

# WIND **uk** SURFING

Issue 6 March 2018

## WHIP IT

with (Colin) Dixon

## TOM PIDDEN'S

Irish season

## GIRLS

can do!

## LONGBOARD LADY

Annette Kent

## SIMON CHIPPINGTON'S

race face

## ZARA DAVIS:

best of British

## JUSTIN DENNINGTON

in profile

## RYA

Tips for returners

+

## TRAVEL:

SAL, CAPE VERDE & MAURITIUS

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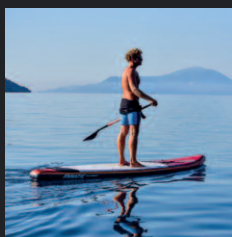
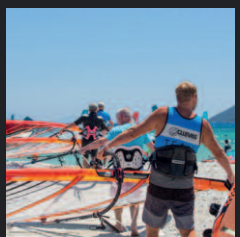




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# WINDuk SURFING

## HOW'S YOUR WINTER BEEN SO FAR?

For some it can be the most depressing time of the year. Rain, cold, gloom and not much to inspire. We've had Halloween, Bonfire Night came and went and that chap in the funny red suit is now but a distant memory. Summer seems so far off and days, while getting longer, are still too short. If that paints a familiar picture then best advice is to book yourself on a windsurfing holiday pronto. You'll be thankful you did!

Rocking up to blazing sunshine, warm air temps, a consistent breeze and exotic smells wafting along is medication for your winter-sick soul. Score some decent sailing and your internal reset button will be back on zero, mojo will have been restored and you'll be ready to face the off season's final part.

If like me you've been making the most of UK conditions then maybe it hasn't been so bad? There have been bouts of wind/waves accompanied by OK thermometer readings and all in (as I write) it's been a pretty good one. OK, I appreciate this is location dependant. Anyone experiencing prolonged bouts of snow, ice and cold may not agree, in which case see above.

In all cases no doubt thoughts are turning towards the clocks changing, daylight hours increasing and the arrival of spring proper. Cue extended beach/lake side fun and frolics – it's not that far off (promise).

As such it's time to start looking at your windsurfing agenda. For some it may simply be more of the same: blasting and enjoying freeride fun in sun – no bad thing. For others it could be finally getting over that plateau via some expert coaching, progressing your windsurfing skills in the process. Maybe you're new to

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windsurfing and looking to take those first steps or possibly you're retuning to the fold after a hiatus. For others it could be getting involved with a new area of windsurfing (foiling anyone?). Whatever your focus there's never been a better time to start planning ahead and setting a few goals. These milestones don't need to be too 'out there' and unachievable. Make them sensible goals with incremental points that'll see you advancing towards blue ribbon – before long you'll have won!

Windsurfing's a funny sport in that it can get a little stale if we're not pushing on and learning new things. Maybe that isn't the case for everyone but a good many need something to focus on. So make 2018 the year that you nail down that elusive move, enter your first slalom race, take to the waves for the first time or whatever else gets your juices flowing. Jot your goals down and keep them close to your windsurfing kit, but equally don't forget to have fun and not beat yourself up if things aren't going your way. After all, windsurfing shouldn't be a chore...

Welcome to the first issue of Windsurfing UK for 2018. We hope you enjoy it, the first of many, and we wish you good times on the water for the coming months. Here's to a brand new windsurfing season!



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CLARE'S  
COLUMNWINDSURFING  
COMMUNITIES

**For most of the UK's population winter is a time of hibernation. Days grow shorter and the weather is predominantly wet and windy. And sure enough, this winter has proved it. However, for the likes of some, including myself, winter in the UK means action!**

This is my first winter windsurfing in the UK. I chose to stay at home this winter to save money for future trips I have planned but that hasn't stopped me getting out on the water as much as possible! I was brought up in Exmouth, Devon, but in October I moved to Whitstable, a seaside town on the north coast of Kent to be with my boyfriend Pip. My house is located right on the beach, meaning I am able to windsurf whenever I want. Whitstable is a great location for flat water. At low tide it is shallow so super fun for freestyle and at high tide it becomes choppy, great for bump and jump. Unfortunately no waves here, but thoroughly recommend this place for anyone doing freestyle/slalom or just wanting to have a freeride blast. It always seems to be windy here as well, since being here I have only used a 4.0 and a 4.4.

Sounding pretty perfect here in the UK, but why is it people flee and hibernate? The temperature? Yes the cold is the only downfall. In the winter it can sometimes appear and feel rather miserable meaning motivating yourself to get out on water is extremely hard.

This is why I believe joining or even creating your own windsurf community is the key to your UK windsurf happiness and motivation. A windsurf community is a group of windsurfers that join together, at all levels, on and off the water and are able to share the same passion. The diversity windsurfing attracts in these communities is amazing and people can come together from all walks of life, people can encourage one another, help each other achieve their windsurfing goals and to simply have fun together; the phrase 'the more the merrier' springs to mind as I write this. I believe it is so important to join or create a windsurf community for motivation – especially in the rain and cold,



Words: Clare Elliott

Clare Elliott is a pro coach for Club Vass Holidays. She made her PWA competition debut in 2016.

you sometimes need to be in a group to motivate each other to hit the water despite the winter conditions! In most windsurf communities there is always someone doing something amazing, this will always have the effect of inspiring someone to go harder and achieve bigger goals.

The ability to learn is always on the cards when windsurfing together as a group. You can all learn off each other's achievements and also mistakes! If you're really lucky there is often someone with a camera or drone. This then allows you to get media footage, such as photos and videos.

Patty Baker, a member of Whitstable Windsurfing, says:

*"Windsurfing is such a great sport for all genders. I've not encountered any sexism, which I get regularly at work. Everyone gives each other support from the absolute beginner to the advanced expert. Every little achievement is a celebration and encouragement to challenge oneself further."*

Windsurfing communities are now largely connecting through Facebook groups. For example I'm a group member of Exmouth Windsurfers, Whitstable Windsurfing and 'Ladies who launch'. Many of you reading this may already be a part of your own local windsurf group, but if you're not, most of these groups are open enabling you to join them very easily.

Being part of a windsurf community offers different and exciting opportunities, for example, group holidays, parties and gatherings. Everyone wins when sailing as a community! There are always lots of laughs and people enjoy others doing well, even a bit of a tumble brings a smile to peoples' faces as they are trying hard to do something new or improve. We go out, get exhausted, tell stories and have fun, what's not to like?



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# DAVIS LOWDOWN

## WINDSURFING ACCORDING TO PETE AND ZARA DAVIS

### Pete:

Since last issue both Zara and myself have been to Luderitz in Namibia. Zara managed to win back her women's 500m world speed record, which is fantastic. I just wanted to say how proud I am of her achievements, she works very hard and it's fantastic she's reaping the rewards.

One of my very pleasurable responsibilities with the UKWA

is organising the annual nominations and voting for the UKWA 'Windsurfer of the Year'. We are extremely lucky to have a real depth of windsurfing talent here in the UK. This does make it tough to pick the nominees from slalom, speed, wave, freestyle and racing. Nomination alone is highly regarded.

The award has been running for over 20 years and is highly desirable especially as you can only win it once! 2017/18's quality line up that went on to the public vote to decide who lifts this prestigious trophy, was no exception.

Ross Williams (slalom): without doubt our most successful slalom racer of all time. Jim Crossley (speed): the quiet speedster who is one of the fastest windsurfers in the world. Adam Lewis (wave): number five in the world and lifted the sword at Tisee this year. Nik Hibdige (freestyle): the rising star of British freestyle and this year's winner Emma Wilson (racing): Youth RS:X World Champion for the third time and following in her mum's (Penny Wilson) footsteps to Olympic success.

The achievements of these guys and girls makes me so proud to be part of the vibrant and talented British windsurfing scene which produces such quality sailors who fly the flag for our small island around the world.

With success in mind I believe we all need to keep windsurfing in the Olympics to safeguard the future of our sport. If you can find the time sign the petition on Change.org and help to keep windsurfing in the Olympics for 2024 then please do so.

### Zara:

I am very humbled to have received so many compliments and congratulations on getting my women's world record back. Achieving the record this time I certainly felt like I had



Zara Davis is the current Women's Speed world record holder and sponsored by O'Shea, Simmer, Sonntag, AL360, Synergy Worldwide and Walnut Grove Clinic. Hubby Pete works tirelessly behind the scenes for the UKWA and organises the yearly Weymouth Speed Week as well as being an accomplished windsurfer himself

really accomplished something. When I broke Karin Jaggi's record for the first time in 2012 it was a great accomplishment and proved that my mile record back in 2006 was not a fluke. However, Karin was not there to defend her record and it was on the then, a newly constructed canal at this innovative spot in Luderitz.

I knew there was more to come and I went back in 2013 to see if I could go faster but didn't get the conditions and it was not to be. This event is not cheap, the cost is considerable and you have to commit at least a month to give yourself the best possible chance of getting the right conditions and there is always the risk to life and limb hurtling down a narrow canal at over 50 mph with no brakes. So I decided not to go back for a few years. In some ways Karin breaking my record and taking it back was the incentive I needed to try again.

This record consequently feels much more of a result for me, as in lighter winds than Karin had, I managed to beat her. Not by a huge margin by any means, only 0.18 of a knot to be precise, but is this not what breaking records is all about? Not by huge advances but they are accomplished by pushing hard at tough existing records and at the same time leaving the door open for other women who are looking at this sport and thinking it's possible and stepping up and having a go. Records are as they say, are there to be broken.

I hope that my performance and the other girls who put it on the line this year at Luderitz and set new national records encourages more girls to have a go at speed sailing. Come on girls get yourself a GPS and get out there and lay down some speeds.



#### Windsurfing UK:

"Witchcraft's Slayer 4.5m has a large tuneable range (we used it in some pretty hectic conditions and it behaved admirably considering it's a four batten sail) and great for tackling gnarly conditions, from onshore to side off. Loving a boost, either into the air or from a wave, it'll see riders soaring high in efficient manner."

Photograph: Maru Gesteira,  
Rider: Ricardo Acción

#### Windsurf Journal (Germany):

"The rigging range of the Slayer is very variable, it always requires some downhaul but it can be sailed pretty full but also flatter. The deep shape gives the Slayer a lot of drive to get planing early. It's softer character helps when sailing through chop or also bigger waves. The control at the top end is excellent in the flatter setting but it likes to be adjusted at the boom a bit as well, then it can deliver a lot of fun for demanding sailors. It can be leaned into the turn quickly, offers drive but also can be neutralised."



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# GETTING BACK ON THE BOARD

## TOP TIPS FOR RETURNERS

**WORDS AND PICS:** RYA

**IT'S NOT ALWAYS EASY TO FIND TIME FOR THE SPORT YOU LOVE AND WINDSURFING IS NO EXCEPTION. BIG COMMITMENTS LIKE EXAMS, WORK OR FAMILY LIFE ARE OFTEN A TOP PRIORITY – BUT HERE'S THE GOOD NEWS...**

There's always a way back! And staying involved is easier than you think says RYA Chief Instructor for Windsurfing, Amanda Van Santen.

Here's her three key points to keep you motivated and make windsurfing a constant part of your life.









## 1 GET THE RIGHT KIT

**AVS:** “With the right personal equipment, you can windsurf all year round. A good winter wetsuit will enable you to carry on sailing right through the winter months. The different seasons brings different sailing, summer can bring some lovely evening sea breeze sails, while autumn and winter can bring classic strong wind frontal conditions. The best thing about UK sailing is its diversity through the weather systems we have bringing such a variety of sailing conditions, coastal and inland.

“The RYA has 250 Training centres across the UK and overseas recognised to deliver windsurfing tuition. That must mean there are plenty of patches of water across the UK!”

**If you’ve dipped out of the sport, how do you pick up where you left off?**

## 2 WORK ON YOUR CONFIDENCE

**AVS:** “Getting someone to provide you with a few coaching points will speed up your progression and bring you up to speed with any changes or equipment updates.

“People often think tuition is only for beginners, and means commitment of a full day or weekend, but most RYA Training Centres provide flexible coaching up to an intermediate or even advanced level, anything from an hour’s recap to longer durations.

“With equipment available and often hire options, the centre can help you get back on your way quickly and hassle free.”

**What training would you recommend if you’ve been out of the loop?**

**AVS:** “The tuition or course you take has to be akin to the level you are, you might just need an hour of an instructor’s time to crack a particular skill, or a more structured course to bring you back up to speed. Chatting it through with your local centre would be the best way to see what will suit best.”

## 3 BECOME AN ACTIVE CLUB MEMBER

**AVS:** “Windsurfing is a sociable sport, so it’s always nice to go with other people. Clubs often have specific nights people get together, as well as events and race nights.

“With the added knowledge that other people are on the water or about, joining a club often makes people feel more comfortable about going afloat, especially if you’ve taken a break, or need that added push to progress yourself or try a new skill!”





## CASE STUDY

Mike Farrie has windsurfed on and off for 25 years. Like many people, life events took him out of the sport at pivotal times, but now he's back and his children come too!

### What's your earliest windsurfing memory?

I remember planing for the first time on Alton Water, and then I was hooked. I've haven't looked back since.

### Why did you take a break?

I discovered rowing at university which provided fantastic opportunities. Despite never taking it too seriously we rowed at a reasonable level competing nationally. After uni I moved to London to work so I probably had seven years of occasional windsurfing, maybe once a year on holiday.

### When did you decide you were ready to get back on board?

I went on holiday with friends to Thailand and I hired a board for a couple of hours – an old Mistral One Design with no grip! I loved it so much I started to think about how I could start again at home in the UK. A while later I went to the Boat Show in Docklands where they were running an indoor windsurfing event – slalom, freestyle and wave (ramp). The energy and excitement in that arena was brilliant and I was hooked again.

### How did you go about it?

At first I thought, 'I'll resign from my job, grow my hair long and move to Tarifa in Spain.' While this probably wouldn't have been a bad solution I was enjoying my job with a start-up company in London, so I took a more measured approach. First, I bought some new kit from a great shop in Colchester Essex, Ski Surf 2000 and thanks to sound advice from Mark Minter I bought a Starboard Carve 121, Tushingham Storm and T-Bird sails and new mast and boom – I was set.

### What support was available?

I was a little late finding support, mainly because I wasn't really looking as I'd been so involved in rowing. But once I found and joined Queen Mary Sailing Club in London the doors opened. They are a hugely supportive club for windsurfers.

The staff are fantastic and teach at all levels either one to one or on a group basis. There are a number of pro coaches who have run events at Queen Mary as well as other locations in the UK and abroad. These have always been great fun and a great opportunity to learn so much. Even though windsurfing can be quite a nomadic sport, it is always more fun sailing with others.

