

# THE BRITISH BOOMERANG SOCIETY JOURNAL

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# *The British Boomerang Society Journal*

*Any comments or enquiries should be made to:*

*Seán M. Slade (Honorary Secretary),  
1 Berkeley avenue,  
Mapperley Park,  
NOTTINGHAM NG3 5BU,  
UNITED KINGDOM.  
TEL. 0602 604 992*

*Events or competition News should be forwarded to:*

*Edward Cadman,  
77 Hillside,  
Findern,  
DERBYSHIRE DE65 6AW,  
UNITED KINGDOM.  
TEL. 0283 703 538*

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# The British Boomerang Society Journal

More World Records!!!

## AUSSIE ROUND

Improved Technology (plastic three-bladers, etc.) combined with an advanced throwing technique (toss just as hard as possible to beat the wind and design the boomerang accordingly) led to many world boomerang records being set in tournaments over the past half dozen years. Some standards were established several times. The competition mark for Aussie Round—testing distance, accuracy and catching—survived, however, with Brother Brian Thomas's standard of 90 out of a possible 100, set at Albury, Australia, in 1983, the dam burst, with the record being broken twice—within minutes. First came Will Gix, of Brier, Washington, then Mark Weary, of Phoenix, Arizona. The following is Weary's laconic account of events, edited by Ben Ruhe and lifted from MHR.

The scene was Phoenix, in the Valley of the Sun at Esteban Park, set in the shadow of the city's South Mountain. It was an abnormal day for Phoenix because it was rainy and overcast. We had had rain only twice during the summer, so I never thought the first tournament I organized would be like this. It was a blessing in disguise. If it had been hot, as normal, I would have been one of only a few to survive, because I'm used to Phoenix's searing desert heat.

We started off the day with Michael Girvin of Berkeley, California—"Gel" himself—breaking the world doubling record (under new rules established in 1992) with 17 straight catches. But the best came last at the end of the long day.

It was almost 5pm and the sun, which had eventually come out, raced for the horizon. The wind was down to a steady 4 mph. I had just finished juggling, with a 232 score, a best for me. My legs were somewhat taxed from that performance. During my juggling effort, I distinctly experienced "runner's high"—satori, zoning, call it what you will. It was euphoric.

As soon as I finished juggling, the warmup for Aussie Round started. Because I needed to catch my breath, I downed some Gatorade and ate a plum to restore much needed energy. I made a half-dozen practise throws.

After sitting on the lines doing distance judging for two sections of Aussie Round, it was my turn to throw. I was the last thrower in my group with Will Gix just ahead of me. We were both throwing phenolic Sunshines made by Michael Girvin. I would not realize until the fifth and final throw that I was "pushing the envelope".

Will's first throw was 6-4-8—for a total of 18. (Six for maximum range of 50 metres, 4 for the catch, 8 out of a perfect 10 for accuracy - a total of 18 out of a perfect 20). Mark's throw was a disastrous 4-4-5—13. Seven points down already. My analysis: Although the throw felt right on, the steady wind shifted and my boomerang made only 40 metres distance, with the catch coming way in front of the bullseye. I had not read the wind or put enough power into the throw.

Will's second throw scored 6-4-8, another 18. Nice and consistent. Mark then boosted the power and got 6-4-10—20. Perfect.

On his third toss, Will let it slip. The wind shifted and he failed to. His 6-4-5—15 opened the door. Mark passed through it with a 6-4-9—19. Even being 6 feet 4 and limber he had to stretch for the catch. Anyone smaller would have split in half like a wishbone.

On the fourth throw, Will made the catch in the centre without moving an inch from his launch point. Mark was on as well. Two perfect 20s.

Fifth and final toss. A 20 would give Willie Gix the world's record, although he was unaware of this. Will's throw skimmed the grass for 30 metres, as if to say "I'm going to fall out of the sky before I get home". Will watched unmoving. When the boomerang finally made it back accurately, he scored the catch in the bullseye.

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*Mike Girvin was scoring the round and knew what was what. "91—world record!" he yelled. Will didn't celebrate, however. He had a glassy look and pointed at me, as I stepped into the centre circle to launch.*

*I looked back at them and now for the first time thought "Could it be possible?.. Then, hey forget it and do the job". I went through the ritual wind check, thinking "Lay it over, lay it over some more now, just like the first four throws. Get down low and follow through, as Barney Ruhe and Eric Darnell say".*

*Out the throw went, the boomerang gliding along, then curving up as it turned home. In order to see all the point circles, I backed out of the bullseye. Down the boomerang floated. "Don't leave things to chance," I told myself. So with three steps I leapt to grab it in mid-air, the little final hop ending with my putting my two feet down in the bullseye, à la football end Lynn Swann doing an in-bounds drag. 6-4-10—20. Girvin yells "92—world record!"*

*I can still remember the feeling. I was locked in like a missile heading for a target. "Throw and catch it in the bull" was the only thing on my mind. Just thinking about it permits me to live it again.*

## **THROWING IN WIND**

*By Michael "Gel" Girvin*

*When I first started to throw, I would only go out on days when it was calm. I didn't think it was possible to throw with much success in windy conditions. Even the first couple of years that I went to tournaments, I didn't know how to throw in wind. It was not until I lived in "the windy city",*

*Chicago, that I learned how to throw in wind. All it took to learn how to throw in wind was to go out and throw in wind. It is possible.*

*There are four basic ways to deal with wind:*

*i) easy throw or "surfing throw"*

*ii) "humpback throw"*

*iii) drag producing additions to the boomerang that slow the boomerang down*

*iv) adding weight.*

*Easy Throw - The simplest way to deal with wind is to throw your boomerang with less power. The key to this type of throw is to use a lot of spin by snapping your wrist without providing a lot of forward velocity. Because the wind is blowing, it will supply most of the forward velocity. Also, you must release the boomerang higher and with more layover than usual; this will prevent the boomerang from getting blown into the ground. In huge wind, you literally throw your boomerang with 30° altitude and 45° layover with no forward velocity and a lot of spin. It is called a "surfing throw" because you throw your spinning boomerang up into the wind so it can "ride" on the wind. Although this can be a spectacular way to deal with the wind, it is the least effective of the four methods.*

*Humpback - To throw humpback you must throw your boomerang at a high altitude and vertical. Throw approx. 30° altitude and with no layover, while throwing the boomerang fairly hard. If you threw in this fashion on a calm day, your boomerang would tend to go up high and crash into the ground. But on a windy day the boomerang will not crash into the ground because the wind will save it from crashing and will push it back to you. The reason this type of throw works, is because the boomerang loses forward velocity as it tries to crash into the ground. The flight pattern is very high to low to medium high as it travels in its circular path. Generally, in windy conditions, if you throw your boomerang more vertical and/or higher altitude it will come back more accurately.*

*(EDS NOTE. I find that the higher the boomerang is pitched, the further across the wind it needs to be launched ie further clockwise for a right hander and further anticlockwise for a left hander).*

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*Drag - The most effective way to deal with wind is to add drag to your boomerang in order to slow it down during its flight. If you make boomerangs you can carve dull leading edges and/or drill holes in a boomerang that might be appropriate for wind. The more the holes, or the closer the holes are to the wing tips, the more drag there will be. There are even a few boomerang companies that offer wind boomerangs with holes already drilled in them.*

