it might, after further consideration by others, be disproved.

## References

- [1] Reidemeister, Kurt, Knotentheorie (Berlin, 1932)
- [2] Asher, Harry, A New System of Knotting (IGKT, 1986)
- [3] Mandeville, Desmond, Knotting Matters, Issue Nos. 4, 10, 18, 19, 23, 24, 25, 27, 29 and 34 (IGKT, 1983-1991)
- [4] Shaw, George Russell, Knots - Useful & Ornamental (New York, 1933)
- [5] Fink, Thomas and Mao, Yong, The 85 Ways to Tie a Tie (London, 1999)
- [6] Griend, Pieter van der, Knots and Rope Problems (Netherlands, 1992)
- [7] Tait, Peter Guthrie, On Knots - I, II & III, Scientific Papers - Vol. I (London, 1877-1885)

## ROPE ENDS

### *Untangle this one!*

Knot: an intertwining, looping, bending, hitching, folding, gathering together or tangling of one or more parts of a pliant relatively slender length of something in such a way as to produce a tying together, fastening, binding, or connecting of the length on, to, or with itself, another length, or some other thing.

Webster's Third New International  
Dictionary  
Tony Doran

# Cruciform Turks Heads

By Harold Scott

It is not every knot tyer who wants to tie Cruciform Turks Head knots with a single strand. One should have the option of tying CTH's with more than one strand, and by using coloured cords enhance the beauty of the knot.

The three tables have been tabulated in full to give the knot tyer this choice. Each table is the square of the number of bights that it represents. The shape at the four crutches of a CTH can take two forms. One shape being hexagonal, which I refer to as an "open" crutch. The other shape gives two pentagonal; I refer to this pentagonal shape as a "crossed" crutch. The parameters of all three tables have been tabulated with the strand run crossing at the crutch and in a form that I call a basic form. Two other forms being a CTH Crucifix and Irregular form.

Basic form simply means that the perpendicular, odd number Turks Head,

bisects the horizontal even number Turks Head, so that each horizontal arm, has the same number of leads; and that there is a difference of one lead between two arms of the perpendicular Turks Head. I have purposefully mentioned the crutches of CTH, for I found that if one uses certain sets of parameters from the tables provided, to tie a CTH with an open crutch, a different number of strands is required.

For example, parameters

X23L and 25L

Y24L

from table "C" each set takes five strands to tie. Tied with an "open" crutch, it takes seven strands. Some further examples are underlined in the extra table for ten bight open crutch C.T.H. There are other examples in the six and eight bight tables, which I have not recorded.

TABLE "A" 6 BIGHT

		L	E	A	D	S		
L E A D S	Y\X	11	13	15	17	19	21	23
	12	5	5	3	5	5	3	5
	14	1	3	3	1	3	3	1
	16	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	18	1	1	3	1	1	3	1
	20	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	22	3	1	3	3	1	3	3
	24	5	5	3	5	5	3	5

**TABLE "B" 8 BIGHT**

		L		E		A		D		S	
L E A D S	Y\X	11	13	15	17	19	21	23	25	27	
	12	5	5	1	1	3	3	1	1	5	
	14	3	7	7	3	3	5	5	3	3	
	16	3	3	7	7	3	3	5	5	3	
	18	5	3	3	5	5	3	3	5	5	
	20	3	3	1	1	3	3	1	1	3	
	22	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	
	24	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
	26	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	
	28	5	5	1	1	3	3	1	1	5	

More anomalies arise when the "Law of the Common Divisor" is applied; again using the ten-bight table for example. There is a lack of conformity where the parameters for a C.T.H. are divisible by five. Only the Y30L row appears to conform. I have included and circled these X and Y combinations in the extra table.

One can well understand the knot tyer being confused and even discouraged by these apparent contradictions. No doubt a Guild mathematician can supply the answers, but please in layman's language.

It is unnecessary to extend the tables ad infinitum to find the number of strands it takes to tie a much larger Cruciform Turks Head.

Example:  $\underline{X143L \times 10B} = 267L \times 20B$   
 $\underline{Y124L \times 10B}$

Simply reduce the X, Y leads by multiples of the number of bights, i.e. 20. Read off the result in table "C" which is

$\underline{X23L \times 10B}$   
 $\underline{Y24L \times 10B}$

The larger C.T.H. takes five strands to tie.

A C.T.H. Crucifix is formed by increasing the leads of the lower leg by

multiples of two, or by moving the horizontal arms in an upward direction.

An irregular C.T.H. has one horizontal arm with fewer leads than the other does.

