

# Knotting Matters

The Magazine of the International Guild of Knot Tyers



Issue 79  
June 2003

# Guild Supplies

## Price List 2003

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 Tie</b>	
Long, dark blue with Guild Logo in gold	£8.95
<b>Badges - all with Guild Logo</b>	
Blazer Badge	£1.00
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Windscreen Sticker	£1.00
<b>Certificate of Membership</b>	£2.50
Parchment membership scroll Signed by the President and Hon Sec For mounting and hanging	

Cheques payable to IGKT, or simply send your credit card details

**PS** Don't forget to allow for postage

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**Telephone: 0121 453 4124**

# Knotting Matters

**Magazine of the  
International Guild of  
Knot Tyers**

**Issue No. 79**

**President: Jeff Wyatt  
Secretary: Nigel Harding  
Editor: Colin Grundy  
Website: [www.igkt.net](http://www.igkt.net)**

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*Late President Brian Field performing the  
Boomerang Knot at Portsmouth  
Back Cover: Replica of the saxon helmet  
found at Sutton Hoo in macramé by  
Wendy Elizabeth*

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# Notes from the Secretary's Blotter

**I**t doesn't seem five minutes since we were all getting ready for our twentieth birthday, and now it is another pleasant, but fading memory. A year on, and now well into our third decade, and at the time of writing this, I am getting packed and ready to set off for the AGM at Weston Super Mare.

Over the last year there have been a number of essential changes to the way we administer the Guild, and whilst none of us like change, I believe that in this case it has all gone on quite painlessly. As far as I can see, there have been no disasters or catastrophes however, I have noticed that our new professional helpers do make the occasional mistake, for which I apologise. Actually, they make me feel a lot less embarrassed about the various mistakes that I have made

At this point my flow has been interrupted. I am late again preparing these notes, and am just a little pressed for time, so using spellchecker for the word catastrophes, it didn't so much check the spelling, but gave me a practical demonstration, and with a curt Terminal Error Message - the computer shut down. Grrrrr

From the secretary's point of view the use of CAF in collecting subscriptions eases a great burden from my shoulders, however these is still some updating of our own records to done, but it is much easier. It does cause a few lot more headaches for the treasurer, but hopefully as we both get used to the new system all will be well. For those who find all this rather difficult, do talk to me rather than just give up, I will always try and help if I can.

I have received a number of enquiries over the last few month, and this is where you may be able to help. The first query from Michael Morrison is about a method of breaking string or fairly strong cord. The string was wrapped around the left hand and a piece left hanging, which was pulled over and by snapping down the string would break. It was surprising how thick a piece of cord you could break. - Anyone?

Bob Arthur is looking for the way fishhooks were once lashed to a cord; he is not looking for something new, but how the Pacific islanders did it.

Kawita is a photographer interested in incorporating traditional Asian Indian and English type knots into a series of photographs that have to do with the interesting, intricate and intimate relationship between India and England, represented through traditional knots in use at the time of partition. Kawita would like to know what type of knots would have been used by Asian Indians at this time, and what would have been used by the English?

Mike Hammond is looking for some books with clear diagrams, or better still, videos of Ocean Plat mats and Turks Heads. Finally, Richard Zehrung is a US Navy Sailor currently trying to research historic knotwork, particularly Elizabethan and before. Country of origin is not a factor. Can anyone help or at least point him in the right direction. At this point I must stop, pack my suitcase, and head off to Weston.

*Nigel Harding*

# President's Letter

My first duty as President of the Guild was to attend the funeral of our last President, Brian Field. It was very moving, attended by his family and friends, together with some 18 Guild members. Unfortunately the weather matched the occasion by raining most of the time. After the service, most of us adjourned to Brian's favourite pub on the quayside at Maldon, where we exchanged our personal memories of a good and kind man.

In carrying on Brian's tradition of trying to attend as many Guild meetings as possible, my first official visit as President was to the West Yorkshire Branch's "Flat Knotting" event early in March, where I was made very welcome by all who attended, especially David and Sheila Pearson who gave me bed and board. (Happy retirement, David!) A very interesting and informative weekend with Master classes running throughout.

I next attended the meeting of IGKT France at Fecamp near Dieppe. On our arrival on 28 March we spent a wonderful evening at the home of Luc and Odile Prouveur in the company of several other French and English members, our hosts providing some excellent local fare. My congratulations to Graham MacLachlan for being elected President of IGKT France. The meeting itself was attended by members from France, Holland, Belgium and England. The venue and organisation were excellent.

Jeff Wyatt

# Col's Comment

Swedish knottologist, Sten Johansson recently sent me a parcel with postage stamps displaying a knotting theme. The reef knot is for first class letters, the sheet bend for second class and the bowline for Guilds and societies having large mailings. Sten comments that a left-handed seaman made the bowline. Do members know of any other stamps issued with a knotting theme, if so let your editor know?



## CORRECTIONS

**KM77 p13:** *Pulling up Stakes* by Jack Keene, Texas.

**KM78 p25:** photograph of verry tarry serving to an eye splice by Graham McLachlan, France.

## ROPE ENDS

'... and Kristi was a talented girl. Flighty though. She hopped from one great idea to another. I remember when she wanted to make macram baskets for the basketball hoops.'

Lilian Jackson Braun,  
*The Cat Who Talked to Ghosts* - a  
mystery novel - 1990

# Braids and Beyond

## A Broad Look at Narrow Wares

This exhibition is a celebration of 10 years of the Braid Society. It explores many of the techniques used to create narrow wares making for a truly eclectic exhibition. The background information includes the geographical influences and historical need for such wares. Examples are offered that show a wide range of usage from all over the world and from many different times. Here are examples from clothing to mousetraps through household items and weapons. There will be “hands on” opportunities as well as explanations on structure and methodology. The Exhibition will be supported by a variety of workshops.

This is an exhibition not to be missed by anyone interested in any branch of textiles, making, collecting or even just looking at the detail on textiles.

Braids and Beyond is supported by The Heritage Lottery Fund, The Joan Howes Trust, Handweavers Studio, Silken Strands and Creative Exhibitions Ltd.

## Workshops

Workshops are planned for the term of the exhibition.

### **Newark Houses, Leicester:**

January 17 2004 In quest of Braids and bands Tutor: Jennie Parry

March 8 2004 Curators Day. Tutor: Veronica Johnston

### **The Bowes Museum, Barnard Castle**

Workshop on beginners ply split. Date to be arranged

Workshop for children. Date to be arranged

Tablet Weaving Masterclass. Tutor Marijke van Epen. Date to be confirmed

### **Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter.**

Workshop to be arranged

For further details: Jan Rawdon Smith, 34 Bedford Street, Peterborough PE1 4DN

Tel: 01733 312649

Email: [jrawdonsmith@totalise.co.uk](mailto:jrawdonsmith@totalise.co.uk)

## In Memory of Brian Field President of the I.G.K.T. 1999 - 2002

**I**t is with great sadness that I have to announce the peaceful passing of Brian Field, President of the Guild from 1999 - 2002 (the first President to serve a second term of office). He had been suffering from cancer for some time. He had many good friends in the Guild who will be greatly saddened by this news.

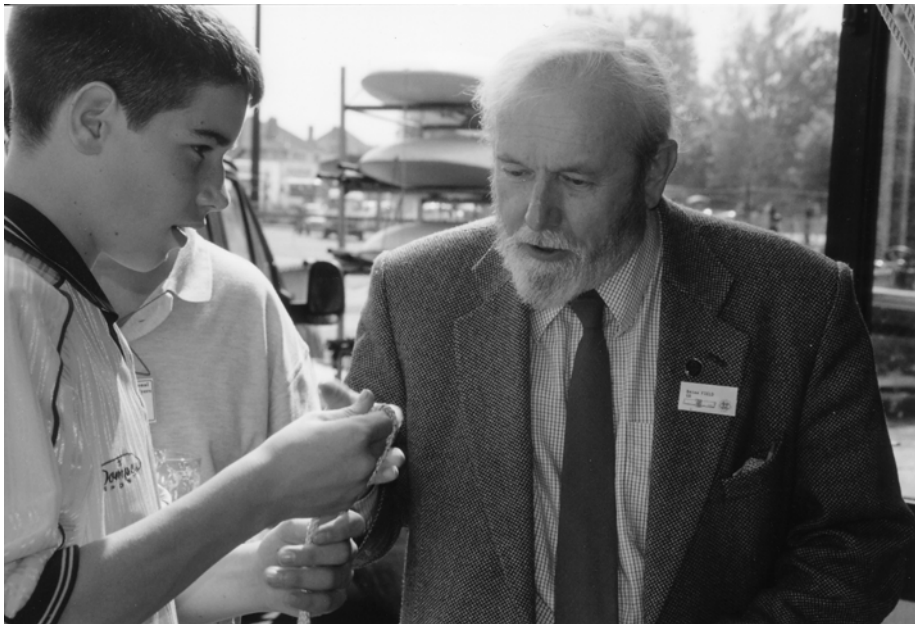
On behalf of the Guild I would like to offer my very sincere condolences to Margaret and their children.

*Jeff Wyatt  
President IGKT*

### **From Brian's wife Margaret**

*I would like to thank everyone for the kind messages of sympathy and condolence which the family have received. The Book of Condolence on the I.G.K.T. website has been a great comfort to read. It is heart-warming to know that Brian had made so many friends worldwide through his teaching and his work. Many thanks to all those who were able to attend Brian's funeral, helping to make it a very special occasion for his family and his friends.*

*With love from Margaret.*



The high esteem that Brian was held in is shown by these messages taken from the Book of Condolence opened on the IGKT website.

Brian did everything that was expected of a human being, and what is more he did it with style and humour. He was a good and kind person whose aim in life seemed to be to live in harmony with those around him. He was a first-class President of the Guild, and will be sorely missed by so many of us. His kindness and patience was much appreciated by all who knew him.

I would like to offer my support and friendship to Brian's wife, Margaret, and their family.

***Farewell Brian, Rest in Peace  
Jeff and Lesley Wyatt***

A man is measured by what he does and by what he is remembered for.

On both counts, we can celebrate Brian and be proud of him.

***John Smith***

Brian will be greatly missed and our thoughts go out to Margaret and her children and friends in their loss. We will all remember and thank Brian for his wisdom, quirky humour, practicality,



artistry and hours of entertainment as a fellow member whilst latterly providing positive but thoughtful leadership as President of the Guild.

Rest in peace, Brian!

***Peter Goldstone  
IGKT Surrey Branch***

“Kua Hinga Te Totara, Haere Te Ariki Nui, Haere, Haere, Haere”

*(The mighty tree has fallen, farewell to our International President, thrice farewell...)*

“Haere Te Ariki Nui. Haere Ki Te Rereinga Wairua, Haere Ki Te Hawaiki Nui, Te Hawaiki Roa, Te Hawaiki Pamamao, Haere, Haere, Haere

*(To Our International President. Farewell, thrice farewell.)*

***Tony Fisher, FNZEI.  
President, New Zealand Chapter***

On behalf of the entire Dutch Branch I express our sadness of the loss of Brian to his family.

We all knew Brian very well and feel sorrow and extend our sympathy with those he has left behind.

May he rest in peace.

In sorrow:

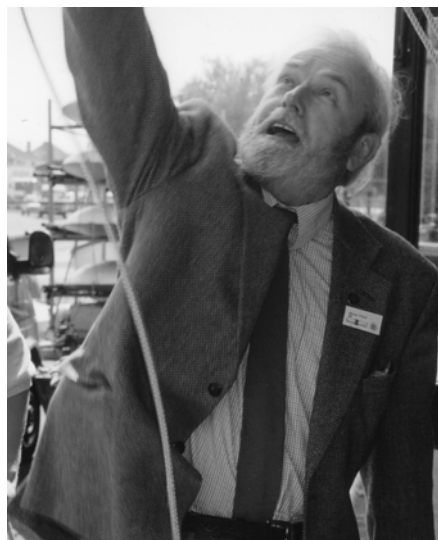
***Jan Hoefnagel; Willeke van der Ham;  
N M Fam Luiten; Ineke Kok;  
Willy Willert; A Vlietstra;  
Peter Williams.***

It has been an honour to know Brian and to learn from him for the past eight years. I shall try to continue his work on the quay at Maldon, where he is sorely missed. Nobody will ever be able to replace him. He was a very patient teacher, and had time for everybody who wanted to learn. The children will miss him and his magic tricks, for which he was well known. Our daughter, Diana, misses him badly - she called him “Sub



(substitute) Grandpa”, and would have liked him to come to her wedding. I will miss him SO much. My husband, Richard, will also miss him a lot - Brian taught him all he knows about knotting and splicing. Farewell, Brian - entertainer, teacher and good friend.

***Sarah Ford***



We have known Brian for over 12 years and during that time he has been a friend and inspiration to us, both from a knotting point of view, and a personal one, particularly with the courage he has shown in the past two years. He will be sadly missed but his inspiration will continue.

***David & Sheila Pearson***

I first met Brian Field at the Ashley Retrospective in '97 and that started a friendship that I will always treasure. He was a true knotman and a real crowd pleaser with his easy banter and quick knot tricks. His ornamental flat knotting was admired worldwide.

He will be missed by all knot tyers and by myself and my family. He will be in our prayers and our sympathy goes out to his wife, Margaret, and his family in their time of grief.

***Joseph Schmidbauer***

All the members of the IGKT - Pacific Americas Branch mourn the passing of Past President Brian Field and our sympathies go to the family he left behind.

We flew Brian to California in 2000 for our AGM and his willingness to teach and his good fellowship will always be remembered by all who attended. Rest in peace.

***IGKT-Pacific Americas Branch***

Brian was a great communicator. His willingness to teach, His patience and His sincerity will be greatly missed.