### What advice would you give to anyone else looking to come back to the sport?

Get the best and latest equipment you can afford. Join a club or windsurfing group and get yourself onto courses. Smaller groups are better as you get more focused attention. Fitness also helps, so build up and maintain your core levels. And practice, practice and practice!









# 18 PROFILE COLIN 'WHIPPY' DIXON







**WORDS:** COLIN DIXON  
**PICS:** AS CREDITED  
**I FIRST JUMPED ON A BOARD AT EIGHT YEARS OLD HAVING HAD TWO DAYS OF LESSONS ON THE SOUTH COAST OF CORNWALL. The instructor did say to my dad that I should perhaps try a different sport, but it did finally click in the last hour.**

# WHIP IT!

**We didn't have any kiddy kit so my first sail was a mistral 3.7 wave sail on a 460 mast and I couldn't lift it! Every six months my dad would take me round to my friend's house who had a swimming pool, to test if I could lift it out of the water! Once I was ten I was strong enough to get the thing out of the water and started sailing at Sibilyback Lake in the holidays properly.**

Do I ever go back to Sibilyback? Not as much as I'd like. I'm not often down that part of the country and when I am I favour the wave spots. The last time I sailed there was about 10 years ago. Do I rate it? Yes! It was unbelievable. It is a lake so it taught me how to read the gusts and lulls and also it had short runs meaning I practiced turning, a lot! Also in a northerly, it's the windiest place in Cornwall, special days.

I was working for Club Vass since 2004. When I came back from a trip to Australia and had sold all my kit, I tried to find a job where I could use centre gear. Club Vass actually turned me down but then offered me a job in Dahab as they were desperate! I spent 15 months in Dahab before going to Vassiliki where I then did 10 summer seasons in a row, three winter seasons at Club Margarita and two more running Club Dahab. It was one of the best experiences of my life, I met so many lovely people and made some of my best friends. I would highly recommend it to anybody. I loved it but my time came to move on and forge a path of my own. I owe an awful amount to Club Vass making it all a possibility for me, so a massive thank you to them!

It was a very hard place to leave but seasonal life can get too much (after 11 years) and I found myself doing more and more private coaching and really enjoying it so the time seemed right to launch Windsurf Coaching. Would I go back? Hell yeah! I love Club Vass. I did go back for the first time in about three years (2017) and it was great to catch up with everybody. Also now that foiling is a big part of the game, it is a really good location for that, just before it gets mega windy.

Main photo: Dasher Films



Photo: Adrian Irvine



# 20 PROFILE COLIN 'WHIPPY' DIXON

## Would I go back to do clinics?

I would to go back and do Speed Week with Dave White when he gets back on the water. I don't think I would run my own clinics there, I am most happy when teaching in the waves now. I do run flat water courses in Sardinia, but I find the waves more enjoyable myself and there's a bigger gap in the market for guys who want to make the transition from freeride to wave – those who really want to go out on the coast but fail at the first hurdle. Just launching and getting out, that's what has made my intro to wave clinics so popular.



Yes, I am hugely focusing on waves as I said. Not only the launching and landing and intro to waves stuff but also people looking to forward, back loop, push loop and get their turns and aeriels dialled. It has taken me away from freestyle a little bit, but to be completely honest, after 10 solid years of doing freestyle I got a little bit bored, partly because I could not keep up with the moves the guys are doing now and partly because it doesn't offer the same rush and experience of catching a wave. Anyone who has ever caught and ridden a wave knows you can't take that feeling away, it is such a nice feeling and I get that with every wave.

When I first started windsurfing I got into racing, a little bit of One Design, course racing, Aloha. Then when I went to Australia I was exposed to waves even before freestyle. When freestyle first came around we would all try on the way in to the beach from the waves in

Australia. It wasn't until I started working for Club Vass that freestyle really kicked off and was getting a lot bigger with new switch moves. Club Vass was perfect as all of the destinations were high wind and flat water allowing me to get pretty good pretty quick, for the level at the time, which led to sponsorship and competitions. That was my main focus but there was and always will be a love of waves so I am thankful now that I have the opportunity to wave sail and teach in the waves. I still do a bit of freestyle I just don't bend as much as the kids do anymore!

I mostly run my clinics abroad for a few reasons. Firstly I love the UK and there are some incredible spots but we all know how inconsistent and unreliable the weather can be. It meant I spent a lot of time in the first few years of windsurf coaching travelling around the country to different spots and the wind wouldn't



Main photo: Mira Strashilova



Photo: TWS Tenerife

Photo:  
Dasher FilmsPhoto:  
Mira StrashilovaPhoto:  
Mira Strashilova

show up so neither would the students, which was a shame as there is still so much you can learn in light wind! Abroad, if we take Tenerife for example, it is super cheap and easy to fly from anywhere. You could even do a long weekend there. Return flights in winter can be as low as £50, which is even cheaper than the petrol it would cost you to drive from London to Cornwall.

It is 10 minutes to the spot from the airport, you could be sailing the same day as you fly in a summer suit with good waves. Also when people come abroad they commit themselves more, they book the time off, and they are more relaxed and enjoy the whole experience. They get to see a new destination, enjoy the culture and atmosphere as well as getting a good amount of time on the water.



Photo: |Adrian Irvine

Photo: |Mira Strashilova



It can be hard to get clients to attend initially. It takes a while to build up your name and reputation and also find spots that work well with the time of year we run the clinics and the level of guests. 2017 has been really successful and I am already taking bookings for 2018. Of course the first couple of years is a learning process. I met a lot of windsurfers working at Club Vass who showed interest but actually my main source of guests comes from word of mouth, meeting people on the beach, repeat business and guests seeing their progression.

I have one great client from the Channel Islands who attends the clinics and his improvement has been vast, going from an intermediate two years ago to landing forwards and wave riding. When he goes out as his local beach and people see the change the coaching speaks for itself. So it's mainly by word of mouth that we can start to grow.

Windsurfing in general I owe my whole life to. It has allowed me to travel the world, meet some incredible people and kept me physically fit (I am not a gym person!). You can go to Australia for example and see the country as a tourist but if you go somewhere to windsurf you get to see the real place and meet locals. Everywhere I have gone I have found windsurfers, as a whole, seem to be so friendly and inclusive. If you turn up at a beach you've never sailed, you could go up to a windsurfer and ask him/her about the spot, the best place launch and any difficulties and they are always more than willing to have an in-depth, 30-minute chat about it and invite you for a beer afterwards! I would

recommend anyone to have a go, it can take you to amazing places. Also the beauty of our sport is no matter what level, beginner to pro, whatever you are trying to achieve, waterstart to pushloop, it is always exciting.

Has windsurfing participation dropped? No, I don't think so. I still see lots of kids getting into it all around the world.

Would I base myself in the UK? Yes, as long as I could be close to an airport or next to really nice wave. I do love the UK but it all depends on being able to easily do my job.

## Thanks

**I would like to thank all my sponsors: Goya/ Quatro, MFC, ION, Hey Dude Shoes and Different Sunglasses. Also a massive thank you to Club Vass for taking a chance on me, Luke Baillie for getting me out of my hometown, giving me the kick up the arse to go windsurfing and getting me addicted to the sport. Andy 'Bubble' Chambers, Ollie Scott and Max Rowe for just being legends and having the best time growing up in the sport, competing with them and pushing each other. Mira for helping me out with sponsorship and helping me to meet all the right people. All the shops and everybody else that has supported me along the way. When you feel like giving up, even the pat on the back to say it's going to be all right, you can do this, really meant a lot! And not least of all my mum and dad!**



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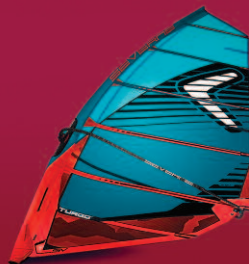
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# THESE GIRLS CAN!

Emerging female role models in windsurfing

**INTERVIEWS, WORDS AND PHOTOS:**  
SIMON WINKLEY

**LAST SEPTEMBER I RAN A RYA START WINDSURFING INSTRUCTOR COURSE FOR OCEAN ELEMENTS IN VASSILIKI WITH A 7:1 FEMALE:MALE RATIO (SUCH COURSES USUALLY HAVE WAY MORE GUYS THAN GIRLS). As a member of the RYA Sport Development Team I am aware of the importance of increasing female participation in sport so I was keen to document this course as a means, perhaps, of inspiring other women to take up windsurfing or to become an instructor.**





The groundbreaking 'This Girl Can' campaign by Sport England addresses research that reveals a huge difference in the number of men and women playing sport in England. And it's not because females don't want to get active.

Millions of women and girls are reluctant to exercise because of fear of judgement – of their appearance, ability or how they chose to spend time on themselves – which is a situation well-worth addressing as far as I am concerned. In my years of

coaching I have witnessed the great benefits not only to fitness but confidence, happiness and self-esteem that windsurfing can bring to real women.

Each of the candidates kindly agreed to be interviewed to give snapshots of their windsurfing journey to date, insights into working alongside other females on the course and their thoughts about the balance of women in windsurfing. They also share one killer track that fires them up to get out on the water...





## Jessica Park (Huddersfield)

Age 19, riding for two years.

*What's in your head when windsurfing?*

Fear mixed with pure bliss (but it's awesome!)

♪ Offenbach - Be Mine

"Let's start the show" ♪

**I have been windsurfing on and off with my family - in Vass and at home - since I was little but only really got into the sport in the last couple of years. I was a Kids Club Leader this season with OE in Horto and hopefully now I will be able to teach RYA courses in Greece and at home.**

Windsurfing seems quite a male dominated sport yet in recent years females have started to nail the harder freestyle tricks. They have become just as good as the men and, in places like Vass, I have noticed that more and more of the instructors are women. I am in awe of all women who are amazing in this sport.

The course was really enjoyable having so many females on it. It was such a level playing field and we all wanted each other to do well which created a lovely atmosphere. My moderation day nerves, on reflection, were mostly excitement for what I might be able to achieve in the future.



## Sophie Cartridge (Poole)

Age 21, riding for one year.

*What's in your head when windsurfing?*

Frustration vs the best feeling in the world. . .

♪ The Drums - Let's Go Surfing

"Oh Mama, I wanna go surfing" ♪

**Growing up in Poole Harbour I have always had a love for watersports and last summer, thanks to my Dad teaching me, I spent three weeks going from first time windsurfing to planing before starting my new job with OE in Vass. The course proved that there is just so much to learn.**





Memorizing things is definitely not my strong point yet I passed the course so I am really happy. Throughout the winter I hope to improve my personal level of windsurfing and I would like to use my qualification to work in Poole.

Currently the number of male windsurfers to female windsurfers is disproportionate yet recently there has been a big increase in the number of female windsurfers.





# 28 FEATURE FEMALE ROLE MODELS



## Alicia Wergen (Chichester)

Age 19, riding for four months.

*What's in your head when windsurfing?*

Mostly (at speed) I am absolutely petrified!

♪ Dex River - Sugar

"She don't compromise" ♪

**When I first arrived in Vass and saw the sheer amount of people who were blasting about I knew that I needed to go as fast as them and I respect any girl who gets up on a board and gives it a go. Whilst the women in Vass are just as keen as the men, there seems to be more of a gender imbalance within the higher levels of the sport.**

The course was so enjoyable and I have learnt an incredible amount not just about windsurfing but about teaching techniques. I am looking forward to returning to Vass next year that much more now. Having more females on the course created a very mutually supportive environment on and off the water. It is very exciting that more females are getting into the sport. I always say go for it, get wet and enjoy taking on the challenge of trying something new... windsurfing is not easy but it's incredibly cool!



## Georgia Reid (Essex)

Age 23, riding for six years.

*What's in your head when windsurfing?*

"Ahhhh Maaa Gaawwdd... this is so fast I LOVE IT!"

🎵 Chumbawamba - Tubthumping

"I get knocked down, but I get up again" 🎵

**Having dinghy sailed all my life competitively I found windsurfing difficult at first. Once I got over the beginner stage though I started to love it and have been hooked ever since! The course was good fun and full of laughing and joking around.**

We all got on very well and were always happy to help each other in the sessions. I have always been on courses with a good mix of males to females but it was nice just having a girly week with giggles all round!

When I windsurf at home or have been away on windsurfing trips the majority of the people I meet are male. I do feel, however, that women are really starting to go for it – there is a massive following for @windsurfgirls on Insta! Give it time and us girls will be running the windsurfing scene! Every girl that I see out on the water pushing for big moves or just blasting around having a great time makes me think, "I want to be like her!"



## Rebecca 'Jeanie' Barnsley (Nottingham)

Age 21, riding for four years.

*What's in your head when windsurfing?*

A feeling of being cool and full of adrenaline...

🎵 Rihanna - Shut Up and Drive "I'm a fine-tuned supersonic speed machine" 🎵

**Me and my sisters got into windsurfing through my parents who are both keen windsurfers. I took an apprentice instructor position this year to learn on the job and to receive training for the future.**

Like many sports, I feel the men come first however, I do think women are much more represented than in other sports. The PWA website – whilst tending to show male rankings first, for example – has a very strong and fairly equal representation of women.

My female role models are two out of the three RYA Advanced-Plus Instructors on our team: Rhiannon and Eilidh. They are great windsurfers and have helped me so much with my windsurfing... oh, and my mum, as she's always keen to jump in a cold lake back home and to have a flask of tea ready for me when we are done!

Before the course I was pretty apprehensive but as soon as we got to know each other we were all put at ease. The course was in-depth and informative and I now feel confident to teach a group on my own. More women instructors are likely to get more women involved in the sport and will understand specific concerns like how to deal with harnesses sliding upwards!





## Zoe Partridge (Shrewsbury)

Age 21, riding for nine years.

*What's in your head when windsurfing?*

Yippee!!!!!!

♪ Friendly Fires - Hawaiian Air

"I gave it all" ♪

**I only got into windsurfing properly in the last three years where working seasons gave me regular access to water and kit. I hope to do another season because teaching windsurfing in the sun is much more appealing than in the UK!**

At the level I know, the women/men balance is pretty equal, which is great but, as with other sports, I don't think it's the case at the top. The windsurfer I admire is my sister as, despite us being quite competitive, she has the skills that I aspire to.

During the course, any apprehension I had about needing to be a high-level windsurfer soon disappeared. Already being a RYA Dinghy Senior Instructor helped as there is plenty of overlap.

Having so many females on the course was lovely as my previous instructor courses have been full of middle-aged men! Not that there's anything wrong with that but it was nice to have other girls to learn with and to laugh along with. Everyone was very supportive of each other.

## Alice Read (Oxford)

Age 19, riding for 16 years!

*What's in your head when windsurfing?*

All the problems go and I lose track of time!

♪ Bryce Fox- Horns

"The fire she breathes" ♪

**My family all windsurf and my first time on a board was aged three. When I was ten, I joined my local RYA Team 15 programme, Oxford Zoomers and became Inland National Champion in 2011, 2012 and 2013 before reaching the RS:X Transitional Squad.**

I was so nervous entering my first World Championships at age 13 that my family promised me a puppy if I came top ten. On the final day I secured tenth place, got the puppy and she comes with me everywhere I go windsurfing in the UK!