Example from six bight table "A" - X19L x Y22L each horizontal arm having eleven leads. Reduce one arm by six leads, increase its opposite number by six leads, i.e. ratio 5:17. This keeps the six-bight C.T.H. tyable single-stranded.

The combination for tying irregular C.T.H's are too numerous to record.

I have proven the correctness of the tables, by tying, but not in cord. All combinations of X, Y, lead using six, eight and ten bight formers.

All one needs are a soft eraser, and a soft pencil. See illustration, mark off the bights on each arm and follow the strand run;

1 - 24 to complete

$\underline{X17L \times 6B} = 31L \times 12B$   
 $\underline{Y14L \times 6B}$

single strand C.T.H. When complete, just erase ready for proving more Cruciform Turks Heads. The centres of kitchen foil and Cling-film are ideal for making formers.

**TABLE "C" 10 BIGHT**

**L E A D S**

**L  
E  
A  
D  
S**

Y\X	15	17	19	21	23	25	27	29	31	33	35
16	7	7	3	3	3	5	5	3	3	3	7
18	1	9	9	1	1	1	5	5	1	1	1
20	3	3	9	9	3	3	3	7	7	3	3
22	1	1	1	7	7	1	1	1	5	5	1
24	5	3	3	3	5	5	3	3	3	5	5
26	3	3	3	5	3	3	3	3	5	3	3
28	3	3	3	3	5	3	3	3	3	5	3
30	5	1	1	1	1	5	1	1	1	1	5
32	3	5	3	3	3	3	5	3	3	3	3
34	5	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	5	5
36	7	7	3	3	3	5	5	3	3	3	7

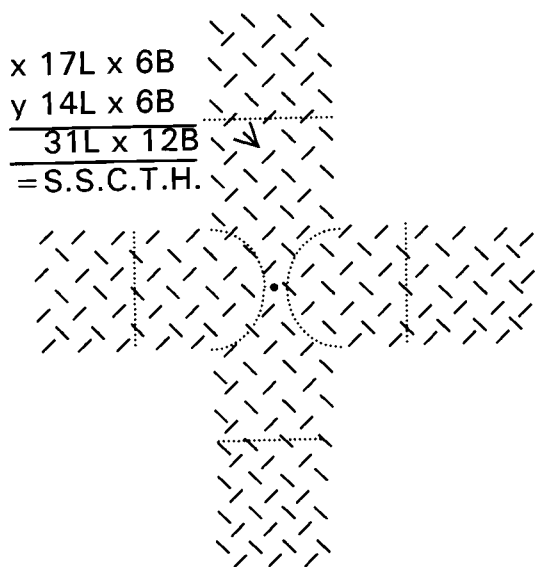
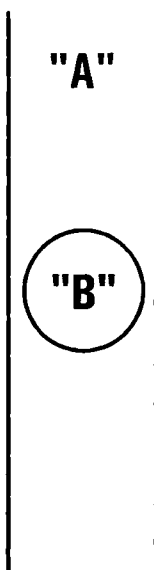
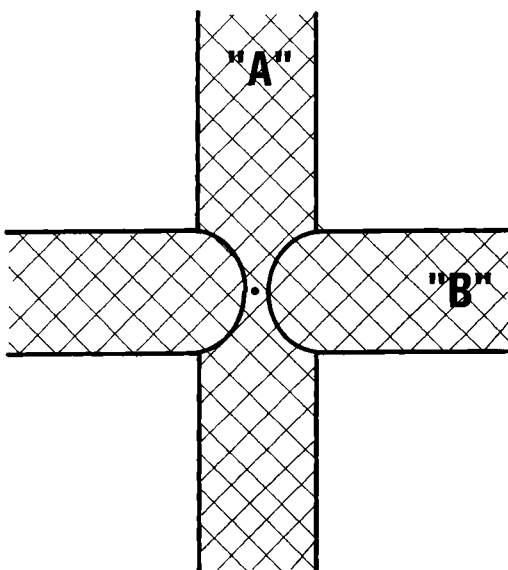
**TABLE "D" 10 BIGHT**

