



R B F & R S

news release

02/09/2008

No: 42/F&R

BERKSHIRE FIREFIGHTERS WIN NATIONAL EXTRICATION CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service team has won the UK Extrication Challenge, beating the cream of other UK fire and rescue services to take the title.

The competition was held this year at the University of Stirling and hosted by Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Service.

Staged annually by the United Kingdom Rescue Organisation (UKRO) the Challenge tests the skills of fire crews in extricating trapped casualties (specially-trained volunteers) from mangled vehicles in a simulated road collision.

The teams have to remove the casualties as quickly and safely as possible and are judged against an extremely high standard. The aim of the UKRO events is not only to encourage the 'best of the best' to compete together but to act as a showcase for innovative techniques and raising skill levels, with the ultimate objective of saving more lives on Britain's roads.

The RBFRS team won the overall competition and the Complex Extrication section of the competition, coming 5th in the Standard Extrication.

Team trainer is Station Manager Paul Maynard, who paid tribute to the skills of the other firefighters taking part.

"There were some very good teams who worked very well together and we knew we had a tough task ahead of us as we went into the competition," he explained. "The standard at these events is so high nowadays that you really have to have every aspect of what you do at the top level. It all came together for us and the months of training have paid off. We are very pleased with this result and this will give us even more incentive to win back our World Title."

ENDS.