I was anxious before the course as I had not done much teaching. I soon grew in confidence though as the girls related to one another very positively. The course was engaging and time on the water was maximised which was great. It feels empowering that so many new female instructors are coming through and I can't wait for Vass 2018. I feel that the sport is represented really well by women – we are right in there. I look up to Lena Erdil and Sarah-Quita Offringa. Sarah is awesome at freestyle, freeride, slalom, waves... she does it all and always seems to be smiling!







## Bram Von Zon (Oosterhout, Netherlands)

Age: 21, riding for five years.

*What's in your head when windsurfing?*

Nothing. Just the freedom of flying. . .

♪ Aslove - Feel Good

"Watch me as I gravitate" ♪

**Since I participated in a high school try windsurfing session I was hooked on this sport! To be honest, when I walked into the room on the first day of the instructor course, I was pretty surprised to be the only guy.**

The girls made the course so much fun though and I learned so many new things. I was actually already qualified with VDWS (Association of German Watersports Schools) but I needed the RYA instructor qualification as it is more globally recognised.

My first windsurf instructor Katrin was amazing and I know that these seven girls will do as good a job as her at training new and progressing windsurfers and will inspire other women to get involved.



Congratulations to the eight newly-qualified instructors and thanks to Adam Chubbock of Flying Fish for moderating the course. Use these links to learn about #thisgirlcan and to see how you can start your own windsurfing journey:

<https://www.sportengland.org/our-work/women/this-girl-can/>

<http://www.thisgirlcan.co.uk/> <http://bit.ly/2BfNGDW>

**Simon Winkley is supported by Starboard, Severne, Bray Lake Watersports and Spinlock.**



# WINDSURFING BEGINNINGS

**WORDS:** ANNETTE KENT

**PICS:** STEPHANIE BURGHLEIGH

**MY WINDSURFING BEGINNINGS STARTED IN THE EIGHTIES, WHEN I WAS 19, I BOUGHT MY FIRST WINDSURFING BOARD, A MISTRAL SST FROM MY NOW HUSBAND ROB KENT. THE FIRST SAIL OUT ON MY NEW BOARD HOWEVER ENDED WITH ME BEING BLOWN OVER THE FRONT AND PUTTING THE BOOM THROUGH THE DECK OF THE BOARD. Luckily Rob helped me**

**get it repaired and encouraged me to progress and join in with the racing. I was impressed by how well he sailed, as he was already winning races in the Southeast region events. This was the start of an exciting time windsurfing together.**









## Racing longboards

When I started racing I had one board, my Superlight and one sail, a 6.3 mistral rig. Everyone had a longboard and there were lots of people on the water. I entered the Southeast region events, then IMCO events and later LWA and UKWA. With each race I gained more experience and had great fun. In the beginning we had up to 80 people per event, good parties and free beer, what was not to love.

As I improved I moved on to a Mistral SST, then an IMCO board and rig. We went all round the country competing, then started competing internationally. I remember the excitement of my first event in France, being given a new board and sail to race with. Mistral provided all the equipment for competitors coming from overseas.

When IMCO became the Olympic board, I took part in the 1995 Olympic trials and came sixth. I was very pleased with the result as I was working full time and had little training. Penny Way and Howard Plumb went to the Olympics that year.

One of the biggest UK events on the longboard calendar was The round Hayling Island race. With up to 500 people coming from all over the country to compete. The first time I competed it took me four and a half hours to complete the 14 miles, last year it took me two and half hours and I have held the ladies tittle for the last eight years.

Robert and I ran the IMCO racing for a short while, before it joined the UKWA. It was around this time we had our two girls.



## The family

Windsurfing for me has always been a family thing; we went to the events with Rob's parents in their big campervan and we all raced. I was desperate to beat Rob's Mum Pat. Now we have our own van and Emily 20 and Rebecca 17 are determined to beat me at every opportunity.

I enjoyed teaching my girls to windsurf at Calshot on a Mistral windglider. It was so much fun with us all floating along together although they spent more time collecting and throwing seaweed than windsurfing. I am really proud how they have progressed and am happy to see that they love the sport as much as Rob and I.

When the girls were very young we took it in turns to windsurf, like a tag team. We even entered events sharing the racing, entering under Rob's name not to





The first time I competed it took me four and a half hours to complete the 14 miles, last year it took me two and half hours and I have held the ladies title for the last eight years

upset anyone. At the LWA events, we shared babysitting with other windsurfing parents. If there were four of us we all missed one race, [our discard race] to take it in turns to look after the children.

At some of the LWA event Bryony Shaw's mum looked after the girls while we raced. Thanks Hazel.

### Raceboard events

My windsurfing-racing calendar is pretty full. As a family we enter all the UKWA cup and inland events. All the LWA events. The round Hayling Island race and last but not least the LWA icebreaker series. The icebreaker series is a team event with four in a team. The last three years we have entered as Team Kent winning the series on two occasions.

When the opportunity arises we enter international events if they are not too far away. In 2009 the Raceboard Master worlds were in Weymouth and I was First Lady. Last year we went to Brest in France for the Raceboard Europeans and I finished first grandmaster and fourth overall in the ladies. This was a great event and we went as part of a strong British team of 19, including nine youths. There was a great atmosphere, everyone had fun and enjoyed the racing and off the water entertainment.

I have been racing longboards for 30 years. I just love it, travelling around to different locations, meeting new people and the challenge of each new race.







Last year we had a family holiday where we didn't windsurf! We learnt to snowboard instead. This was fantastic! Our instructor was surprised to teach a whole family who all lent into the turn the same way



## Kit

I am currently racing on the Starboard Phantom 377L and an 8.5 Tushingham XR Race sail but planning to move to the new Severne raceboard sail in the coming season. For short boarding either a 90l freeride or a my 75l wave boards. A full range of Tushingham and Severn sails.

With four of us windsurfing we do however have a garage packed full of kit, including seven longboards, 11 short boards, seven surfboards and six bikes between us! Given the sheer volume of equipment, Rob is kept busy with maintenance and repairs and we buy a mixture of new and second-hand equipment to keep the cost down. The girls in particular can get quite destructive during a day in the waves.

There is a good second hand market for longboards, which helps keep the cost down for new starters and has encouraged many youths into the raceboard fleet.

## Favourite local spot

Lepe is one of our favourite locations for short boarding as the wind funnels up the Solent in a westerly, making it windier there than many locations. The sea breeze is legendary and remarkably reliable. There is a dedicated gang of sailors that meet there, 'The Lepe Beach Surf Squad' and with the help of social media, everyone assembles when the wind is

right. As a family we love to short board and will go out every weekend and some evenings in the summer if the wind is good. We often stay out on the water for many hours as we love it and because no one wants to be the first in. Some say we are obsessed!

Calshot is our local spot for longboarding, we regularly cruise from here up wind to Lepe and over to the Isle of Wight, short boarding in a southerly is good from here, being safe in the shallow water at low tide. It was good for the girls to learn to water start.

## Holidays

We love Vasiliki in Greece. It's a fabulous spot and great for windsurfing family holidays. The girls first learned to windsurf here and were they improved their short boarding skills. It's a real windsurfing mecca. We can't wait to go next year.

Last year we had a family holiday where we didn't windsurf! We learnt to snowboard instead. This was fantastic! Our instructor was surprised to teach a whole family who all lent into the turn the same way. We had to explain that we were windsurfers and could not help carving the board round the turns.

Surfing is another family favourite at either Woolacombe or Polzeath.







## Hobbies

When there is not enough wind to windsurf, I like to ride my mountain bike or go walking through the New Forest.

## Work

I am a senior theatre nurse working at my local Nuffield hospital. I work part time, which gives me time to manage the house and van and ensure that we are organized for each event.

## For the future

I am currently leading the ladies and aim to stay ahead and take the ladies title in both the UKWA cup and Inland Series for 2018. This is becoming harder each year to achieve, I have to work extra hard to stay ahead of the youngsters, my girls included in the light winds. In the stronger winds it is slightly easier to stay ahead, although Rebecca is becoming a demon in

these conditions. Last year I came first in the Cup Series and the Inland Series but with a number of youngsters snapping close at my heels. So far I have been First Lady in either the cup or the Inland Series for the last nine years.

## New blood

I think it is fantastic to see new people coming into longboard racing. The last couple of years has seen a surge in the number of youths joining the fleet helped by local training events. Mark Kay has been holding raceboard training in the north aimed at encouraging youths into the fleet. Rob and I have been supporting the LWA holding training days to encourage all new racers in the south.

## Thanks to

**Starboard\Tushingham\Severne. Rob and I are team riders and are very grateful for their support over the years.**

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**Bob, Sue and the team at the UKWA for all their hard work, providing excellent racing. Rod, Janet and the team at the LWA.**





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# CHIPPING AWAY

**WORDS:** SIMON CHIPPINGTON

**PICS:** JUDITH SHAYLOR,  
ANDY STALLMAN  
AND DAVE WHITE

**SIMON CHIPPINGTON IS AN  
ENTHUSIASTIC SAILOR WHO  
HOLDS DOWN A DAY JOB AT  
FELIXSTOWE DOCKS.**

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**WINDSURFING LIFE WE CAUGHT UP WITH SIMON TO FIND OUT MORE. For the last ten years I've been a berth-op team leader on C shift working out of Felixstowe Docks. Before this I worked on B shift as a crane co-ordinator. This was a great foundation for my current role. My first two jobs on the port back in 2001 were berth-op and tug driver.**

Being a team leader at the port is a highly rewarding job, working on the biggest vessels in the world that call to our terminals. Our part of the business is also about pulling together as a team to get the lashing and dropping of the vessels sorted in a timely and safe manner. We also load secure break bulk items. These are items that are too big and heavy for general container work and we need to lift them on board with wires or strops. We work out a lift plan and strategy for the item to safely load. We've covered everything over the years from super yachts to aircraft wings.

Working on/around the water means I also play on the water. This started for me about eight years ago when I started windsurfing at Alton Water Reservoir in Suffolk. After a few basic lessons I moved to my local beaches of Felixstowe, Mersea Island and Point Clear, making lots of friends in the process. As a shift worker, doing four days on four off, that enables me to spend decent amounts of time on the beach.









This last year I've also been getting more addicted to speed sailing. There is a global league where everyone gets a position based on their fastest times. All speeds are recorded to GPS then uploaded to [www.gps-speedsurfing.com](http://www.gps-speedsurfing.com). I'm averaging about 37.6 knots – my aim is 40! For those not aware, speeds are obtained by sailing broad along a perfectly flat stretch of water for 500 yards. My local patch is Southend-on-Sea (The Ray). It's amazing for speed windsurfing and there are often big times recorded. It's not quite Luderitz, Namibia, but with the right forecast and conditions who knows what's possible. 50 knots maybe? We'll see.

I was introduced to sailing at a young age by my parents, who had a small sailing boat I used to follow around in a Mirror dingy on the Harwich Estuary and Walton backwaters (this is where Arthur Ransome found his inspiration for *Swallows and Amazons*). At school I participated in nautical studies. Fast forward just a couple of years and being a bit late for the party I purchased myself a Mistral Radar 125L and a 6m sail from a local shop. I always remember the guy in the shop asking about my carve gybes and how they were. Great I said secretly wondering what a carve gybe was!

## Windsurfing clinic

After a long but rewarding summer of being very wet with a lot of swimming I decided to book myself onto a windsurfing clinic in 2009. This was a trip to Margarita with Guy Cribb. There was plenty of intuition and amazing windsurfing on hand, what more could you ask for? Oh and rum! After that week I was up and blasting in the straps, nailing waterstarts and slowly developing new skills.

That year I was windsurfing around the Essex area with a great bunch of sailors including local legend Paul Reynolds from the West Mersea Windsurfing Club. One weekend we decided to go camping/windsurfing to Huntstanton where I bumped into Bob Ingham and the British Slalom Association guys. Everyone was really welcoming, so on the Sunday I was at the beach first, rigged and ready to enter the master blaster division with Brian in charge of the racing. I loved it. I was definitely coming back for more I signed up the next season and got myself a bit of slalom kit. I then spent the next six months training as often as I could.



I always remember the guy in the shop asking about my carve gybes and how they were. Great I said secretly wondering what a carve gybe was!







My first proper season was great fun meeting lots of new people, including the best UK slalom sailors. Nothing comes close to packing the van late on a Friday evening ready for a road trip with a good wind forecast for the UKWA slalom tour.

Getting really focused I booked onto another windsurfing clinic this time joining Simon Bornhoft on location in Bonaire. In under a week he had transformed my gybing with full speed exits. This was also the year I met up with Dave White who invited me to start sailing with his team. I also joined forces with Fluid Lines who are a great bunch. They also work with Mark Minter (Ex-Spartan Wetsuits owner) from Mersea Island Watersports for stand up paddling.

Since then I've attended Weymouth Speed Week with a plan on doing more of this, and I've also ventured down to Defi Wind, France, with Garry Connell and Leigh Kingaby. I managed 80th out of 1,500 so maybe one day I'll be back there to improve on my results.

I love full speed windsurfing racing. Currently I am in the amateur fleet but trying to improve my skills and be able to compete in the pro section (one day maybe).

I often train with a group of windsurfers called 'TeamWhiteBoarders' most of whom also compete in the British Slalom Association events. We train year round, whatever the weather. I am a team rider for my local shop in Colchester, Fluid Lines, who along with TWB have helped me with my sailing no end. I use RRD gear and find this kit suits my style and riding down to the ground.

2017 was very exciting for me, travelling and competing with the best in the country. Sometimes during the windiest of weekends gusts were clocking 40mph! Thankfully we sail with full safety cover on hand if it all goes wrong!

All in, windsurfing is a great sport and I love it. Everyone should give it a go. Just being on the water is awesome and I can't get enough. Throw in some light-hearted competition and it becomes even more addictive. Get involved if you haven't done so already.

## Thanks

**Big thanks to: Fluid Lines , RRD, TWB, F-Hot Fins and the wife.**



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# WAVES OVER WARMTH

## WORKING THE IRISH WINDSURFING SEASON

**WORDS:** TOM PIDDEN

**PICS:** RONJA DROEGE, NIALL MELLON, ROBERT CARROLL  
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MAIN PIC: MARCO CAVALLERI ([HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/MARCO-CAVALLERI-PHOTOGRAPHY-1223464807718797/](https://www.facebook.com/marco-cavalleri-photography-1223464807718797/))

**YOUNG UK RIPPER TOM PIDDEN TALKS ABOUT HIS  
DECISION TO SPEND THE SUMMER SEASON IN IRELAND  
INSTEAD OF HEADING TO THE SUN LIKE A LOT OF SAILORS**

**DO.** June 2017 - I have just graduated from Nottingham University (the most landlocked uni I could have found if I had tried) and I'm having a marginally awkward conversation with my course director. See, a high portion of my 30-strong product design course mates are heading straight into work. Some have even found jobs with very high starting salaries, which looks good on the website and prospectus of the course. However, I have just broken the news that I have decided to spend seven days training up as a lifeguard and surf instructor and intend my first post-university job to be teaching a load of newbs how to stand on a foam surfboard.