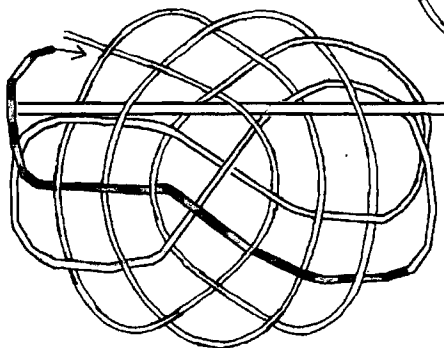
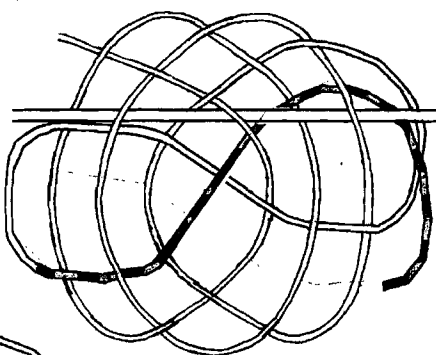
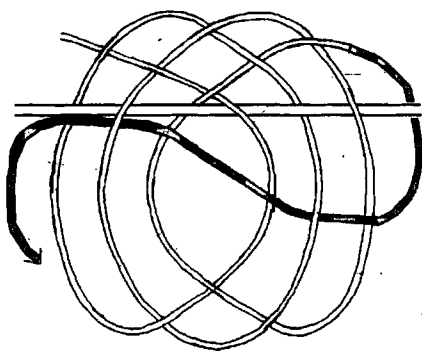
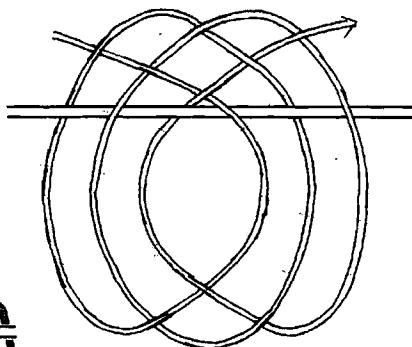
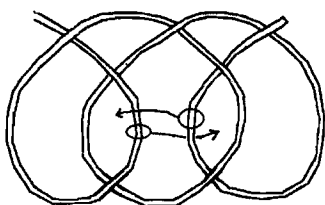
**OPEN CRUTCH**

**L E A D S**

**L  
E  
A  
D  
S**

Y\X	15	17	19	21	23	25	27	29	31	33	35	37
16	7	7	3					3				
18		9	9				3					3
20	3		11	11		3					3	
22				9	9					5		
24				3	7	7			3			
26			3			5	5	3				
28		3					3	3				
30	5					5		1	1		5	
32					3				3	3		
34				3					3	5	5	
36			3					3		7		





Remove Needle and add further  
strands as required

**Mat 9 bite**

# BOOKS GALORE

## A BOOK BY ANY OTHER NAME . . .

Since a few of my knot books have reappeared with their names and covers changed, I have been contacted by several Guild members and asked which is which, so that they do not mistakenly buy one they already have. So here is what currently is what. There are eight original editions, namely:

1. **The Knot Book**, a paperback book, published (1983) by Elliott Right Way Books Ltd, ISBN 0-7160-0704-5;
2. **Knots & Crime**, a paperback book, published (1985) by the Police Review Publishing Co. Ltd, ISBN 085164-017-6;
3. **The Hamlyn Book of Knots**, a hardback book, published (1997) by Hamlyn, an imprint of Reed International Books Ltd, ISBN 0-600-5919-8;
4. **The Hamlyn Book of Knots - Ornamental & Useful**, a hardback book, published (1998) by Hamlyn, an imprint of Reed Consumer Books Ltd, ISBN 0-600-59527-7;
5. **The Ultimate Encyclopedia of Knots & Ropework**, a glossy hardback book, published (1999) by Lorenz Books, an imprint of Anness Publishing Ltd, ISBN 1-85967-911-0;
6. **The Hamlyn Book of Fishing Knots**, a hardback book, published (1999) by Hamlyn, an imprint of Octopus Publishing Group Ltd, ISBN 0-600-59840-3;
7. **The Hamlyn Book of Sailing Knots**, a hardback book, to be published (2000) by Hamlyn, an imprint of Octopus Publishing Group Ltd, ISBN (pending);
8. **The Book of Popular Knots**, a hardback book, to be published (2000) by Thalamus Publishing Ltd., ISBN (pending).