*The most convenient way to add drag is to place taped flaps on your boomerang. Duct tape or electrical tape works well. The way to flap your boomerang is to wrap your boomerang with tape and fold the tape back onto itself in a small section so that you have a flat flap sticking straight up from the boomerang. (EDS NOTE: Make sure that any flaps you add don't compromise your grip or throwing action). The advantage of taped flaps is that you can place them on any boomerang including your favourite boomerang. The larger the flaps are, or the closer the flaps are to the tips, the more drag there will be. Generally, flaps near the middle of the wing up to the elbow area is a good place to put the flaps. Eric Darnell says that flaps on the flat side will slow the boomerang down without changing the flight pattern. The best rule is to try placing flaps in various spots to determine which location works best for your boomerang and throwing style.*

*Weight - By taping a coin to your boomerang you are adding weight. Additional weight will help combat windy conditions. The best way is by taping a dime or a penny under the lift arm wing tip area. In heavy wind use larger coins or multiple coins. Also try taping the coins to different parts of the boomerang. Experiment to find the magic spot that fits your boomerang and throwing style.*

*Conclusion - When throwing in wind it is useful to understand that boomerangs don't come back very accurately. If you don't mind a little running the rewards for a catch are great. And when you do flap and throw that boomerang just right and it comes back accurately, it is very satisfying. The key to learning how to throw in the wind is to go out*

*and do it. Try different boomerangs, different throwing techniques, try combining flaps with humpback, or holes with flaps and weights. Try all these tips, experiment and have fun.*

*Editors Note:*

*Gel Girvin makes a good range of boomerangs out of top grade materials. It won't have escaped your notice that the new Aussie Round record(s) were set using Gel's boomerangs.*

*Gel has competed for the American National team since 1987 and has personally set four World records.*

*Eleven World records have been set using his boomerangs in Consecutive trick catch, Doubling, Juggling, Team Super Catch and Aussie Round.*

*He has also won USBA awards for Technological Advance (1993), Best Decoration (1987 & 1992) and for Most Original Design (1990).*

*On offer are a range of 18 magnificent boomerangs, graded from beginner through intermediate to advanced. Materials used are either high grade Finnish aviation ply or paxolin (remember the Americans use a tougher and more expensive version of this, which is laminated with linen rather than the paper reinforcement favoured in Europe). Plain finishes have three coats of laquer, while the decorated versions have ten coats of paint and finish.*

*Prices start at \$12 and go up to \$27. (Overseas postage is \$5 for the first item and \$2 for each subsequent item. Delivery time 2-4 weeks). Deals are available on sets which result in discounts of up to 20%.*

*For more information, contact the man direct at:*

**GEL BOOMERANGS  
2124 KITTREDGE STREET #61  
BERKELEY  
CALIFORNIA 94704  
USA  
Ph. USA (510) 658 2469**

## **Boomerang Beginnings No.2**

by *Robert Reid*

*Quite appropriately it was on board a plane! I was on my way to a conference on Budapest in 1969 and almost immediately after this was over I was to give a "popular" lecture to physics undergraduates at the start of term, so I was desperately hunting for a suitable topic. By good luck I had spotted an article in Scientific American (Nov 1968) by Felix Hess and had taken it along to read during the flight. What a delight that article was - I could hardly contain myself to get home and start experimenting and preparing demonstrations. Looking back, despite the limited time scale, the talk went surprisingly well - I managed with balsa wood versions to demonstrate aerodynamic lift and gyroscopic precession. But I must admit it took me all the following summer to "teach" my first home made outdoor version to fly. It would start most promisingly but half way round it would stall and flop limply to the ground. It took a long time for the penny to drop that the precessional rate must be matched to the orbital radius so that the aerofoil presents a constant angle of attack.*

*Twenty three years and hundreds of boomerangs later it still has the same fascination. Early models were fairly "agricultural" affairs - none too forgiving when I bungled a catch and I have since progressed through a wide variety of shapes (but have always spurned undercut and still regard the fairly low circular orbit as the ideal). At present my favourite is an omega made from fibreglass board, which I still manage to catch as often as not.*

*Bob Reid is a Lecturer at Leeds University and is one of a rare breed - he can make academic subjects interesting. His boomerang presentations are lucid and relaxed, his engaging manner and depth of knowledge make for a most agreeable and informative talk.*

## **EVENTS NEWS**

*Please note that in future all COMPETITION NEWS - both advance warnings, information and reports on events, should be routed through EDWARD CADMAN, 77 Hillside, Findern, DERBYS DE65 6AW. 0283 703 538.*

*Edward has kindly offered his services to cover all of this kind of material. He has a comprehensive knowledge in this field, gained primarily as a competitor and there is no doubt that he will provide an excellent service with your full cooperation. Please assist as fully as you can.*

*A provisional date is set for OLD WARDEN on Sunday, 25th September. For confirmation of this and information about the event contact Arthur or Mary Newton on 0953 882 448. (In addition to the event, the Shuttleworth Collection housed at Old Warden is worth the visit in its' own right)*

### **GERMAN BOOMERANG MAKERS**

*The following names have been forwarded by  
Wilhelm Bretfeld - Many Thanks*

*Volker Behrens, Beuthiner Hof 4, 2420 Eutin  
Gerhard Bertling, Potsdamer Str. 150, 1000 Berlin  
30*

*Fridolin Frost, Ringstr. 26, 2407 Bad Schwartau  
Winfried Gorny, Berner Allee 28, 2000 Gamburg 72*

*Uwe Hast, Tauernweg 57, 2300 Kiel  
Axel Heckner, Wilsonstr. 1, 6300 Geißen  
Matthias Kaletka, Genkelerstr. 27, 5882  
Meinerzhagen*

*Ulrich Konzelmann, Neustädter Str. 86, 7050  
Waiblingen*

*Bernd Kurkowka, Erlenhöhe 10, 2100 Hamburg 90  
Eckard Mawick, Wakenitzmauer 64, 2400 Lübeck  
Günther Mölle, Wilhelm Busch Str. 28, 4047  
Dormagen 5*

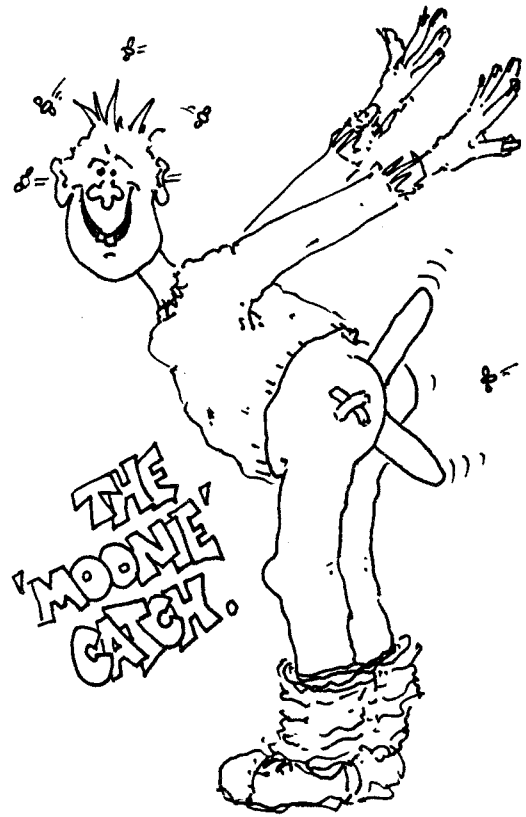
*Günther Veit, Brunhildenstr. 14, 6200 Weisbaden*