### **‘Wild Atlantic Way’**

Now he took it well and even broke a smile but then I mentioned this Job was on the west coast of Ireland, which he knows is also referred to as ‘Wild Atlantic Way’, now he is looking a little more bewildered. I know what he’s thinking: if you’re going to spend three months on a beach teaching surfing you may as well spend it in sunny Portugal with topless girls and liquor.

When most people decide to do their first season as a windsurf or surf instructor they look towards Greece for wind or Portugal and Spain for the best temperature to wave ratio. But for me there wasn’t really a debate, I was going to Ireland. Brandon Bay has always been a home away from home for my family since I was a toddler playing with my toys in the infamous Gowlane puddle. During an extended stay I was home-schooled there for a few months as a kid and so I know the area and a few of the locals as well.

In fact, during a few autumns in the late 90s, the Mellon family became lifelong friends as our van acted as a daycare centre for me, Ollie and Finn (Mellon) while our dads windsurfed. We later progressed with windsurfing and surfing (ourselves) at a similar speed





making travelling and sailing together a real laugh, something we definitely didn't think much of while being spoon fed mushy apple and chasing each other with handfuls of clear jellyfish. It was 16 years since the last time Brandon had seen me for more than just an annual holiday, it was time to go back.

### **Jamie Knox's watersports centre**

I managed to nab myself a job at Jamie Knox's watersports centre and after years of being a customer there, it didn't disappoint as a place to work! I was putting my recently acquired surf instructor qualification to use but also working in the shop on



Brandon Bay has always been a home away from home for my family since I was a toddler

Jeremy's days off, managing the manual till, attempting to add up all the hoodie sales correctly without grabbing the calculator and trying to figure out the spelling of some wonderful Irish names while taking bookings (Google was brought in as back up after my initial attempts at spelling Sinéad phonetically were embarrassing).





### A wonderful experience

It isn't stressful like a London desk job (that's an assumption, as I have never had one and hope to maintain that) but that does not mean it is a joyride. There is competition and Jamie is a driven boss who wants nothing more than to be the best place of type around. Even with this in mind you really couldn't ask for a nicer bunch of people to work with and as long as you didn't break Jamie's megaphone or lose customers to the competition that shall not be named, you are guaranteed a wonderful experience. The experience is obviously enhanced if you are passionate about windsurfing in the sun, rain, hail or fog.

The busy but short summer work season was a slow one for surf and wind, although there were a few decent days of sailing to be had in early July things went fairly quiet until late August. By the time

September arrived things were really starting to crank with deep low pressures stacking up in the Atlantic like planes over London and one by one lighting up the Irish coast. We had day after day of windsurfing and surfing with a real mix of spots working. Big swells started rolling in and a few days in a row sailing the reefs was a rare treat.

### Grey Irish waves

Although not that many typical classic Brandon Bay days were had, there was day after day of wind and waves and at times I felt a bit of nostalgia. Watching the weather charts for lows, windsurfing until the dark in stormy grey Irish waves, hanging in Spillane's (pub) and picking blackberries for jam much like I did as a kid in the late 90s and early 00s (minus the windsurfing and pints obviously).



A shot from Tiree.  
After Ireland I headed  
straight to Tiree for  
my first TWC







The nights sky in Brandon



Parked on the beach



## County Sligo

After work finished up Ollie flew over and we headed up to County Mayo for the Achill Island windsurf competition hosted by Bull Island Windsurfers and the IWA. We were competitors and lead video media team, which was an exciting step for what was previously just a hobby. Mixed with this was a trip to County Sligo that proved another decent opportunity to make a video for The Chook Journal. We scored some sizeable windsurfing with the Mullen brothers and although we never found the perfect down the line we were looking for, the video and trip were a success.

Back over in Achill, the competition was one of the most fun I think I have ever competed in. The people

and scenery were amazing and although the sailing was cross on, which generally doesn't get me hyped, and they ran a slightly controversial version of the double elimination, the overall atmosphere made up for all that. It was also a great chance to visit a place we had been told about when up in Magheraarty back in 2016 but didn't make it to on our travels.

Overall this summer finally scratched an itch I had been trying to sooth for a while. Sixteen years was long enough between extended stays in the beautiful bay and I won't let that happen again. Thanks to all that made the time such a blast. You are all wonderful and I'm gutted I can't be there come July this year, peace out Ireland, I will be back!

The people and scenery were amazing





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# BEST OF **BRITISH** WINDSURFING

## Zara Davis speed sailor

**WORDS AND PHOTOS:** PETE DAVIS

**ZARA DAVIS IS ONE OF THE UK'S BEST KNOWN FEMALE WINDSURFERS, REGULARLY ON NATIONAL TELEVISION, IN THE NATIONAL PRESS AND SPECIALIST MAGAZINES LIKE THIS ONE. She was voted Windsurfer of the Year in 2011 and is in the Guinness Book of Records for her speed sailing achievements.**







Zara's recognition is not down to just being in the press and on social media, but on the back of some very impressive results. She holds two official world speed records, the first women in history to have held both the Nautical Mile and 500m records at the same time, a double women's ISWC World Speed Champion, six times ISWC European Speed Champion and for fun she enjoys slalom and has won the UKWA Women's Slalom Championship three times.

These results are a testament to the hard work she puts in to her training and what makes her achievements even more impressive is she is not a full time windsurfer, instead working full time as an osteopath at her medical practice Walnut Grove in Portishead.

## So what drives the Queen of Speed?

*"I have been windsurfing since I was 13 years of age, initially taught by my dad John, in Bristol Docks. After a long break I took it up again in 1995 at Brogborough Lake where I met my now husband Pete. I started racing in 1999 and had reasonable national success in the UK with formula and slalom disciplines winning the UKWA Women's Slalom Championships in 2000.*

*"But In 2004 I turned my attention to the resurgence of speed sailing having always had good board speed even as a beginner. I am lucky that being six-foot tall with long levers and 80kg of weight helps me to get what I need out of a board. But if I am honest I love the adrenaline rush from going Mach10 with my hair on fire! I think going fast is in my blood, my father and brother were both good rally drivers and had no fear.*

*"In 2004 I entered Weymouth Speed Week for the first time and won. The following year Pete, my husband, persuaded me to go to Sotavento, Fuerteventura, for a Speed World Cup competition. I came fifth in the world and I was hooked. I had found my niche.*

*"Since then I have been privileged to travel the world taking part in speed competitions and speed record attempts with some fantastic sponsors like Simmer, AL360 and Sonntag who have really helped to make equipment that works for me which I think really benefits the regular windsurfers out there who are not 100kg super strong racers. I have also had some fantastic mentors like Dave White and Farrell O'Shea. Over the years their counsel and support has been invaluable.*

*"I make up for my lack of time on the water (why is it always windy when I have patients booked in?) with suspension and triathlon training with local club PAC Tri. This keeps me at a good level of general fitness but on the water is always the best so I get out locally*

*wave sailing at Weston Super Mare when the forecast is good. I go speed sailing at West Kirby and Weymouth whenever I can as well. Being bigger and heavier than the other girls really pays off. Weight really helps with momentum in the lulls. Lighter sailors get on the plane quicker for sure but on a speed strip that is not an issue as you are coming in at full speed anyway. The big gains come in the lulls on the course and extra weight gives you that inertia to plane through dead spots. This skill of gliding through lulls takes practice, especially for a lighter rider, and has made a big difference to me for sure.*

*"Highlighting one particular achievement is difficult. I think I have two. In performance terms it has to be getting my record back in 2017 at Luderitz, Namibia. This one really felt like I had earned my stripes. Taking the record back off Karin Jaggi who broke my record in 2015 in Luderitz, on the same canal that I broke the 45-knot barrier in 2012. Back then it felt a little hollow, as Karin who is a good friend was not there to keep me honest. This time Karin had taken the record to over 46.31 knots on a truly apocalyptically windy day in 2015 – the record was now set pretty high and it was a proper hard target to beat. Achieving this new world record by a small margin in much lighter winds was a really meaningful accomplishment. The other big accomplishment, that was special to me, was being crowned UKWA Windsurfer of the Year back in 2011. It meant a lot as it gave me a real opportunity to encourage others – especially girls and women to take up this fantastic sport."*

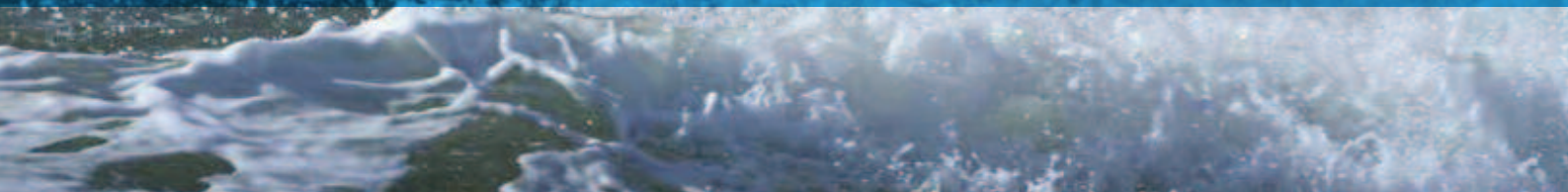
**You can keep up to date with Zara's exploits by following her Facebook feed: Zara Davis, Speed Windsurfer @Zaraspeedsailing**







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# ESCAPE TO

**WORDS AND PICS:**  
MIKE WAND-TETLEY  
AND LISA KUHN

**SAL IS A SMALL ISLAND THAT SITS ALONE OUT ON THE NORTH-EASTERN EDGE OF THE CAPE VERDEAN ARCHIPELAGO. ONLY HAVING BEEN INHABITED FOR A RELATIVELY SHORT TIME, SAL DOESN'T BOAST A RICH CULTURAL HISTORY.** So if you are looking for a deep cultural experience, filled with museum visits and sight seeing tours, Sal probably isn't for you. However, at a fraction of the cost and flight time of Australia or South America, for those in search of warm seas, trade winds and green rooms in the depths of winter, Sal is well worth a look...







# SAL CABO VERDE

Once you've dumped your bag on your bed and run down to check out the beach, it won't be long before you hear the traditional Cape Verdean greeting, *"Welcome to Sal, no stress man!"* This sums up Sal pretty well, the locals are laid back, relaxed and welcoming and stress certainly doesn't seem to be an issue here.

The main windsurfing spot, Ponta Leme Beach, boasts lovely white sands, speckled with deck chairs and windsurfing kit, with a beautiful turquoise Atlantic backdrop, and most importantly, a cool breeze on your back as you look out. Now the only thing standing between you and windsurfing paradise is the un-ignorable food smells drifting out of the famous Angulo Centre's kitchen, which will quickly change your plans to include lunch before you hit the water. You can see the entire sailing area from the vast majority of the tables in the Angulo restaurant making it a great spot for lunch when sailing Ponta Leme.







### On the water

After enjoying an Angulo burger whilst you watch people blast up and down, you will definitely be ready to get on the water. The sailing is great at Ponta Leme with a variety of conditions available from flat water to world-class wave sailing, dependent on how far out you go and the weather conditions.

The launch at Ponta Leme usually has a small shore break it's also quite rocky and gusty, but it's well worth the effort, once past these obstacles the sailing is fantastic. Just to the left of Sal's very own Muscle Beach there is a small bay and just downwind of this is the main sailing area. There is little chance for the wind chop to build if you sail close to the shore, meaning it is nice and flat and gets choppier the further out you go.

As you sail further east along the shoreline towards the south east point of the island the swell gets bigger until you get to the point. Generally the wind and swell are from the north or northeast in Sal, so as you get to the point you become fully exposed to the Atlantic. The waves pick up, as does the wind. You can get some amazing waves on the point.

Despite going at the peak of the swell season, we were a little unlucky and got two weeks without much swell, but it was still easy to see the potential even with just a small swell. Lisa and I both really enjoyed the sailing there and had everything from great flat water slalom and freestyle conditions to small waves – only needing a shorty to stay warm once or twice during our stay.

The other ION Centre is on the other side of Santa Maria town, Punto Sino. This centre unfortunately burnt down after our visit but they are re-building for 2018. Punto Sino is a beach break and will usually have some small waves to deal with during launch. As you sail west along the beach towards the point, again the waves and wind get bigger and stronger as you become more exposed. If you were to sail all the way around the point and upwind a bit you would eventually reach the infamous wave spot Ponta Preta.

Unfortunately we didn't get any surf big enough to awaken the Ponta Preta break during our stay, so I didn't get a chance to try and tame the beast, maybe next time!

The island offers numerous spots like these and better on both the east and west coasts. Josh Angulo's website offers up a bit of local secret knowledge on this topic and his crew will even take you to other spots. Hiring a 4x4 so that you can explore other beaches on the island could greatly improve the

Generally the wind and are from the north or northeast in Sal, so as you get to the point and become fully exposed to the Atlantic







number of sailing options available to you. I will definitely be arranging a 4x4 next visit. However, you need to travel with friends for this, the rest of the island is quite remote and there is no rescue cover away from the safety of the ION and Angulo Centres.

### **The centres**

There are numerous water sports centres in and around Santa Maria, all of which are found at the far eastern and western ends of the town, with the majority of windsurfers renting from the eastern Punto Leme side of town. The wind is gustier on the western Punto Sino side of Santa Maria and less suitable for windsurfing due to the prevailing north-easterly trade winds and the location of the town. This will only get worse as more large hotels are built unfortunately.

### **Angulo centre**

The famous Angulo centre set up by none other than the Mr Josh Angulo himself at Ponta Leme, is by far one of the best. Boasting the prime location on Ponta Leme Beach and also offering the best set up (in my opinion), they offer a friendly, relaxed place to chill out right in front of the sailing area, with a restaurant and a great selection of Angulo boards and Gun sails. These can even be taken away if you'd like to explore other spots (none of the other centres offer this service), though it is worth noting your insurance is not valid if you sail elsewhere. For more info visit their website: [www.angulocaboverde.com/](http://www.angulocaboverde.com/).









## ION Club centres

ION operate out of two centres in Santa Maria, one at Ponta Leme and one at Ponta Sino. The Ponta Sino centre is what used to be the Club Mistral centre and is often still referred to as Club Mistral, despite the new branding. It is the larger and better equipped of the two and also very close to town. However it tends to get used more by kitesurfers due to the earlier mentioned wind shadow. Unfortunately this centre burnt down shortly after our visit but it is being re-built for 2018.

