



BKFA Update

No 10 September 2009

BKFA AGM

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the BRITISH KITEFLYING ASSOCIATION

Will be held on Sunday 29th November 2009 - 2 pm

This meeting will be at the same venue as last year. It is very near London Bridge Railway Station, left past the Cathedral and just off Borough High Street

THE ROYAL OAK
44 Tabard Street
Borough
London
SE1 4JU
Click this link for a [Map](#).

Chairman's message

The BKFA continues its background work on various fronts.

If you have been following the news this last week, you will be aware that the provisions of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act (2006) and Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) have now been picked up by the media. There have been various opinions on how this will affect clubs or groups that have interaction with young people. BKFA will continue to develop guidance for the kiting community. Further details are given below.

The question of recognition of kiting as a sport has come to the fore again. It appears that several kite organisations have been trying to pursue this separately. We hope to try and get interested parties together to work under BKFA leadership. Again, see below for further details.

*Jon Caton
Chairman*

Secretary resigns

Ernest Barton has had to stand down as secretary for personal reasons, but the committee is delighted that he continues as a committee member. Jerry Swift is acting as secretary, but someone else is sought. Volunteers from member clubs would be most welcome.

30 years of the KSGB



Congratulations to Gill and Jon Bloom – the Kite Society of Great Britain is 30 years old this week, an event celebrated in some style (of which more will be written in The Kiteflier we are sure) at this year's Margate Festival.

For 30 years, Gill and Jon have run the only continuously published kite magazine for all British kite fliers, and have run very successful kite festivals for much of that time at Weymouth, Portsmouth and now Dublin and Margate. Our congratulations to them both and our thanks on behalf of all British fliers.

Recognition as a sport

Keith Griffiths had looked into the question of Sports Council recognition. Through local contacts in Sports Wales it appears that the British Kite Surfing Association has been given recognition but it is required to try to get other related organisations to work together so that a single body is recognised. Given the disparity between STACK and BKSA, this was challenged and Sport Wales have now accepted that there are fundamental differences between sport kiting and traction kiting; they have reserved the requirement to 'traction kiting'. As all parts of the Sports Council work together, it means that this recognition applies in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The Chairman has been looking at some of the forums to understand the wider debates going on around this and related issues: it is clear that there is anything but a unified view. Potentially, it might be there is one body for traction kiting and one body for sports/single line kiting, although this seems far from ideal.

Wirral Competition a first in 100 years

The Wirral Kite Festival at the New Brighton 'Dips' ran on 6 and 7th June. Sunday saw it play host to an Edwardian Style Kite Competition; the first in 100 years. It was won by British kite designer Karl Longbottom.

Before airplanes and world travel by air were commonplace, early aviators tested their ideas with kites. The competitions were run to test the efficiency of their new designs. Marks were awarded for stability, the angle at which the kite flew and the ease with which it could be put together. Although most of the kites used on Sunday were of modern design, the Edwardian rules were still an excellent test of the kites' design and flight.

This year's competition was run by the British Kite Flying Association. Presenting the prize to Karl, the chairman Jon Caton said, "Wirral has one of the best flying sites in the country and we are hugely grateful to the organisers of this years event for allowing us time to run the competition here this year."

Jon added, "As this was the first event like this in the UK, we believe for nearly 100 years, running this competition has taught us a lot about why Edwardian kite fliers organised their competitions in this way."

Competitors came from all over the UK and also included visiting fliers from Holland and Germany.

Dave Holt, event organiser said, "This years event was very blustery and a bit wet but it was still a rip roaring success and we look forward to coming back next year."

Details and rules will appear on the website shortly.

Child Protection

Statement agreed with CCPR

BKFA is aware of the new Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act (2006) and Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA). We are aware there are some minor changes to legislation this autumn, but that the key parts of the Act relevant for sport will not have an impact until July 2010.

This gives BKFA a full year to prepare and to provide clear guidance for members at every level of our organisation but until the Government has issued the guidance specific to the sport and leisure sector BKFA is not in a position to make detailed plans, nor to consult in an informed way with members.

BKFA will work closely with CCPR and other relevant organisations to plan, consult and deliver information and guidance to members in such a way that ensures our organisation and its members are fully compliant with the requirements of the Act.

In the meantime BKFA strongly advises members to follow all BKFA guidance on best practice in safeguarding children.

Our Child Protection officer has recently undertaken training from the NSPCC and will continue to discuss the impact of the changes with CCPR.

Accident reporting

Please remember, we have now placed a report form on the website to be used in the event of an accident or near miss. The form is based on a CAA form. We are happy to receive feedback on the form itself.

Reporting of accidents involving kites under 2 kg in weight (mass to be absolutely accurate) is not mandatory. For kites above that mass, the Air Navigation Order (article 142 and 143) is open to debate.

If we are to continue to self-regulate, which is what all other airsports do and which is clearly preferable, we feel that to start to gather accident data on a voluntary basis from all clubs will reduce any likelihood of the CAA deciding it needs to formally bring us within scope.

We urge event organisers to have the form on hand in case the unfortunate happens.

Insurance

It may have taken a while but we are now making real progress. We have quotes for both individual membership for single line/sport kite fliers, and power kiting. One of the terms attached to the quote would be difficult to meet, so further discussion is needed, but as soon as the details can be finalised, we will circulate all clubs.

CAP393 – Update

The Air Navigation Order has been updated. The new version can be found [here](#). The Order is also being changed to bring 'small aircraft' with regulation. The definition of 'small aircraft' specifically excludes kites and balloons. We continue to monitor CAA changes and to seek answers to outstanding queries.

Kite Surfing and Sea Anglers

We have received the following communication from the Sea Angling community. With the growth in kite surfing around the coast, the potential for an accident is ever increasing. The advice seems sensible and we will add this aspect to our Code of Practice and, where necessary, the risk assessments.

Hi

I wonder if you wouldn't mind reviewing this message and passing it on to your members.

The beaches around South Shore and St Annes are popular areas for both kite surfers and anglers alike, especially during strong westerly winds.

The most productive angling conditions in this area are during strong winds and consequently you tend to get more anglers present especially at the tide line.

In the last couple of years we anglers have seen an increase in kite surfers and I thought it would be an ideal opportunity to make the kite surfing community aware of the dangers for all of us using the beach in such close proximity.

Some points to note:

1. *Anglers fishing at the tide line walk back with the tide and consequently it is not uncommon to have 200yds of line out in front of you.*
2. *Anglers use very powerful carbon kevlar rods able to cast up to 180yds +.*
3. *In windy conditions larger lead weights (6-8oz)are used which are cast at 85mph. These lead weights incorporate very sharp wire grippers.*
4. *The nylon line used can be up to 60LBs breaking strain.*
5. *The hooks used are chemically sharpened steel.*

There are obvious safety dangers to the kite surfers including injury from line cuts, hook impalement and serious damage from lead weights, not to mention the impact of breaking and anglers rod which may cost up to £400!

As anglers we would like the kite surfing community to consider the safety aspects mentioned above. I have chatted to a few kite surfers over the past few months and it is apparent that it's simply a lack of education rather than any lack of regard.

I think one simple rule would benefit us all when using the beach – do not surf directly in front of anglers (perhaps a 200yds exclusion zone would be adequate).

I'm confident we can all enjoy the beach together.

*Best Regards
Dave Nixon*

www.uk-fishing-forum.co.uk

Jerry Swift
21 September 2009