**GHOSTWRITER "FAG"**  
**SUBMITS THE FOLLOWING**  
**(HIGHLY EDITED)**  
**CONTRIBUTION**

**"IDEAS FOR BBS"**

1. We want a tabloid style page three in the BBS Journal
2. We want more women throwing well endowed boomerangs (? Ed)
3. We want a wet T-shirt (throwing) competition
4. We want the "Moonie Catch" introduced to the Trick Catch Competition - (I think this means clasping the boomerang between the buttock cheeks rather than between the palms of the hands - Ed.)
5. Clay boomerang shooting competitions - points deducted for eliminating (some) BBS members
6. Categorisation of the BBS membership list to include those who won't share designs, neo-fascists, overemployed, snobs, elitists and antisocialites
7. Wanted: an anti-canine killer boomerang for overenthusiastic hounds
8. A Semtex weighted boomerang with homing device that disembowels Joe Public who says "You don't wanna do it like it like that, you wanna do it like this" (thanks to Harry Enfield) as he picks up your boomerang and throws it like a frisbee
9. Forget Whistling boomerangs, go for a Farting Boomerang with real resonance and corresponding odours for specific boomerangs (Vindaloo, beefburger & onions, pease pudding and faggots or 6 pickled eggs and 10 pints of Newcastle Brown). These would give advance warning of arrival when the boomerang "comes out of the Sun"
10. Kite fliers do Fighting Kites, lets sharpen up the boomerangs and take them to Shrewsbury to prepare for a barbecue
11. We want some designs for Spring Steel boomerangs - don't let the trees have it all their own way.

**Unusual prize for guesing the acronym FAG**



**MOORLAND  
MEETING,  
SHEFFIELD.**

*24th April 1994  
by Alan Chester*

*I only became involved with boomerang throwing a few years ago, and it is great fun, but it has been a solitary activity apart from an annual jaunt to Shrewsbury. For the sport to thrive, and the pastime to grow in popular awareness, there needs to be much more of it in evidence, then interest would grow and standards would improve.*

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*I recently organised a small meeting for BBS members in the North of England. The wing was too strong, but we enjoyed a happy day and the occasion was important because it showed that throwers will support small regional meetings if the opportunity is provided. I shall explain something of the background of this event in the hope that others might be encouraged to plan similar opportunities.*

*Finding a suitable field was the first problem. There is a large Council playing field near my home in Sheffield, used for football, cricket, dog-walking, model aircraft and boomerangs (me!). Attempts to secure use of this field were frustrating: uncertain dates mid-April between winter/summer games use; cost of hiring the space, a changing room and Portaloo, roping off, marking out, equipment and labour - all were council requirements to be paid for; and crucially, their insistence on Public Liability Insurance. In this city of 500,000, only Cornhill Insurance could provide this, at a basic minimum premium of £45.00. Altogether, the costs and bureaucratic obstacles were too much.*

*So I studied local maps and drove around spotting suitable fields, then tracing owners. Eventually, a young sheep farmer agreed handsomely to my proposals, even though, on the dates I was asking, lambing would have begun and the chosen field would normally be used for his "difficult cases".*

*Meanwhile, the local Scouts had approved my request for throwers to bed-down, and cook, in Scout Headquarters, on the dates that had been negotiated with the Council, as camping was not practicable on the playing-field. Although I withdrew my request, as revised plans would not require it and this Scout facility might be available on another occasion (as I have been useful to them).*

*Twenty six members in the northern half of England were telephoned about the original proposal. They were not all accessible, or available on the date but eight said "Yes" to the idea, (all within a 90 minute drive of Sheffield) and they received directions when a field became available.*

*For weeks before the date, the weather had been forbidding. I had surveyed the field with the farmer in driving snow, then we suffered gales, sleet and lashing rain.*

*However, the day dawned sunny and clear and I made an early start, marking*

*out with a measuring tape, garden canes and a sack of sawdust. Members arrived by 10.30am and as the wind was Force 5/6 we agreed to improvise. Two rounds of a modified Accuracy event, throwing from the windward edge of the 20 metre circle to score in the normal fashion. Then one round with throwing-sticks at a post target. This took us to lunch-time and a short trip to the nearby inn.*

*(Continued on p 13)*



DIMANA Boomerangs

"Atlas 6"

(C) Georgi Dimantchev, Sofia, Bulgaria, 1993

Shape: 1/2 Bell + 1/2 V/Omega

Material: 3.18 mm Pertinax (Paxolin)

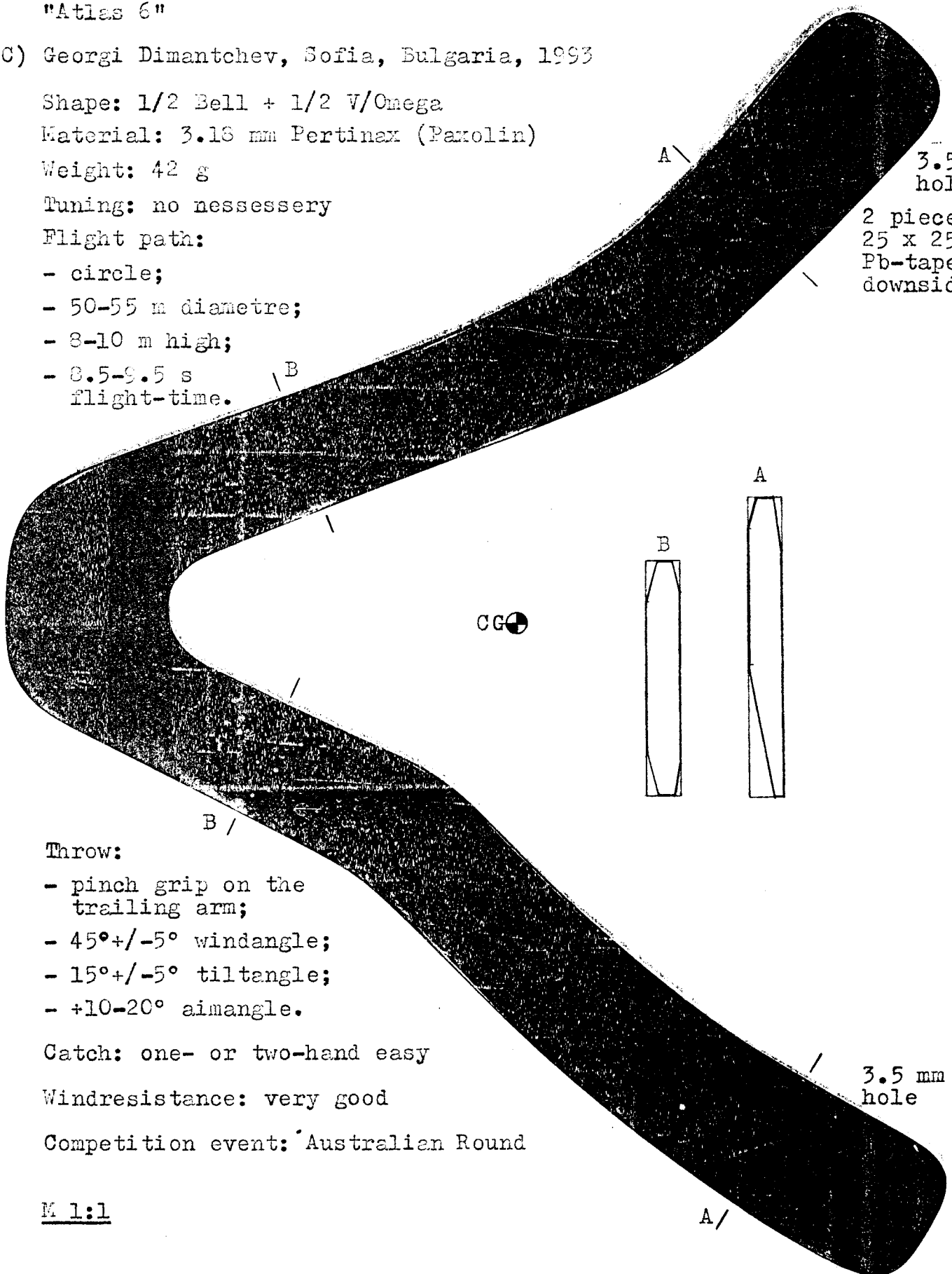
Weight: 42 g

Tuning: no nessessery

Flight path:

- circle;
- 50-55 m diametre;
- 8-10 m high;
- 8.5-9.5 s flight-time.