The Ponta Leme Centre is set back from the beach a little just behind the Angulo. Whilst this centre is less well equipped, it still has a good range of kit to choose from and seems to be the preferred location for windsurfers with a cleaner wind, although as with all offshore winds it can be a little gusty at times.

Also the ION centres allow you to take equipment from both of their centres. So if you fancy trying a board from the Ponta Sino centre or the conditions are better at Ponta Leme, you can simply sail across the bay to the other centre. Although it is worth noting that unlike Angulo, don't let you take equipment away from the centres and/or outside of ION's sailing area (southern end of the island). So for the true wavesailor that wants to explore every wave the island has to offer this can be a real game changer.

## Pezi Huber

Pezi Huber's Sal Centre is based right next door to Angulos. They are certainly the best centre for kit choice with boards lining three sides of the centres outer walls! We didn't spend a great deal of time at Pezi Huber centre but they seem well set up and offer a good range of equipment and tuition.

[www.pezi-huber.com/windsurfing-cape-verde/](http://www.pezi-huber.com/windsurfing-cape-verde/).







### Local area

Spanning the entire southern coast of the island, Santa Maria is a small developing tourist town, where most people stay. It offers a basic selection of amenities including markets, small shops, water sports centres, restaurants, banks, hotels, etc.

We stayed at the eastern Punto Leme side of Santa Maria, a couple of minute's walk inland from the Angulo centre, and further four minute's walk along the coast gets you into the centre of Santa Maria. We were really happy with this location and would certainly stay in this area again if returning, which is quite likely.

### Food

We ate lunch at Angulo many times, even if you have the desire to go and try other restaurants for lunch, the convenience, value and view make it a no brainer if the sailing's good. However, if you find you've had enough of the food at Angulo and fancy a change, another good option only 100m down the road is Archipelago. They have a limited menu but we really enjoyed the food there.

Spanning the entire southern coast of the island, Santa Maria is a small developing tourist town, where most people stay.



If you are sailing from the ION Centre in town then you of course have far more choice for lunch with the town on your doorstep, however this is also the main tourist area so you likely to pay more, I would recommend Café del Mar and Carlussia.

Of course bringing your own lunch to the beach is by far the cheapest option. What's available in the local mini-markets can be quite limited and imported products are often quite expensive. We did find one larger supermarket that had a better selection close to the main bus stop in the centre of town.

All in Sal is great place, offering great conditions for intermediate sailors and up, and some incredible wave sailing on the right day. If you need some action in the depths of winter, enjoy good food, "no stress" and good windsurfing, what's not to like?



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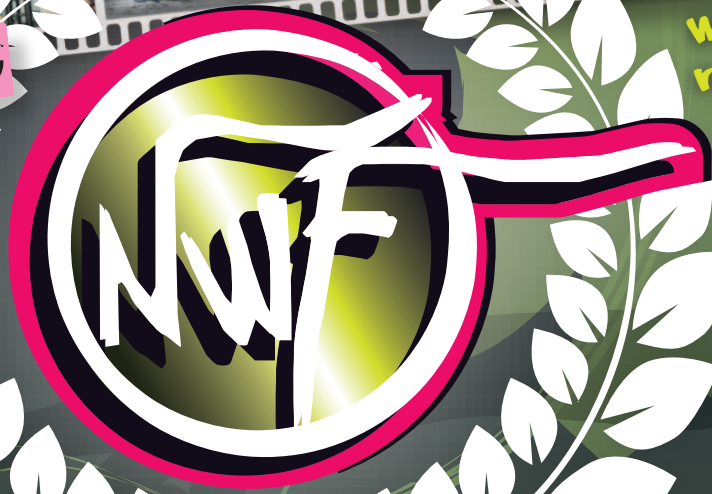
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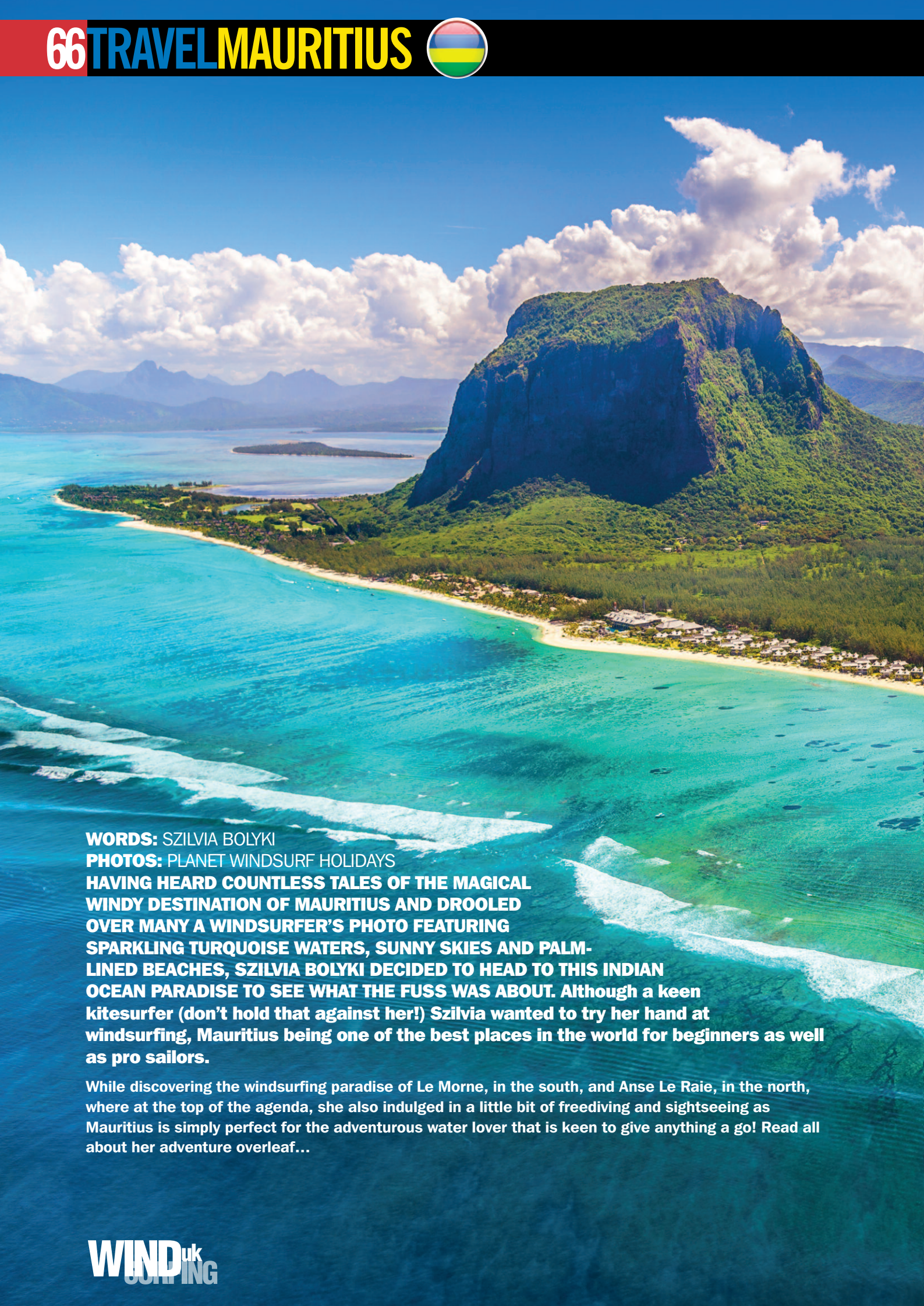
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**WORDS:** SZILVIA BOLYKI  
**PHOTOS:** PLANET WINDSURF HOLIDAYS  
**HAVING HEARD COUNTLESS TALES OF THE MAGICAL WINDY DESTINATION OF MAURITIUS AND DROOLED OVER MANY A WINDSURFER'S PHOTO FEATURING SPARKLING TURQUOISE WATERS, SUNNY SKIES AND PALM-LINED BEACHES, SZILVIA BOLYKI DECIDED TO HEAD TO THIS INDIAN OCEAN PARADISE TO SEE WHAT THE FUSS WAS ABOUT. Although a keen kitesurfer (don't hold that against her!) Szilvia wanted to try her hand at windsurfing, Mauritius being one of the best places in the world for beginners as well as pro sailors.**

While discovering the windsurfing paradise of Le Morne, in the south, and Anse Le Raie, in the north, where at the top of the agenda, she also indulged in a little bit of freediving and sightseeing as Mauritius is simply perfect for the adventurous water lover that is keen to give anything a go! Read all about her adventure overleaf...



# THE MAGIC OF

# MAURITIUS





### Learning to windsurf in Anse Le Raie, Mauritius

I decided to start my windsurfing holiday to Mauritius with a few days spent in the northern reaches of the island at the lesser known spot of Anse Le Raie, one of the most beautiful spots on the island. This part of the island is blessed with stunning scenery and a massive lagoon that is the perfect training ground away from the crowds of the more famous spots like Le Morne in the south.

Although the windsurf beach is set in a quiet location, a short 20 minute drive away is the thriving beach resort area of Grand Baie with its host of restaurants, beach cafés and small boutique shops. You can also enjoy a good night out here if you want to let your hair down!

On the water this is the ideal spot for windsurfers with plenty of space on a huge, flat, shallow lagoon. Anse Le Raie provided the perfect uncrowded location for my first lesson in learning to windsurf. Unlike kitesurfing, it



The ION Club windsurf centre was very professional and the instructor was very patient, allowing me to make good progress and I even got as far as tacking and simple gybes from zero windsurfing experience.

was great to be able to get straight onto the board without worrying about getting dragged and smashed about. The big board, small sail and flat water made it easy for me to get some nice runs in early on. As always, it is the correct instruction that makes all the difference, and I quickly realised what a technical sport windsurfing is. Just having my feet and arms in a slightly incorrect position made a massive difference to my success, or failure, each time. The ION Club windsurf centre was very professional and the instructor was very patient, allowing me to make good progress and I even got as far as tacking and simple gybes from zero windsurfing experience.





Now, whenever I see windsurfers ripping it up in 30+ knots of wind, and cracking a fluid carve gybe, I have huge respect for these guys and girls. It must be just amazing to be able to windsurf like that, and despite the huge amount of practice it must take, I am determined to get there in the end.

### **Staying in the north of the island**

In Anse Le Raie there are a hand full of beautiful small boutique style hotels, plus some bigger beach front luxury resorts, set within a 15-20 minute drive of the windsurf spot. One thing that I noticed was that these hotels are cheaper than you think. My pre-conception of Mauritius was of a very exclusive island only afforded to the wealthy luxury traveller, more aligned to the Seychelles, but it is much more affordable than I realised. A one week flight inclusive holiday, with all my windsurf rental, in a stunning 4\*+ hotel, was around £1470.

The northern coastline is dotted with fantastic accommodation, including a number of smaller boutique guesthouses and designer properties. 20

Degrees South and Zilwa Attitude are some of the firm favourites in the area, offering exceptional value for money and stylish accommodation. I, however, decided to venture a bit further afield to the Westin Turtle Bay Resort & Spa.

This is a beautiful property and the architecture, with its black volcanic rocks, is breath taking. The suites are spacious and beautifully decorated with beautiful views of the ocean from 95% of the rooms, high ceilings and impressive bathrooms. The Westin offers two amazing pools, a rocky beach that is very well maintained, four restaurants, a huge spa, an impressive sports centre with gym and a huge kids club with a pool and trampoline.

The hotel's Fusion restaurant offers up some of the best food I had on the island while the Mystique bar features its own in-house DJ as well as the island's biggest selection of martinis. The staff at the Westin will make you feel like you don't ever want to leave this place, not for diving, kiting, or even windsurfing!





A highlight of my stay in the north, apart from the amazing windsurfing, was to try my hand at freediving: the art of diving under the water with just one breath of air. In my younger years I competed as a national level synchronized swimmer, plus I am an experienced scuba diver, so freediving seemed like a perfect combination of these two sports. I was lucky enough to be travelling with an experienced freediver who gave me the correct instruction and safety protocols. As with windsurfing, it is the quality of instruction that makes all the difference.

After an afternoon of pool training we headed out to the stunning offshore island of Coin De Mire, one of the best dive sites in the whole of Mauritius. The visibility under water here is incredible, and there is an abundance of stunning underwater topography and marine life such as large school of jacks, tuna and eagle rays. The feeling of being under that ocean, without any scuba gear, was a unique experience. For that brief time I was underwater, I truly felt part of another world.

## Next up: Le Morne, Mauritius

Le Morne, on the south western tip of Mauritius, is without a doubt the most popular windsurfing destination on the island, and widely considered one of the best windsurf locations in the world due to its super reliable wind and variety of conditions for all levels. There are few places in the world that offer this combination of such reliable wind, a huge flat water lagoon plus world class waves, a luxury hotel right by the spot, and all within an easy 12-hour direct flight from Europe with just 2-3 hours time difference (so no jet lag).

This part of the island is rugged and wild and although there are some beautiful beach resorts, tourist facilities in terms of restaurant or nightlife are limited; one of its attractions for many. The windsurf spot of Le Morne has a stunning back drop of Mount Brabant sitting at around 560 metres.





## Windsurfing in Le Morne

The best windsurfing months in Le Morne (and Anse Le Raie) are from June to October when there is normally a south easterly wind blowing side shore or side on shore. During my stay in December the wind had switched northerly and become a little more erratic. Despite this, I was able to continue my windsurf training in the superb shallow flat water lagoon right in front of the ION Club Windsurf Centre when the conditions allowed.

ION Club is the only fixed centre here with a great stock of the latest North and Fanatic equipment and is restocked at the end of each year. The centre

manager, Baba, gave me very clear instructions as to how far I could go with the rental equipment, what to watch out for and the special parameters of the

lagoon. The lagoon is constantly filled by waves breaking over the surrounding outer reefs, which then has just three channels from which to escape back to the open ocean, creating sometimes-dangerous rip tides. ION Club operate a 'red flag' system on lagoon, sometimes closing these channels for safety. You must respect the advice from the centre and stick to the rules!

During my trip it was the start of their summer with the water temperature on par with the Asian tropics, so no need for any wetsuits. But during the main windy season in winter a thin wetsuit would come in handy. Definitely wear booties as the bottom of the lagoon is unpredictable with occasional coral and urchins.

## Staying in Le Morne

The St Regis Mauritius in Le Morne offers, without a doubt, the best accommodation in Le Morne, as well as being one of the most luxurious hotels on the island. The location is just perfect for families and

ION Club is the only fixed centre here with a great stock of the latest North and Fanatic equipment and is restocked at the end of each year.







couples, being hidden from the prevailing south easterly winds, yet with the windsurf beach just around the corner at the end of the resort's beach. With a fantastic kids club, a host of restaurants and an endless array of activities for everyone to enjoy, it is the perfect place for a relaxing island getaway with your loved ones. I can't think of any other resort that offers such a perfect location in such an amazing windsurf location.