***Dave Walker***

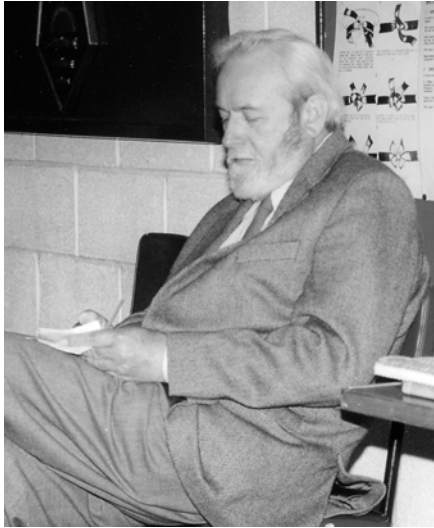
May we express our sorrow for the loss of a great man. Condolences to his wife Margaret and family. He will be a man who will be greatly missed and we were pleased to have the pleasure of knowing this good man.

***Linda and Bruce Turley***

Brian was a classic “quiet achiever”. When I challenged him to make a flatwork anchor, he responded with consummate skill, and suitable humour. His compliments on my own work were brief, sincere and remembered. We met briefly and I was the richer for that time. *Vale amicus.*

***Frank Brown  
Tasmania***

I remember when I first became aware of Brian’s genuine warmth toward



people - I was at the PAB 2000 conference. He made a point to circulate and encourage everyone he met. He took great pains to show me how to make one of his crosses.

Everyone who speaks of him has a great respect for his skills not only in knot tying but dealing with people. I'm very privileged to call him my friend.

My thoughts are of his family and wife. We will all miss him. But his legacy will live on in each of us by what he taught us about living.

***Ed Morai***

Deeply moved I send you my sincere sympathy in these difficult moments.

***Louchouarn Nelly***

Brian's presence, quietly unassuming yet observant to the finest detail, is that of the greatest of people - an artist, raconteur and a gentleman. We shall never forget his greatness, the kindness and generosity of spirit that he showed us, and the graciousness that he shared

with us. He made a point of remembering our names, our likes and dislikes and remembered us at a time when he was suffering greatly, although never showing the slightest trace of his own discomfort.

Thank you Brian for having shared your all-too brief sojourn with us.

Thank you too Margaret for allowing him the freedom to endure within our hearts - we shall always remember him, not with sadness that we now feel, but with the greatest joy and reverence for his skills and his poetry in life.

"So wise so young, they say, do never live long" - *Shakespeare*

You will live long in our hearts Brian - *Requiescant in pace.*

***Lindsey Philpott and Family***

With fond memories of a Gentle Giant - a true gentle-man with a great personality and a great heart - quick to identify other people's strengths and generous in overlooking their shortcomings - a great friend. Brian's last words to me were "la prochaine!" I've since wondered whether he said that often or whether it was specially for me, knowing that I would understand its significance. The "next time" might have been the AGM weekend in May 2003. Never mind, I'll wait.

So, Brian, I return the compliment: Here's to the next time - when we meet again.

***Tim Field***

As a young lad I was taught to remember lost loved ones, not in sadness at their loss, but as we knew them in life. And although I am sad that Brian is gone, I prefer to remember him as the vibrant man that he was. I'll never forget the Summer of 2000, after the PAB meeting

in L.A., when several of us of the Texas Branch got to spend a quiet weekend with Brian before he returned to Great Britain. Brian may not be with us physically but he will always be with us in our hearts.

***Gary Sessions***

People who were fortunate to know Brian E. Field knew a man who blessed those around him. He touched many: The world is a better place for his being in it. Among many, he had gifts of service, of faith, of caring, of knowledge, of skill, of love. My sympathies extend to his family and friends for his loss. His memories, example, and advice live on.

With Regards,

***Skip (Samuel S., IV) Pennock***

When I came in IGKT three years ago, I was accommodated by Brian. He taught me many knot trip, thank you very much for everything.

***Patrick Lefour***

C'est avec une profonde tristesse que nous apprenons le décès de Brian : Janine et moi-même n'oublierons ni son humour ni sa délicatesse... Nous vous présentons nos sincères condoléances.

***Henri Philippot***

The world has lost a great tradition-bearer, and we all lost a great friend. Our deepest sympathies to Brian's family. We will always remember his visits to North America, especially his first visit to Michigan and our home. We will remember his warmth, wit, and friendship. As I read these touching tributes to him, I am amazed and yet not completely surprised how much he meant to so many people. I shared examples of Brian's knotwork to my

daughter's third grade class last Friday. Brian continues to inspire others today. Our hearts are with all of you who gather at the funeral.

Your friends in Michigan,

***LuAnne Kozma and family***

Sorry, very sorry to read the sad news of the loss of Brian when I opened the web page this morning.

Often feel very remote from IGKT fraternity on this side of globe but news of this kind brings home closeness of community with a common interest, regardless of location.

A sad loss to our community.

***Jim Caswell***

***Sydney, Australia***

It was with sadness that we heard of the passing of Brian. He was a courageous person and a true gentleman.

He will be remembered by us with affection, and our memories of his friendly willingness to share his expertise will remain with us always.

Our condolences go to his family who have suffered such a tragic loss.

***Pam and Maurice Smith,***

Remembering 20-odd years of friendship, wise advice and patient tuition. The memories will stay.

***Europa***

We are sorry to loose a fine knoter, a true gentleman and a good friend.

***Richard Hopkins***

***West Country Knotters***

A gentleman and a gentle man, who made everyone a special friend. His quiet courage over the last two years was an

inspiration. It is an honour to have known him. Our sincere condolence to Margaret and the children.

***Tony and Ann Doran***

Brian - sadly missed but not forgotten

***Norman & Lesley Cockburn***

I hope Brian's goals and ideals for the Guild will encourage future generations of knot tyers around the world! He will always be remembered as a great inspiration to all of us.

***Daniel L. Callahan  
Alaska***

If it were not for Brian, the North American Branch would probably not exist.

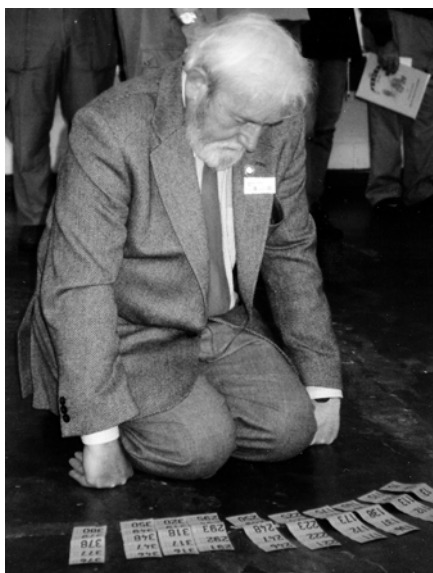
It was Brian that had the foresight to encourage the formation of the North American Branch. Brian attended several NAB General Membership Meetings and was truly an ambassador for the Guild and its stated purposes.

The Guild and North American Branch members will truly miss him. Our sincere sympathy to Margaret and family.

***North American Branch***

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Margaret and family. Over the past nine years, we have had many great conversations and laughs with Brian at the NAB General Membership Meetings. We will always remember the weekend telephone calls we would get from Brian. We will remember thena and Brian's positive attitude always.

***Kay & John Burke,  
Michigan, USA***



Brian was a great man, not only to the Guild, but to all those who had the pleasure of knowing him. He will be sadly missed. I had the pleasure of interviewing Brian a couple of years ago, he spoke of his time as a teacher and said, "When a kid walks back five hundred yards at the end of term to say thank you, that's an achievement!" This was typical of Brian's modesty. Brian, I have been privileged to know you.

***Colin Grundy***

With great sadness I heard the news of Brian's death. Please accept my condolences.

***Marc Lauwereyns  
Belgian Branch IGKT***

It is with great sadness that I read of the death of Brian Field. I particularly remember his kindly, warm, and pleasant company at the final dinner at the annual meeting at Weston. It was

gratifying to be treated so cordially. I will miss him.

***Dick Chisholm,  
New Hampshire, USA***

Brian was a brilliant teacher, he will be sorely missed.

***Ian Crabbe***

It says a lot about the spirit within the Guild that I, even though just having become a member, felt the loss after Brian Field. I was deeply moved when I read his message in the latest issue of *Knotting Matters*, where he regretted that he was unable to go on as president, and knew as I read it that he had already passed on.

My deepest condolences to all of you who had come to know him personally - which I regret I did not have the time to do myself.

***Lasse Carenvall***



My sincere condolences to Brian's wife and family. I never had chance to meet Brian but I have a few of the publications he wrote so I feel there is some sort of connection with him through knotting and the Guild and I am sure he will be remembered by a lot of people he never had the chance to meet also. My thoughts are with you at this time.

***Barry Brown,  
West Drayton, Middlesex.***

April 1st was a cold, wet, gloomy day, and, following Brian Field's cremation IGKT members were gathered in the Queen's Head at Maldon. For the lucky few looking out of the window, they were rewarded by the sight of the sun breaking through the clouds to light up the barges and the pitch where Brian spent so many years. This was followed by a magnificent rainbow - was this Brian's way of saying farewell?

***Albert Southerden***



# Half Yearly Meeting

## Ipswich 17th - 19th October 2003

This year's Autumn Meeting will be held at Hallowtree Suffolk Scout Centre and Campsite, Nacton, Ipswich, Suffolk. IP10 0JP.

Site Map Reference O.S. Sheet TM 192 404

Suffolk is a beautiful part of England, with historic towns, beautiful country, coast and heathlands; plenty for everyone.

Ipswich, the county town of Suffolk is on the River Orwell (home to the Thames barges) with The Ancient House, Christchurch Mansion, a museum and a historic wet dock area, as well as the acclaimed Norman Foster Willis building (youngest grade 1 listed building). There is plenty of accommodation with hotels of all standards, guest houses, B&Bs, and onsite facilities for camping either with a tent or caravan, and some space inside for sleeping bags.

Within half an hour's drive is the seaside resort of Felixstowe; Woodbridge; Sutton Hoo Viking Ship burial site; Pinmill with the wonderful riverside pub the Butt and Oyster; and Shotley the home of HMS GANGES.

A little further away is Orford with its castle, and fish smokeries; Snape with its maltings, now a concert centre, and specialist shops. Aldeburgh, home to the Music Festival with its beach fishermen world and associations with Benjamin Britten. Framlingham, with its castle; the medieval wool town of Lavenham; and the cathedral town of Bury St Edmunds.

Hallowtree itself is situated just outside Ipswich, a few moments away from the A14, next to the River Orwell, in 45 acres of woodland and field space, with good quality indoor accommodation and facilities.

### Getting there

Ipswich is well served by good major roads and is on the main railway line from London Liverpool Street (just over the hour). There is also a cross-country railway route via Cambridge. The campsite is a taxi ride away from the railway station (something like 10 for the taxi, but if we know you are coming we may be able to help out). The Port of Harwich International is about 45 minutes away, giving access from mainland Europe, with a train to Ipswich, or we may be able to collect you from the terminal. The nearest airport is London Stanstead, which is about one and half hours away and is home to many low cost airlines; again we may be able to arrange something.

### What's happening

The East Anglian Branch of the IGKT will give you a fine welcome

We hope to put together a weekend long series of interesting activities. At this early stage, we hope these will include: a visit on Friday afternoon to a Yacht Riggers; a visit to HMS Ganges Museum on Sunday morning and The Museum of Knots and Sailors Ropework Friday afternoon and Sunday morning, each of which you must book. Saturday will have both talks and workshops, on

such subjects as halters, fishing nets, half knots, rope mantlets, the turning of fids, some thoughts on commercial ropework; and for one hour it is hoped that we can be joined by short wave radio, internet and telephone with our North American fellow Knot Tyers at their annual meeting, in Newport News, Virginia.

We look forward to you coming.

For more information contact Des Pawson

Telephone 44+(0)1473 690090 or e-mail knots@footrope.fsnet.co.uk

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## NAB-2003

**What:** The International Guild of Knot Tyers - NAB 2003

**When:** October 17 - 19, 2003

**Where:** Mariners Museum, 100 Museum Drive, Newport News, Virginia 23606. Telephone: 757-596-2222

**Hotel Accommodations:** Point Plaza Suites & Conference Hotels, 950 J Clyde Morris Blvd, Newport News, Virginia, 23601. Located approximately 4 miles from the museum.

30 Deluxe Guest Rooms are being held in a block for the IGKT-NAB.

The room rate for the Deluxe Guest Rooms are \$69.00 per night, plus city and state taxes which are currently 12%.

**Amenities:** All rooms feature in-room coffee makers, full size ironing boards with irons and data port capability. The hotel provides free shuttle to and from the Newport News/Williamsburg Airport.

**Reservation Procedures:** USA

Attendees may make their reservations by calling toll free (800) 841-1112 prior to Wednesday September 17, 2003. Overseas reservations can be made by calling the hotel directly at (757)-599-4460. Reservation requests received after this date will be accepted on a space-available basis and a rate available basis. In order to receive the special group rate, guests need to identify themselves as attending the International Guild of Knot Tyers- North American Branch. At check-in, attendees may present a credit card or refundable cash deposit to cover any incidentals charged to their room.

**Hospitality Room:** Available for Thursday, Friday, & Saturday nights.

**Saturday Evening Dinner:** The IGKT-NAB will be holding a dinner on Saturday Evening at the hotel. Dinner will be served at 7:00PM.

# Knotmaster Series

*'Knotting ventured,  
knotting gained.'*

## Matthew Walker Knots - 2

Recalling Knotmaster's last instalment, this chunkier three-strand kissing cousin also consists of interlocked overhand knotted strands.