3.5 mm hole  
2 pieces  
25 x 25 mm  
Pb-tape (downside)



Throw:

- pinch grip on the trailing arm;
- 45°+/-5° windangle;
- 15°+/-5° tiltangle;
- +10-20° aimangle.

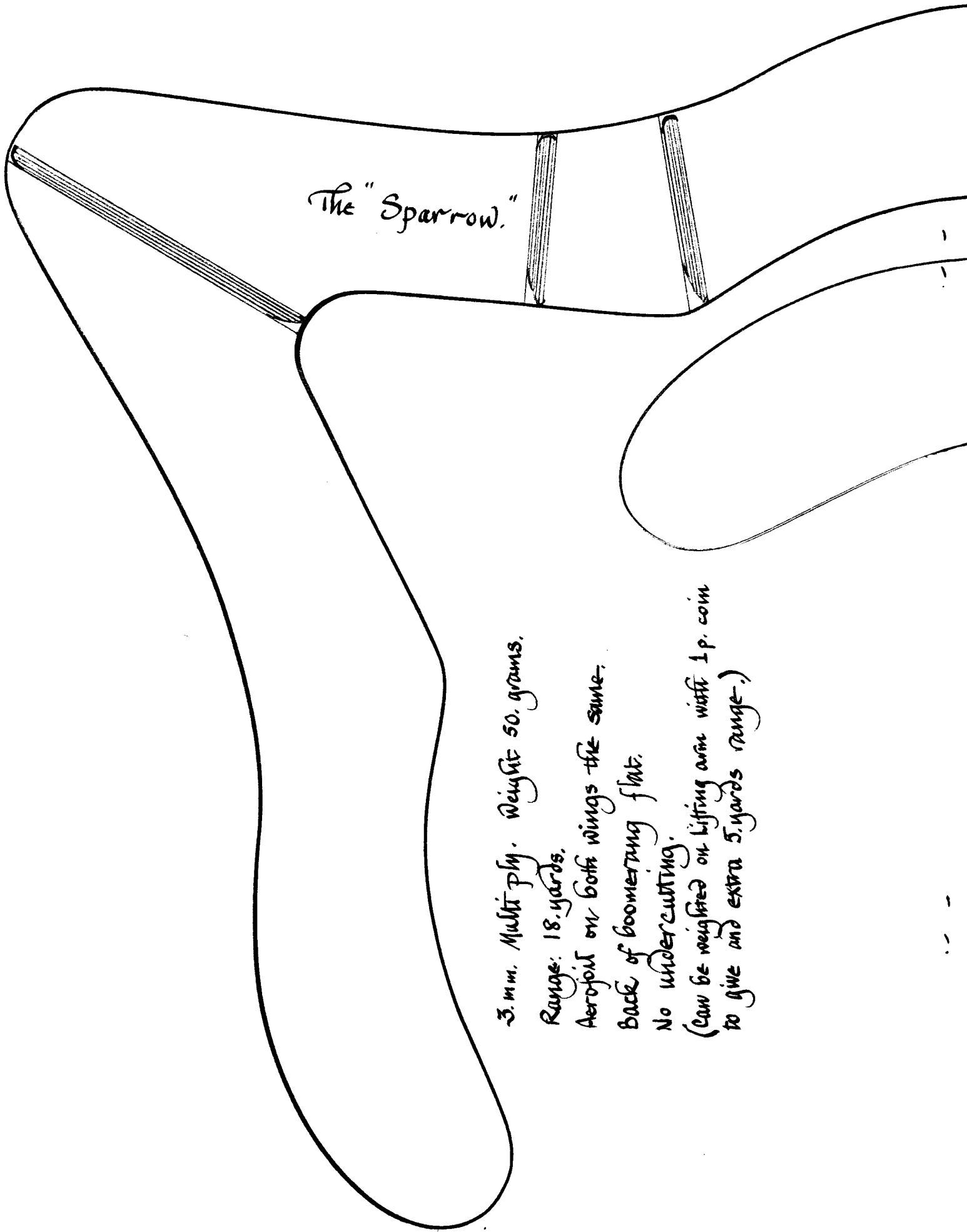
Catch: one- or two-hand easy

Windresistance: very good

Competition event: Australian Round

M 1:1

A/



The "Sparrow."

3. mm. Multi ply. Weight 50. grams.

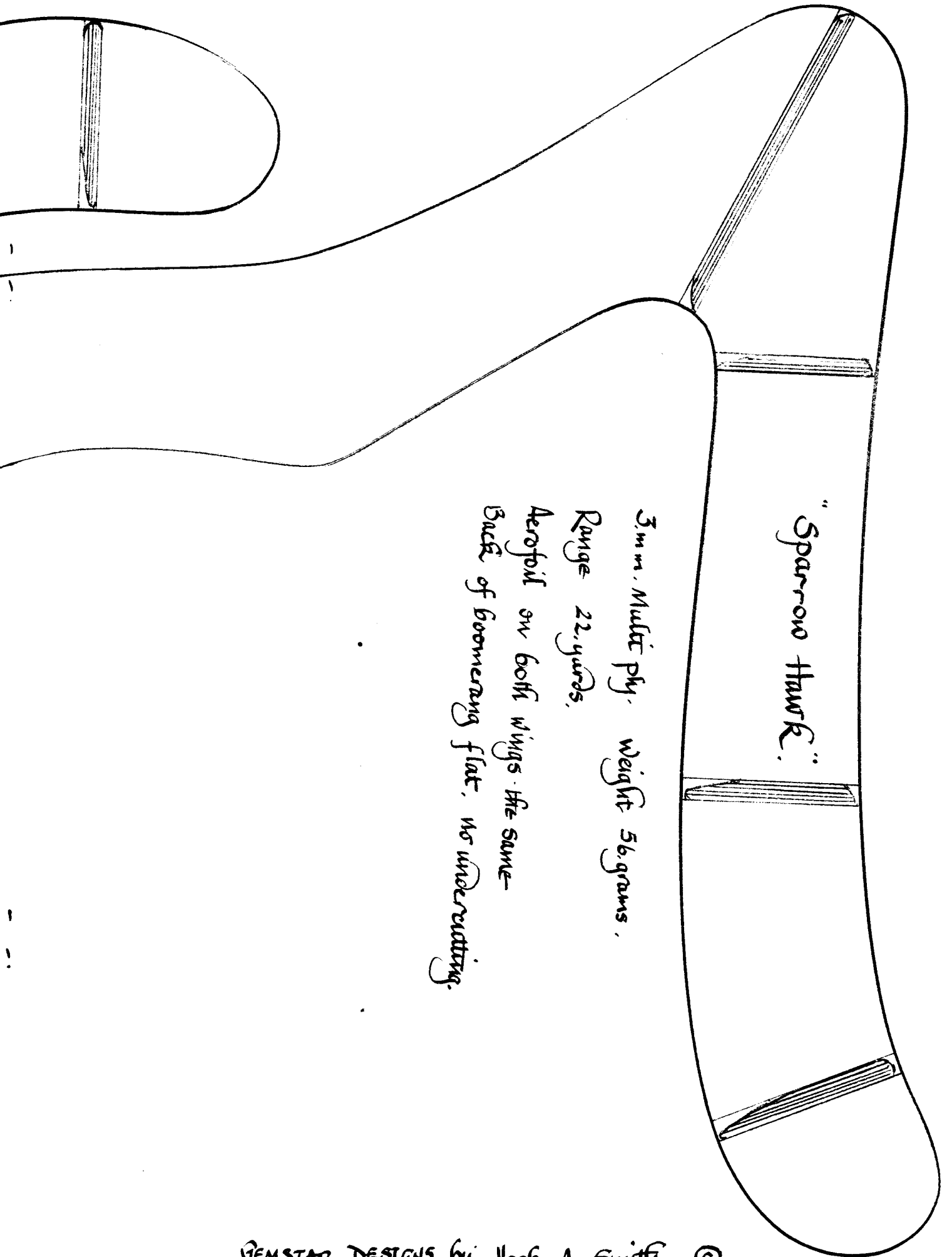
Range: 18. yards.