The reprints, revisions, foreign translations and other spin-offs of which I am aware are as follows:

1. Reprinted (1989, 1991 and 1995); revised UK format (1997), ISBN 0-7160-2084-X; also available in Dutch (Het Knopenboek) and — I am told — German.
2. Out of print for perhaps 10 years - but anyone requiring such a manual should now look out for The Forensic Analysis of Knots & Ligatures by Robert Chisnall, B.Sc., B.Ed., M.Ed. (a past-President of the IGKT), to be published soon by Lightning



- Powder Company Inc. of Oregon, USA.
3. UK paperback edition (2000), ISBN 0-600-60113-7; US paperback edition by Lyons & Burford of New York titled The Complete Book of Knots, ISBN 1-55821-632-4; German paperback edition (1998) titled Knoten, ISBN 3-8290-0322-6; Norwegian hardback edition (1998) titled Knoper og Stikk, ISBN 82-516-1675-1; Swedish hardback and paperback editions (1998) titled Kaiken maailman Solmut, ISBN 951-0-22549-5.
  4. US paperback edition (1998) by The Lyons Press titled The Complete Book of Decorative Knots, ISBN 1-55821-791-6.
  5. Smaller UK format, soft-cover edition (1999) titled The Complete Guide to Knots and Knot Tying, ISBN 0-7548-0422-4; in addition, the larger original work has been re-issued (2000) by Southwater, an Imprint of Anness Publishing, as two slimmer individual books titled: Simple Knots & Basic Ropework, ISBN 1-84215-066-9 and Tough & Versatile Knots, ISBN 1-84215-066-9, for distribution in the USA (by Ottenheimer Publishing), Australia (by Sandstone Publishing) and New Zealand

(by Five Mile Press).

6. Unknown.
7. None at time of publication.
8. None at time of publication.

Please do not blame me for any misleading title. For instance, The Complete Book of Knots is (with only about 80 knots) far from complete; similarly The Ultimate Encyclopedia of Knots & Ropework, featuring about 200 knots, is neither 'the ultimate' nor is it actually an encyclopedia. The publishers (bless them) dream up these names, often contrary to the author's advice and guidance.

*Geoffrey Budworth*

## BOOK REVIEW

**HEMP MASTERS:** Ancient Hippie Secrets for Knotting Hip Hemp Jewelry by Max Lunger. Publisher - Eagle's View Publishing Co, 6756 North Fork Road, Liberty, UT 84310, US. ISBN: 0-943604-57-5

This book introduces the reader to hemp jewellery, which is an advance on the friendship bands. A short history of hemp is given although the writer does not differentiate between the drug and fibre species of the plant. The text is written in a light hearted way giving many helpful tips supported by clear diagrams and photographs accompanied by step by step instructions for making 22 projects from the basic to the more complex. Wrist bands, anklets and necklaces are shown with inclusions of beads and buttons, together with three dream catchers. New names have been given to knots known

by a more general name and the number of knots included are basic, but a good variety of starting and finishing techniques are described.

Although this book is about hemp, I am sure that linen thread would produce a very similar effect.

An interesting book suitable for all members of the family who like to tie knots.

*Edna Gibson*

## **CREATIVE ROPECRAFT**

I feel that I should let you and I.G.K.T. Members generally know that my original knotting book, "Creative Ropecraft", first published in 1975, has been republished in a revised and slightly enlarged Fourth Edition in August, ISBN 0-7136-5377-9.

The new edition, in paperback, costing £7.99 retail and the publisher is Adlard Coles Nautical, a Bloomsbury Publishing imprint of 35, Bedford Row, LONDON WC1 R 4JH, [www.adlardcoles.co.uk](http://www.adlardcoles.co.uk) Their agent in the U.S.A. is Sheridan House, 145 Palisade Street, Dobbs Ferry, New York 10522, [sheribks@aol.com](mailto:sheribks@aol.com)

My own stock of the hardback 3rd edition has been exhausted, but I believe that the Guild's Supplies Secretary still has a few signed copies and Des Pawson of Footrope Knots also may have a few left. I would like to thank all my worldwide readers and correspondents for their interest and support over the past twenty five years and assure them that I shall be pleased to hear from them at any time by e-mail or postal mail.

*Stuart Grainger*

# **Branch Lines**

## **Midlands Branch**

The Midlands branch has had two very busy weekends alongside one another.

On Sunday 25 June. Bruce, Nick, Brian and Bill Newey went along to Kinver for our branch meeting. Our project for the day was to make a ropeladder for the use at Kinver Scout Campsite. Maurice kindly provided therungs, with the rest of us tackled the process of producing the ladder. We finished up with a 12-foot rope ladder. Fun was had by all once we got into a routine of who was doing what and when.

Our next encounter was the weekend of 1 and 2 of July, again there was Bruce, Maurice and Bill Newey and we were there to provide a drop in base for the Millennium Pathfinder Kinver Camp. Our purpose was to show the scouts how to tie knots in general. We were demonstrating Turks Head woggles, Lanyards and various knots which were then tied by the scouts and their leaders.

Our next meetings will again take place at Kinver Scout Campsite, they are September 3, November 4.

We are also trying to get together to enable us to have a nice Christmas meal.

