

**International Bognor Birdman
Bognor Regis Town Hall
Clarence Road,
Bognor Regis
West Sussex PO21 1LD
United Kingdom**

Dear Prospective Birdman or Birdwoman,

We are pleased to announce that the **2008 International Bognor Birdman** will take place on Saturday & Sunday 5th & 6th July. We shall also be repeating our free welcome event for all competitors who can be with us on this the 30th anniversary year for the draw on the evening of Friday 4th July.

Enclosed is an application pack that includes our Rules and Regulations. If you wish to enter, please complete both parts of the application form and forward it to the Birdman office at the above address with any additional information that you may wish to include to support your application. The deadline for the receipt of applications is 1st April 2008. There are Three Classes to enter -

The **Leonardo da Vinci & Condor Classes** for serious contenders will be competing over both days for a jackpot prize of £30,000, increased this year in recognition of 30 years of Birdman in Bognor Regis, and for the International Birdman Trophy. Other prizes include £30 per whole second for the longest time aloft up to a maximum of £1,000.

The **Leonardo da Vinci Class** is for self-built and designed flying machines, the new **Condor Class** is for modified hang gliders and similar craft. There are trophies, mementos and prizes of £500 1st, £400 2nd, £300 3rd, £200 4th and £100 5th places in both Classes to be decided by points over both days, plus an extra £500 for the winner of the Birdman Trophy.

To win the **£30,000 Jackpot Prize** eligible Aviators must achieve the furthest flight over 100 metres over the prescribed course with two chances to win over both days. All entrants will receive a Souvenir Certificate and those achieving a distance greater than a pre-competition benchmark leap set by an athlete will receive a special Wings Badge.

The **Kingfisher Class** is on the Sunday only and is for topical or comic entries, usually fancy dress. This Class offers excellent opportunities for sponsored fund-raising and there are prizes for the most money raised. The Organisers are keen to select competitors who have the potential to be colourful and entertaining. Entrants in this Class will be competing for prizes of £500 1st, £250 2nd & £100 3rd. Points will be awarded for costume/props, launch routine and crowd reaction. The Lin Trophy will also be awarded for the 'funniest moment'.

Please note Aviators entering the Leonardo da Vinci & Condor Classes shall be allowed a maximum of two additional helpers on the pier deck during competition and entrants in the Kingfisher Class one additional helper. An upper deck lounge and separate viewing area will be reserved for entrants' family and friends. Regrettably children under 16 will not be allowed on the lower pier deck.

Due to time and tide restraints the number of Birdmen and Birdwomen is likely to be limited to 40 on each day and demand for places will be considerable. Please take care with your application to give yourself the best possible chance of securing a place.

Good Luck!

Barry Jones Chairman of the International Bognor Birdman Trust

International Bognor Birdman 2008 – Classes, Descriptions and Prizes

Classes and Descriptions	Leonardo da Vinci Class	Condor Class
<p>Leonardo da Vinci Class and Condor Class</p> <p>Both Classes will take place over both days. The Leonardo da Vinci Class is for self/team-designed and built innovative craft and the Condor Class is for modified hang-glider and similar craft. Each Aviator is allowed two attempts, one on each competition day. Aviators in the Leonardo da Vinci Class only may choose not to launch on the first day if conditions are unfavourable, but will lose the Saturday points towards their total. All competitors must attempt a flight on the Sunday if asked. With the permission of the Organisers, Aviators may elect to change Classes and aircraft on the first day but must remain in their changed Class with the same craft for both competition days. Aviators in both Classes will fly in the same time frame after the Kingfisher Class so they fairly experience similar weather conditions.</p> <p>There will be equal money prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th in each Class, decided on total points gained over both days.</p> <p>Following a long tradition, the International Birdman Trophy will be awarded to the Aviator who achieves the longest flight over both days of the competition. The winner will also receive an extra £500 prize money.</p> <p>The order of flight for new Aviators on the first day will be determined by a random draw to be announced on the Friday evening before the competition. Aviators with previous year's results will be seeded, longest distance launching last.</p> <p>Points will be awarded for the top eight placings only in each Class, according to actual distance flown. The furthest will be awarded 12 points. 2nd furthest 10 points. 3rd furthest 8 points, 4th furthest 6 points, 5th furthest 4 points, 6th furthest 3 points, 7th furthest 2 points and 8th furthest 1 point.</p> <p>In the event of a tie the Aviator who achieves the longest time in the air over both days shall be the winner of their Class.</p> <p>If only one flight is possible for any reason the points achieved for that one flight shall be the final score.</p> <p>The order of flight on the second day of competition in both Classes will be decided by the first day distances, with the furthest flight being last to launch and the shortest flight being the first to launch.</p> <p>When distances are tied the longest time in the air will take the later launch time.</p> <p>The three Aviators achieving the longest flights on the first day of the competition shall be allowed to change their designated launch slot at any time on the second day if they wish, choosing to launch <u>next</u> during the serious Classes.</p> <p>If two or three Aviators request the same launch time slot the Aviator who achieved the longest flight on the first day has first choice.</p>	<p>1st £500</p> <p>2nd £400</p> <p>3rd £300</p> <p>4th £200</p> <p>5th £100</p>	<p>1st £500</p> <p>2nd £400</p> <p>3rd £300</p> <p>4th £200</p> <p>5th £100</p>

