



# R B F & R S

## news release

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### **BERKSHIRE FIREFIGHTERS WORLD CLASS**

A team of Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service firefighters has won second place in the 'World Cup' of extrication competitions, the 2007 World Rescue Challenge, in Barcelona.

The six-strong team battled against teams from all over the world, to be pipped at the post by a team from neighbouring Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service. The competition features a number of sections in which teams using specialist cutting gear and rescue equipment are required to show group and individual skills in removing 'casualties' (specially trained volunteers) from carefully staged, simulated road collisions. Every move is scrutinised by an international panel of judges and teams have to compete against the clock as well as each other.

Team leader Ian Cox, is station manager at Slough fire station and a well-known character in the extrication world. He said: "I would like to pay tribute to the efforts of all the team members, their dedication and commitment to training in their own time has paid off.

"We would obviously have liked to have become World Champions again but Hampshire did very well in their scenarios. This was my final World Rescue Challenge and the organisers had put together a presentation and flew my wife out as a surprise for the awards ceremony – I was very touched.

"These competitions have a serious side to them as well, as the techniques that we learn from each other find their way into our real everyday work and the ultimate test of getting people out alive from a real road traffic collision. I would like to thank the Fire Authority and senior managers for supporting the team and everyone who contributed to this result."

The team members were:

Ian Cox (team leader) – Station Manager, Slough fire station  
Paul Maynard (technical) – Group Manager, RBFRS Headquarters, Reading  
Michael Humphreys (medic) – Firefighter, Windsor fire station  
Adam Stevens (technical) – Group Manager, RBFRS Headquarters, Reading  
Lee Webster (technical) – Firefighter, Slough fire station  
Ian Hamley (technical) – Firefighter, Langley fire station  
Matt Fairlie (technical) – Firefighter, Slough fire station.

**ENDS.**