



Press Release

9 June 2009

Wirral Competition a first in 100 years

Sunday saw New Brighton host an Edwardian Kite Competition, the first in 100 years. The event was run as part of the Wirral Kite Festival supported by Wirral Council on the sea front. It was won by British kite designer Karl Longbottom from Herefordshire.

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 kite designs. Marks were awarded for stability, the angle at which the kite flew and the ease with which it could be put together.

This year's competition was run by the British Kite Flying Association. Presenting the prize to Karl, 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 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."

Notes for editors:

1. The Wirral Kite Festival is organised at the New Brighton 'Dips' and ran on 6 and 7th June.
2. The kite festival is sponsored by Wirral Council with support from local kite fliers and kite fliers from across the UK. Urenco sponsored the kite workshops which were run for young visitors to the event.
3. This year's festival included fliers from Italy, Germany, Austria, Holland, Switzerland, Tasmania and Australia.
4. The British Kite Flying Association is the national organisation representing kite clubs from across the UK.
5. Media enquiries should be addressed to Jerry Swift at jerry.swift@bkfa.org.uk or by telephone to 07956 295489

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BKFA Chairman Jon Caton presents Karl Longbottom with the trophy