<p>Kingfisher Class First, Second and Third Prizes will be awarded to the most entertaining fancy dress or comic entrant in this Class. Points will be given for entertainment value, both for costume and props, the pre-launch routine to music, and crowd reaction.</p> <p>The Entry in this Class which, in the opinion of the Judges, achieves 'the funniest moment' will be awarded the engraved Lin Trophy.</p> <p>This Class is on Sunday only.</p>	<p>1st £500</p> <p>2nd £250</p> <p>3rd £100</p>
<p>Longest Time in the Air Leonardo da Vinci Class and Condor Class Only Awarded to the Aviator who remains aloft for the longest period.</p> <p>For every full second in the air up to and including 19 seconds.</p> <p>For 20 full seconds or more in the air.</p> <p>A maximum purse of £1000 is available for this prize</p>	<p>£30 each second aloft</p> <p>Max. £1,000</p>
<p>Jackpot Prize*</p> <p>For the furthest flight over a prescribed measured 100 metres over both days of the competition, open to Aviators in the Leonardo da Vinci Class and Condor Class only.</p>	<p>£30,000</p>

- The £30,000 Jackpot Prize will be awarded to the Aviator achieving the longest distance over 100 metres on the Jackpot course. In the event of a distance tie, the Aviator whose winning flight was longest aloft will win. In the event of a 'dead heat' after taking into account all these elements then the Jackpot Prize will be shared between the winners.
- In the event of any distance ties in the Leonardo da Vinci and Condor Classes, the longest time in the air achieved will decide the points awarded. In the event of a 'dead heat' in either Class, equal place points will be awarded with the next highest scoring entrants dropping one place. In the event of any ties in the Kingfisher Class, and all other Classes and Competitions connected with the event, the prizes will be shared.
- Following tradition, The International Birdman Trophy, engraved and held for one year, will be awarded to the Aviator who achieves the longest distance flight on either competition day. There will also be trophies and mementoes for winners of all the classes.
- A special award of a Wings Badge will be made to all competitors who achieve a distance greater than that set at the beginning of each day of the competition by an athlete leaping into the water.
- The International Bognor Birdman Trust Ltd. reserves the right to amend the above Classes and prizes.
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International Birdman 2008 Application Form

Personal Details (Please use BLOCK CAPITALS)

Title (please circle): Mr Mrs Miss Ms Other (please specify):

Forename: Surname/Family Name:

Address:

..... Post/Zip Code:

Telephone: Mobile:

Email:

Date of Birth:

Class you wish to enter (See Rules and Regulations for further information) PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

Please Tick	CLASSES	DEFINITIONS
.....	Leonardo da Vinci Class	Serious Class for self / team designed & built craft / Sat & Sun.
.....	Condor Class	Serious Class for modified hang glider and similar craft / Sat & Sun.
.....	Kingfisher Class	Comic / Colourful / Charitable / Entertaining Entries – Sunday Only

Please enclose your entry fee with your application which will be returned if a place is not found for you.

Entry Fee Enclosed – Please Tick 1 person £50 2 persons £75 Trade Entry £250

Cheques made payable please to International Bognor Birdman Trust Ltd.

Please also enclose a head and shoulders picture of the each person who will fly.

I enter this event at my own risk. I have read and agree to be bound by the rules of the International Birdman 2008 competition. I will not hold International Bognor Birdman Trust Ltd. or any Sponsor responsible for any accident, injury, loss or damage to myself or my property arising from participation in this event. If my application is successful I will be responsible for arranging my own personal injury insurance.