Aerofoil on both wings the same.

Back of boomerang flat.

No undercutting.

(can be weighted on lifting arm with 1 p. coin to give an extra 5 yards range.)



"Sparrow Hawk"

3mm. Mult ply. weight 56 grams.  
Range 22 yards.  
Aerofoil on both wings the same.  
Back of boomerang flat. no undercutting.

**"SPACESAVER"<sup>TM</sup>**  
**DESIGN**  
by Geoff.

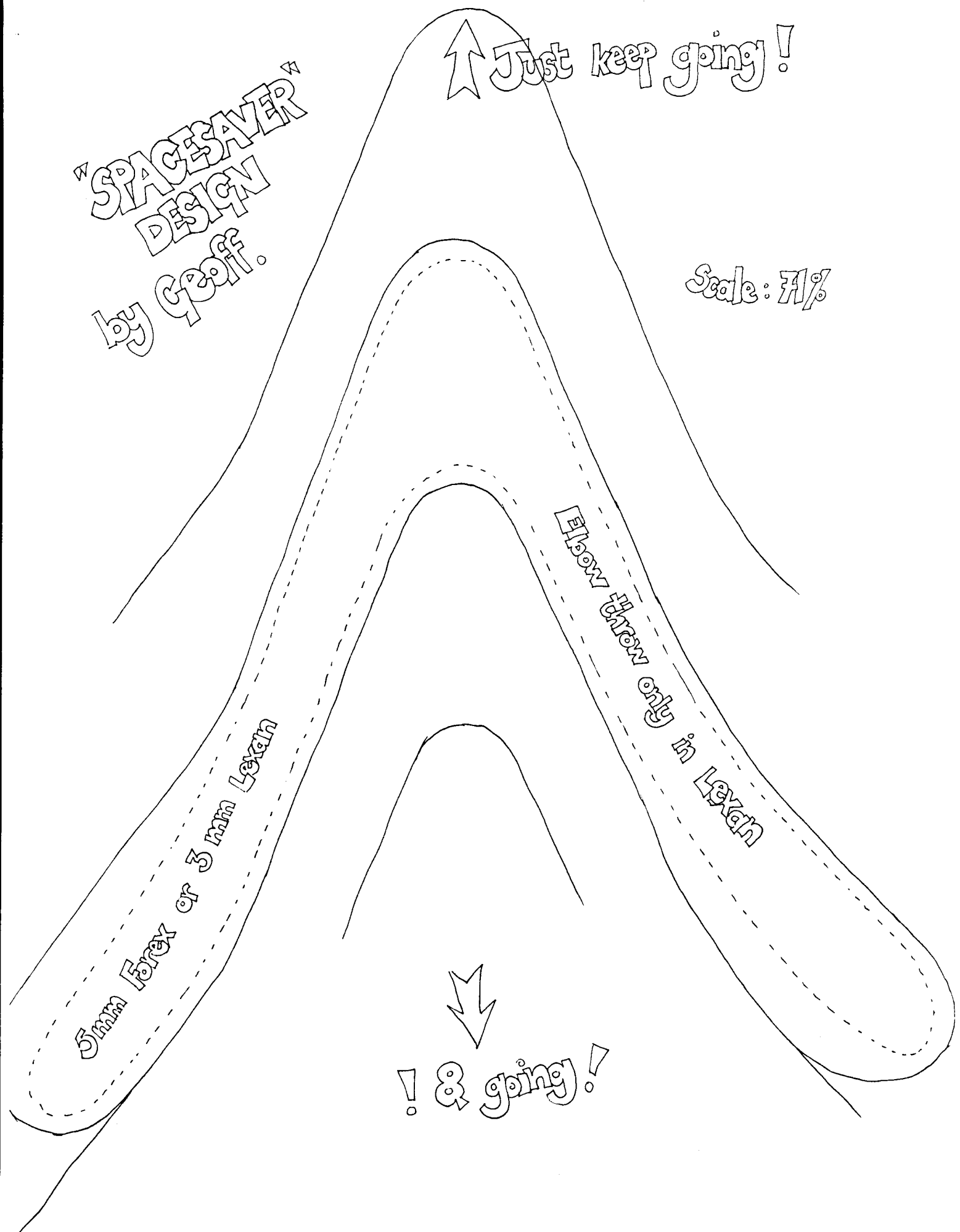
↑ Just keep going!

Scale: 71%

Elbow throw only in Lexan

5mm Forex or 3mm Lexan

↓ ! & going!



# *The British Boomerang Society Journal*



*and for providing a bottle of good Irish whiskey and a boomerang for Stuart Ollerenshaw the helpful farmer, and to all of the people who supported the venture.*

*Bob Reid, Alan Chester and Dave Booth armed and dangerous, somewhere on top of the World!*

*After lunch, the wind had not abated. We spent a useful hour on experimentation and free throwing. We all learned something and Linda made the first catch of the day. Some of Gordon's distance throws went 150 yards out and 350 yards back! There was some buying and selling, and photographs taken, and a lot of shop talk. The field we used is 1200 feet up in the Peak District and the views were impressive. People thought it was a good day.*

*In assessment, it has to be said that strength of wind limited the scope of throwing but we need to practise in adverse conditions because we seldom have anything less. Improvisation works. It did at Old Warden earlier in the month, and we enjoyed ourselves. We met a few new faces and several old friends, and the occasion showed the value of small meetings. My belief is that we need several such opportunities each year when when throwers can get together and we can introduce new members to competition events and the experienced can hone their skills. We should be grateful for our contacts and goodwill in Shrewsbury; it is not usual to find beneficent Councils these days.*