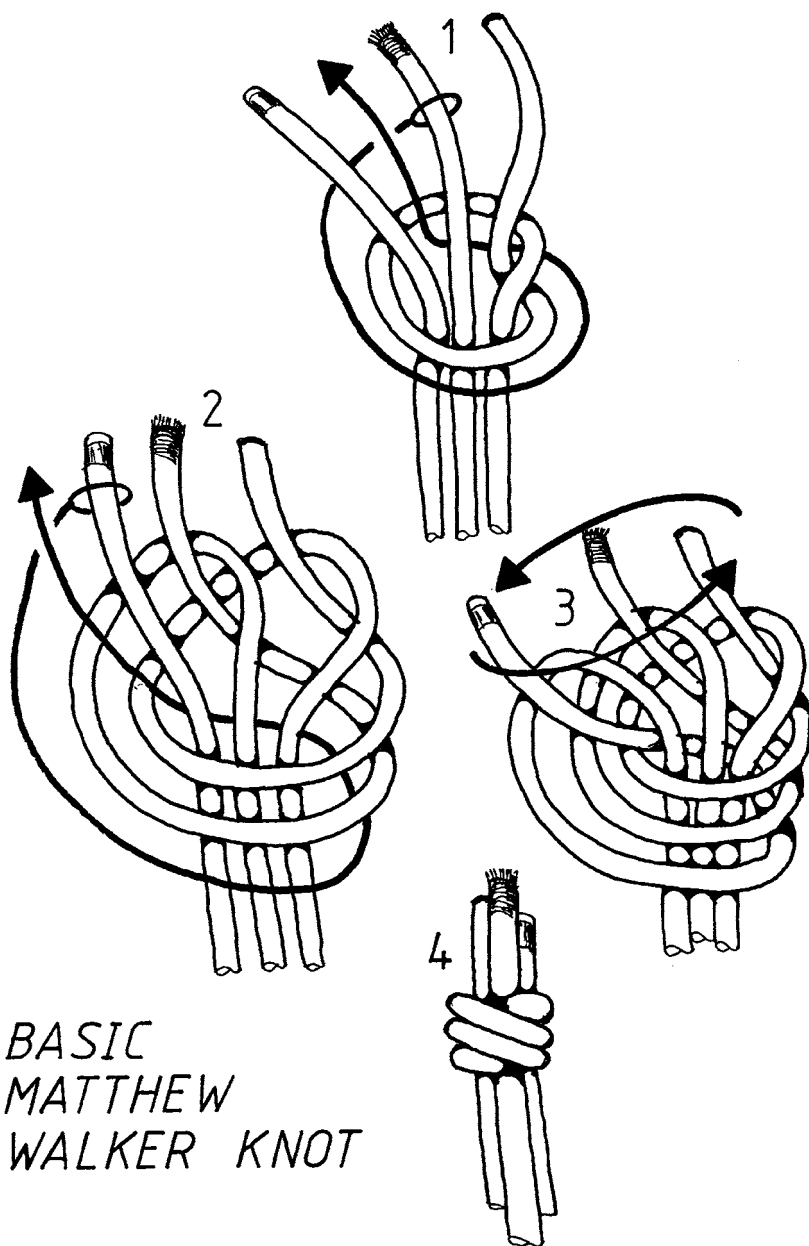
- Assemble the strands and tie a simple overhand or thumb knot in the right-hand one so that it encloses the other two (fig. 1).
- Repeat this procedure with second or middle strand, taking care to ensure that the working end tucks finally through the initial overhand knot on the way to making its own. (fig. 2).
- Do the same with the remaining strand, tucking up through the preceding two strands and itself (fig. 3).
- Gather together the three working ends between the fingers of one hand, and the trio of standing parts with the other hand. Then, with small pull-&-push move-

ments (like playing a miniature concertina), contrive to rotate the ends in the direction illustrated, while at the same time removing some of the slack and daylight from the knot.

- When it begins to resemble the final form (fig. 4), locate the wend and stand of a single strand and pull it tighter. Repeat, in turn, with the other two strands.

MW knots may be firmed up hand-tight, but they can also - taking care to tension each and all of the knot parts equally - be hardened still further with the judicious application of a couple of pairs of round-billed pliers. After which, it can be rounded and bedded down by turning it beneath a mild pounding with the thick end of a fid (or squeezing it several times between the flat jaws of yet another pair of pliers).





# Some Notes on the Rogue's Yarn.

by Des Pawson

*ROGUES-YARN, a name given to a rope yarn of a particular construction, which is placed in the middle of every strand, in all cables and cordage in the king's service. It differs from all the rest, as being untarred, and twisted in a contrary manner, by which it is easily discovered. The use of this contrivance is to examine whether any cordage, supposed to be stolen or embezzled, has been formed for the king's service. Falconer's Marine Dictionary [1760]*

Good quality rope is a valuable commodity, essential to the running of a ship. Poor quality rope puts life and ship at risk. The very best ropes are made from the very best raw materials by the very best craftsmen. However the making of rope gives the unscrupulous the opportunity of all sorts of fraud, of adulteration of yarn by mixing qualities of fibre, even the use of old rope yarn or fibre to make what is known as twice laid rope. It being impossible to check the whole length of rope in every coil, the weight of the coil would be checked. This in itself also led to abuse, over tarring etc. The use of rope being universal also meant that there was always temptation for theft of both new rope and second-hand rope.

From the early 14th to the 18th centuries the Venetians operated a factory making rope in their Arsenal which was organised in all aspects of the business: importation of raw materials, amounts and quality of work done, rates

of pay, quality control at all stages of fibre yarn and finished rope. 'Cables for mooring or other uses in which they might be under water were made of the best Bolognese hemp and bore a white wool label. Ropes of second grade Bolognese hemp had a black label, first grade not Bolognese a green, second grade not Bolognese a yellow. Thus was the ultimate purchaser and user protected from fraud in what might be for him a matter of life and death.'<sup>1</sup>

For this system to have worked in practice the wool label must have been a woollen yarn that was laid up with the hemp yarns when the rope was made, it then being in the entire length of the rope or cable.

Samuel Pepys, firstly as Clerk to the Navy Board and later as Secretary [1660-1679], was most concerned about the theft from the dockyards, as well as the quality of work and material used. He took a great interest in learning about the ropemaking process, visiting the ropewalks at Woolwich\* and Chatham\* a number of times watching the rope being made and attending tests of hemp fibre obtained from various sources. In February 1665 he even drank with a party of Dutch rope makers!

It is not certain whether Samuel Pepys introduced the distinguishing yarn that could identify the source and quality of the rope, known as the rogues yarn into England, but by 1780 it can be seen that it is common enough to warrant the entry in *Falconers Marine Dictionary* and by

1792 it was laid down that outside yards supplying rope for the Royal Navy should mark their ropes. 'All cables and cordage to be tarred... a white thread, twisted the contrary way, is to be laid in all the strands of the cable and large cordage; and a twine in the small cordage for the king's mark, so as to be seen on the outside of the strands.'<sup>2</sup> At this time there was already an Act of Parliament that stated that cordage made from hemp inferior to clean Petersburg hemp should be 'deemed inferior cordage and that the manufacturer shall distinguish such cable, hawser or rope by running into the same, from end to end of each cable three tarred mark-yarns, spun with the turn contrary to that of the rope yarn, and also one like tarred yarn in every other rope, for the use of shipping, and by marking or writing on the tally thereof the word STAPLE OR INFERIOR,'<sup>3</sup>

By the mid nineteenth century there certainly had developed a series of coloured yarns to distinguish cordage from the various naval establishments. Alston in 1860 designated them as 'Rogues' Yarn .- red, Plymouth ;blue, Portsmouth; yellow Chatham.'<sup>4</sup>

Admiral W.H. Smythe in his *Word Book* 1867 speaks of 'A yarn twisted the contrary way to the rest of a rope for detecting theft or embezzlement. Being tarred if in a white rope but white in a tarred rope, it being the easier to be discovered. It is placed in the middle of each strand in all the cordage made for the Royal Navy. Latterly the rogue's yarn has been superseded by a thread of worsted: a different coloured worsted being used in each dockyard, so that any defective rope can be traced to the place where it was made'.<sup>5</sup> Thus the Royal Navy was doing much the same thing that the Venetians did 300 years before.

In 1894 Lieut. C. Craddock in his *Wrinkles in Seamanship* goes on to state 'In all rope supplied from H.M. Dockyards the government mark is laid up vis:- Portsmouth - red yarn; Plymouth- blue; Chatham - yellow; Hualbowline [Ireland] black. The distinguishing yarns are made of jute, and a black yarn is also supplied to sea going ships to be laid up in all rope made on board, but is seldom if ever used - these different marks are known as the Rogue's Yarn'<sup>6</sup>

As by then the ropewalk at Portsmouth had ceased making, it can be assumed that the rogues yarn could also be used as a distinguishing mark showing the Dockyard for which the rope was made rather than just the yard at which it was made.

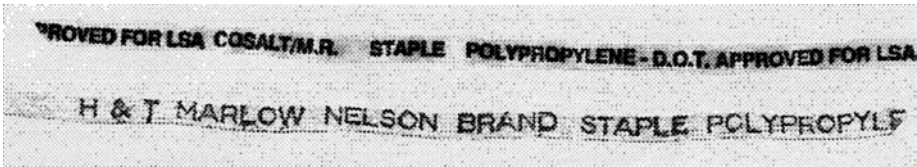
It appears that Craddock may have got Plymouth and Portsmouth mixed up, as the *Admiralty Manual of Seamanship* for 1908 says that 'all hemp rope made in the Government yards is marked by a distinguishing yarn of coloured jute viz:- red for Devonport (Plymouth) and yellow for Chatham'; going on to say that 'the Government mark is inserted in each strand for 1½ inch [circumference] rope and above and one mark for 1¼ inch and below.'<sup>7</sup> Devonport and Chatham being the only navy Dockyards still producing cordage themselves. Yet a couple of years later the same work with its 1922 revision puts back blue for Portsmouth.<sup>8</sup> For the 1932 new edition red is for Devonport and yellow for Chatham remain with blue being designated for trade manufacture, and amendments issued in 1934 added that 'Sisal cordage is distinguished by two rogues yarns'<sup>9</sup> not stating the colour.

It is the advent of various fibres of diverse qualities, with varying properties

coupled, I believe, with the erosion of the basic knowledge of fibres that lead the Admiralty in 1950 to bring about a scheme of marking various fibres and qualities of ropes with a complex series of combinations of ‘rogues yarns’ for

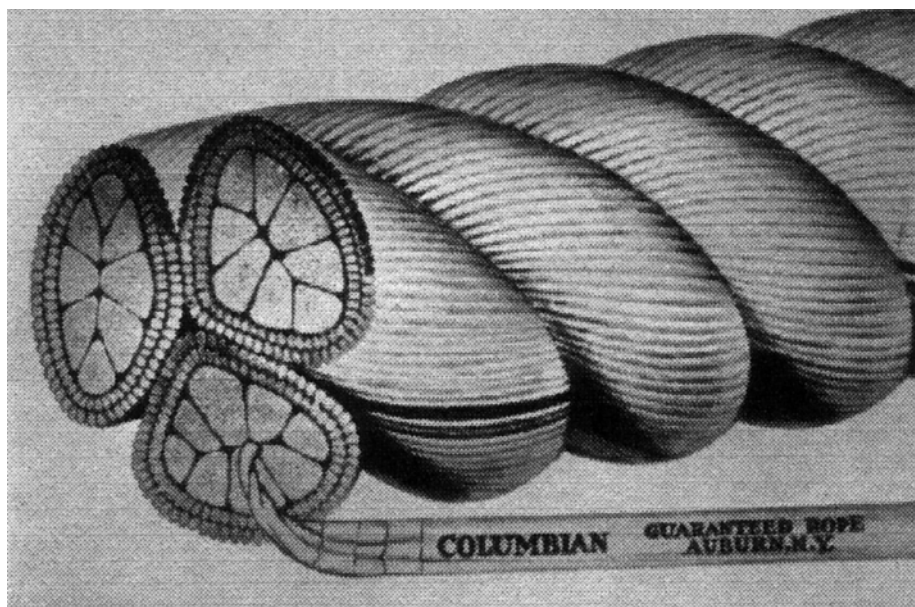
both Navy made, [the Admiralty Ropery at Chatham being the sole source of all naval cordage except log line and some small stuff; (Plymouth being blitzed in 1941)] and commercially made rope that would have been bought in.<sup>10</sup>

ROYAL NAVY		COMMERCIAL	
		British Standards InstituteSpecification 2052 1953	
<b>Hemp</b>			
White [untarred] one red rogue’s yarn in each strand			no mark
<b>Manila</b>			
one red rogue’s yarn in each of two strands		Grade I	“Special”, one black yarn in three strands
		Grade II	” Standard “one black yarn in two strands
		Grade III	“Merchant” one black strand in one strand.
<b>Sisal</b>			
One yellow rogue’s yarn in each of two strands.			One red yarn in each of two strands
<b>Coir</b>			
one yellow rogue’s yarn in one strand.			no mark



The manufacturer of the cordage, wishing to distinguish his rope from all others created a trade mark; for example Marlow Ropes ‘Look for the Black Marker the guarantee of quality and

performance’[1974], or in the USA The Columbia Rope Company with their ‘tape marked pure manila rope’ using a paper tape and later added red, white and blue surface marker yarns as well, first



thought of in 1911 and finally patented in 1919.<sup>11</sup>

The idea of marking the rope to distinguish either maker or owner was also taken up by commercial companies both makers and large users such ship owners, lighterage companies and Port Authorities. The users of rope wished to avoid theft of their valuable property.

The Port of London Authority had their rope made with one whole strand dyed green and a single green yarn in one of the other strands; latterly there was also a tape with the makers name and date of manufacture<sup>12</sup>.

