



## BKFA Update

No 15, June 2011

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 me know.

*Jerry Swift*

### **Chairman's comments**

This year is shaping up to be a difficult one for kite flying. Financial support for events is drying up, as we might have expected in the aftermath of the national belt tightening promised by the coalition government. Amongst the missing festivals are Rougham, Southampton, Blackheath, all big events as far as I am concerned. Understandable that we are losing out given the overall priorities but disappointing nevertheless. I guess we are not part of the 'big society' after all.

Besides the loss of funding, a number of festivals have gone through general weariness of the stalwarts that organise them, Swindon has probably seen it's last public event, and Southampton is now cancelled as well.

But it's not all doom and gloom because what I am hearing is a general enthusiasm amongst fliers to 'reinvent' the festival and turn it into something more for us rather than the public. People are seeing the 'Jolly Up' organised by Roy and Hayley as the model for the future.

Maybe this will let us get back to single line kites on a more human scale, the giant inflatables are great for giving a presence to a festival, but they do seem to be taking over from beautifully designed 'sticky' kites, to the extent where I've had one festival organiser refuse to invite a well known kite maker/flier because 'no-one could see his kites, they are too small'. This must be wrong.

*Keith Griffiths  
Chairman*

### **'Kite flying ban'**

Word is going around about a ban on kite flying on beaches in the East Riding of Yorkshire Council area. It has featured in the local press and we have seen an Order with a global restriction on certain areas of the Council's beaches. At the same time a 'Council spokesman' has said it was all a mistake and nothing has changed whilst another has suggested that its all central governments' fault because the Council are simply following 'model clauses' and have little flexibility in the matter.

All of which shows that this needs further investigation. BKFA will be following up initially with DCLG to check the truth of the 'model clauses' assertion and then with the local Council

to find out what they really intended. It may be we need to help them reach a more balanced approach as was so successful in the Fylde.

We will keep people informed.

### **Insurance News**

A reminder that BKFA has renewed the insurance policy for this year. Premiums remain unchanged at £10.50 all single line and sport kites, £15.00 power kiting.

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. Teddy parachuting and KAPing are also covered. The cover extends to club officers if they take up the policy.

It is not a requirement that everyone in a club takes up the policy but for administrative ease we would request that, so far as possible, we end up with one renewal from all members of a club. The policy will now run continuously with BKFA making an annual return to Tennyson's to balance the account.

This policy is only available to members of clubs who belong to BKFA: it is not available direct to individuals.

### **Charity request**

We have been contacted by a charity called Children Today who fund specialised equipment for children and young people with disabilities living across the UK. They believe the provision of specialised equipment has a direct and immediate impact on a child's quality of life and independence.

Children Today was founded 16 years ago and their logo has always been a kite, a symbol which they say reflects their core values of helping children live a life of greater freedom.

They believe that children and young people with disabilities should be enabled to achieve their potential, whatever that may be.

Children Today relies totally on voluntary donations: they receive no statutory funding. In addition to their fundraising activities they also promote ability not disability and they seek to establish appropriate partnerships with national organisations to assist in creating fundraising opportunities and in raising awareness.

If your club is considering whether to support a charity this might be one to consider.

For further information please visit their website [www.childrentoday.org.uk](http://www.childrentoday.org.uk) or contact Ruth Thompson direct on 01244 335622 or [ruth@childrentoday.org.uk](mailto:ruth@childrentoday.org.uk)

### **New web book**

Well known commentator George Webster has been working with BKFA secretary John Dobson to revise and add to the series of articles that he has written in The Kiteflier over several years.

John has now turned these into an electronic book in the form of a number of .pdfs.

Go to [www.johndobson.info](http://www.johndobson.info) and follow the links to "George Webster, his writings".

### **Website**

The website is now pretty much up to date. Our thanks to Jon Caton for the efforts he has made on it and in particular to Peter Bindon who continues to provide technical support and provide links to the tools and the site. Remaining tasks are to chase up the CAA and review latest changes to CAP393.

We continue to bring you updates from CCPR – they provide much useful background information and we try to include it where possible.

The site now includes a number of rule sets for clubs to use. It also includes an analysis tool that allows the user to see what events have happened over the last five years, selecting by a variety of different criteria. For example you could look for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of a month, or a given week number.

Feedback on this and all aspects of the website would be very welcome to know what clubs value.

## **Child Protection**

From the Sport & Recreation website (*formerly CCPR*)

### ***Compliance: The future of the Criminal Records Regime and the Vetting and Barring Scheme***

11 February 2011

The government has today unveiled plans to scale back the vetting and barring scheme (VBS) and criminal records regime to common sense levels.