I understand that the International Bognor Birdman Event will be filmed and photographed by the media and personnel appointed by the Organisers and Sponsors. Footage and photographs will appear in the Press, on websites and be transmitted on television. Any filming / photographs will be kept and may be used by the International Bognor Birdman Trust and Sponsors for promotional purposes.

Details submitted on this form will be retained on a database for this event and future events. If you do not wish this to be the case will you please tick in the box.

Signed: Date:

Signed: Date:

(Parent or Guardian if over 16 years but under 18 years of age)

Supporting Information

Please use BLOCK CAPITALS

About You

Full Name:

Occupation:

Do you have a background in aviation (please give details)?

.....

.....

.....

Would you be prepared to appear on TV, radio, press launches, etc? YES NO
(please circle a response) If an opportunity presents itself we will not
release your details without contacting you first.

The International Bognor Birdman Event

Have you previous experience as a Birdman/Birdwoman? YES NO

If Yes: years entered, best distance and list prizes.

.....

If No: how did you hear about International Bognor Birdman and why do you wish to enter?

.....

About Your Craft / Costume

Name and describe your craft / costume (please use a separate sheet for any designs or further information that may support your application):

.....

How long will it take to make?

Who will build it?

Will it be sponsored (please give details)?

Charity

Do you intend raising funds for a Charity or a good cause? YES NO

If Yes, which Charity or good cause?

.....

How much do you intend raising? £.....

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1.0 Leonardo da Vinci and Condor Classes

- 1.1 The £30,000 Jackpot Prize and the furthest distance and time aloft prizes are available to those entering the Leonardo da Vinci Class and Condor Class only.
- 1.2 The Leonardo da Vinci Class is for innovative, self-built and designed flying machines. The new Condor Class is for modified hang gliders and aircraft of similar design.
- 1.3 A guide to determining whether an aircraft is entered into the Leonardo da Vinci Class or the Condor Class may be its means of control. If control of the aircraft is achieved principally through moving control surfaces or deforming the wings etc., directly or remotely, while the position of the Aviator's body remains largely unchanged, then the aircraft shall automatically qualify for the Leonardo da Vinci Class. If the aircraft is based on an A-Frame design and control is achieved principally by movement of the Aviator's body weight then the aircraft would normally qualify for the Condor Class, unless it has been designed and self-built from first principles and is sufficiently different from hang gliders presently available on the open market.
- 1.4 Further advice on which Class to enter will be available through our website and the Organisers will have expert help on hand to decide which Class is most appropriate and fair to all competitors if doubts exist.
- 1.5 All Aviators shall be allotted a 'launch window' of 5 minutes for the Leonardo da Vinci and Condor Classes and 2 minutes for the Kingfisher Class. Weather conditions, tide and progress of the competition may mean these windows might have to be reduced; however, every effort will be made to avoid this happening. A clock display will show time remaining and a bell will sound when there is 1 minute left. Aviators who do not take off within their launch window without good reason may forfeit the right to receive any awards, including prize money.
- 1.6 The launch window countdown clock will commence once the Aviator is on the launch ramp and the safety light turns from RED to GREEN. Competitors who launch before will be disqualified. The countdown clock will be paused by the Organisers if the Aviator is hampered by events outside his control or where a safety issue arises.
- 1.7 The Saturday is for the Leonardo da Vinci and Condor Classes only, so entrants may be granted more than 5 minutes to trim and launch their craft. Again the clock display will show the time remaining and a bell will sound at 1 minute remaining.
- 1.8 Aviators in the Saturday competition may decide to withdraw, either before the competition starts, or by withdrawing from the launch platform before their launch window expires. However, unless conditions on the day dictate otherwise, all entrants will be required to fly on the Sunday.
- 1.9 The Jackpot Prize will be awarded to the Aviator who with his / her craft flies the furthest Forward Distance inside the prescribed course over 100 metres over both flying days. The prescribed course, which is at right angles to the take-off edge of the launch platform, will be marked by flexible flagpoles at the 25, 50, 75 and 100 metre marks from the launch platform. All other prizes and points to decide the winners and placings will be awarded for Actual Distance flown.
- 1.10 Forward Distance flown is measured as the shortest distance from the take-off edge of the launch platform to an imaginary line that is parallel to the take-off edge of the launch platform and passes through the point at which the Aviator ceases to fly.
- 1.11 **Actual Distance** flown is measured as the shortest distance between the centre of the take-off edge of the launch platform to the point of splashdown at which the Aviator ceases to fly.
- 1.12 **Longest Time in the Air** is measured to 1/1000 second from the time that both the Aviator's feet / wheels etc. leave the launch platform to the time that the Aviator ceases to fly.
- 1.13 The Aviator will be deemed to "cease to fly" when they stop moving forward and have any significant part of their legs or body immersed in the water, or when additional force is gained from any swimming stroke, push, or jump from any obstacle.