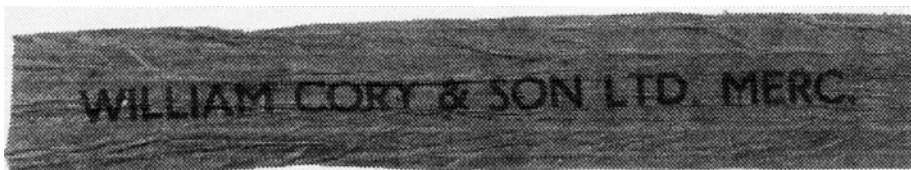
The Association of Master Lightermen and Barge Owners London

issued a schedule of owners marks; and name tapes.

The 1963 edition of this schedule lists 65 variations on coloured yarns, and name tapes<sup>13</sup>. Sometimes the police had difficulty in getting the owners to press charges for theft, the company not wanting to lose a good man<sup>14</sup>, but it certainly had its uses in catching thieves<sup>15</sup>. No doubt this system was to be found in other ports and countries.

The continued growth in fibre varieties especially synthetic fibres which may have similar appearance have given rise to a range of European standard marks in the 1990s





### Synthetic fibre

Nylon-- Green

Polyester--- Blue

Polyethylene---Orange

Polypropylene-- Brown.

### Natural Fibre

Hemp--- Green

Manila --Black

Sisal----Red

Thus today that odd yarn passing through the length of the rope continues to tell a lot about the rope and its maker.

### **\* Royal Navy Roperies**

Woolwich started in 1612, closed 1860s

Chatham started 1618 [ceased production under MOD 1984. Now a commercial concern operating in the same buildings with much the same equipment.]

Portsmouth mid 1600's to 1860's.

Plymouth [later devonport] 1690's until blitzed in 1941.

Short lived small open air roperies at Port Mahon and Malta.

Ref. J. Coad, *Historic Architecture of the Royal Navy* 1983.

### **References:**

<sup>1</sup> "Cuore Veneto Legale" f. 123, regulation of 1531 quoted in The rope factory and hemp trade in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. Frederic C Lane first published in the *Journal of Economic and Business History IV* 1932.

<sup>2</sup> D. Steel, *Elements and practice of rope-making* 1794

<sup>3</sup> Abstract from Acts of parliament that came into force 25th July 1785 Quoted in D. Steel *Elements and practice of ropemaking* 1794

<sup>4</sup> Lieut. A.H. Alston, RN *Seamanship* 1860

<sup>5</sup> Admiral W.H. Smythe. *The Sailor's Word Book* 1867

<sup>6</sup> Lieut. C. Craddock RN "Wrinkles" in *Seamanship or A "HELP" to salt horse.* 1894.

<sup>7</sup> *Admiralty Manual of Seamanship Vol.1* 1908 revised 1915 and reprinted 1917

<sup>8</sup> *Admiralty Manual of Seamanship Vol.1* 1908 revised 1922 and reprinted 1922

<sup>9</sup> *Admiralty Manual of Seamanship Vol.1* 1932 and revisions issued in 1934.

<sup>10</sup> *Admiralty Manual of Seamanship Vol. II* 1951.

<sup>11</sup> The Association of Master Lightermen and Barge Owners. *Warning, Buying and selling of rope.* London 1963.

<sup>12</sup> John Barber [ex Port of London Authority employee] personal communication 2000

<sup>13</sup> The Columbia Rope Company *The Monument a History* 1903-1948. 1948

<sup>14</sup> G. Budworth [ex River Police] personal communication to the Author, 2000

<sup>15</sup> G. Budworth, *Knots and Crime.* 1985.

# CD Review

**‘Raising Public Awareness of Mathematics’** by Centre for the Popularisation of Mathematics. Ronnie Brown: Director

If you have been looking for something different to do involving knots then look no further, this CD Rom will keep you occupied for some considerable time. It illustrates a facet of knot knowledge of which many knot tyers will not be cognisant.

This CD, which is attractively offered in an illustrated wallet, discloses four main sections of the presentation. They are:

1. Raising Public Awareness of Mathematics.
2. Mathematics and Knot Exhibition.
3. Geometry and Topology.
4. Symbolic Structures

Section 1 discusses The Pentagram, Golden Mean, Golden Rectangle, Golden Angle, and The Fibonacci Sequence. It goes on to explain how viruses tie DNA molecules into knots, and, how by applying knot theory, different types of virus may be identified

Section 2 will be the section of prime interest to knot tyers, and explains how mathematics involves itself with knots and the analysis of the form and relationship of knots by considering knotted and unknotted loops of string. The ‘Unknot’ is explained as are the concepts of mirror images, unravelling and the Reidemeister moves. These are followed by the definitions of crossing

numbers, uncrossing numbers, and bridge numbers.

Section 3. concerns itself with Boromean rings, Mobius bands and the Projective Plane. Also discussed are Torus knots, Fibre bundles and Fractals.

Section 4 illustrates and describes Symbolic Sculptures by John Robinson and includes animations of sculptures by Nick Mee of Virtual Image.

The sculptures display symmetry, balance and elegance, and the Trefoil knot, Torus knot, Mobius band, Gordian knot and Boromean rings are all featured. The sculptures are all well illustrated and there are animations as well as more details about individual sculptures.

Whatever the extent of your knowledge, experience and use of knots, I am sure that you will find something here on which to exercise the ‘grey matter’, but be warned, you will find yourself looking at tabby cats, seashells and flower seedheads in an entirely different light, and you may even, as the authors if the CD hope, raise your Awareness of Mathematics!

The CD Rom is available at 10 including VAT and postage from:

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***S Maurice Smith***

# Do You Get It Right Teaching Others?

by Ken Higgs

When my father found I was an apt pupil at knot tying he commented, "I've had seamen with me for ten years who still could not guarantee to tie a reef knot!" In my own experience I have found people who can instinctively 'see' how a knot is formed - and conversely - some just cannot, no matter how you, and they, try!

Most of us lie between these extremes but to those who now teach can I ask you to consider my title please?

Recently my daughter tried to teach her nine-year-old to tie a reef knot - and was getting nowhere. Knowing the lad to be quite adept with cords I was curious to discover 'why the hiccup?' The instruction was right over left, then left over right and the lad was flummoxed. I asked him just to tie me an ordinary knot (over hand), which he did easily BUT left over right. Problem solved - he can now tie the reef perfectly - left over right then right over left! So, you have a student who had a problem, did you try the 'left hand' approach instead of your (maybe) 'right hand' way?

Can you tie a bowline left handed for those who are thus inclined? It is surprising how your 'cred' goes up when you can.

On a slightly different tack -when trying to tie a new knot from a book and finding it to be difficult - is it because the drawing is in an opposite hand to what is natural for you?

This happened to me when becoming annoyed at the way the Perfection Loop was shown recently. Firstly, if a loop is required then this is the starting point, make the loop then tie the knot. As shown in KM 71 p 14, the knot is tied then the required amount of cord has to be worked through (tediously to create the loop. So, turning to another book I found the answer, but found it difficult to work - until I took a tracing of the drawing and turned it over to give a mirror image - then it all became clear! So you are a 'handed' hand-person? Consider my alternative, it may help you and your student(s).

## Try the Perfection Loop

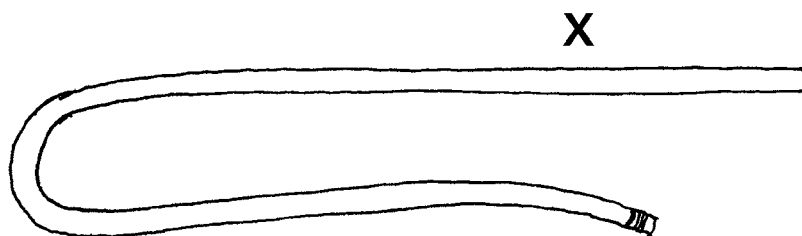
First create size of loop needed. (*Fig. 1*)

At point 'x' make an Overhand knot with the wend pulling it through enough to leave the loop. (*Fig. 2*)

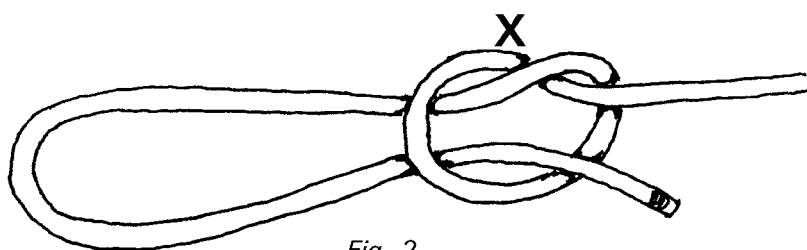
Tie the lock to secure the loop. (*Fig. 3*)

The same result but easier to tie?

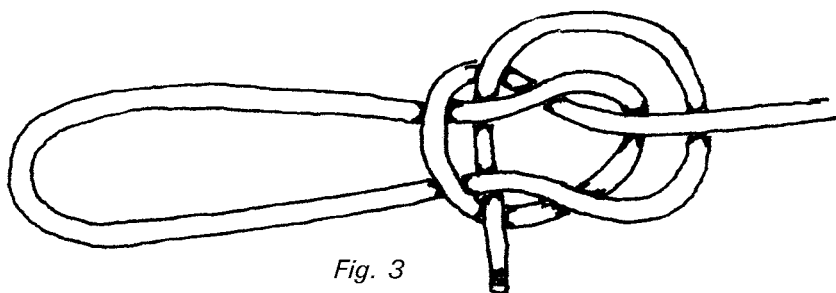




*Fig. 1*



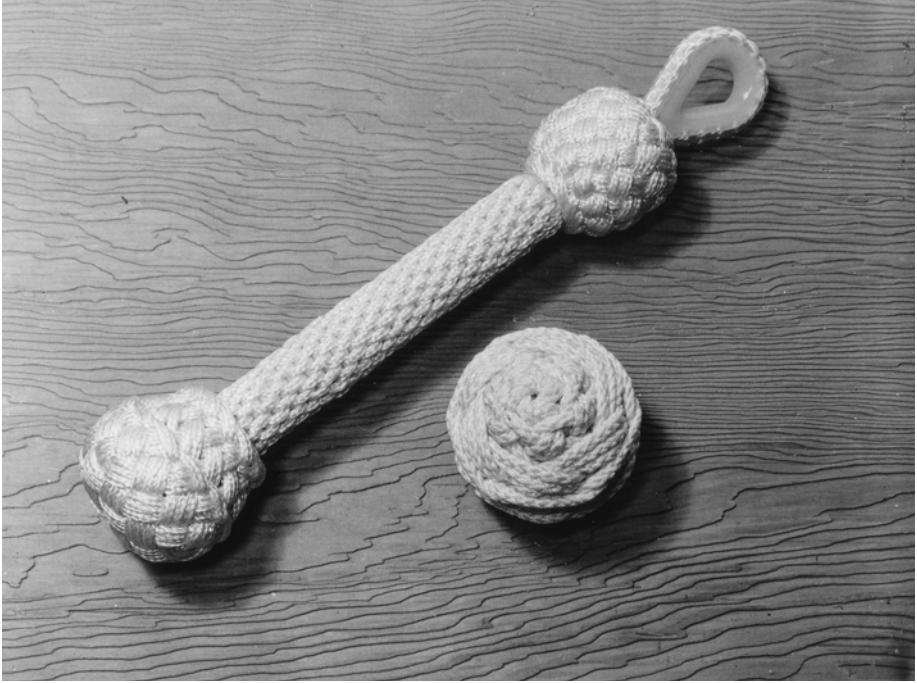
*Fig. 2*



*Fig. 3*



# Knot Gallery



*Above: Bellrope, and additional end-knot (mid - 1960's) by Geoffrey Budworth.*

*Facing: Dog lead by Geert "Willey" Willaert.*

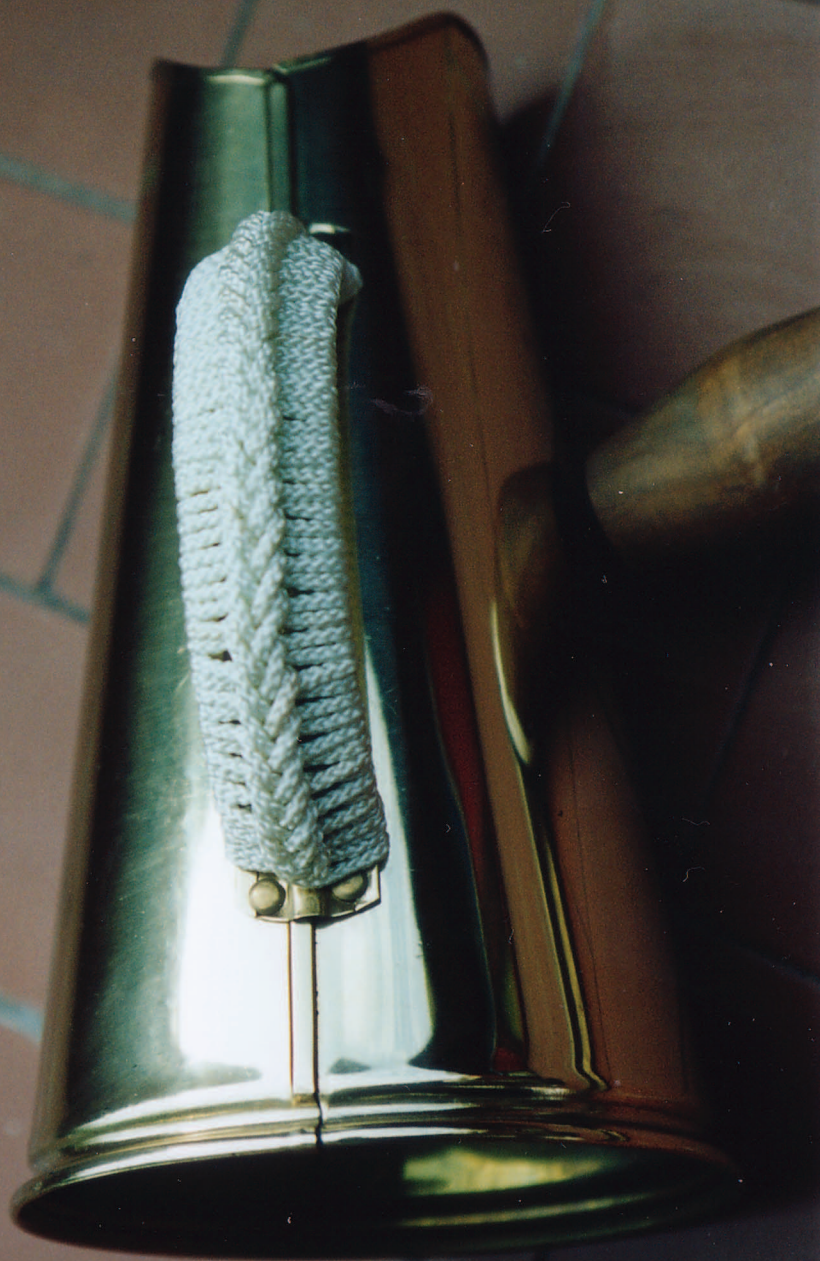
*Overleaf: The handle of this megaphone was made of a too thin brass sheet to give comfortable handling, so the 2.5 polyester handle cover, made with a ringbolt hitching, was not only a decorative work by Agostino Cortese.*

*Mobius band by Guild President Jeff Wyatt.*









# More Ways to Design Spherical Covering Knots

by Jesse Coleman

In a previous note to *Knotting Matters*, I discussed two ways to design spherical covering knots (SCK's) by inserting a single cord into a modified Turk's head knot (THK). This note extends these two methods by examining how to design a SCK by inserting 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, ... cords into a THK. This note is a continuation of that previous note and it will be helpful to have that note nearby when reading this note.