Last October the government commissioned a review to consider if there was a need to remodel the VBS and the criminal records bureau (CRB) process. The Sport and Recreation Alliance have represented the views of our members in the various consultations with the government, Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) and CRB.

As part of the Protection of Freedoms Bill, Deputy Prime Minister, Nick Clegg announced that there will be a number of changes to simplify the vetting process for people working with children and vulnerable adults.

The proposals include:

- merging the CRB and ISA to form a streamlined new body providing a proportionate barring and criminal records checking service;
- a large reduction in the number of positions requiring checks. Only those working closely and regularly with children and vulnerable adults will need them;
- portability of criminal records checks between jobs to cut down on needless bureaucracy;
- an end to a requirement for those working or volunteering with vulnerable groups to register with the VBS and then be continuously monitored;
- stopping employers who knowingly request criminal records checks on individuals who are not entitled to them.

What will change and what will be kept?

- a barring function will be maintained;
- the registration and monitoring requirements will be abolished;
- the definition of 'regulated activity' will be redefined.

The government will also keep the scope of CRB checks under review to ensure they are not putting people off volunteering.

## What do you need to do?

### *1. Wait for further updates*

The Protection of Freedoms Bill is expected to become law by early 2012. There will be a consultation period before the summer. The Sport and Recreation Alliance will represent your views in further consultations and we will keep you up to date with how you can feed in your views and what the outcomes are.

### *2. Continue working with CRB as usual*

The CRB is responsible for criminal records disclosures and you should continue working with the same procedures you have.

### *3. Ensure you meet your legal obligations as an organisation under the current Vetting and Barring Scheme*

- a) To refer information to the 'Independent Safeguarding Authority' if you dismiss an individual because they have caused harm or because they may have caused harm to a child or a vulnerable adult;
- b) To not knowingly employ a barred person in 'regulated activity'.

The Scottish Protection of Vulnerable Groups Act (PVG) 2007 came into force from 28th February 2011. If you are based in Scotland you will need to:

- Be aware of your legal obligations;
- Be aware of the new scheme;

Please Note: This is not connected with the English Vetting and Barring Scheme.

Guidance from Sport & recreation can forwarded on request. Please contact Jerry Swift.

BKFA is able to offer access to CRB checks through Sport & Recreation's provider. Please contact Jerry Swift if you think you may need one.

## **Working with vulnerable adults**

From Sport & Recreation

In sport safeguarding vulnerable adults has often featured as an 'add on' to any work that is focussed on safeguarding children. Whilst this may have advantages in terms of procedures and systems, it has not led to effective safeguarding of vulnerable adults and is therefore not appropriate.

Any organisation working with vulnerable adults should have in place appropriate policies and procedures. However organisations also need to put into practice the policies, train and educate people to ensure vulnerable adults are safeguarded and have a positive experience of their chosen sport.

It is not possible to use your safeguarding children's policy because an adult may choose not to act at all to protect themselves and only in extreme circumstances will the law intervene.

You should be able to explain and understand:

- Who are defined as vulnerable adults in your sport?
- How to safeguard vulnerable adults appropriately.
- What legal obligations you have in order to safeguard vulnerable adults.

We suspect this is unlikely to apply to kite clubs since any contact with vulnerable adults is likely to be supervised, but it is worth just checking at your next committee meeting.

#### **Abridged version**

BKFA's Chairman has suggested that maybe we can look forward to a return to more grassroots flying whilst the funding cuts have put paid to a number of well known events. He also questions whether large inflatables are always such a great idea.

BKFA has learned about a supposed ban on kiteflying on East Yorkshire beaches and will be following up on this at local, and if necessary national level.

BKFA has renewed its insurance policy which is available to all members of member organisations. Full details are on the BKFA website. The policy is not available direct from BKFA.

The much feared child protection legislation is being scaled back to common sense levels. For most clubs and events they would now not be caught by the proposed legislation, but if working with schools, requirements for CRB checks may continue. BKFA can arrange for CRB checks if they are required.

The BKFA website is now pretty much up to date and in addition to items such as the Council Meeting minutes, future agenda, supporting papers and Committee Minutes, the site includes useful background material from CCCR and other sources and now includes a number of competition rule sets and an analysis tool for previous dates of kite festivals (useful when looking for possible clashes). Feedback on the website would be very welcome.

Jerry Swift  
June 2011