*Bruce Turley*

## IGKT-NAB

Members of the IGKT-NAB attended the Mid-Atlantic Maritime Festival at St. Michael's Maryland, on May 19 - 21, 2000. I had a great time meeting, and manning the IGKT booth with, fellow knothead, Jim Kobe.

The weather wasn't very co-operative - rain and drizzle, on and off most of the day (Friday), but that didn't dampen our spirits. We met and talked with a number of people, who happened to wander into our tented area.

This was my first active participation in one of our events, and I thought it uncanny how most of our visitors started their visit in the same manner: "The International Guild of WHAT?...Knot Tyers!...Is there REALLY such a group?"

When we assured them that, "Yes, there IS such a group, and we're part of it. Certified Knotheads?" they'd laugh and become engaged. Continuing with our patter, we'd say, "I'm not handing you a line...or, maybe I am!", as we'd hand each parson in their group a 5' length of braided, 1/8" nylon line, (with Butane Backsplice on each end)...their laughter continuing.

We'd then ask, "What's your favourite knot?" or "Show me what knots you can tie." Or "What knots do you use?" or "What questions about knots do you have, that we may be able answer?" Invariably, we'd get a response and, as a result, we had a ton of delightful conversations, with total strangers, about ropes and matters related to knotting. And I can safely say that each person left the booth area with a better understanding about knots and a brochure about the IGKT.

All in all, (and only having been there for the afternoon of the first day), I'd say that we had a fun-filled outing, and that the Guild was very capably represented and promoted.

**Gerry Moore**

Dale City, VA

(The IGKT-NAB thanks all members that assisted to make this event a success.)

## IGKT-NAB Membership Information

If you are an IGKT (UK) member you may also wish to join the International Guild of Knot Tyers - North American Branch. We currently have approximately 130 members.

We have held two meetings at New Bedford, Mass in August of 1997 and 1999.

Both meetings were successful and attended by approximately 75 members. The last meeting had as its feature event a tour of Clifford Ashley Farm. This year several members attended the Pacific Americas Branch meeting in San Pedro California. We are planning a meeting general membership meeting for the year 2001.

Our dues for dual membership (IGKT (UK) and IGKT-NAB) are:

Individual	\$35.00
Family	\$44.00
Youth	\$12.00

If you wish to renew your membership through the IGKT-North American Branch you may do so by cheque. Cheques should be made payable to IGKT-NAB and mailed to IGKT-NAB, 4417 Academy Street, Dearborn Heights,

MI 48125-2205. You will receive our quarterly publication "InterKnot"

If you are an IGKT (UK) member and do not wish to renew your IGKT (UK) membership, but only join the IGKT-North American Branch you may do so by sending a check in the amount of \$8.00 to the above address. Please indicate IGKT-NAB membership only.

Although I have tried very hard to ensure accuracy in maintaining the membership list, I know that mistakes happen. If anyone has had any problems with membership which have been sent to the IGKT-NAB I would like to hear about them and I will do my best to correct them. You may contact me by mail at the above address or use e-mail: knottyrope@prodigy.net

***John Burke, President  
IGKT-NAB***

## **West Country Knotters**

The West Country Knotters are still going strong thanks to the support of the stalwarts and, although fairly small in number, the membership is very consistent. We meet at 1400 on the last Saturday on every other month at the Almondsbury Scout Headquarters.

So much time is taken up with 'business' at our meetings that the practical knotting seems to get lost in the mists. This subject was brought up and it was mooted that we dispense with the formal side of our meetings and, instead, include the happenings in a newsletter. This way we will get more time to spend with ropework and the members who cannot attend will get a better picture of what is happening within the Branch.

However, a record is still kept of attendance and notes are taken during the meeting(s).

Our AGM took place in March and, as at all AGMs, the past year was reviewed. We have been quite busy, apart from meetings, with various other commitments.

During the weekend of the 14th and 15th August a day was spent at the Waterways Museum at Gloucester Docks and it was a huge success for all concerned.

During the time spent there we were scheduled to give two "performances", to the Russell Newbury Register, each scheduled to last for about an hour and a half. The hour and a half was never ending and, as it turned out, we spent most of the day teaching splicing and demonstrating the art of tying knots.

The day was a real summer's day, warm and sunny, and our lunch was provided for us on the upper deck of one of the narrow boats! Couldn't have been nicer.

Two of our members spent some time at Plymouth Navy Days. One was representing the Guild and the other working with Sea Cadets. The highlight of the week was meeting a Guild member in the Rigging Shed. He was demonstrating heavy ropework, mainly splicing multi-plait and wire. During our conversation decorative was mentioned and some of his work has to be seen to be believed!