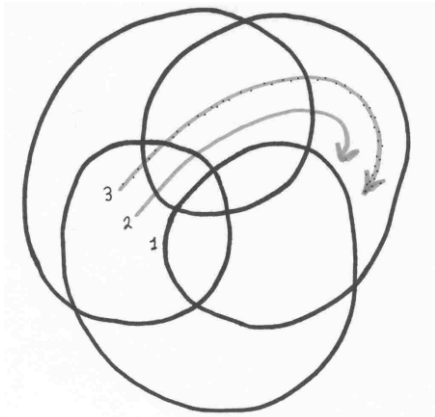
Look at figures 1 through 5 in the previous note. There, we inserted a single cord into a 3B X 4L THK. Let us call the line or cord of the 3B X 4L THK the primary cord of this SCK. Notice, in those figures, that the inserted cord remained entirely inside the primary cord. Look at figures 1 and 2 in this note. Here, we are doing the same thing, except that we insert two cords instead of one. We skip some of the intermediate figures as the steps are so similar. We could have produced similar knots by inserting three or more cords into the 3B X 4L THK and keeping all of them inside the primary cord.

Look at figures 8 through 11 in the previous note. There, we inserted a single cord into a 4B X 3L THK. Notice that the inserted cord crossed the outer bights of the primary cord and went "outside" on the drawing. Look at figures 3 and 4 of this note. Here, we produce the same knot as in figure 11 of

the previous note, except that two cords have been inserted and both of these inserted cords go outside the primary cord. We could have followed these same steps and added three or more cords. When you make a drawing of any of these SCK's, be sure that all crossings follow the usual over/under pattern. The mat drawing will be your "road map" for the knot.

Some ordinary THK's with no additional cords inserted may be used as SCK's. We will look at their characteristics. I have tied the 4B X 6L THK using red and green cords and placed it over a small sphere. It made a nice spherical knot even though the basic knot is not naturally spherical.

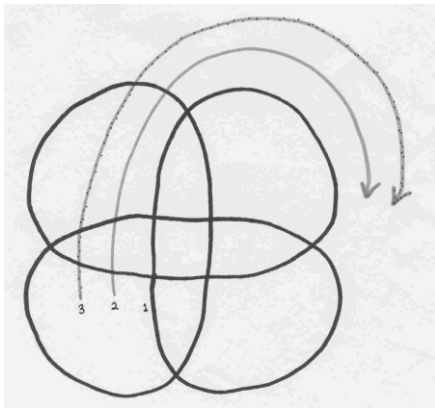
In figures 1 and 3, the cords are numbered. The primary cord is number one and the next cord is two, etc. In order to obtain a striped pattern in the finished knot, an odd number of cords should be added and the colour pattern of the cords should alternate. For instance, if three cords are added, then the total number of cords is four. If cords numbered 1, 2, 3 and 4 are coloured black, white, black, white, then the finished knot will consist of black and white stripes. If the cords are coloured white, white, black, black, then a pattern of "four cornered snow flakes" will appear. The pattern will be most noticeable around the equator of the knot.



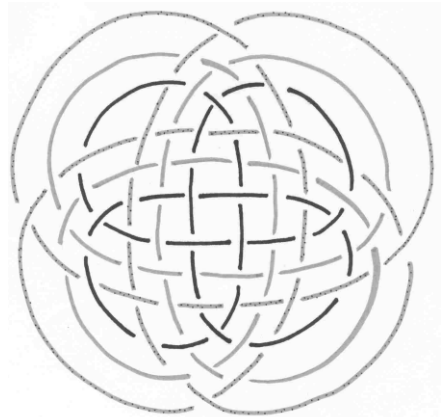
*Fig. 1. Initial steps in the drawing of a Spherical Covering Knot classified as '3B x 4L, two cords added, inside.'*



*Figure 2. Completed drawing of a Spherical Covering Knot classified as a '3B x 4L, two cords added, inside.'*



*Figure 3. Initial steps in the drawing of a Spherical Covering Knot classified as '4B x 3L, two cords added, outside.'*



*Figure 4. Completed drawing of a Spherical Covering Knot classified as '4B x 3L, two cords added, outside.'*

I use the term cord to refer to the entire inserted THK and to the primary cord even though the rule of the greatest common factor may require that they are actually tied with several physical

cords.

We need a way to classify these numerous different types of SCK's. There are three things to consider: (1) The basic THK used as the primary cord,

(2) the number of cords inserted and (3) whether or not the inserted cords remain entirely inside the primary cord (figures 1 and 2) or go outside (figures 3 and 4).

In this system for classifying SCK's, the first method in the previous note is called 'one cord, inside' and the second method is called 'one cord, outside'. The figures in the previous note showing finished drawings of SCK's are classified as:

Figure 5; '3B X 4L, one cord added, inside',

Figure 6; '4B X 5L, one cord added, inside',

Figure 7; '4B X 7L, one cord added, inside',

Figure 11; '4B X 3L, one cord added, outside' and

Figure 12; '4B X 5L, one cord added, outside'.

The two figures showing completed drawings of SCKs in this note are:

Figure 2; '3B x 4L, two cords added, inside' and

Figure 4; '4B X 3L, two cords added, outside'.

Equations for the crossing numbers (CN), the equatorial circumferences (EC) and polar circumferences (PC) are given in Appendix 1. The results of these formulas for many SCK's are given in Appendix 2. The information in the tables is intended to be of practical help to knot tiers who are interested designing SCK's. I will illustrate how I used these tables to design several SCK's.

In the previous note, I discussed how I tied a SCK classified as '4B X 5L, one

cord added, outside' using two different colours of 6mm braided cord on a 3 inch diameter Styrofoam core. I also discussed the problems I had with two larger SCK's using the one cord added design. When only one cord is added, the only way to increase the equatorial diameter (necessary for larger spheres) is to choose a primary cord with more bights. This led to problems of large, uncovered holes at the poles of the SCK. I prefer to design large SCK's that use a primary cord with only 3 or 4 bights. When this is done, the "holes" at the poles look like most other holes on the knot. That is, the holes vanish.

From Table 3, we see that a SCK classified as '4B X 5L, one cord added, outside' has a CN of 64, an EC of 16 and a PC of 20. Averaging PC and EC, we have a good circumference of this spherical knot of about 18. I wished to cover a 4 inch sphere. Using the equations in Appendix 1, I estimated the desired CN to be about 114 ( $64 \times 16/9$ ) and the circumferences to be about 24 ( $18 \times 4/3$ ). I wanted the knot to be striped so I looked on the tables for odd numbers of cords added. In order to have an EC of about 24 in a one cord added SCK, six or more bights would be required (see tables 2 and 3). That would probably produce holes at the poles so I looked at tables 6 and 7 to pick out a three cord added SCK. I chose the '3B X 5L, three cords added, inside' SCK with a CN of 120, and EC of 24 and a PC of 28 (Table 6). The resulting knot is very nice. When tied with a colour pattern of 1, 2, 3, 4: red, white, red, white, the white stripes are isolated from each other and all red cells are connected. This seems to be a characteristic of SCK's of the "inside" type when using this alternating colour scheme for the cords.



Notice that for the SCK classified as '3B X 5L, three cords added, inside', each of the three added cords are 3B X 3L THK's. The rule of the greatest common divisor requires that each of these THK's be tied using three cords. Thus, ten separate cords (of two different lengths) are required to tie this knot. Many desirable SCK's must be tied with numerous cords. Anyone interested in tying SCK's using these techniques should become comfortable manipulating these multi-cord knots.

I tied another SCK that covered an 8 inch Styrofoam sphere. I estimated that this knot should have a CN of about 455 ( $64 \times 64/9$ ) and circumferences of about 48 ( $18 \times 8/3$ ). Again, I wanted a striped pattern, so I needed to add an odd number of cords. I chose a '4B X 4L, five cords added, outside'. This knot consisted of six separate 4B X 4L "THKs", each requiring 4 physical cords. Thus, a total of 24 separate cords were required, each making only one circuit of the sphere. The work was tedious and consumed much time. However, I feel that the result is worth the effort. I tied this knot with cords numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 coloured black, white, black, white, black, white. This produced a maze of black and white stripes. All black cells were connected to each other and all white cells were connected to each other. The black and white patterns were identical and interlocking, centered on the two poles of the knot. These seem to be characteristics of SCK's of the "outside" type when using this alternating colour scheme for the cords.

I also tied a SCK that covered a prolate spheroidal object. I found a sponge rubber toy football (American type). Measuring a string that I laid

around the equator of the football indicated that the equatorial circumference (distance, not cord crossings) was about 12 inches. The distance around the poles was about 15 inches. The distance around the 3 inch sphere was about 9.5 inches. I estimated the numbers that I would need when using the tables in the following way:

$$EC = 18 \times 12/9.5 = \text{about } 23,$$

$$PC = 18 \times 15/9.5 = \text{about } 28 \text{ and}$$

$$CN = 64 \times (12 \times 15)/(9.5 \times 9.5) = \text{about } 128.$$

Perhaps not the best choice, I picked the '3B X 5L, two cords added, outside' to cover this knot ( $CN = 108$ ,  $EC = 18$  and  $PC = 30$ , from Table 5). I used red, white and blue cord and the result looks like some sort of giant Easter egg with many small coloured splotches. Acceptable, but not one of my favorite knots.

I prefer striped knots so I returned to the tables for a second try at this Easter egg/football. The '3B X 5L, three cords added, inside' SCK used for the 4 inch sphere (and described above) seemed to be ideal ( $CN = 120$ ,  $EC = 20$ ,  $PC = 28$ ) and the drawing was already completed. I tied this knot and placed it over the football shape instead of the sphere. The result was very nice, showing that these knots are very pliable and can be made to fit different shaped cores.

I have not yet figured out a foolproof way to estimate the required lengths of cord to tie these spherical covering knots nor have I figured out ways to alter knot design when changing to new cords of different thickness. Trial and error

continues to serve me well.

Closing thought: These two notes on how to design spherical covering knots may seem like engineering documents with all of their formulas and tables of numbers. I would like to apologize to those who find them overly complicated. We are not sending a person into space or building a bridge. We are just trying to design a pretty knot that will cover a

sphere. Tying any spherical covering knot is an accomplishment. To tie one that you have designed for yourself is an even larger accomplishment. The values for CN, PC and EC may vary widely from some ideal calculated value and you may still tie a fine spherical knot. Draw up the plans for a knot and give it a try. Good luck. Have fun.



## Appendix 1: Equations

In these equations,

- N = The number of cords added,
- B = The number of bights of the primary cord,
- L = The number of leads of the primary cord,
- CN = The crossing number of the SCK,
- EC = The equatorial circumference of the SCK and
- PC = The polar circumference of the SCK.

### Spherical Covering Knots of the Inside Type:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{CN} &= \text{B}(\text{L} - 3)(\text{N}+1)^2 + 2\text{B}(\text{N}+1) \\ \text{EC} &= 2\text{B}(\text{N} + 1) \\ \text{PC} &= 2(\text{L} + \text{NL} - 2\text{N}) \end{aligned}$$

### Spherical Covering Knots of the Outside Type:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{CN} &= \text{B}(\text{L} - 1)(\text{N}+1)^2 \\ \text{EC} &= 2\text{B}(\text{N} + 1) \\ \text{PC} &= 2\text{L}(\text{N} + 1) \end{aligned}$$

### Tying a SCK with different diameter:

Suppose you have successfully tied an SCK on a sphere of diameter  $D_1$  and this SCK has crossing number  $\text{CN}_1$ , equatorial circumference  $\text{EC}_1$  and polar circumference  $\text{PC}_1$ . Suppose that you now wish to tie a similar SCK on a sphere of diameter  $D_2$ . These equations may be used to estimate the  $\text{CN}_2$ ,  $\text{EC}_2$  and  $\text{PC}_2$  for this knot:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{CN}_2 &= \text{CN}_1 D_2^2/D_1^2, \\ \text{EC}_2 &= \text{EC}_1 D_2/D_1 \text{ and} \\ \text{PC}_2 &= \text{PC}_1 D_2/D_1. \end{aligned}$$

For SCK's tied on spheres, EC and PC should be about the same.

