



ROKKAKU CHALLENGE

The following details from Martin Lester outline his plans for a Rokkaku Challenge. The Kite Society editorial team has volunteered to co-ordinate the British heats of this challenge. In the next issue we hope to have further details including full rules and a plan to make your own Rokkaku. Tentative plans are to hold events at 2 or 3 major festivals during 1987, perhaps Old Warden and York?

My interest in team fighting kites began in 1977 with an article in the April 1977 National Geographic Magazine, where I read that at the Hamamatsu Kite Festival teams from the surrounding neighbourhoods fought against each other with large Machijirushi kites. The idea of trying to do something similar at a kite festival in this country really caught my imagination. But I found that the Machijirushi does not readily translate to western materials and building techniques and so did not pursue the idea.

The Rokkaku Kite Team Challenge posed by Bevan Brown and the article by Valerie Govig in the Spring 1983 issue of KITELINES, followed by the Shirone Giants in Spring 1984 raised my interest again. This was followed by reading about, and then meeting the Mama Sans at Scheveningen in Holland and Cervia in Italy last year. At both Festivals the kites seemed to arouse interest from quite a lot of kitefliers. The recent York Kite Festival had 7 competing teams at its Rokkaku Challenge.

I would like to raise the level of interest in this form of kiteflying further and with this in mind would like to offer a trophy for the Rokkaku Challenge. My reasons for doing so are to continue to raise interest started by Bevan Brown and KITELINES (and of course all the others involved) and also to put something back into kiteflying - a job that I receive so much pleasure from.

I chose Scheveningen to announce the idea because it seems that a large part of the kiteflying world seems to descend there every year (one day the beach will detach itself and fly away with us all). As I write this, some of the details are a little vague but I hope to sort these out with those who are interested.

The general idea would be to some sort of knockout competition in local countries and then to hold the finals at Scheveningen in 1987. I am in the process of consulting with KITELINES, so I hope that I am not being too presumptuous in suggesting this without their full cooperation.

If you are interested in taking part or have any thoughts on the matter, send me a SAE and I will send you details as soon as I can.

P.S. If there are enough of you interested, we could have a mini challenge at the Bristol Kite Festival, September 6th and 7th.

Write to:-

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Martin Lester

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