



## BKFA Update

No 13 April 2010

TO ALL CLUBS: Please feel free to reproduce all or part of this update in your club's own newsletter. Following some useful feedback, I have placed an abridged version of this update at the end that will be more digestible!

If this newsletter needs to go directly to more people in your club, or if it needs to be directed elsewhere, please let Jerry Swift know.

*Jerry Swift*

### **Insurance update**

BKFA's insurance policy is live from 1st May 2010. From that date Tennyson Insurance brokers are making our Zurich policy available to anyone who is a member of one of BKFA's member organisations.

The policy covers an individual flyer at any time in the UK and Europe for 3<sup>rd</sup> party risks including member to member cover. The basic fee of £10.50 covers all standard single line and sport kites whilst an extension is available for power kiters. Teddy parachuting and KAPing are also covered. The cover extends to club officers if they take up the policy.

Full details are available from Jerry Swift and are contained in Update 12. And please note, not everyone in the club needs to be on the policy, it can be as many or as few as feel they need the protection offered.

### **Rougham Competition**

Rougham will be hosting a round of the 'Edwardian Kite Contest' organised by BKFA on Sunday 16th May. Harking back to the days when gentlemen flew kites and the lady kite flier wore a full length white skirt, the contest is a modern day equivalent designed to test the strengths of current kite design. Two important points of note: this is open to all single line kites, of whatever size, vintage or design, and there is no need to don straw boater and spats – unless you really want to!

Full rules of the contest can be found on the BKFA website, but in outline the trial will probably last one hour (at the judge's discretion based on prevailing conditions) and is flown on a fixed line length. Points are awarded for stability, flight angle and design (purely constructional – this is not a beauty contest). Points are lost for hitting the ground or not keeping the required line length out. BKFA will be presenting a trophy to the winner.

## News and views

### **Danger of outdoor activities is often overplayed, insists Stevie Christie (from the Edinburgh Evening News)**

... sees the seventh Edinburgh Mountain Film Festival take place at George Square.

This annual event attracts 2,500 people from across Scotland and for one weekend, the best place to find outdoor adventure is indoors, whether your passion is white water kayaking or ice climbing, mountain biking or paragliding, hill-walking or base jumping.

But the hazardous nature of the activities in some of the films we screen often draws criticism from safety-conscious citizens.

It's true that some films feature some incredibly dangerous stunts. I mean, who in their right mind would paddle over a 100ft-high waterfall? What happens when something goes wrong? What about rescuers who have to put their lives at risk for that individual? The cost to the taxpayer for medical treatment? Isn't it just inherently selfish and unnecessary behaviour?

Well, in one sense it is. No-one needs to climb a mountain – or base jump off it. Just as no-one needs to take that Sunday afternoon drive – and anyone who thinks that driving a car is a safe activity needs to look at the statistics. Inherently selfish and unnecessary behaviour pretty much covers everyone's leisure time activities and hobbies.

Ah, but climbing a mountain is more dangerous than many pastimes, critics say. More dangerous than what? Drinking? Gambling? Pastimes which cost the taxpayer a fair bit. At least with extreme outdoor sports, participants need to be disciplined, trained and fit.

There is an intrinsic value in these films. The films and lectures highlight that there is still a breed of person out there in our safety-conscious world prepared to push the limits. That's what humans do, take risks. That's how we've evolved – a quest for adventure is part of human nature.

It doesn't mean that we are going to try to match these experts for skill or bravery next time we head into the outdoors. But it might just inspire us to get out there and enjoy our world more often. And surely there's nothing wrong with that.

*Stevie Christie is director of the Edinburgh Mountain Film Festival*

BKFA makes no comment on this, but we suspect Stevie's comments will resonate with many kite fliers.

### **DCSF consults on health and safety for learning outside the classroom (from CCPR)**

The Government first produced guidance on health and safety for teachers organising educational visits in 1998, and published a number of supplements to this in 2002. This revised guidance targets a wider audience across all children's services (not just schools) and aims to:

- encourage sensible risk management and reduce 'red tape'
- highlight the lessons learned from previous serious incidents
- sets out how and why staff can expect to be treated fairly if a participant is injured despite their care.