## Appendix 2: Tables of Crossing Numbers

		B = 2	B = 3	B = 4	B = 5	B = 6	B = 7	B = 8	B = 9
		EC=4	EC=6	EC=8	EC=10	EC=12	EC=14	EC=16	EC=18
L = 3	PC=6	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18
L = 4	PC=8	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27
L = 5	PC=10	8	12	16	20	24	28	32	36
L = 6	PC=12	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45
L = 7	PC=14	12	18	24	30	36	42	48	54
L = 8	PC=16	14	21	28	35	42	49	56	63
L = 9	PC=18	16	24	32	40	48	56	64	72

Table 1, No cords added (ordinary Turk's head knots).

		B = 2	B = 3	B = 4	B = 5	B = 6	B = 7	B = 8	B = 9
		EC=8	EC=12	EC=16	EC=20	EC=24	EC=28	EC=32	EC=36
L = 3	PC=8	8	12	16	20	24	28	32	36
L = 4	PC=12	16	24	32	40	48	56	64	72
L = 5	PC=16	24	36	48	60	72	84	96	108
L = 6	PC=20	32	48	64	80	96	112	128	144
L = 7	PC=24	40	60	80	100	120	140	160	180
L = 8	PC=28	48	72	96	120	144	168	192	216
L = 9	PC=32	56	84	112	140	168	196	224	252

Table 2, One cord added, inside.

		B = 2	B = 3	B = 4	B = 5	B = 6	B = 7	B = 8	B = 9
		EC=8	EC=12	EC=16	EC=20	EC=24	EC=28	EC=32	EC=36
L = 2	PC=8	8	12	16	20	24	28	32	36
L = 3	PC=12	16	24	32	40	48	56	64	72
L = 4	PC=16	24	36	48	60	72	84	96	108
L = 5	PC=20	32	48	64	80	96	112	128	144
L = 6	PC=24	40	60	80	100	120	140	160	180
L = 7	PC=28	48	72	96	120	144	168	192	216
L = 8	PC=32	56	84	112	140	168	196	224	252
L = 9	PC=36	64	96	128	160	192	224	256	288

Table 3, One cord added, outside.

		B = 2	B = 3	B = 4	B = 5	B = 6	B = 7	B = 8	B = 9
		EC=12	EC=18	EC=24	EC=30	EC=36	EC=42	EC=48	EC=54
L = 3	PC=10	12	18	24	30	36	42	48	54
L = 4	PC=16	30	45	60	75	90	105	120	135
L = 5	PC=22	48	72	96	120	144	168	192	216
L = 6	PC=28	66	99	132	165	198	231	264	297
L = 7	PC=34	84	126	168	210	252	294	336	378
L = 8	PC=40	102	153	204	255	306	357	408	459
L = 9	PC=46	120	180	240	300	360	420	480	540

Table 4, Two cords added, inside.

		B = 2	B = 3	B = 4	B = 5	B = 6	B = 7	B = 8	B = 9
		EC=12	EC=18	EC=24	EC=30	EC=36	EC=42	EC=48	EC=54
L = 2	PC=12	18	27	36	45	54	63	72	81
L = 3	PC=18	36	54	72	90	108	126	144	162
L = 4	PC=24	54	81	108	135	162	189	216	243
L = 5	PC=30	72	108	144	180	216	252	288	324
L = 6	PC=36	90	135	180	225	270	315	360	405
L = 7	PC=42	108	162	216	270	324	378	432	486
L = 8	PC=48	126	189	252	315	378	441	504	567
L = 9	PC=54	144	216	288	360	432	504	576	648

Table 5, Two cords added, outside.

		B = 2	B = 3	B = 4	B = 5	B = 6	B = 7	B = 8	B = 9
		EC=16	EC=24	EC=32	EC=40	EC=48	EC=56	EC=64	EC=72
L = 3	PC=12	16	24	32	40	48	56	64	72
L = 4	PC=20	48	72	96	120	144	168	192	216
L = 5	PC=28	80	120	160	200	240	280	320	360
L = 6	PC=36	112	168	224	280	336	392	448	504
L = 7	PC=44	144	216	288	360	432	504	576	648
L = 8	PC=52	176	264	352	440	528	616	704	792
L = 9	PC=60	208	312	416	520	624	728	832	936

Table 6, Three cords added, inside.

		B = 2	B = 3	B = 4	B = 5	B = 6	B = 7	B = 8	B = 9
		EC=16	EC=24	EC=32	EC=40	EC=48	EC=56	EC=64	EC=72
L = 2	PC=16	32	48	64	80	96	112	128	144
L = 3	PC=24	64	96	128	160	192	224	256	288
L = 4	PC=32	96	144	192	240	288	336	384	432
L = 5	PC=40	128	192	256	320	384	448	512	576
L = 6	PC=48	160	240	320	400	480	560	640	720
L = 7	PC=56	192	288	384	480	576	672	768	864
L = 8	PC=64	224	336	448	560	672	784	896	1008
L = 9	PC=72	256	384	512	640	768	896	1024	1152

Table 7, Three cords added, outside.

		B = 2	B = 3	B = 4	B = 5	B = 6	B = 7	B = 8	B = 9
		EC=20	EC=30	EC=40	EC=50	EC=60	EC=70	EC=80	EC=90
L = 3	PC=14	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90
L = 4	PC=24	70	105	140	175	210	245	280	315
L = 5	PC=34	120	180	240	300	360	420	480	540
L = 6	PC=44	170	255	340	425	510	595	680	765
L = 7	PC=54	220	330	440	550	660	770	880	990
L = 8	PC=64	270	405	540	675	810	945	1080	1215
L = 9	PC=74	320	480	640	800	960	1120	1280	1440

Table 8, Four cords added, inside.

		B = 2	B = 3	B = 4	B = 5	B = 6	B = 7	B = 8	B = 9
		EC=20	EC=30	EC=40	EC=50	EC=60	EC=70	EC=80	EC=90
L = 2	PC=20	50	75	100	125	150	175	200	225
L = 3	PC=30	100	150	200	250	300	350	400	450
L = 4	PC=40	150	225	300	375	450	525	600	675
L = 5	PC=50	200	300	400	500	600	700	800	900
L = 6	PC=60	250	375	500	625	750	875	1000	1125
L = 7	PC=70	300	450	600	750	900	1050	1200	1350
L = 8	PC=80	350	525	700	875	1050	1225	1400	1575
L = 9	PC=90	400	600	800	1000	1200	1400	1600	1800

Table 9, Four cords added, outside.

		B = 2	B = 3	B = 4	B = 5	B = 6	B = 7	B = 8	B = 9
		EC=24	EC=36	EC=48	EC=60	EC=72	EC=84	EC=96	EC=108
L = 3	PC=16	24	36	48	60	72	84	96	108
L = 4	PC=28	96	144	192	240	288	336	384	432
L = 5	PC=40	168	252	336	420	504	588	672	756
L = 6	PC=52	240	360	480	600	720	840	960	1080
L = 7	PC=64	312	468	624	780	936	1092	1248	1404
L = 8	PC=76	384	576	768	960	1152	1344	1536	1728
L = 9	PC=88	456	684	912	1140	1368	1596	1824	2052

Table 10, Five cords added, inside.

		B = 2	B = 3	B = 4	B = 5	B = 6	B = 7	B = 8	B = 9
		EC=24	EC=36	EC=48	EC=60	EC=72	EC=84	EC=96	EC=108
L = 2	PC=24	72	108	144	180	216	252	288	324
L = 3	PC=36	144	216	288	360	432	504	576	648
L = 4	PC=48	216	324	432	540	648	756	864	972
L = 5	PC=60	288	432	576	720	864	1008	1152	1296
L = 6	PC=72	360	540	720	900	1080	1260	1440	1620
L = 7	PC=84	432	648	864	1080	1296	1512	1728	1944
L = 8	PC=96	504	756	1008	1260	1512	1764	2016	2268
L = 9	PC=108	576	864	1152	1440	1728	2016	2304	2592

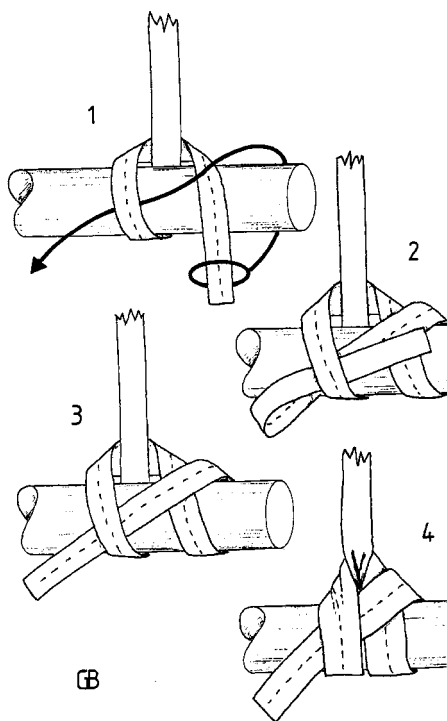
Table 11, Five cords added, outside.

# Webbing Knots - Part 2

by 'Jack Fidspike'

Continuing the feature begun in the last issue of KM, webbing used to be found only as sail boat toe-straps or on lifting tackle in civil engineering projects, but increasingly it is applied to various other purposes afloat and ashore: as safety and barrier ropes; to replace permanent docking lines; for strops to shorten mainsheet tackles and

kicking straps; and for lashing down loads on trucks. I employ it to secure kayaks and dinghies atop a car's roof rack or road-trailer. The flat lashings cling without scoring where they bind - unlike hard round lines - even after repeated use, while the extra surface area available for contact generates friction for some very strong and secure hitches.

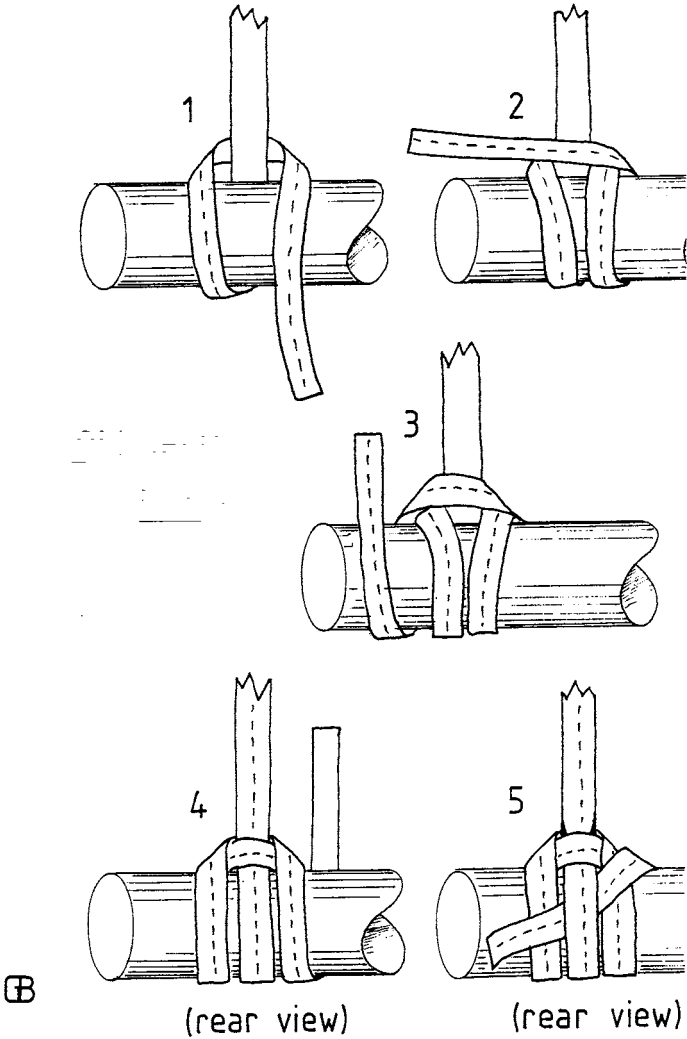


## Ossel hitch

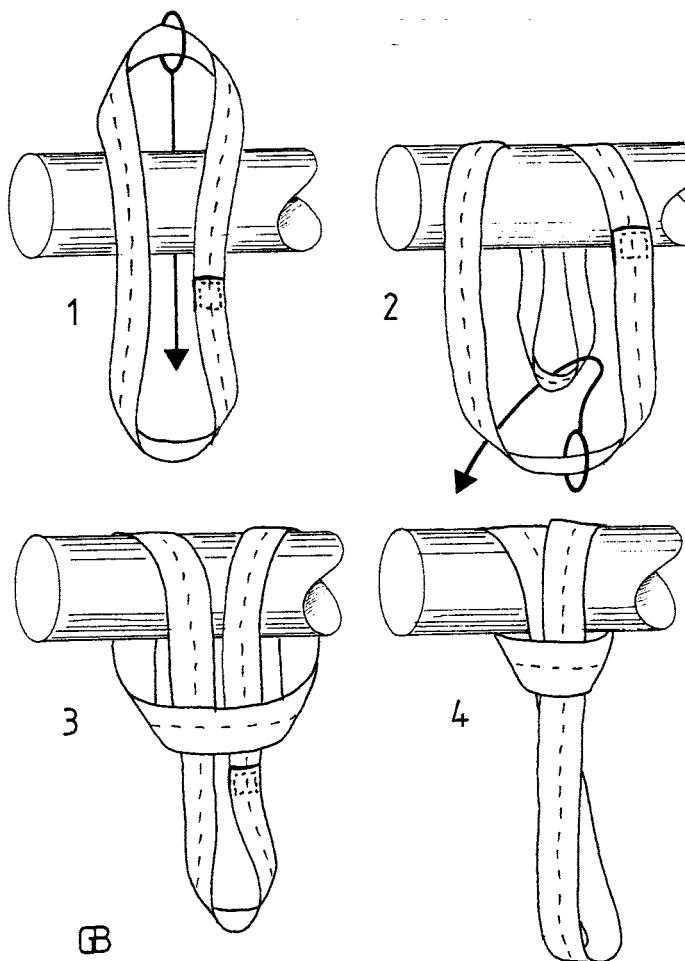
The ossel hitch (with or without a drawloop) requires only a little care to ensure that, as the working end is taken around behind the standing part, it resembles the collar of a jacket. Once done, it adheres like super-glue to skin.

