

BRILLS OTHER BOTTLES

By Rob Hudson (PA)

What has a shiny top, a round middle, and complains about American beer?

Why, it's **Dave Brill**, Chairman of the British Origami Society. I had the distinct pleasure of meeting Dave for the first time this year. When he heard that I was writing for *The Paper*, he immediately invited me to a pub to buy him a few drinks (English tradition, he said). We spent a lovely evening in the shady back room of Mustang Sally's. Throughout the course of the night, topics of conversation moved from American television to lifestyle differences between the Americans and the British. "We eat beer with a fork," says Brill.

This year, Dave's convention started badly. When he arrived, he found that most of the food disagreed with him. After a horrible incident with chicken wings, he had to switch to a simple diet of kami and water. "Actually," Brill said, "I find paper quite nourishing. However, there is no substitute for British fish and chips."

"When are you publishing another book?" asked one, as he mounted his stool. Brill confessed sadly, "After using most of my best models for my first book, there isn't anything left. If I wrote another book, it would be called

"Not So Brilliant Origami."

When asked if he had any regrets about this year's convention, Brill admitted that he was not able to attend many classes. "I was quite disappointed that I could not make the Monday session on producing a TV show. I would like to obtain a time slot on BBC opposite "Absolutely Fabulous."

As we prepared to leave the bar, Brill discovered something on his shoe and that he couldn't walk very well. As I opened the door for him, he looked at me with a twinkle in his eye and a wide grin and said, "You aren't going to print any of this, are you?"

And here are Dave's comments on his convention experience:

For me, convention highlights included the amazed expressions of attendees of my "Cat" class when I told them that they didn't need to take too much care in forming a certain flap of paper because we'd be cutting it off later. Well, I suppose there are really some cultural differences between English and American humor ... there was a similar incredulous silence when



I announced, this time quite seriously, that we were going to take a coffee break midway through my double teaching session! An Englishman needs his non-alcoholic refreshment too! (**June Sakamoto** joined me at coffee saying, "you're treading on thin ice, no one does this at OrigamiUSA conventions, but how civilized").

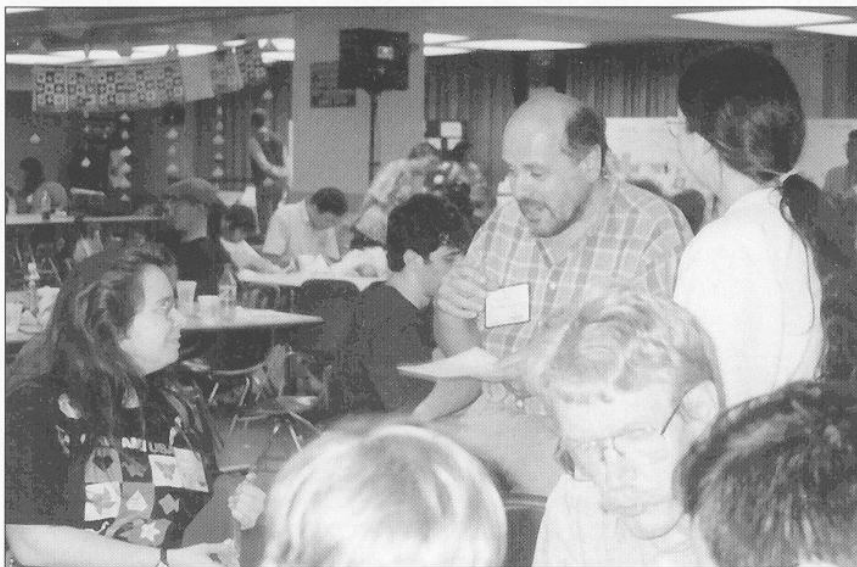
I take my hat off and pay profound respects and gratitude to the organizing team and all the volunteers who helped to make the event run so smoothly, if you ever feel like volunteering to help us in the BOS we'd be delighted to take advantage of your skills! I'd like to extend particular greetings and thank yous to the 30 new BOS members who I enrolled in New York this year. The origami world really is getting smaller and friendlier!

I'd like to warmly welcome anyone who crosses the Atlantic to visit us in England to see how we do it ... rather differently, less formal but not less enjoyable. Do come. Drop me a line if you'd like further information about the British Origami Society or its meetings.

Next BOS convention dates for your diary are:

- ▶ Spring 1999: York April 15th-17th
- ▶ Autumn 1999:
Bristol September 17th-19th

See you somewhere, sometime, soon I hope, and once again, many thanks for your incomparable New York hospitality! ■



Photos by Kay Eng