One of our annual events is to support the Burnham-on-Sea Area Rescue Boat during its open day in mid July. This is the anniversary of the construction, by the

BBC Challenge Anneka programme, of the Burnham lifeboat station. We usually spend a very interesting time on the sea front swapping yarns (sorry about that!) with all sorts of people - and getting quite unburned to boot!

Through events like these we have suddenly received invitations to make an appearance at other venues. Yacht clubs seem to be at the forefront so far and our calendar for the rest of the year is becoming quite full. The problem is getting newer members to come along and help. I would just like to mention in passing that I have learned a great deal about ropework, and presentation, during these open days. Food for thought!

We have, in our branch, a long-standing member of the Sea Cadet Corps who has forgotten more about ropework than I have ever learnt. A few years ago he was involved with the Royalist Mast training of Cadets. The long and short of it is that he has made a beautiful scaled down model of the mast he used to train the Cadets on, complete with sail and fully rigged. Dan's mast was on view in the Sea Cadet Corps recruiting stand at Plymouth Navy Days and attracted a great deal of interest, particularly from the Cadets who had actually sailed in the Royalist.

During the past two years we have asked people from the Guild to come along to our meetings to give us a talk on their field of ropework. To mention but a few, Charlie Smith, Edna Gibson, Dennis Murphy, Europa Chang Dawson and Geoff Wyatt have obliged and provided us with very interesting talks/demonstrations. We also have our own home grown sessions and 'Jumper'

Collins is always an entertaining speaker. His talk and demonstration of how to make a Sea Chest Handle was something to behold. Not only did he give an in depth presentation by showing us most of the secrets of this intricate piece of ropework, but he also injected his own brand of humour to boot. Shades of Tommy Cooper I think!

We received a request from 'Tugg' Ship for some knot boards that he intends to give to some Ugandan Scouts. This is an ongoing project to try to help these youngsters with their ropework skills. Some of them have never seen the actual knots and 'Tugg' asked if anyone could help with this. The knot boards need to be fairly small-and, for transportation reasons) un-glazed, showing just the basic knots. So far to date, the response has been quite encouraging.

By the time this newsletter is issued the Guild AGM at Weston will be just a memory. I will have spent more money on rope and odds and ends, talked myself blue in the face and thoroughly enjoyed every minute.

Happy knotting,

*Dave Pusill*

## ROPE ENDS

### *Creative cordage*

'He met a man . . . who had created a new art form by using knotted string . . . I am, myself, working on a paean composed of fifteen miles of coloured rope which will take an area of two thousand square feet to display to its best advantage.

*(E.C. Tubb, Stellar Assignment, 1979)*

# Postbag

The views expressed in reader's letters do not necessarily reflect those of the Council. The Editor reserves the right to shorten any letter as necessary.

## Suppliers Directory

An attempt was made about ten years ago to create a directory of all the rope and cordage suppliers in the UK. When a suggestion that a member in each county should check their local Yellow Pages and send the results in for compilation, nothing happened. This prompted me to spend nearly two weeks in my local library, searching the Yellow Pages for the entire country and compiling a list. I had to check many categories. Many of these had cross-references so it took a time to sort out. My list was sent off to the compiler and nothing more has been heard of it.

I accept that my list will now be out of date, and the widespread use of computers should make searching easier in the future, but most of the sites I found were small and unlikely to appear on a computer search. These small suppliers are the ones who can produce just the very cord for which you have been searching, and whose presence should be made more widely known

I believe one of our members has recently given up his attempt to make a list of rope suppliers as there was a lack of information easily available, and items were coming to him in a very haphazard fashion. As a Guild, we

should be able to provide this sort of information, so that a local source of cordage can be suggested to new members who want to see what they are getting, rather than rely on mail-order.

*Richard Hopkins  
Avon, U.K.*

## One for Old Salts

How many ropes are there on a full rigged ship?

What were once the seven seas?

*Reg White  
Aberystwyth, Wales  
(Answers in the next issue of KM)*

## Sea Shanties

Not exactly a knotting matter, but at the Guild AGM at Weston-Super-Mare, someone asked me where they could obtain CD's of Sea Shanties. For the life of me I cannot remember who it was. However, they can be obtained from Ken and Jan Lardner, who run the Shanty Cabin near Preston. Tel: 01772 634737.

*Bill Meakin  
Notts. U.K.*

## Pythagorean Knot?

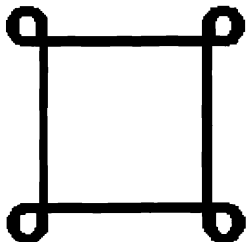
Would anyone on the list help me find information about this knot?