*My thanks to Gordon and Mike for constructive ideas in the planning, to Sean for encouragement*

*Participants were: Dave Booth (Cheadle), Ban Seng Choo (Nottingham), Edward Cadman (Derby), Mike Fulwood (Chesterfield), Linda Rawson, Bob Reid and Gordon Shuttleworth (Leeds) and Sean Slade (Nottingham).*

*Results: Accuracy - 1st Gordon, 2nd= Linda and Mike.*

*Throwing Sticks - 1st= Alan and Sean, 3rd Linda.*

*Overall - 1st Gordon, 2nd Linda, 3rd Mike.*

*On a personal note, on behalf of all those who attended this meeting, I would like to thank Alan for all the (considerable) effort he put into it. Furthermore, I would like to reassure him that it was a worthwhile event in a magnificent location!*

*I dearly hope that there will be a repeat at some time in the future - I cannot believe that the conditions will be as unkind again. Despite this, I don't believe that of the true enthusiasts there regretted their presence.*

*Many Thanks on behalf of us all*

# FURTHER NOTES ON WEIGHT DISTRIBUTION AND ITS' EFFECTS ON BOOMERANG FLIGHT

by *Stephen Thomas*

These notes are to accompany Seàn's excellent article on Centre of Mass, Gravity and Rotation (4th March). Most of my 'findings' have been arrived at by trial and error, following on from other sources of information and putting into practice techniques used by 'pioneers' in the art of boomerang tuning and distance throwing. I have therefore included a summary of their knowledge as well as mu own (what little there is!). It should be considered an aid to the imagination, not the gospel truth!

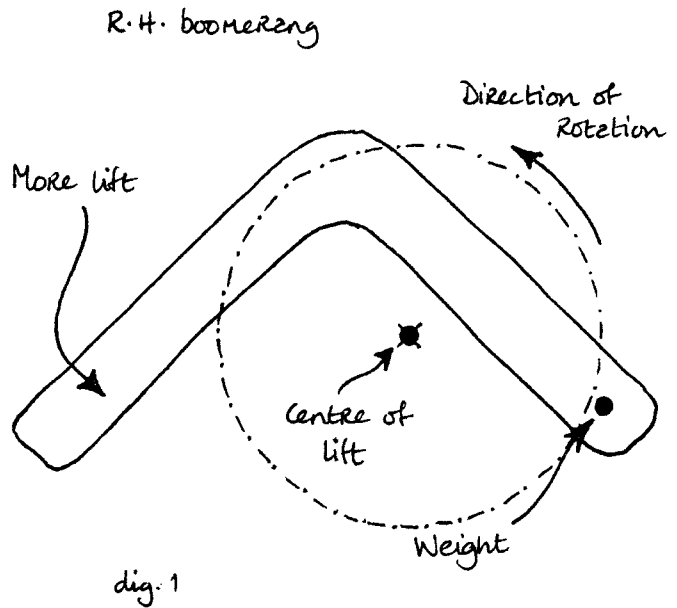
Generally, adding 25% of the weight of the boomerang as ballast, as it is termed, divided equally (12.5%) and placed on each wing tip, will increase distance by several yards (or metres) if all other factors are kept constant. However, I have found that any faults in the boomerang's flight cannot be corrected, they are first exaggerated. Weighting also enhances spin retention.

One can also vary the amounts of lead between the two arms, or place ballast on one or other of the arms to achieve desired effects, or for 'tuning' the boomerang for more stable flight (if you have the odd unruly one that is!). The flight characteristics are also altered according to which arm is used. At the risk of repeating what has already been said, I shall include the following (for those who may not have technical information).

1. Adding weight to the lifting (or leading) arm, moves the centre of gravity towards that arm. (See dig.1)

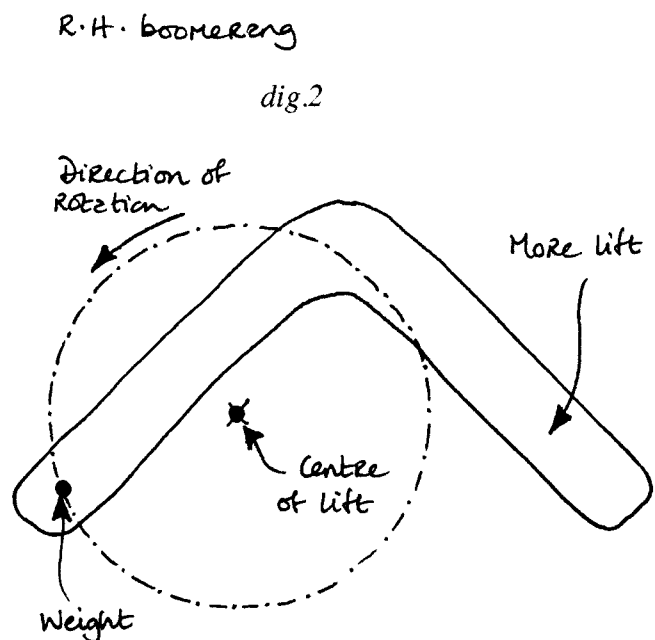
This generates more lift from the trailing arm. Since the lifting or leading arm is the prime

producer of Gyroscopic Precession (the force causing the boomerang to return), it seems logical



to assume that extra lift from the trailing arm will generate more distance because laying down has been delayed. (The maximum amount of lift produced by the two arms is usually slightly forward of the centre of rotation and this is reduced by the weight in the trailing arm). The boomerang also performs a 'U' shaped flight path.

2. If the weight is placed on the trailing arm, the Centre of Gravity moves towards that area instead.



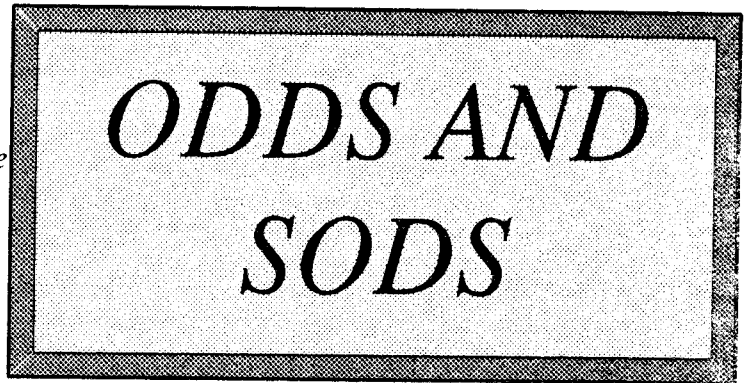
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More lift is generated on the lifting arm as well as an increase in the moment of Inertia. In some circumstances, a shortening of range is noticed. (This might be due to more pronounced laying down on the outward leg of the throw). The boomerang also produces a figure of 8 or S-shaped flight path.

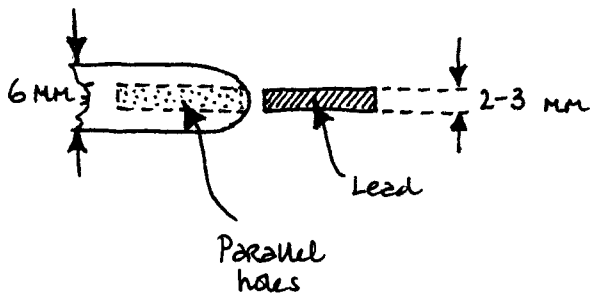
Adding weight to the elbow only increases rotational moment of Inertia still further, thereby improving spin retention and stability - ideal for wind resistance (I haven't tried this one yet!).