# Collared hitch

The collared hitch is a more robust knot, able to withstand a heavy pull from just about any direction. Arrange each collar neatly, as shown, so that between them they enclose the standing part.





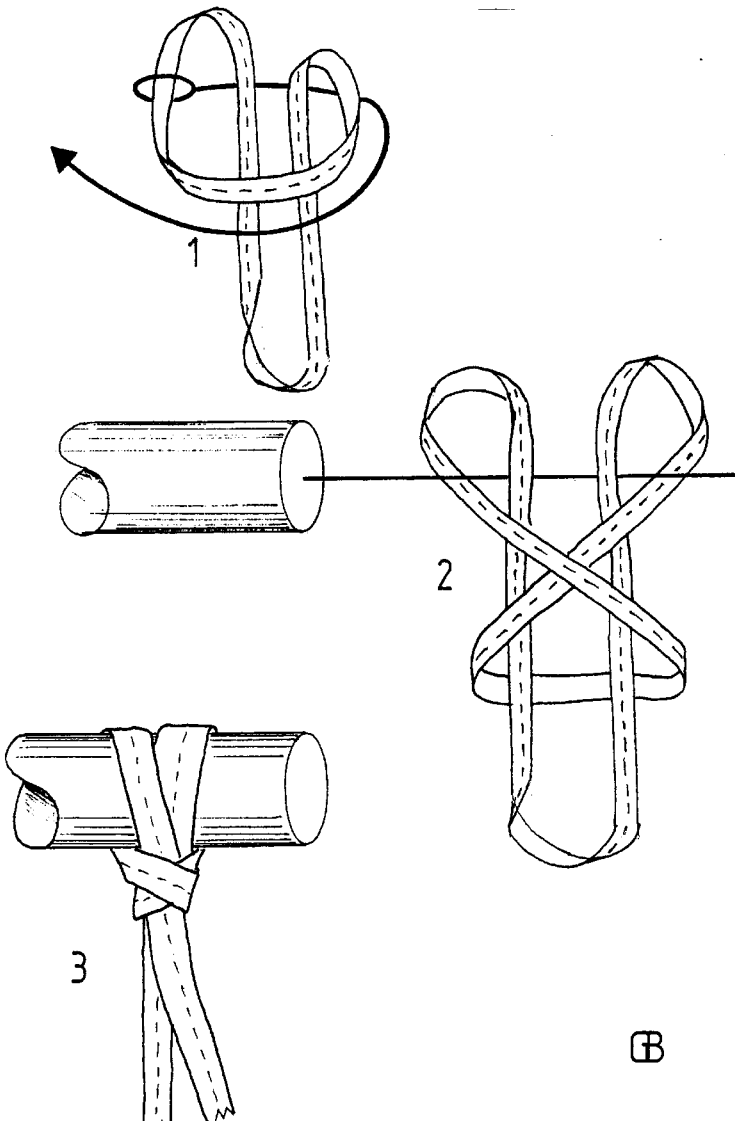


## Ring or bale sling hitch

Tie this hitch in the bight, ensuring no unwanted twists are allowed to remain, before tightening it and encouraging one of the two legs to ride up over the other one.

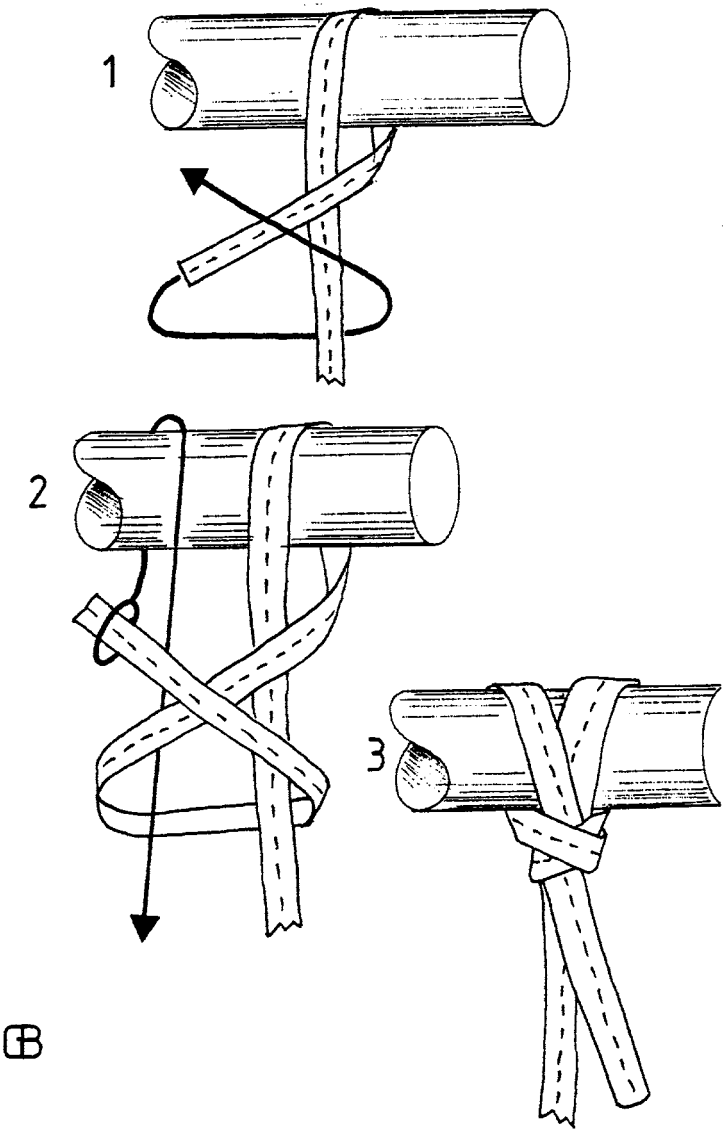
# Reinforced ring hitch

To increase the strength and security of the basic ring or bale sling hitch, reinforce it this way. Tied in the bight, with an extra three crossing points, it will cling and grip that bit harder.



# Reinforced cow hitch

Given a working end, rather than an endless strop or sling, tie the reinforced cow hitch. Superficially identical to the preceding hitch, its dynamics are different because only ONE leg is loaded. Ring hitches share their load equally between both legs.



# SPLICES – Who needs ‘em?

asks Geoffrey Budworth

*Confessed an old hand, name of  
Randall;*

*‘A sheath-&-core splice I can’t  
handle.*

*Hawser-laid stuff*

*I can tuck well enough;*

*But my braid-on-braid work is a  
scandal.’*

I n decades devoted one way or another to rope work, I have used just three kinds of splice – an eye splice, a back splice and (very occasionally) a short splice – and none of those recently. Only once have I ever seen a long splice done for real (first aid to a busted mainsail halyard, applied hastily so as not to miss the tide), and that was over 50 years ago, during the make-do-and-mend era of austerity following the second World War.

It used to be said that knots were weaker than splices; and so, in the past when vegetable fibre ropes could barely cope with the loads routinely imposed upon them, using the stronger alternative to safeguard breaking strength and increase the likelihood of preserving such cordage intact made sense. Some rope diameters were, in any case, too thick and unwieldy to be knotted.

Nowadays, however, we know some mighty muscular knots, while synthetic ropes are slimmer and boast breaking strengths many times greater than the job in hand. So why struggle with the awkward splices necessitated by these

hi-tech products? For there seem to be as many ways to splice sheath-&-core or braid-on-braid lines as there are explanatory leaflets. Dextrous boat show demonstrators make the process look easy, but I remain unconverted.

Splicing wire may also be redundant these days, given swaged (and the latest swage-less) rigging terminals. Manufacturers claim 100% efficiency for some of these items of hardware. In other words, there is as much chance of the wire parting as the fitting failing.

I accept there must be riggers for whom the daily application of splices is an indispensable procedure. Some amateur devotees, too, may well still practice and preserve this rare skill. To them I say, well done. Keep it up. Someone must.

Many more of us however, I suspect, have come to regard splices as outmoded and anachronistic. Consequently we have failed to embrace recent innovations, although (like the old hand in the opening limerick) we may be embarrassed to admit it. Splices appear very infrequently on the pages of Knotting Matters or in mainstream knotting publications, though that could be just because of the problems of illustrating and describing them. So, honestly, how many readers actually use splices?

*Illustrations from NARES SEAMANSHIP  
BY Lt. George S. Nares, RN., first  
published 1862*

SPLICES.

56



57



58



59



60



61



62



63



64



# Quoit making and encroaching Myth

by Thomas Simpson

In recent years a number of knotting/ropework books when choosing to use the quoit to explain and illustrate the construction of a grommet are failing to include a reminder that the quoit was not made by the grommet method at sea; at least not in the hustle and bustle of the real world aboard passenger liners and cruise ships, where 99.9% of all quoits are made and used. This is another example of standard working practices being overtaken by myth.

Quoits were normally made a set (four) at a time and stockpiled for future use; although losses and replacements, due to wear and tear, could be quite high, especially in the flying fish latitudes. The measurements mentioned below make a correct standard quoit, although one would always defer to the prevailing local measurements on any particular ship. The key measurement was the outer diameter, 6½ inches (165mm), which should never be exceeded. The first choice rope size was 3½ inch circumference (28mm diameter) manila, three stranded, with a right (Z) twist and medium laid - very occasionally, 3¾ inch was used.

A fathom of 3½-inch manila was stretched out at waist height (uncut), a ½-inch palm and needle whipping was placed ¼ inch from the bare end. From the end of the rope a carefully measured 16½ inches (420mm) was marked. Two ½-inch palm and needle whippings were placed a ¼ inch from either side of the mark. This exercise was repeated three more times to complete a set.

With a razor sharp knife, the rope was precisely and carefully cut on the first mark, between the two whippings. The two ends were then butted and married by an adaptation of the palm and needle whipping's diagonal stitching (I/I) that diagonally spanned/bridged the two ½ inch whippings, then was repeated in reverse to give an XXX effect. The need to reduce the spanning distance was the reasoning behind the shorter than normal ½ inch whippings. The join was then neatly covered with a 2½ inch (wide) piece of canvas, then seamed and stitched on the quoit's inner circumference. The canvas would be later painted for colour identification.

Sets of fancy quoits - in new condition, the cunlines wormed with contrasting tarred houseline or spunyarn, and the canvas edges sometimes trimmed with Turk's heads, were broken out for use in the formal, high profile, competition finals, which were held towards the end of certain legs of a deep sea voyage, or near the end of cruises.

There is a very good drawing of the above mentioned join and diagonal stitching (being used in another context) in Sam Vensson's *Handbook of Seaman's Ropework*, it's figure 34, and is on page 52 of the 1971 first English translation. This excellent nautical ropework book was published in Sweden as *Handbok i Sjmansarbete*, in 1940. How or why such an important seamanship book took 31 years to get an English translation beggars belief?

# Branch Lines

## West Country Branch

We have just held our AGM and have had a successful year. We had a number of speakers during the year including Dave Walker, Chairman of the Council of the Guild.

Members have attended both the Guild AGM and the six-monthly meeting along with various fairs and open days. We continue to hold teach-ins at our bi-monthly meetings and have also given talks and demonstrations to various clubs and organisations. The officers of the branch are the same with the incumbents of last year being returned unopposed.

*‘Tug’ Shipp*

## Yorkshire Branch

This was the first full day meeting organised by the West Yorkshire Branch to which all Yorkshire members were invited. The theme for the meeting was Flat Knotting based mainly on the designs of Brian Field and Skip Pennock. We had hoped to meet a lot of Yorkshire members who had not managed to get to our previous meetings or events, but sadly only a few were able to attend. The usual hard core was there plus representatives from North Yorkshire, Luton, Chester and Nottingham. After a brief introduction and a talk about flat knotting in general, the main meeting got

under way with four bases for workshops and exchange of ideas. We broke for lunch and then continued with a general sharing of knotting skills. Following afternoon tea we finished so that the people who had come a long way were able to make the most of the daylight to get on the road home.

This had been a great day with a relaxed and informative atmosphere.

Thanks to the people who travelled long distances to support us, we were delighted to have you there.

Whilst this is intended to be a one-off meeting the success warrants consideration for similar meetings in the future.

*David Pearson*

## Pacific Americas Branch

The Pacific Americas Branch has been busy in 2003. At our monthly meeting in January, we were approached by the Los Angeles Maritime Institute, who had a request for the Knot Tyers Guild. LAMI was close to finishing the Twin Brigantines *Irving Johnson* and *Exy Johnson* and they needed sea chest handles for the eight chests that were aboard each vessel. They asked for sixteen sets, thirty-two handles in all. The completed handles were needed by February 28th. It was agreed to base the handles on Ashley #3632, the base would be a five-inch inside diameter rope grommet to be covered by some fancy knotting to be determined by each knot tyer. They had to be kid proof and have a lifting capacity of 75 lbs. The handles needed to be varnished or shellacked before use. LAMI also had need of two Bellropes and four Jacob's Ladders (based on Ashley's #3841), one short ladder and one long.



It was a lot to ask and the time was short. The call went out to all PAB members and the response was gratifying. In the end here are the contributions that came in:

Charlie Bell (8 pairs & 2 bell ropes); Joe Soanes (1 pair traditional & 1 pair grommet style); Dan Callahan (2 pairs & 4 key fobs); Joe Schmidbauer (2 pairs); John Williams (1 pair); Jimmy Ray Williams (1 pair); Roy Chapman (1 pair); Clint Funk (1 pair); Lindsey Philpott (2 pairs).

Many thanks to all who came through so splendidly, everyone is happy with the results and they sure do look great aboard the vessels, lending a very nautical and colorful air.