- 1.14 Touching the water does not count against a competitor during a flight and is discounted in all measurements. Stop-frame video footage will be available to the Judges in the event of any dispute.
- 1.15 Measurement will be calculated from bearings taken from points on the Pier and shore.
- 1.16 **Not permitted is the use of any of the following:** auxiliary lifting devices (e.g. kites, balloons, para-gliders [sail wing], assistance from other sources (e.g. cars, boats, rockets, catapults), or stored energy devices for propulsion.
- 1.17 Competitors may use a flying machine with fixed, rotary, or ornithopter (flapping) wing design but **the wing span may not exceed 30ft (9.14 metres)**.
- 1.18 The flying machine may be propelled by an airscrew or other device, driven through a system of gears, pulleys or chains.
- 1.19 The flying machine must be powered and launched by the sole efforts of the entrant(s).

2.0 Jackpot Prize

- 2.1 To achieve the £30,000 Jackpot Prize of flying the furthest beyond the 100 metre mark, the Aviator's head must reach or cross over the measured 100 metre mark inside the prescribed course.

3.0 Kingfisher Class (entertaining / comic / fancy dress - non-serious entries)

- 3.1 The judges will be looking for humour, originality or topicality in the costume, props and pre-flight routine.
Although not essential, some sort of prop 'flying machine' is encouraged as part of your ensemble and will usually guarantee TV coverage. See website for previous favourites. Entries will be judged prior to launch and pre-flight routines will take place on the launch platform. These routines can include dance, song or mime but **may not exceed 60 seconds** in duration. Pre-recorded music should be on standard audio cassette tape, CD or other digital storage device (please advise in your application) and must be submitted when first registering on the day. Marks will be awarded for costume, pre-flight routine, the launch, flight, landing and crowd reaction.

4.0 All Classes

- 4.1 A £50 entry fee towards safety arrangements and administration is payable by each competitor. Fees must be received with your application. Monies will be returned if a place is not found for you. A supplement of £250 may be charged where a craft is clearly Trade sponsored and performing an advertising role whilst in the air. The Organisers reserve the right to refuse any Trade sponsored entry which may, in their opinion, contravene any agreements made with other Official Sponsors of the event.
- 4.2 There is a maximum of two competitors for each attempt. The fee for two competitors taking part in the same entry is £75. Please enclose a head and shoulders photograph of each competitor.
- 4.3 International Bognor Birdman Trust Ltd. will take reasonable steps to provide a safe venue and take reasonable care in organising the event. In particular:

4.3.1 Pre Flight Safety Briefing

Attendance at the pre-flight safety briefing is a condition of entry. Any competitor missing the safety briefing for whatever reason will not be permitted to compete.
All competitors must comply with the instructions given at the briefing.

4.3.2 Safety Checks

If wings are attached to the body of the competitor, a quick release device is required and will need to be demonstrated and approved by International Bognor Birdman Trust Ltd. or its appointed Safety Officers.

Sometimes the design of your flying machine may present a risk of injury through colliding with, or falling on, parts of your own craft, particularly during a hard landing. Protective measures such as foam padding on potential contact areas will be required if in the opinion of the Organisers such a risk exists. Some lifejackets which might 'ride up' on contact with the water are not advised for protection in this regard. Headgear with simple chin straps are also not advised for the same reason.

4.3.3 International Bognor Birdman Trust Ltd. will appoint Judges and Safety Officers and their decision as to the safety of craft, permitting competitors to fly and the awarding of prizes will be final.

4.3.4 The number of entries will be fixed by the International Bognor Birdman Trust Ltd.

4.3.5 **Buoyancy Aids**

Buoyancy aids are supplied by the Organisers, but wearing a buoyancy aid is not compulsory. Competitors may wear their own buoyancy aids but these must comply with British Standards and will be subject to inspection and the approval of the International Bognor Birdman Trust Ltd. or its appointed Safety Officers.