I have heard it is called the Pythagorean Knot.

- What is its use?
- What is its symbol? (symbolic meaning)
- Where have you seen it?  
(context: building, painting, textile,...)

Please I would appreciate all the help you could offer me in order to bring some light on this peculiar knot.

*Perceval Patrick  
Kent, U.K.*



## The Surrey Six

In reply to Tony Doran's letter in Km 66.

"The Surrey Six" were composed after a challenge by me as Chairman of the Surrey branch. I wondered how knotting was fairing amongst Surrey Scouts and Guides, so at an activity weekend (called Scoutabout and held every three years) with 5000 Scouts and Guides I Challenged the participants to a recognition test of 15 easy scouting knots. The results of this were that, on average; they could recognise 6 knots. This got me thinking about "The Six Knot Challenge" and was the knots that were taught in Baden-Powell's time suitable for modern slippery rope. The answer was NO. So I challenged the Surrey Branch to come up with a six knot set that could be used in modern rope, for General Purposes, to replace the 6 Scout tenderfoot knots. The results, after many debates, were the New six Tenderfoot Knots. This I decided would be long and arduous to take to Gilwell (Scouting 's training H.Q.) and

say "these are the knots we think you should teach and use", as I was sure it would cause much grief to the traditionalists. So we decided on a "cunning plan". With the help of my colleagues in the Surrey branch we would teach our groups "The Surrey Six" we named them thus after David Monk came up with the name, this would give us pride to say they started in Surrey in years to come. The response among Scouters and their young charges was very good. Every body we have met so far, have said they are a good set for General use (we all accept that there are better knots for specialist applications, after all we have in excess of 3800 to choose from).

To answer Tony's point about authority I did not know that any branch or person should have to ask anybody to promote the art of Knotting. This we have done over the last six years with great enthusiasm, teaching "The Surrey Six" to hundreds of Scouters and we have taken "The Six" to many groups, company's and other outside organisations. Yes we would love to do the tests to show how good the Surrey Six are, but we used our many years of practical knotting skills to come up with what we think and continue to discover are an excellent bunch of Knots.

Now you all have an opportunity to better our Six, I challenge all Guild members to come up with Six knots for general purposes for use in modern rope (these can include some of "The Surrey Six" if you like). You may send these to me by mail to 19 Broad Street, Guildford, Surrey GU3 3AQ, England or by e-mail to [howard.denyer@lineone.net](mailto:howard.denyer@lineone.net) I will collate them and publish the results in

Knotting Matters. If you have any comments about “The Surrey Six” good, bad or indifferent please send them to me as I do not get much mail!

Perhaps one day the whole of the Guild may wish to endorse “The Surrey Six”.

*Howard Denyer  
Surrey Branch Chairman.*

## **Children's Knot Book**

Is there an up-to-date knot book for children? Other than those about tying friendship braids, the only one I know of in the past 25 years was Learn About Knots (published in 1976) by Ladybird Books. Even the zany Klutz Book of Knots (in 1985) was aimed at adults.

Ashley persuaded himself there was no need for one and wrote; ‘There are few knots that an intelligent boy or girl of twelve or fourteen years, who is genuinely interested in the subject, cannot tie, provided the description is clear enough.’ True - but what about younger children? And how will they come across knotting, when today’s booksellers and librarians will not locate adult knotting manuals on the children’s sections of their respective bookshelves?

Personally, I couldn’t write such a book to save my life. Sorry, I don’t speak ‘child’. So, if any Guild member does, and fancies writing a knot book for youngsters, take it from me there is a gap in the market. Whether or not there is a market in the gap, however, you - aspiring author - will need to ascertain and then persuade a publisher.

*Geoffrey Budworth  
Kent, U.K.*

## **Clove Hitch v Timber Hitch**

John Kennaugh can’t understand (KM 67, page 38) why I prefer the Clove Hitch to the Timber Hitch for starting square lashings. The holding power of hitches in this situation depends entirely on the friction between the rope and the spar. In this context, the two important factors determining this force are the area of contact between the rope and the spar. The two turns of the Clove Hitch would be better than the one and a bit for the Timber Hitch and the force between the two, that is, on the tightness of the rope. Also a Clove Hitch can be drawn up tighter than a Timber Hitch.

*Charles Warner  
Picton, Australia*

## **Not New Knots**

KM#67 is rich in new knots that are not new at all.

Olivier Peron’s “The Marion’s Knot” on page 20 is in fact what Budworth calls a Mooring Hitch (The Complete Book of Knots, p.46), albeit tied in a very ingenious manner.