### ***What this means for sport and recreation***

Many CCPR members may have clubs or centres which schools use as bases for learning outside the classroom. Many members also set the standards of good practice for particular activities that children may undertake on their visits. As such, members will have an interest in the advice proposed for teachers.

### ***What next***

CCPR will respond to the consultation, and will also support the Adventure Activities Industry Advisory Committee (AAIAC) in preparing its response.

### **Using the report form**

The festival season now seems a distant memory. We know of only one incident, that of a Rolf Zimmerman inflatable 'popping' all its bridles. Problem then was that the drogue caught the wind, swung in front of the inflatable and the whole lot set off across the field at fairly high speed.

Unfortunately it caught on a child's pram. Fortunately no-one was hurt. We understand that the local authority is carrying out an investigation.

A BKFA accident report was not completed.

Could we suggest strongly that all festival or event organisers print a copy of the form, available on the website ([http://www.bkfa.org.uk/files/incident\\_form.pdf](http://www.bkfa.org.uk/files/incident_form.pdf)) and keep it to hand. First priority in any incident is clearly to make the site safe. But as soon as possible after the incident please complete a report and get it back to us, whether your club are BKFA members or not.

The report form should be used at club fly-ins or even if just a couple of people are having a fly together – any information helps to build a picture of the risks we need to manage as responsible kite fliers.

CAA are quite clear, they expect airports to monitor their own safety. If we don't, CAA might impose mandatory reporting and that is in no-one's interests.

BKFA will keep reports confidential, but will report on the outline of incidents so that everyone can take steps to prevent repetition.

### **Photos for press use and BKFA website**

BKFA is keen to include royalty free photographs on its website that can be used by the media. They need to be high quality JPEGs and we will request a credit for the photographer, but cannot guarantee one is given.

We also want photos that tell the story of kiteflying in the UK and abroad today, photos that will attract people to join clubs and take up kiteflying that we can use on the BKFA website.

If you have suitable pictures, please send them to Jerry Swift (treasurer@bkfa.org.uk) , making it clear whether they are freely available for use by the media or whether their use is restricted to the BKFA website.

## **Child protection (Update from CCPR)**

Sir Roger Singleton has now completed his review of the 'intensity' and 'frequency' of contact with vulnerable people that should require an individual to register with the Independent Safeguarding Authority. The aim of the review was to ensure that the Vetting and Barring Scheme strikes the right balance between offering protection without being overly burdensome. The Government has accepted Sir Roger's recommendations in full as follows:

**Recommendation 1.** Mutually agreed and responsible arrangements made between parents and friends for the care of their children will not be affected by the Vetting and Barring Scheme.

**Recommendation 2.** Where organisations (such as schools, clubs or groups) make the decisions as to which adults should work with children then the requirement to register should apply, subject to the frequent and intensive contact provisions.

**Recommendation 3.** The frequent contact test should be met if the work with children takes place once a week or more. The intensive contact test should be met if the work takes place on 4 days per month or more, or overnight.

**Recommendation 4.** Individuals who go into different schools or equivalent settings to work with different groups of children, will not be required to register unless their contact with the same children is frequent or intensive.

**Recommendation 5.** The minimum registration age at which young people who engage in regulated activity as part of their continuing education should be reviewed.

**Recommendation 6.** Overseas visitors bringing their own groups of children to the UK (e.g. to international camps or the Olympics) will have a three months exemption from the requirement to register.

**Recommendation 7.** Exchange visits, lasting less than 28 days, where overseas parents accept the responsibility for the selection of the host family, should be regarded as private arrangements and would not require registration

**Recommendation 8.** Government will consider the position of some self-employed health care practitioners and whether a duty should be placed on them to register with the scheme.

**Recommendation 9.** Government will review the continuing need for 'Controlled Activity'.

**Recommendation 10.** Government will review both the statutory requirements and its advice in relation to the continuing need for CRB disclosures for safeguarding purposes

### ***What this means for sport and recreation***

The key change is that the threshold for 'frequent' engagement is now once per week, rather than once a month. This may reduce the number of people required to register. The implications of other recommendations, such as those relating to young people engaging in regulated activity as part of their education are not yet fully known. It appears that the relationship between CRB checks and the vetting and barring scheme will also be reviewed.

CCPR will continue to update members with regard to this issue, and the full report entitled 'Drawing the line' can be read [here](#).

A further update with the next newsletter.