The spacious suites at St Regis are furnished with colonial style heavy wooden furniture, providing a very elegant, yet comfortable, space. The service at the St Regis is simply outstanding with very personal touches, including your own butler assigned to you for the duration of your stay. The resort has a brilliant watersport centre, with free water-skiing, wakeboarding, dingy sailing and paddleboards. ION Club operate a desk at the watersport centre, managed by UK couple Emma and Jason, who are always on hand to advise about wind conditions, organise pick-ups, help book lessons or equipment and even organise kitesurfing or diving trips.

I really enjoyed the St Regis signature Bloody Mary, served in each St Regis hotel around the world with a personal touch. Mauritius is famous for their rum hence the Bloody Mary here is made with rum instead of vodka!

## Travel to Mauritius with Planet Windsurf Holidays

Szilvia's trip to Mauritius was arranged by Planet Windsurf Holidays, the UK's largest and oldest ATOL & TTA bonded Windsurf Holiday Travel Specialist offering expert advice on Windsurf Resorts and Holidays worldwide. Planet Windsurf specialize in Mauritius and represent ION Club in the UK for pre-booking all windsurf lessons and rental. Planet offer a bespoke tailor made travel service including flights, private transfer, tours and hand picked hotels on Mauritius and the surrounding area.

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# “Mauritius was made first, and then heaven”

- Mark Twain



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## A SHOT OF

# JD

**WORDS:** JUSTIN DENNINGTON

**PICS:** PAUL MONNINGTON & JAANBOY PHOTOGRAPHY

**JUSTIN DENNINGTON IS ONE OF THE MOST ENTHUSIASTIC WINDSURFERS YOU COULD MEET. EVER PRESENT AT HIS LOCAL BEACHES, MARAZION/GWITHIAN, YOU CAN BE SURE THAT IF THERE'S A DECENT FORECAST JD WILL BE ON IT, CHECKING IN AND LETTING OTHER SAILORS KNOW WHAT'S WHAT (before hitting it himself that is). We tapped up the Windjunkie owner for a goss.**

### **Tell us where it all started for you.**

I first tried windsurfing when I was in Cyprus with the forces, I was about 20 at the time and one of the guys used to race for the army, I then had another go about six months later back in the UK when we were at a small training camp near Saunton Sands. The kit then was heavy with tie on booms and huge long boards. I did enjoy it but it pretty much fizzled out as I was doing a lot of other sports like football and drinking! I left the forces a few years later, moved back home to Cornwall and continued with surfing which I had done from about the age of nine. At 30 I built our house in Marazion and had some money left over from the build so decided to invest in some windsurf kit. For the first five years I was a weekend sailor sailing at Stithians Lake. I taught myself to waterstart (spending hours just floating in the middle of the lake) and getting in the harness and straps with help and tips from the other guys who sailed there. But I will never forget that feeling of the board getting on the plane for the first time: the acceleration and the buzz!







## **Do you still sail at the same location or is that old hat?**

Stithains has changed a lot now from the old porta cabins days, and has an excellent watersports centre offering tuition. For the new generation of up and coming rippers this is great. I don't sail at the lake now as after that five-year period my ability slowly (after many weekends) allowed me to venture to the coast and I started sailing at Marazion Beach, and getting into the waves and jumping, which was a whole new chapter of learning things and meeting new friends.

## **What about your first piece of windsurfing equipment, what was it? Do you still have it?**

My first board was an Alpha 190 and a 6.5m NeilPryde sail with cams. Going to pick that kit up was hilarious as I had a rusty old Escort Cabriolet and I had bought the kit as a complete package, including a one piece mast. How I didn't have an accident or cause an accident on the way home with all that rammed in the car with the top down is a mystery. I don't have it anymore as like most people in the sport, we have to sell what we have to fund the newer stuff.

## **Tell us about your current gear and why you love it?**

I'm currently a team rider for JP/Pryde and the kit is outstanding. I use the 89 Thruster Quad as my bigger wave board, usually set up as a thruster as it gives me plenty of release, especially when its more cross on. This board also has a more traditional tail so has a bit more volume under the back foot and is super quick. My smaller wave board is the 83ltr Radical Thruster Quad, set up as a quad. I love this board when the waves are cleaner and the DTL. This board is insane. With the wingers it feels more like a 73ltr under the back foot, which is amazing on a clean wave.

Both boards are tuned up with K4 fins. I use the Ezzy fronts on both boards but change between Stubby, Flex, Leon and Scorchier in the rears depending on conditions. I always used to think a fin was just a fin but as my sailing has progressed I can feel the difference the different fins give me on a wave, they are an awesome combo. For my sails I use the NeilPryde Fly 3 batten. I've been using three batten sails for quite a few years now and although I don't think they are a sail for everybody to me they just feel great: light, responsive and sometimes when its DTL you almost forget there is one on the mast. I love the neutral feel on the bottom turn and the wind range is huge with the natural twist off the three batten offers. I can seem to hang on to it when others are changing down.

I go regularly to Fuerteventura which is my favourite destination. I've been travelling back to Fuerte every summer for the last 7-8 years



## **If there's one piece of gear you could bring back what would it be and why?**

I love the look of the old retro 80s/90s kit. I think everyone should have an old retro board and rig in the shed and bring it out once a year for a retro day or comp. How cool would it be seeing all the old retro kit with the lightning bolt graphics etc, on the water again?

## **Where do you mainly sail and what attraction does your backyard hold?**

I live in Marazion, north to south coast for me is 15 mins, which makes it one of (if not the) best places in the UK to be a windsurfer. Maza, Praa Sands, Gwithian, The Bluff and a few other spots I'll not tell you about are all close, haha! There is not a wind direction you cannot sail here. We can have amazing cross on starboard tack jumping conditions on the south coast, but also Praa can offer DTL, and is a super fast hollow wave which can pack a hefty punch if you screw up. Then we have Gwithian, which on its day is a world class DTL sailing spot.





### **Which is your fave location globally and why?**

As my main business (Plusprint) takes up a lot of my time, it's difficult to get a week or more away from it so I have not travelled that much globally. I've had a few trips to Gran Canaria and I go regularly to Fuerteventura which is my favourite destination. I've been travelling back to Fuerte every summer for the last 7-8 years. I have made some good friends there and with its Trade Winds is a great summer training ground when the UK is pretty windless. The north coast reminds me of Cornwall with its diverse locations of DTL and jumping. My favourite spot would be Punta Blanca on the north coast. For me it's like a rocky version of Maza.

### **And in the UK?**

My fave UK location would be Gwithian: pure DTL heaven when it's on! But the Bluff comes a close second as it can offer an insanely long wave ride.

### **Talk to us about your local crew. Who do you sail with and enjoy après beers with?**

There's a great local crew here and all super friendly that I sail with. The usuals are Jan Sleight, Andy and Steve King, Blackie, Andrew Fawcett and all super talented sailors who go big when the conditions go big. The banter in the car park is always first class as well.

### **You work in the windsurfing industry, owning and operating Windjunkie. Tell us more about your business and how this fits into your windsurfing life?**

It kinda came about after I had a few cheap deck plates fail on me all within a month. The first wasn't too much of a drama, the second left me at Gwithian on a big day in the impact zone and rip taking numerous sets on the head. I all but wrecked my sail. That £20-£30 saving on a cheap deck plate was now the difference between the cost of a new sail or not. The nearest shop is Mylor which is a good 45 min drive from the usual beaches. It's amazing really to think that this area is a destination for windsurfers yet no local shop? If you want anything you would have to order it online.

Windjunkie was born in an attempt to bridge that gap of having a local shop and an online shop, but more importantly stocking and selling products we believe are some of the most durable on the market. I hold as much stock as possible and carry spares in the van, which have been welcomed over the past few years at the beach. As I drive past Marazion Beach every morning to work I put up a beach report on windy days to give everyone a heads up. The business fits well into my windsurfing life as already being self employed I am able to be at the beach regularly and if anyone needs anything it's there in the van or close by at my workshop.



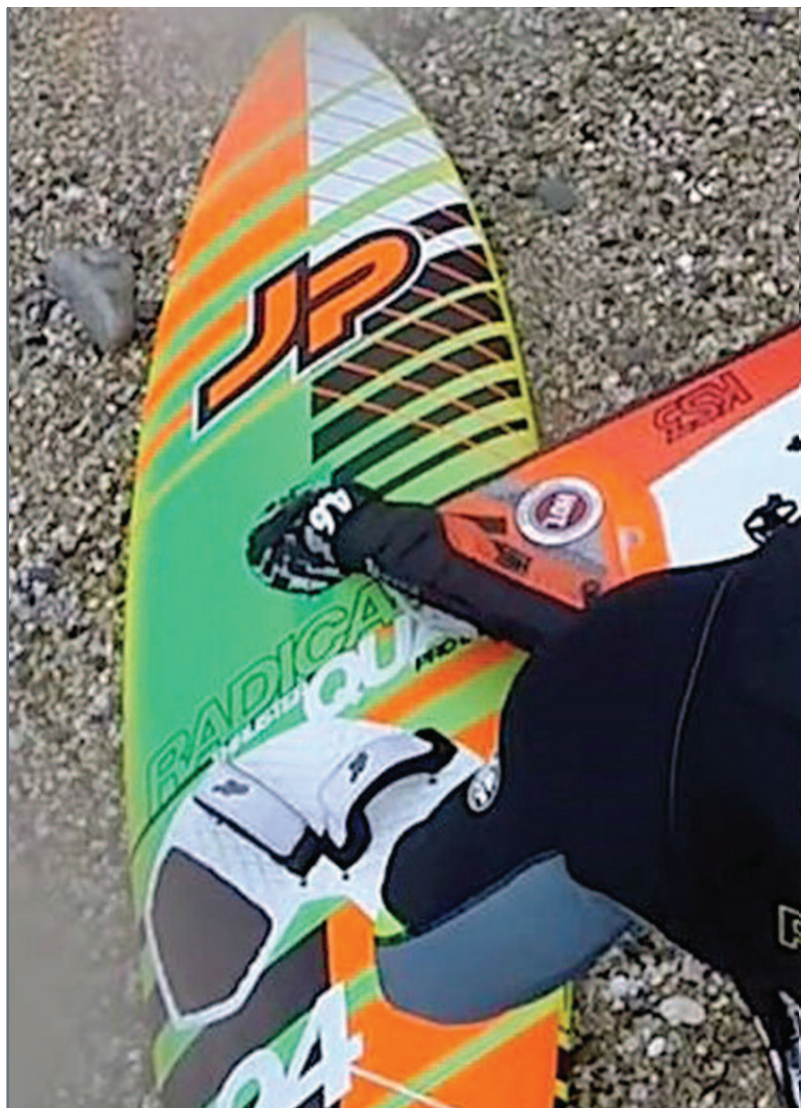
**How do you see the windsurfing industry as a whole? What do you think is being done right and what could be improved?**

There seems to be more people windsurfing now than there were 10 years ago, which I think is testament to the R&D being done in the industry. We've seen the progression in user-friendly beginner kit. Evident in the last five years or is what's going on with foils and the new shorter parallel rail boards. Social media has also had a big impact on the industry which has allowed us to all post up pics and videos of our killer sessions, which is great along with things like live streaming on global events. I think the only negative is the release of new kit every year which dramatically devalues the very same product, although I don't see a way around this from a trading perspective. On the up side this does have a positive effect on the second-hand market. If you're looking for second hand kit there's plenty about and at a good price.

**If you could change just one thing what would it be and why?**

I would love to change the age that I started windsurfing. We all know that learning and progression is quicker and easier the younger you are. I would love to turn the clocks back to that first time on a board back in Cyprus as I would certainly make sure that was the start to my windsurf life and not wait another ten years.

My daughter tried windsurfing on a trip to Fuerte six years ago. We found out she had a bit of natural ability, but at her age (14) it was sickening the pace



**I think there is a lot more to come from the foil tech in all areas of sailing.**

she picked it up. Stephen Gibson pretty much had her planing on day two! We got back to the UK and a friend taught her to waterstart in two hours, I mean c'mon! I spent weeks sat in the middle of that bloody lake learning to waterstart!

**Give us a snapshot of where you see windsurfing in five years.**

Hopefully windsurfing will keep growing as it has done steadily in recent years. We are also seeing huge development in foils from a few years ago, and seeing what Kai Lenny is doing who knows? I think there is a lot more to come from the foil tech in all areas of sailing.







### **Who inspires you and your sailing?**

I get inspired a lot by the guys here at my local breaks, many of whom are pro level and also the guys I compete against at the BWA events. I love going out when say someone like Kingy is hitting huge backies, it fuels me. I pretty much sail the whole day with a 'can do better' attitude. It pushes me more and more with my own sailing.

### **Anyone in particular help you along the way and got you to where you're at now?**

Yeah for sure, there are many guys here locally who have all had an input at some point as my sailing has progressed. Recently Andy King has been super helpful with the backloops, but Fuerte Amigo Stephen Gibson is where the rotational jumps all started. He taught me to forward, although at the time I didn't think it would ever happen. I pretty much spent the whole week bailing (I have pics... haha!). And then quite literally on the last day of the trip the wind was marginal, it looked like it was all over, but Gibson gambled and we hit Punta early on a low tide and... well, the rest is history as they say! He has also helped me with my backies on recent trips.

### **If you weren't a windsurfer what would you be?**

If I wasn't windsurfing I'd probably still trying to play football (but not too many are at 46).

### **Got any burning windsurfing ambitions still to tick off? If so, what?**

A trip to Maui is still on the cards. I would like to hopefully learn at least a few more jumps and moves before I fall apart (and hopefully not fall apart trying) and just be as competitive as I can at the BWA events for as long as I can.



"Getting time on the water is a struggle with work. I also want to be a good father."



## **What are your plans for 2018 windsurfing wise? Any trips planned for instance?**

I won the BWA Masters wave title back in 2016 and that fuelled me even more to compete. I was hoping to defend that title in 2017 and was training hard, but had a bad knee injury early in the year which resulted in an operation later in the year, hence I've been off the water quite a bit over the last 12 months. But I am hoping to come back to competing this year, if the knee is strong enough. I've already booked to go back out to Fuerte this July for some training, which hopefully will be a good test for the knee prior to the BWA Tiree and other two UK events.

## **Any final thoughts on UK windsurfing in general?**

The UK is a great place to be a windsurfer. We may not get the consistency of prolonged periods of Trade Winds and swell but for me the UK has always delivered a good mix of conditions and has some amazing locations that are mostly within everyone's reach for that few days on a forecast trip. At 46 I still have that same passion and excitement about going sailing, if not more so now than I ever did. I don't know of any other sport where I just switch off from everything else that's going on. I totally get immersed in the moment, from the pain of the crashes to the euphoria of succeeding a new move, it never gets old, you never master it, there's always something new to try or learn, maybe that's the attraction? The endless search for perfection. For me a bad session on the water will always beat a good day in the office.