And James Moore’s “Improved Bowman’s Knot on page 46 is in fact Ashley’s #1045.

*Rudi Petschek  
California, U.S.A.*

## **In Defence of the Icicle Hitch**

Reference Issue 65, Page 25 by Jack Callton, Australia. (Jack the Rope)

Jack seemed to find tying this new fangled knot a disappointment, only succeeding when using different sized string tied to a pencil. Jack would not find



a knot in his old Seaman's Manual that would be as effective as the Icicle Hitch in gripping a smooth slippery surface.

I am a builder and I use this knot in preference to any other knot for drawing cables through pipes laid underground. When laying pipes for ducting underground where cables are to be drawn through at a later date. A draw rope is left in the ducting when at a later date a cable (electric, telephone, etc) is attached to the draw rope with an Icicle Hitch. The only difference to the shown tying of this knot is that the end of the cable is taped to the draw rope to prevent the end of the cable snagging on a joint in the ducting. When an Icicle Hitch is tied correctly which is relatively easy, the draw rope will break before the Hitch will slip. I have shown this knot to various people who have been impressed with its performance.

Though nowadays with modern technology cables are attached to a long wire mesh cylinder (Like the Chinese Finger Puzzle) with a metal eye on one end, this is slipped over the end of the cable, and a rope attached to the metal eye.

If the Icicle Hitch has R down side "it is I wish I had tied it first".

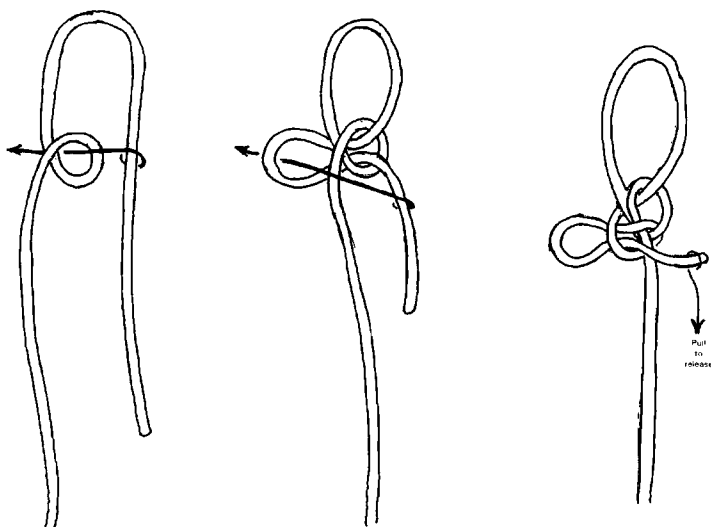
***Owen K Nuttall***  
***West Yorkshire, U.K.***

## Help Please

The following knot was taught to me a few months ago by a young able seaman on the Express Coastal Steamer. This knot is used for the trowingline.

I wonder if any member has information about the knot or its name.

***Jan Fredrik Midtflaa***  
***Bruhagen, Norway***



# Knotting Diary

## AGM's & 1/2 YEARLY MEETINGS

### IGKT Half-yearly Meeting

14th October 2000,  
Beverwijk,  
Netherlands  
Contact Willeke van der Ham,  
Tel: +3 125 121 3285  
E-mail: willeke\_igkt@yahoo.com

## BRANCH MEETINGS

### Dutch Branch

Last Saturday of month,  
Rotterdam  
Contact Jan Hoefnagel,  
Tel: 078 614 6002  
e-mail: jchoefna@cybercomm.nl

### West Midlands Branch

3rd September and  
4th November 2000-07-09  
Kinver Scout Camp,  
Kinver, Staffordshire  
Contact Bruce Turley,  
Tel: 0121 453 4124  
e-mail: 106077.1156@compuserve.com

### West Yorkshire Branch

19th September 2000  
Beaulah Hotel,  
Tong Road,  
Farnley, Leeds  
Contact David Pearson,  
Tel: 0113 257 2689  
e-mail: wayzegoose\_uk@yahoo.co.uk

## EVENTS

### SS Boyer Maritime Day

Toledo, Ohio - First weekend of September  
Contact John Burke, Tel: 313 562 4393  
e-mail: Knottyrope@prodigy.net

### SECRETARY:

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### Guild Annual Subscription rates:

Juniors £5  
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would prefer a covenanted subscription.

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### Advertising Rates:

	Members	Non-members
Full page	£32	£49
Half page	£19	£22
Quarter Page	£10	£15

# Guild Supplies

## Price List 2000

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

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**email 106077.1156@compuserv.com**  
**Telephone: 0121 453 4124**