Experimentation is the name of the game, by adding weights in varying permutations one can see how the boomerang will perform and then decide whether or not to set them in properly. This can be done to a finished boomerang without spoiling its looks, by drilling holes in the blade tips horizontally.

of mass (largely because I am not expert at altering dihedral and dislike undercuts) so that, if the boomerang lies down too early, 2p at the tip of the leading arm effectively shortens the arm and lengthens the trailing arm, thus reducing the torque that causes lie down, precession etc.



dig.3



## or Guff and Garbage from your Editor

More on new materials: On a recent visit to VT Plastics, I managed to pick up a sample of DIABOND. This is an Aluminium/polythene sandwich - the aluminium layers are less than 0.5mm thick and the polythene is black. As a material it is remarkably rigid (even for 3mm), I don't think I've come across anything with this sort of rigidity or strength before. There is some tolerance for tuning. It is the type of material which would be perfectly suited to the manufacture of long distance boomerangs.

Problem? Yes - price. It costs about £150 for an 8'x4'. If sufficient demand is indicated, I would look into buying a half sheet to pass on at cost price.

Better and better ..... Brian Averhill has recently sent me a boomerang he's crafted out of an unusual form of ply. I don't know what the density is but it's got considerable weight to it. The finish is the best I've ever handled in any material, some of this is undoubtedly down to Brian and some I would guess, to the material itself. The ply has been impregnated with something and the effect is dramatic. As ever, the price is prohibitive, but that

### .....AND STILL FURTHER ON THE MATTER

Response to the article on centre of mass in Journal #4 from Bob Reid.

For long distance versions, weights at the wing tips and elbow increase the moment of inertia (and thus decrease the precession rate) without adding unduly to the mass and keeping the centre of mass roughly unchanged. I always use single weights as a way of tuning by altering the position of the centre

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doesn't stop you sniffing around for offcuts. The name of the material is HYDROLIGNUM (the reference may be to *Lignum vitae*, which would explain the density). The supplier who provided this was a firm called Permali in Gloucester. Any further information would be gratefully received.

Please don't forget that I do have stocks of 2, 2.5, 3 and sometimes 4mm paxolin, which I will sell on to members at cost price. I will also cut blanks if patterns are sent. Please send your blanks cut out to precise shape on paper. I glue this on, to cut out the blanks as accurately as possible.

I also have 5mm foamex/trovicell (foamed PVC), and 4 & 5mm aviation ply.

If in doubt, send me your patterns and I will quote a price to cut them for you (including postage).

Many MTA patterns are cut from 3mm aviation ply, and if sufficient demand is expressed, I will order a sheet of this.

I would always recommend copying any boomerang you buy - it's cheap, quick and easy. Please bear in mind that any copies you make should only be for personal use and most certainly not for resale.

If anyone knackers a personal favourite, do get in touch. If you have the bits, this makes life very much easier and I can find someone who can help.

Any questions regarding plastics should be addressed to Geoff Roe, 17 Morton Gardens, Wallington, Surrey SM6 8EU. 081 395 5611. Geoff has more stocks and more experience of using these than anyone else I know of in the UK. He is also a generous and accommodating soul.

Suppliers of boomerangs currently operating in the UK:

Makers-

**Julian Cruikshank, 15 Stoneygate Road, Leicester LE2 2AB. 0533 707 798**

**John Jordan, 16 Montgomery Way, Shrewsbury, Salop SY1 4SW. 0743 369 147**

**Gordon Shuttleworth, 3 Monk Bridge Street, Leeds LS6 4HL. 0532 788 183**

**Sean Slade, 1 Berkeley Avenue, Mapperley Park, Nottingham NG3 5BU. 0602 604 992**

**Herb Smith, 15 Malin Road, Beaumont Park, Littlehampton, West Sussex BN17 6NN. 0903 723 721**

**Tim Witnell, 40 Queens Rd, Colchester CO7 9JJ.**

Suppliers-

**Michael Hanson, School House, Sinclirston, Ochiltree, Cumnock, Ayrshire KA18 2RT. 0292 590 609**

**A. & A. Martin, Ground Floor, 3 Ravenna Road, Putney, LONDON. (Stockists of the "Rangs" range).**

All of the above are current members of the BBS - the BBS cannot guarantee either value for money or the quality of the product. The recommendation is to get price lists from all of the above and compare quoted prices (inc. p&p).

There are other makers and suppliers outside the BBS.

A rack of useful information has been sent in from Dave Duffy, which he has lifted off a computer network called Internet (See the Independent Sat. 28th May). There are about twelve pages of good information for beginners to keenies alike. Now, I'm no computer buff, so if anyone is interested in knowing more about this, get in touch with Dave on 021 357 1826.

If you have a large library near you, or a cooperative librarian, the reference number for BOOMERANGS are 799.20282 (boomerang throwing) and 745.89 (boomerang decorating). Other information may be found in the section on Aborigines, references 305.89, 572.994 or 994.004. If you do have any success, please let me know what you've found.

A lot of interest has been expressed in "Boomerang Reviews through the questionnaire (more of that in BBS Journal #6).

If any makers or suppliers would like to contact me for the purpose of having a/some boomerang/s reviewed, I would be delighted to hear from them. Rest assured, the boomerang will be paid for! Please be sensible on this and read on first.

The boomerang will be purchased by a devious

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route to ensure that a carefully selected model is not provided. I will forward the (same) boomerang to three throwers ; one novice (self confessed), one intermediate and one 'expert'. Each will test the boomerang and mark it out of ten for the instructions, the finish, the performance and value for money. Additional comments will also be welcomed. The identity of these testers will not be revealed, to protect them in the event of any adverse comments!

The results will then be published with any reply that the supplier of the boomerang feels necessary, having seen the comments and scores.

I have little doubt that there will be no shortage of volunteers for this unpleasant duty. So, anyone interested in testing, let me know your name, address, telephone no., hat size and inside leg measurement. Oh, and how you would categorise your throwing ability.....novice, intermediate or expert.

Belated news of a new publication from the States. Ted Bailey has put together an excellent 8 page sheet, published at least 6 times a year, called "Boomerang News". This contains information with an American slant but is a welcome addition to the English word in boomerang publications. The annual sub. is \$15 for overseas. If a significant interest is expressed, I will enquire of Ted the possibility of reprinting here at a concessionary rate (no guarantees!).

## **JAPAN..... THE OLYMPICS..... THE WBA**

On the following two pages, there is a letter/ communication from the WBA. In response to this letter, it is clear that we should have an elected representative for the World Boomerang Association. Such a representative should be drawn from the ranks of the BBS.

With time being short, this eliminates the possibility of an election this year and so I propose that Julian Cruikshank be our representative. He was the first to show an interest in travelling to Japan and in the dealings I have had with him, I feel that he would be an excellent representative. If no strong feelings are immediately expressed following this newsletter, he can deal with all related matters and am sure will report back through the Journal.

In future, I propose that candidates for election should be both nominated and seconded by members of the BBS. These names should then be forwarded to an agreed member of the BBS who has no interest themselves in being elected.

If there is only one member proposed they should be elected unopposed. If two proposals are received, then the vote should be a straight head to head. If more than two proposals are received then a transferrable vote system should be applied. Under this system, the party receiving the lowest number of votes in the first round should have their votes transferred to their next choice (if nominated) and so on until a choice is made between the final two candidates standing. The deadline for return of voting papers will be given on the ballot papers but will give at least two clear weeks for consideration and voting.