March was also busy for the PAB. Early in the month we had a display at the Whale Festival at Dana Point Harbor here in Southern California. Lindsey Philpott and Charlie Bell manned the

booth there with many items from their personal knot collections on show as well as items from the PAB collection. At the end of the month there was the christening of the Twin Brigantines at the Los Angeles Maritime Museum and the PAB was asked to set up a display there as well. Once again Lindsey Philpott was there as well as Master Rigger Joe Soanes, Jose Hernandez-Juviel, Tom Mortell and PAB Secretary Joe Schmidbauer. Jose did demonstrations of worming, parceling and serving. Lindsey and Joe worked on one of the Jacob's Ladders needed by LAMI. So along with the full view of the PAB knot collection, the public got to see ropework in action as well.

Stepping back a bit I want to also remind everyone of the special effort put forth by Lindsey Philpott in making a set of fenders for Skipper Doug Lean's tug Katahdin. He did all the work himself



and also arranged to have them transported up to Washington. The money Lindsey will make from all this labor he is very generously donating to the PAB so we will be able to carry on our good work. There wouldn't be a PAB without Lindsey's untiring efforts; we are very lucky to have him as our Branch President.

**Joe Schmidbauer**

## IGKT-NAB

IGKT-NAB will be holding its NAB 2003 details elsewhere in this issue.

Ohio members - The Ohio Scouting Outing takes place at Burr Oak State Park on October 3-4-5, 2003. Additional information will be on our web site.

In addition, the IGKT-NAB hosts a *Knot Chat*, on the internet each Sunday from 18:00 - 21:00 Eastern Standard Time. One must have a computer, downloaded Yahoo Messenger, and be awake at that hour. Additional information can be obtained on the NAB web site. [www.igktnab.org](http://www.igktnab.org)

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

## 3rd French Knotting Weekend

**Grand Banks Fishery Museum,  
Fcamp, 29th & 30th March 2003**

This year's meeting of the French Branch, IGKT France, took place in the temporary exhibitions hall of the Grand Banks Fishery Museum in the Upper-Normandy port of Fcamp. The town is steeped in the history of the Cod-fishing industry and the museum has an



*Henri Philippot*

extensive collection of ship paintings, models and artefacts: it was the perfect setting for our AGM 2003. As with the first two meetings, we continue to call our knotting weekend, the *Journées européennes des amateurs de nuds* (literally : "European Knotters' Days") as we aspire to invite as many of our friends as possible from the surrounding countries (GB, CH, B, N, E etc.). This year four countries were represented by 25 knotters : France, England, Belgium and Holland.

The weekend got off to a great start on Friday 27th with the arrival of the first knotters. Quite by chance a few of us met in the town and we were kindly invited to Luc & Odile's house for an informal fringe meeting. On the hastily organised agenda were an aperitif, a side of beef cooked over an open fire of rosemary branches (aah, our gallic cousins know how to cook) and some delicious red



wine. This was followed by an in-depth calvados tasting and everyone, of course, went to bed too late!

On the Saturday morning the museum staff opened an hour early to let us get ourselves organised and set up the stands. Members from far and wide arrived as the morning progressed and that delightful feeling which comes from meeting up with old friends began to seep into the atmosphere of the room... By midday all was ready and we were ushered into the Museum proper to receive an official welcome from the Mayor, the Curator and some other local dignitaries. All the talk was followed by a much-appreciated aperitif laid on by the municipality.

Geert “Willy” Willaert came all the way from Belgium with a fine display of fenders and knob knots. Unfortunately we couldn’t lay our hands on the necessary equipment for a Powerpoint presentation of the Ellen knot, but we’ll do it next time. Ex-President Jan Vos brought along his knot inventories and his library of knotting books, which got

everyone browsing and wondering whether he can read Japanese. New President Jeff Wyatt treated us to his finely knotted picture frames, bell ropes and bookmarks. Ken Yalden showed his earrings and photos of 2K2. Europa got a lace-making workshop going, along with Leslie “mumsy” Bell and Janine Dahiel. Patrick Moreau brought along his jewellery collection *Nouages* and his finely developed teaching skills. Michel Straub displayed pictures of his covered knife handles. Gabriel Richir, with the help of Alain ‘King of Tahiti’ Sey, displayed a fine collection of traditional sailors’ work such as fenders, ocean mats and sea chest beackets. Luc Prouveur treated us to a new version of the Turk’s head (literally on the head!), his 18-sided monkey fist and a rather enigmatic and intriguing theory for tying Turk’s heads in the hand that he calls the ‘Helicoidal Starting Banana.’ Henri Philippot displayed his collection of fine ropework from around the globe. Patrick Lefour presented his extra-dimensional Turk’s heads. Graham macLachlan set up the

six knot challenge (without the stopwatch) and other rope games. Other knotters and new faces came along and helped out such as Jean-Baptiste, Jean-Pierre Durand, Isabel Rachel, Yves, Jean-Michel Galloy, Frdric Ltaconnoux. We also received a visit from Daniel Billeaux, ropework teacher at Fcamp's *Lyce maritime Anita Conti*, hopefully we will be able to twist his arm to join our ranks. Journalists from several newspapers came along to eke out an article and Pat Moreau convinced one poor hack that his title was Dr. of Applied Nodology . We closed the afternoon's meeting with a thank-you presentation of red roses and Ardbeg whisky for Luc & Odile, organisers of the weekend.

Later that evening we all met up at the Htel de l'Angleterre for the "Nodologists' Dinner" which was a culinary and social success. Speeches flew thick and fast around the table : Jeff thanked the French Branch on behalf of the IGKT, duly translated by Graham; IGKT France thanked the Anglo-Belgico-Dutch contingent for making the effort to come and then Jan Vos made a speech in Dutch which was heartily received by Willy. Graham endeavoured to translate it for the non-Dutch speakers such as himself and Jeff lamented the fact that there were no Norwegians present to "speech" to. Ken proposed a demonstration of the icicle hitch (something he does at the drop of the hat), but we ran out of time. The day was rounded off with a nice walk home.

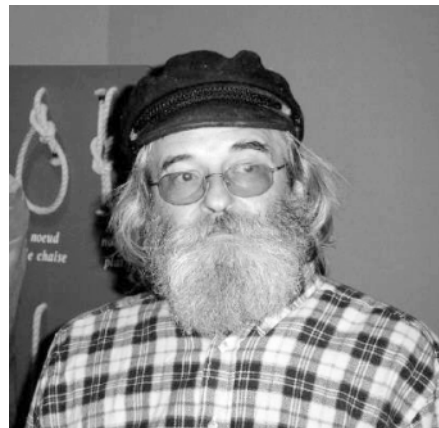
In spite of the change to summer time, Sunday morning saw the Constituent Assembly of IGKT France. The French Branch is now an *association loi 1901*, which is a status similar to that of a British charity. Its constitutional rules

and aims are those of the IGKT, with some modification to comply with French civil law. The founding councillors are : Graham macLachlan (president), Luc Prouveur (secretary) Jean-Pierre Durand (treasurer) Patrick Moreau, Patrick Lefour, Henri Philippot, Gabriel Richir and Alain Sey. 15 or so members signed up and then we went to the Yacht Club for lunch.

Sunday afternoon carried on where we had left off the previous day and the event ended at museum closing time. Over 600 visitors (museum estimate) left a bunch of tired but satisfied knotters to pack-up their belongings and say their goodbyes.

Thank you all for coming and see you next year at the Maritime, Fluvial and Port Museum in the city of Rouen on the 27th & 28th March 2004.

**Graham macLachlan**



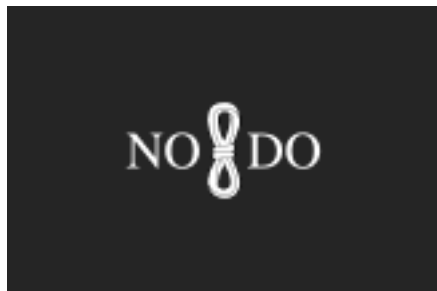
*Luc Prouveur*

# Postbag

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

## The Flag of Seville

Those of you who speak Spanish will know that Nudo means knot and the fact that what appears to be a hank of cord is stuck in the middle of the word could be considered to be a fanciful decoration. The lettering and symbol are gold on a red ground.



In fact the story behind the flag's design is rather more complicated and interesting.

In the 13th century, Alfonso X The Learned, King of Castille and Leon lost the support of most of the cities in his kingdom who transferred allegiance to his son Sancho IV.

Seville however remained faithful to Alfonso and the "Knot of loyalty" remains the city's symbol.

The 8 represents, in fact, a skein of wool, in Spanish *madeja* and the letters

and symbol become a pun on the expression NO - me ha deja - DO which translated means "You didn't leave me."

The symbol is also shown on the arms of the city, but the skein may be depicted more in the form of two interlocking circles and so is harder to decipher.

*Richard Hopkins*  
*Bristol, UK*

## Welcome

I am impressed! Deeply impressed! Just a few days after my memberships was paid a heavy envelope landed in my mailbox. The envelope contained the "welcome-package" from IGKT: two issues of *Knotting Matters*, addresses to all members, the IGKT history, etc. I immediately felt very welcome and regarded as "one of the gang"!

I described this to some people I know, and the reaction was "WOW! That's the way to go! We should have something like that, too!" This means that IGKT have set an example for Nordrike, a Swedish medievalist association.

A small comment on a thing mentioned under the heading "New ideas":

Hollow needles, threaded inside, really are very handy! It appears to be the kind of idea that pops up independently in several places, as I use them, too. The difference is that I have found that they can be used for most materials, from hemp or leather to synthetics. As I make them myself I can make them almost any size I need. (I have thread taps from M2



to M12.) I turn them in metal; often using discarded pieces of re-bar from building sites, and cut the threads myself. The re-bar machines well, takes a good finish, and has the right hardness to be tough without being brittle. (The only disadvantage is that it has a tendency to rust if exposed to humidity.)

Recently I covered the grip of my Viking style hatchet with a long Turk's head made from 2-mm round leather thong. I simply would not have been able to make it without the hollow needle! The TH, by the way, is generously treated with a mixture of roughly one part boiled linseed oil and one part old-fashioned leather grease (which in turn is a mix of sheep's tallow, beeswax and tar - I have no idea of the proportions!). The result is one of the safest and most comfortable non-slip grips I have ever

laid my hand on. Looks rather nice, too, don't you think?

*Lasse Carenvall  
Vnersborg, Sweden*

## Irish Bowline

I saw the article by Joe McNicholas (KM77 p10) on two "new" knots. At first I didn't mind so much to see him promote a knot that I'd pronounced dubious (the "Irish Bowline": dubious re value and asserted qualities (surely not so strong; awkward to tie; not all so secure); and dubious name, as it lacks bowlinesque features).

I replied to Joe with a NKCAC ruling. Clearly, Joe didn't receive my letter.

Joe's tying-steps images are quite poor in that at no time does he indicate what bit of the inchoate structure is destined to form the loopknot's eye - one might want to know that! So, I wonder who can figure out how to progress from his Fig.4 to Fig.5 (finished knot)? Looking closely at Fig.4, one can discern interlocked crossing knot structures, and it is the loop upper and right-most that becomes the eye (whose legs feed equally into crossing knots, only one of which is loaded). I pointed out that Ashley's #1424 is the same knot form, but with a markedly different loading (for one, it's a bend) - upper end becomes standing part, lower is end, and other parts fused into the eye.

*Dan Lehman  
New Knot Claims  
Accreditation Committee*

# Knotting Diary

## AGM's & 1/2 YEARLY MEETINGS

### IGKT Half-yearly Meeting

Hallowtree Suffolk Scout Centre, Nacton,  
Ipswich

17th - 19th October 2003

Contact: Des Pawson

Tel: 01473 690090

E-mail: knots@footrope.fsnet.co.uk

### NAB 2003 Meeting

17th - 19th October 2003

Mariner's Museum, Newport News, Virginia

Contact: John Burke

Tel: 313 562 4393

E-mail: knottyrope@prodigy.com

## BRANCH MEETINGS

### Midlands Branch

9th June 2003

The Old Swan (Ma Pardoes), Halesowen  
Road, Netherton, Dudley

Contact Nick Jones

Tel: 01384 377499

### East Anglian Branch

7th June 2003

'Eaton Cottage', Thornham, Hunstanton

Contact: Duncan Bolt

Tel: 01485 512508

## EVENTS

### Delfsail 2003

10th - 14th July 2003

Delfzijl, Netherlands

Contact: Klaas Kuiper

Tel: 0596 619 513

Von Hundepints, Schweinsrücken und  
Neunschwänziger Katz (Pointing,  
Cockscumbing and Cat o' Nine Tails)  
June - September 2003  
Marstal Soefartsmuseum, Prinsengade 1,  
DK-5960 Marstal, Denmark  
Contact Karl Barethur  
E-mail: jacktar@foni.net

## Inland Waterways National Festival

22nd - 25th August 2003

Beale Park, Berkshire

Contact: Ken Nelson

Tel: 07836722198

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Quarter Page	£10	£15

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The Knot Book	£3.99
Plaited Moebius Bands	£2.50
Knot Rhymes and Reasons	£1.50
<b>Brian Field</b>	
Breastplate Designs	£2.50
Concerning Crosses	£1.50
<b>Eric Franklin</b>	
Turksheads 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 - 3rd Ed.)	£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>Colin Jones</b>	
The DIY Book of Fenders	£9.95
<b>Harold Scott</b>	
On Various Cruxiform Turks Heads	£2.50
Sliding Template Method for Designing Cruciform Turks-Heads Vol. 2	£3.00
<b>Skip Pennock</b>	
Decorative Woven Flat Knots	£12.50*
<b>IGKT</b>	
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*bulk purchases of these items available at a discount - phone for details	
Cheques payable to IGKT, or simply send your credit card details	

