

THE UNITED KINGDOM ROKKAKU CHALLENGES

As announced in the last magazine the Kite Society and Martin Lester have organised two Rokkaku Challenges to run Grand Prix style throughout 1987. A number of people have already registered their interest by entering the competitions (these people will be entitled to special privileges for early registration).

The four events where the Rokkaku Challenges will take place will be as follows:-

Blackheath Kite Festival 19th and 20th of April

York Kite Festival 30th and 31st May

Shrewsbury Kite Festival 5th July

Bristol Kite Festival 5th and 6th September

The aim of the challenge is to promote kite fighting as a sport and as a spectator event.

Some simple rules will be necessary to standardize (to some extent) the kites, line, procedure, etc; and also to ensure safety for the flyers and the public. The rules will be kept by judges at each event.

Kite: Rokkaku shape and style of Kite

minimum sail height - 2 metres for team event

minimum sail height - 1 metre; maximum sail height 1.5 metres for solo event

Line: no steel cable, Kevlar, abrasive coatings or cutting lines. (if in doubt dont use it).

team minimum of 2 people.

Procedure:

teams spread across arena, and launch on signal, pause for 1 minute, and then fight on signal.

as soon as any kite touches the ground, it is out of that round of the competition. No catching of kites allowed.

no intentional physical contact between teams

the last kite flying is the winner

20 minute time limit. In event of stalemate, cut downs count over knockdowns.

Each event will consist of 3 rounds, points for each round will be awarded as follows:

1st place 6 points

2nd place 4 points

3rd place 3 points

4th place 2 points

5th place 1 point

The end of each event, the scores will be added up for each team (ie max score 18) The final points total will be reached by adding the score from 2 events together for each team. It will therefore be necessary to attend a minimum of 2 events, if you attend 3 or 4 events, your 2 best scores will be added together.(ie max score 36)

In the event of a draw, cutdown and knockdowns will be taken into account to determine the winner, the team with the higher number of cutdowns to their credit will receive the Trophy.

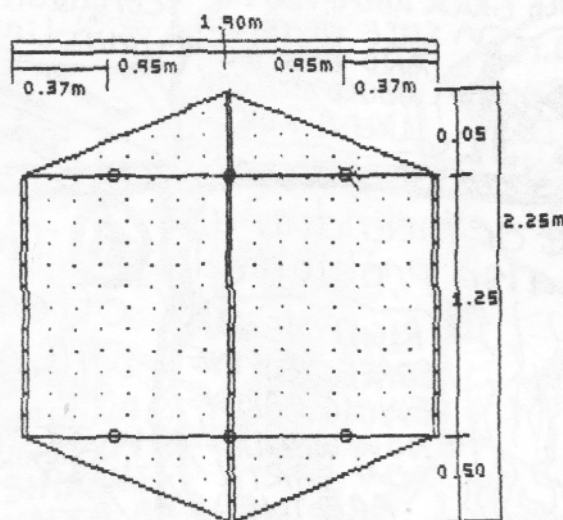
If, in the opinion of the judges, a team is avoiding the fight - they will be warned, and will

lose their points score for that round if they consistently avoid the fight. There will be two trophies: the main trophy will go to the team with the highest points total resulting from the various rounds of competition. The other trophy will go to the team that impresses the judges most with their appearance, artistry, team spirit, entertainment value etc.

The above rules also apply to the individual Rokkaku Challenge. For Team read individual.

If you have not already built your Rokkaku why not start now as this challenge promises to be a fun event. We have included a small plan of a Rokkaku for your use. For more details see the last issue of The Kiteflier. However to add to construction details here are some more tips from Martin Lester.

For maximum strength - assemble kite sail from six pieces as shown in the illustration ie with seams along sparlines. Align warp or welt of fabric along leading and trailing edges of kite to minimise the stretch. Use 6 leg bridle on 2m kite or larger. For 2m plus kite use 1/2" dowel or equivalent. I use 10mm hollow fibreglass for frame. Use of toggle system to fasten spars to sail- ie alloy ferrule fixed to spars - toggle tied to sail corners. Allow toggle to wear rather than sail pockets. Also on crash landing toggle line (50lb) will snap rather than tearing sail or breaking frame. Bridle lines approx 2 x height of kite. Japanese fighting Rokkakus use strong bridles and lighter wing bridles. Bow the 2 horizontal spars. The horizontal spars go between the sail and the spine.



If you are thinking of entering either (or both) of the Rokkaku Challenges you should complete this form and return it to:-

Rokkaku Challenge
The Kite Society
31 Grange Road
Ilford
Essex
IG1 1EU

Name _____

Address _____

Team Event _____

Solo Event _____

(Please indicate which you wish to enter)

If entering the team event please indicate the number of people in the team _____