All nominees would be given the opportunity to represent themselves in any way they wish on a single side of A4 and these would only be available for the prior inspection of the agreed members plus one other before circulation. This circular would then be distributed with the voting papers and the understanding would be there should be no other canvassing, if this should be contravened it would lead to the immediate disqualification of that nominee.

The votes would be counted by the agreed members and the votes cast for the final two nominees published in the BBS Journal. The full results of the vote would be made available to candidates only.

Any reasonable expenses incurred by all involved would be paid for by the BBS.

This election should be an annual event, the date to be determined by this first vote.

The agreed members would retain their right to vote.

**Roger Perry**  
**Interim President**  
**World Boomerang**  
**Association**



**155 Fremantle Rd, Gosnells**  
**WA 6110 Australia**  
**Phone: +619 389 1681**  
**Fax: +619 389 1264**

11th April 1994

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Due to the successful bid by Sydney to host the Olympic Games in 2000, we see now a unique opportunity to place the sport of boomerang throwing in a high profile world arena, particularly as the boomerang is associated everywhere with the country of Australia and could be considered its only indigenous sport. (Please see attached letter)

In order to take advantage of this opportunity however, we need present a united front and to represent boomerang throwing as a growing international sport. To give this credibility we will need the support of boomerang throwing organizations around the world working under the umbrella of the World Boomerang Association.

Specifically what is required in the immediate future is the selection by each country of one representative to act as a contact and representative of the boomerang throwers and organizations in that county. We would require that this be done in time for the World Boomerang Championships in Japan this August, and ideally that this representative be present at the Championships if possible. Even if the representative is unable to attend the Championships we still require his name and contact details by this time (August).

The WBA was created to assist organizers of world and international events and to promote boomerang throwing as a sport worldwide. The success of the WBA's efforts in this regard are completely dependent on the involvement of boomerang throwers and organisation around the world, without which very little can be achieved.

We look forward to your response.

SINCERELY,

**ROGER PERRY**  
(Interim President)

Roger Perry  
Interim President  
World Boomerang  
Association



155 Fremantle Rd, Gosnells  
WA 6110 Australia  
Phone: 619 398 1681  
Fax: 619 389 1264

15th November 1993

22c. Mon 1994

### An Open Letter to the International Boomerang Throwing Fraternity

Dear Throwers,

As you are no doubt aware, Australia's largest city, Sydney, has been named as the host city for the Olympic Games in the year 2,000. It will probably have occurred to you that this will be perhaps the best chance for a long time to come for us to achieve some real recognition for our sport in the international spotlight. It will certainly be possible to bring our sport to the attention of a huge international audience and may even be possible to have it featured as a demonstration Olympic sport. There is clearly a "window of opportunity" here and following our successful collaboration in hosting the 1991 World Championships, Sam Blight and I feel ourselves well qualified to be closely involved in whatever form this might take.

At this early stage we are interested in opening up the lines of communication on this matter with as many boomerang organizations and individual throwers around the world as we can. We are interested in sharing our ideas as they take form on the best ways to capitalize on the opportunity the Sydney Olympics afford and receiving feedback and suggestions from as wide a sample of active throwers as is possible. We have two motives for this:

1. We wish to have access to as many different ideas as we can to ensure that our thinking on the subject does not develop "tunnel vision".
2. We wish to ensure that the plans which are developed have the enthusiastic backing of boomerang throwing's international fraternity, which will be required to produce a successful outcome.

We will of course also be working closely with the Boomerang Association of Australia which will be the host organization, as well as interested individuals in Australia with expertise and experience to offer.

To get the ball rolling, here are some of our initial ideas for your comment:

#### 1. Year 2000 World Boomerang Championships:

These could be held somewhere on the East Coast of Australia, preferably close to Sydney within a week or so before the Olympics.

*Advantages:*

- This will gather a good selection of international throwing talent who will get more "bang for their travel buck" by being able to participate in two international competitions on the same trip.
- If held before the Olympics the WBC 2000 could also serve to select the finalists, teams and individual, in the Olympic demonstration events.
- In the event that we are unsuccessful in achieving Olympic demonstration sport status, it will not be hard to divert some of the attention of the international media contingent, already present for the Olympics, towards boomerang throwing as an interesting side line. (Our experiences in Western Australia with sideline participation in the 1984 Windsurfer World's competition, the 1987 America's Cup Challenge and lesser events such as Rally Australia bear this out.)

- The presence of a large international audience for the Olympics will also provide a ready market for competitors wishing to sell boomerangs as means of financing their travel costs.

*Possible Disadvantages:*

- Accommodation in and around Sydney will be at a premium at the time of the games.
- Venues for the boomerang competitions will have to be arranged well in advance.

#### 2. Indoor Competition as Demonstration Sport.

A special individual and/or teams contest could be indoors in a similar way to the indoor contest held in Perth in 1991. Suitable events might include Fast Catch, Doubling, Trick Catch, limited range Aussie Round and MTA.

*Advantages:*

- Risk of event cancellation due to bad weather is eliminated.
- Events are closer to the audience and more exciting.
- This also makes it easier for the media to get good TV footage.

*Possible Disadvantages:*

- Hire of suitable venue could be difficult and expensive, requiring major sponsorship.
- Space restrictions may limit some events.
- Increased danger to spectators will require stringent safety rules.

#### 3. Boomerang Throwing as Part of the Opening and Closing Ceremonies.

Obviously there is a lot of scope here, and as boomerang throwing is one of the very few indigenous Australian sports, it should not be too difficult to persuade the organizers that this would be a good idea. Some of the ideas that are presently kicking around:

- Five boomerangs trailing smoke of different colours to be thrown simultaneously to form the Olympic rings symbol when viewed from above. (requires technical experimentation)
- Lighting the Olympic Torch with a boomerang. (This may not be as difficult as it sounds - any volunteers?)
- Choreographed boomerang demonstration with massed international throwers using different types of boomerangs, e.g. fast catch, Aussie round, MTA as well as more novel types. (suggestions are welcome)

#### 4. Night Demonstrations.

These can be particularly spectacular when done properly. A variety of different boomerangs and lighting techniques including Cylume, L.E.D.'s and sparklers can be used effectively in combination with appropriate music to produce a memorable experience for the audience. I have been producing this type of show for over a year in Western Australia and can report a much more positive public response to them than I have ever managed to achieve with day time demonstrations.

#### 5. National and International Clubs and Associations Liaison.

Whatever form our participation takes, it will be a great advantage if not essential to present a united front when dealing with the Sydney 2000 Olympic Organizing Committee. It will also be important that our proposals be a in concrete and achievable form before we approach them. We look forward to getting your response and suggestions and would request that your organization appoint a liaison person to correspond with Sam and I to facilitate this. The first things we would like to know are

- the number of active throwers in your organization
- any other recently formed boomerang clubs which you know of

We wish you happy throwing and look forward to hearing from you soon.  
Best regards,

ROGER PERRY  
(WBA Interim President)

Is it a bird?

Cor! Again.

Nope.

Magnets?  
Invisible  
elastic?

Sigh!


Magic?

Can I get one?

There's this old boy  
out in the sticks.

Smooth, where?

It's on  
the back.



M.H.R., School House,  
Sinclairston, Cumnock,  
Ayrshire, Scotland.  
0292 590609

Awesome.