## **Thanks and praise?**

I'd like to thank all my sponsors past and present for their amazing support over the years. All the BWA masters who make the fleet so competitive year in year out, you all rip! Most importantly a big up to Tracy my wife, who has been such a supportive windsurf widow all these years, allowing me to spend so much time doing this great sport, supporting me at events, nursing injuries, (especially recently helping me with my knee rehab) and generally listening to windsurf jargon that she really didn't understand. She has recently started her own business as a SUP and SUPfit instructor and I'm super happy to be spending even more time with her on the water – obviously when it's not windy!



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# RIG@90

**WORDS:** SIMON  
BORNHOFT

**PICS:** SIMON BORNHOFT  
AND DAVID VAREKAMP

SIMON EXPLAINS HOW TO  
STOP BEING CLUELESS  
WHENEVER 'CLEW FIRST'  
OR ROTATING YOUR RIG.  
BE IT RIG HANDLING IN  
THE SHORE,  
WATERSTARTING, GYBING,  
HELITACKS OR FUNKY  
FREESTYLE!

**Who's this feature for?**

Beginner to expert.

**Task:**

Sailing 'Clew First' or as you will discover 'Rig@90'.

**Who's it for?**

Develops key Touch Points and proprioception for rig rotations.

**Windwise principles:**

Vision and opposition.

**Core skills:**

Initially Warrior Stance, then Sunken 7, 'Rig@90' broad reach Rig Rotator.

**Windwise Touch Points:**

Crucial clew and mast hands placements.

**Counter intuitiveness:**

'Clew First' isn't actually sailing clew pointing forward. It's 'Rig@90' degrees to the board, sailing downwind on a broad reach.

**Skills training exercises**

To speed up your progression we cannot eulogize enough about embracing these vital Windwise Skills Training exercises. The important part is doing them accurately, hence our Touch Points – vision and hand placement is *the* make or break. Those who drill them learn to gybe 2-3 times quicker than those who don't. So get incredible at 'Beach Start Gybes' and 'Rig@90 Beach Starts'.







***“I get half way round and it all goes wrong or I lose speed at the ‘rig flip!’”*** How many times has that been said? To solve this, at Windwise we develop everyone’s understanding of what ‘Clew First’ really means and train very specific Touch Points to ensure a better rig rotation. So this coaching session takes you through some skills training exercises to enhance controlling and rotating a rig, be it beach start, waterstart, gybing or freestyle moves – it’s all the same.

## **‘Sailing Clew First’... Why it’s so misleading?**

It’s natural to assume ‘Clew First’ as sailing across the wind (beam reach) with the sail ‘the wrong way round’ and the clew end of the boom pointing towards the nose of the board. But, apart from in super light winds, this is a disaster and why so many people lose speed or get the rig ripped out of their hands at the end of a gybe etc! If you sail across the wind, i.e. come round your gybes too far before rotating the rig, there’s way too much pressure on the rig, making it harder to hold on to and move your hands during the rotation. Plus, as a rig ‘rotates’ the board tends to spin towards the wind. So, if you rotate on a beam reach and you’ll spin too far into wind. Rotate on a broad reach and you’ll collect the rig on a far better sailing line and **more speed!**

### **WARRIOR MID CARVE**



### **SHIFT AND SWITCH**



We start mid gybe, dead downwind in a ‘Warrior’ carving position i.e. looking and leaning over a heavily flexed knee. Use your Touch Points to keep the Rig@90 degrees to the board!

**TP:** Chin on shoulder

**TP:** Carving foot on the rail

**TP:** Pulling in and down hard on the rear placed clew hand – imagine talking into a microphone!

Whilst ‘shifting and switching’ the feet (see last issue for full info), keep that clew hand in very tight to the body, chin on or close to your shoulder, looking forward, Rig@90 to the board.

**TP:** Chin on shoulder looking forward.

**TP:** Switched foot on rail.

**TP:** Tuck that clew hand in tight! Karaoke Gybe!



### WiseWords:

So we all need to train and emphasize the following...

1. Whenever exiting moves keep the 'Rig@90' degrees to the board – not 'Clew first'!
2. Always rotate your rig on a **very** broad reach, almost dead downwind!

### How to train Rig@90 and Rig Rotator Touch Points

Practice, the core principles and Touch Points on the land and light winds to break it all down.

### Windwise principles

**Vision:** Chin near or touching the forward shoulder = Looking forward, not at the rig!

**Opposition:** A low Sunken 7 body 'opposes' the power and movement of the mast/rig.

**Rig rotation:** Scoop the mast/away from the body, downwind towards the tail and then forward.

### Windwise Touch Points for Rig@90

**Vision:** Look with chin on or very near the shoulder.

**Clew hand:** Hang down off a wide spread clew hand, pulling in to keep the Rig@90.

**Mast hand:** Slides along the boom to touch the boom clamp before & during rotation.

**New mast hand:** Drops underneath, grabbing well down the boom on the new side.

## RIG ROTATOR



## SHIFT AND SWITCH HANDS



## RIG FORWARD – BODY BACK



Prior to, or even whilst releasing the clew hand, it is absolutely imperative to 'slide' the mast hand up the boom to create a hinge at the mast. This instantly installs greater control and reduces the chances of being pulled forward when the boom is released. This tip alone makes all the difference to thousands hundreds of people and gybe exits!

**TP:** Chin on shoulder looking forward.

**TP:** Old mast hand right up to the mast



As the clew swings round, the mast hand 'guides' and scoops the rig downwind towards the tail, body low in a 'Sunken 7' keeping the rig moving and grabbing well down the boom with the new front/mast hand.

**TP:** Chin on shoulder looking forward.

**TP:** New front/mast hand well down the boom



Whilst looking forward in a Sunken 7 position, keep the scooping momentum going to draw that rig forward, don't reach for the boom to sheet in. The action of drawing the rig forward **brings the boom to you** and sheets the rig in.



## SKILLS TRAINING

Using our core principles and Touch Points, let's run through our skills training exercises.

### THE BEACH GYBE



**TP:** Chin on shoulder looking into and through the turn (left in pic).

**TP:** Hang down incredibly hard on the rear placed Clew Hand – talk into that microphone!

### CLEW FIRST..... 'RIG@90' BEACH START





Secure your Touch Points and 'walk' through a gybe in shallow water. Start with a wide grip, board pointing across the wind, then 'Warrior'. So 'look' and 'lean' into the turn, just like a gybe. To oppose the body, the rig is 'levered' out of the turn. Don't stand still keep walking, if it's windy, jog! As you release the rig, but make sure you get your touch points right! See if you can do shallow and out of depth Beach Gybes, touch points in place, without the boom hitting touching the water or looking at your hands – gybing juice!



**TP:** Slide the mast hand right up to the mast.

**TP:** Look out of the turn, chin near the shoulder.

**TP:** New front hand well down the boom.

**TP:** Look out of the turn, chin near the shoulder.

Repeat, rotate, repeat and rotate!



The next stage is to come up onto your board half way through the turn and beach start 'Rig@90', sail away and then rotate the rig I – just like the end of a real gybe. They're almost impossible to do UNLESS you keep the 'Rig@90' on a broad reach, with the clew hand in tight before, during and after coming up. It's a glorious way to really embed THE GYBE EXIT! As the wind increases, accentuate everything. Remember, walking forwards 'fast' reduces the chance of the sail getting ripped out of your hands. Do them every session until you can plane off the beach, Rig@90, rotate and keep planing!

1. Turn downwind, like the Beach Gybe sequence, until your body moves from one side of the board to the other.
2. Once on a broad reach, come up like a normal beach start, rolling the head in low, massively flexing the rear leg.
3. Keep the Rig@90 to board by pulling in and down hard until your clew hand. Low Sunken 7, pushing and pulling through your legs/feet to steer and stay on a broad reach for 20-30-40-50 metres before rotating!

#### WiseWords

Keep that 'Rig@90' degrees to the board on a broad reach!

**TP:** Chin on shoulder looking forward and into the turn throughout.

**TP:** Clew hand well down the boom, hanging down and talking into that microphone.

**TP:** Old mast hand moves right up to the mast prior to rotation.

**TP:** New front hand grabs well down the boom.

The new front hand can be over or under grip, whatever ergonomically works for you.



## GYBE TALKING

By practicing our 'Beach Gybes' and 'Rig@90' Beach Starts, you'll be more confident of your Touch Points and learn the broad reach wind angle to rotate your rig. However, when it comes to winder situations, you have an executive decision to make. If you're going into a gybe off the plane or if speed is lost post foot switch,

get settled Rig@90, WAIT a second or two.....and, then rotate the rig. If you have followed the other Windwise features ☺ you should have speed post foot switch, in which case immediately rotate to increase your chances of planing out.

### NON-PLANING CARVE GYBE



Halfway through carving I've lost speed, so I stay broad, Rig@90, wait a second, settle and then rotate the rig. Look how the Skills Training exercises, core principles and Touch Points link into this gybe.

**TP:** Chin near shoulder looking forward and into the turn.

**TP:** Clew hand well down the boom, hanging down and talking into that imaginary microphone.

We have kept the same theme going and really pushed on the key touch points in training – simple things done well!

Here I have more speed going into and midway through the turn, so immediately after the foot switch,

the rig is released and rotated EARLY, basically as soon as the new front foot hits the deck. As ever, the rotation of the rig will mean the board turns into wind, but because it was done downwind, with Touch Points are all in place, I have time to collect the rig for a fast broad reach exit – it feels great!

### PLANING CARVE GYBE





In both illustrations you'll notice a broad reach exits, forward Vision and the same Touch Points. The only difference is that off the plane there's a slight delay in the rig rotation. Also notice how much the board turns during the rigs rotation, hence the need to rotate on a broad reach - never across the wind.



**TP:** Pull down hard on that clew hand 'RIG@90'.

**TP:** On a broad reach, crucially, the old mast hand moves right up to the mast prior to rotation.

**TP:** New front hand grabs well down the boom to collect the rig.

Rig@90 - feet early - rig rotator early – Touch Points in place = planing exit!





## COMMON QUESTIONS AND FAULT FINDING

### Q. When should I rotate the rig?

A. The simple answer is, just after changing the feet, which should be just after passing the downwind stage of the gybe, it's earlier than most people think. Remember your executive decision.

**Option 1.** If you're off the plane post foot switch, wait a second or five, keep the Rig@90, then rotate on a broad reach!

**Option 2.** If you're still planing post foot switch, that's fab but don't hesitate, release and rotate for broad reach exit.

### Q. Is it ok grab the mast?

A. Do all you can to go 'boom to boom' to minimize hand movements and upright mast hugging (see photos right), it's a speed and gybe exit killer!

### Q. Why is the rig ripped away from me?

A. You're not on a broad enough reach, your too upright and not pulling in and down on the clew hand enough!

### Q. Can I sail out of a planing gybe 'clew first'?

A. Yes you can, but you must be travelling very broad and 'Rig@90', but it's pretty physical and few slalom sailors would like to spend much time clew first. It can be helpful on a wave sometimes to keep momentum. But it's best to avoid for more than a second or so. Early rig release when planing, is less physical, means you plane out quicker as you can get the power on earlier.





### Q. What about strap to strap gybes?

- A. When the rig is released before the feet in a strap to strap, high gybe, the set up Touch Points are the same.

Looking at your hands and failing to slide that mast hand towards the mast prior to rotating, pulls you off balance.

### Q. Should the new front mast hand go under or over grip?

- A. Always pass under the old mast hand well down the boom, but the new mast hand can be either under or over grip, whichever suits you, I use both.

### Q. What else can I practice?

- A. Sail 360s, Helicopter Tacks and Push Tacks (all coming soon) and Flat Water Wave Riding (see last issue).



SIMON BORNHOFT  
**WINDWISE**

## WISEWORDS

We hope these Windwise Skills Training Exercises and Touch Points will generate a better understanding of Rig@90 and your rig rotations be it for your gybes, waterstarts, helitacks, spinny moves and general rig control for all levels.

As ever, we'd love to help you on the water on one of our Windwise experiences and if you have any questions or suggestions for these features please let us know [info@windwise.net](mailto:info@windwise.net).

### 2018 UK tour announced!

Hayling, Rutland, Stithians, Grimwith, Hickling, Queen Mary and more to come.

### Stunning overseas trips:

Tenerife, Bonaire, Sardinia, Alacati, Prasonisi, Mauritius and more!

Family Freeride: Bonaire and Sardinia



# THE BASICS OF COASTAL WINDSURFING Part 1

**WORDS:** SIMON WINKLEY

**PHOTOS:** ALEX IRWIN - SPORTOGRAPHY.TV

**ILLUSTRATIONS:** PETE GALVIN





**AFTER ORIGINALLY LEARNING OVERSEAS, I HAVE TO ADMIT THAT I WAS A BIT FREAKED-OUT AT FIRST BY THE IDEA OF WINDSURFING ON THE UK COASTLINE. Despite having experienced some pretty lumpy conditions in the Med, getting in and out through an actual shore-break seemed pretty intimidating. As far as I could see, tides were a kind of dark magic and being lost at sea – only to land in some distant future on an island full of pirates with my wetsuit in tatters and sporting a 12-inch wispy beard – seemed pretty much inevitable if kit breakage occurred or other things went wrong.**

Regardless of all that I got on with the business of coastal windsurfing, loved it and never looked back. Turning up at the seaside with kit lovingly prepared and packed in/strapped to your car/van and the wind just right is one of the best things. Every single location is different from the next, which makes the game an engaging and rewarding one – especially as fellow windsurfers are so welcoming.

This is the first in a series of articles looking at basic considerations for those who are not used to windsurfing in UK coastal waters but are ready to get started.



## Safety

Heading to a coastal RYA Training Centre or a windsurfing club with safety cover is a really rational thing to do at first. A lot of windsurfers, however, may not have access to such a facility yet have the skills to take on the sea. From this point on then, I will be promoting independence by assuming that no infrastructure such as a building or safety boat is available.

One thing I was once taught that always stayed with me is the little-known **WETTCOD** method of remembering the Seven Common Senses used by Royal Yachting Association (RYA) instructors. These are seven things to be considered to make a session as safe as possible and are especially relevant for coastal spots.

### Weather

Get several forecasts from reliable, windsurf-friendly websites/apps such as windy.com, windfinder.com or windguru.cz. Some areas have real-time weather information systems on beacons at sea, like chimet.co.uk or specific webcam weather stations that you can tap into. Do your best to decide if the forecast and actual weather looks right for you then monitor it when you are out.