4.3.6 **Launch Platform**

Only competitors and their registered helpers will be allowed on the launch platform. A handling team will be provided to carry craft up the ramp to the launch platform and hold the craft in position. The handling team may run forward supporting the craft, but pushing will not be allowed except by the competitor.

The launch platform is usually West facing, but provision will be made for an East facing launch point if wind conditions dictate. The run-up distance available will be approximately 4.58m (15 feet). The width of the platform will be approximately 3.66m (12 feet), and approximately 3.66m (15 feet) above the pier decking. The average height above sea level during flying will be approximately 10.67m (35 feet).

4.3.7 **Wind Conditions**

NO flying attempts will be allowed while the wind speed reaches or exceeds 20 knots.

4.4 The competitor will take reasonable care for his/her own safety. In particular:

4.4.1 Competitors **MUST** be able to swim at least 50 metres unassisted.

4.4.2 Competitors **must** heed the instructions of Stewards and Marshals at all times. **International Bognor Birdman Trust Ltd. reserves the right to disqualify competitors who fail to comply with such instructions.**

4.4.3 Competitors should take adequate measures to protect themselves and their property from accident, injury, loss or damage.

4.4.4 Competitors are advised to bring warm clothing to wear over their costume, whilst awaiting their turn to launch.

4.5 All competitors must be over 16 years of age. Any competitor under 18 years must have written parental or guardian consent (see Entry Form). Parents or Guardians will be contacted to confirm their consent.

4.6 Aviators will be marshalled by the Launch Captain and must take off within their allotted Launch Slot which will be posted on the notice board each day:

4.6.1 Maximum time slots for launching craft are as follows –
Leonard da Vinci and Condor Classes - 5 minutes,
Kingfisher Class - 2 minutes, including up to 60 seconds of pre-recorded sounds.

4.7 All competitors must satisfy the Judges that their attempts are in accordance with the letter and spirit

of the Rules of International Bognor Birdman.

- 4.8 Competitors are encouraged to raise funds for charities and good causes through sponsorship. Street collections by competitors and their teams are not permitted. Official International Bognor Birdman sponsorship sheets will be supplied to fund-raising entrants accepted into the competition.
- 4.8.1 Whilst all competitors are encouraged to use the event to raise funds for good causes, particularly in the Kingfisher Class, this is not insisted upon. The Organisers appreciate that considerable time, effort and expense go into the construction of quality flying machines, comedy props and routines. Consequently as much help as possible will be given, where appropriate, to publicise Aviators' own sponsors and supporters. The Organisers shall also seek sponsorship for accommodation and travel expenses for competitors, although of course this cannot be guaranteed.
- 4.9 Competitors that are considered to be under the influence of alcohol or in the view of the judges are considered to be in an unfit state will not be permitted on to the Launch Platform and will forfeit their right to enter.
- 4.10 The Organisers reserve the right to refuse entry to any competitor wearing inadequate or unsuitable attire.
- 4.11 **The International Bognor Birdman Trust Ltd. or Judges reserve the right to alter/amend the Rules at any time prior to the competition commencing.**
- 4.12 The Judges' decision will be final in relation to all matters.

THE ORGANISERS RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REFUSE ANY ENTRY AND ALTER, CANCEL OR ABANDON THE COMPETITION AT THEIR DISCRETION. NO REFUNDS WILL BE MADE TO COMPETITORS IF THE EVENT IS ABANDONED WITHIN 48 HOURS OF THE COMPETITION START TIME.

- Note 1: Access to the Launch Platform is via a section of the Pier walkway which is restricted in terms of width. Any craft with a large wing span will have to be carried to the area adjacent to the Launch Platform and assembled.**
- Note 2: The dimensions of the Launch Platform given in 4.3.6 above are approximate and intended to aid competitors' preparations. It is not a detailed specification.**
- Note 3: All contestants are strongly advised to take out personal accident insurance.**

ENTRY FORMS & ALL CORRESPONDENCE PLEASE TO -

**INTERNATIONAL BOGNOR BIRDMAN
C/o Bognor Regis Town Council
THE TOWN HALL
CLARENCE ROAD
BOGNOR REGIS
WEST SUSSEX
PO21 1LD**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT www.birdman.org.uk
Or email birdman@bognorpier.co.uk**