### Equipment

Check that you have packed the right kit, making sure it is in good shape and rig it properly (no loose fins, frayed ropes or cracked UJs please!) Ensure that your personal kit (wetsuit, boots etc.) is in good order and will keep you warm and happy (top tip: a warm, happy person windsurfs better!)

### Tell someone

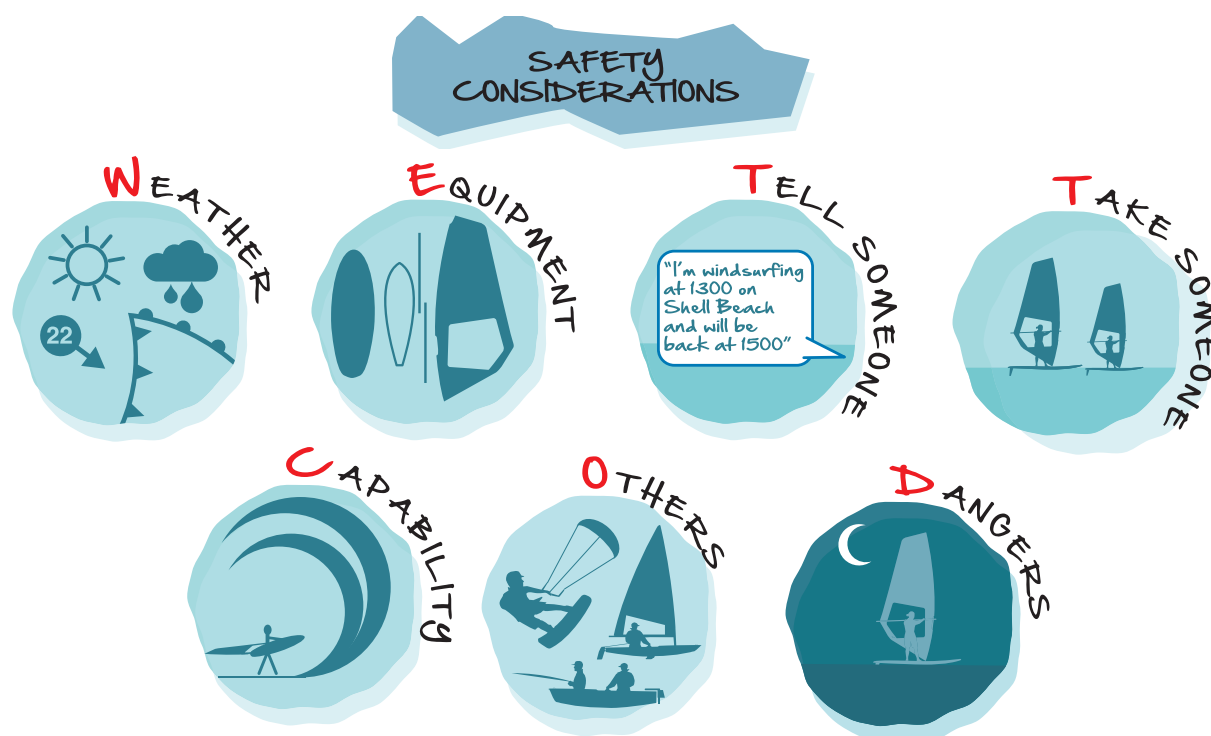
Tell someone ashore when you are going out and what time you expect to be finished. Also remember to tell them when you are actually back – to avoid unnecessary worry or a wasted search by the emergency services.

### Take someone

Take a buddy out on the water with you. If you're new to the sea then one with more experience than you is a must. Windsurfing with others is safer and way more fun. You can look out for your mates, push them to improve and get help if needed whilst all the time they will do the same for you.

### Capability

Be honest about whether you can handle the conditions on the day. Yes, some experts/stunt-doubles may venture out into a stinging sea of insanity yet not all conditions will suit everyone. Like I have done many times, never be too proud to give it a miss if the wind or waves are too big or it just feels too scary for you. If this happens don't go home... hang around and learn as much as you can by observing those who are capable of going out.



Get all of these things right and the sea becomes a safe and enjoyable place to windsurf



### Other water users

Be courteous and respectful to others using the water, whatever reason they have for being there. You can keep an eye out for them if they get into trouble and they will hopefully do the same for you. Greeting someone as you walk or sail past will make you come across as a nice person which will help to nurture respect for our windsurfing community (top tip: a nice person windsurfs better!) You can ask for local advice too.

### Dangers

There are three types of danger to consider:

- 1) **Strong tides** – avoid rips and water accelerating through narrow exits to/from a bay or around a headland.
- 2) **Offshore winds** – avoid the wind direction that will push you away from the safety of the land should something go wrong. Flat water and lighter winds by the beach can mask rough water and stronger wind further out.
- 3) **Poor visibility** – not windsurfing in fog or at night should be obvious but remember that staying out too late on a summer's evening or a winter's afternoon could leave you with the lights out if the wind drops or you break something.

### Choosing your tidal window

Unlike the Med, large volumes of water move around the UK coastline creating a horizontal tidal flow (or current) which, if strong, could carry you away from the land and into danger. A way of minimizing the effects of tidal flow is to choose your session time carefully and an understanding of the rule of twelfths can help with this.

The tidal range is the total drop of water height down the beach (ebbing) from high tide to low tide (also called high and low water) and vice versa [flooding]. This tidal range will be larger during spring tides and smaller during neap tides and there are two of each of these per month. It takes roughly six hours to get from high water to low water and vice versa. Like pouring a quantity of water from a bucket – where it comes out slowly at first, speeds up mid-flow and slows down again at the end to leave a bit in – the flow is not uniform over the six hours so let's see how it works.

Using the illustration, let's say that the tidal range is three metres. Divide 3m by 12 to get 0.25m and multiply this as follows:

**1000-1100** - in the first hour the tide ebbs  $\frac{1}{12}$  of the range = 0.25m

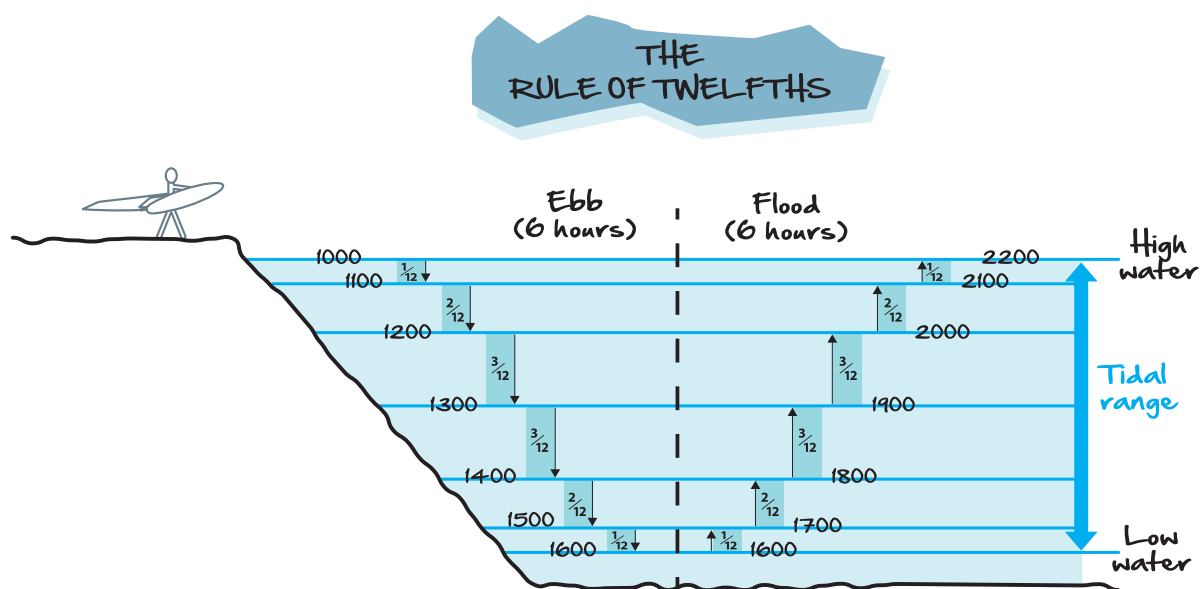
**1100-1200** - in the second hour the tide ebbs  $\frac{2}{12}$  = 0.50m

**1200-1300** - in the third hour the tide ebbs  $\frac{3}{12}$  = 0.75m

**1300-1400** - in the fourth hour the tide ebbs  $\frac{3}{12}$  = 0.75m

**1400-1500** - in the fifth hour the tide ebbs  $\frac{2}{12}$  = 0.50m

**1500-1600** - in the sixth hour the tide ebbs  $\frac{1}{12}$  = 0.25m



Using this as a guide can help to time your session to best advantage



This is an endless process which also applies when the tide is flooding back again, so:

**1600-1700** - in the seventh hour the tide floods 1/12 of the range = 0.25m

**1700-1800** - in the eighth hour the tide floods 2/12 of the range = 0.50m

**1800-1900** - in the ninth hour the tide floods 3/12 of the range = 0.75m  
and so on...

So the question to ask yourself is, "If I had two hours available what time would I choose to go windsurfing to experience the least tidal flow?"

From the illustration here are a few options:

- **0900-1100** - 0.25m of tide in, plus 0.25m of tide out = 0.00m (no change)
- **1000-1200** - 0.25m + 0.50m = 0.75m (25% of all the movement of water)
- **1200-1400** - 0.75m + 0.75m = 1.50m (50% of all the movement of water)
- **1400-1600** - 0.50m + 0.25m = 0.75m (25% of all the movement of water)
- **1500-1700** - 0.25m of tide out, plus 0.25m of tide in = 0.00m (no change)

Neither of the options in BLUE are ideal as you would have to deal with a quarter or a half of the tidal flow during your sail. But look at the option in GREEN. By windsurfing in the last hour of the tide going out plus the first hour of the tide coming back in, each of these hours cancels each other's already minimal flow out. The ORANGE option is perfect too. Here you get the last hour of the tide coming in (not shown in the illustration) plus the first hour of the tide going out where, again, each of these hours cancels each other's already minimal flow out.

So, with both the GREEN and the ORANGE options there is effectively no tidal flow during your two-hour session.

Being out with a buddy is safer  
and way more fun:  
Simon and Tez ride Storm Eleanor









## Wind with/against tide

It's not always possible, however, to avoid being in a bit of tidal flow. If the wind is blowing in the same direction as the tidal flow then the resultant benefit can be a flatter water state. When the wind blows directly against the tidal flow then the water can get agitated and become choppy. A further, very important consideration here is our choice of sail size.

Have a look at the twin illustration where a 19-knot (Force 5) wind is blowing and a strong three-knot tide is running. In the first one the rider is being moved by the tide away from the wind. As the wind hits the sail the windsurfer is moving away from it at three knots. This means that the sail only feels 16 knots as the Force 5 has effectively become a Force 4 in the sail. If the rider has rigged for a Force 5 then they might be underpowered, unable to get planing and be carried down tide like driftwood. Another way of looking at it is this: if you pushed someone who was moving away from you then they would not feel as much of a push/impact as they would if they were standing still.

In the second picture the rider is being moved by the tide into the wind. As the wind hits the sail the windsurfer is moving towards it at three knots. This means that the sail now feels 22 knots as the Force 5 has effectively become a Force 6 in the sail. So, if the rider has rigged for a Force 5 then they might be overpowered and unable to control the kit. Again, another way of looking at it is this: if you pushed someone who was moving towards you then they would feel a stronger push/impact than they would if they were standing still.

So this time we looked at safety, choosing a tidal window and the relationship between wind and tide. Maybe it's time to grab a mate and get out there with some kit to feel the energy of the sea. Have a plan, be safe and have fun. Just keep one eye out for those pirates...

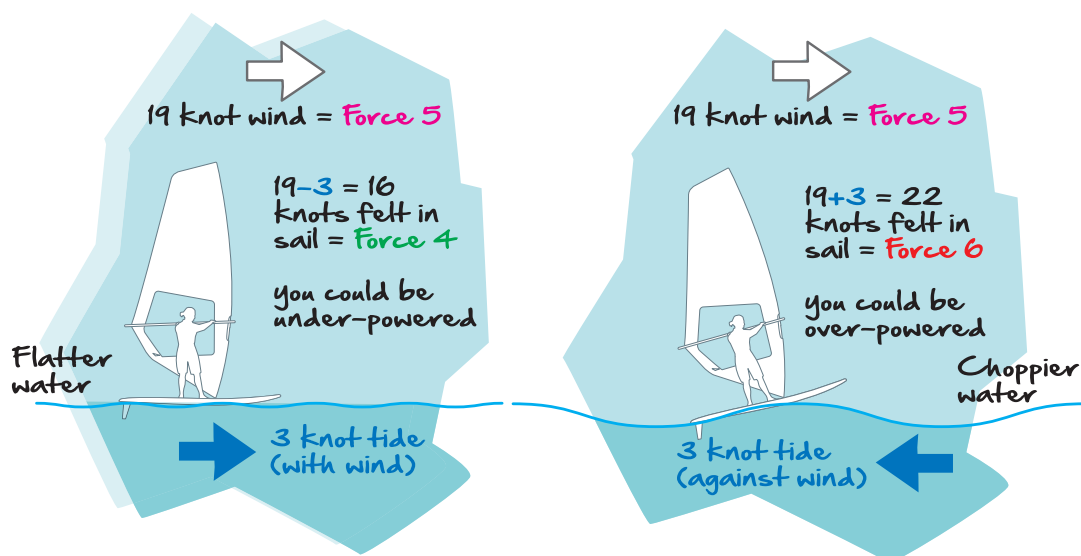
**Simon Winkley** is a RYA Advanced Windsurfing Instructor and a RYA Windsurfing Trainer actively coaching and running instructor courses in the UK and overseas.

He is supported by Starboard, Severne, Bray Lake Watersports and Spinlock.

**2018 dates:** Vass Coaching Weeks with OE 17 & 24 June; Weymouth Coaching Weekends at the OTC 17/18 March, 28/29 April, 28/29 July; Queen Mary Try Foiling Sessions 31 March, 20 April. Limited places.

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## WIND WITH/AGAINST TIDE



The relationship between wind and tide can alter the amount of power in your sail



# SIMON WINKLEY 2018 WINDSURF COACHING WEEKS VASSILIKI, GREECE



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"I had the best windsurfing holiday ever... Simon's enthusiasm and constant energy for coaching is so inspiring... looking forward to 2018!" (Maria, 2017)

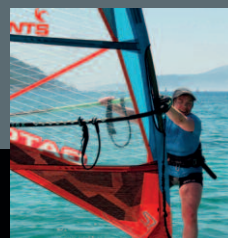


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# ...by name, by nature



## NoveNove (99 Int.) Chameleon 93 Pro 2018

Info: [www.i-99.it/y2018/windsurf/chameleon-5x/](http://www.i-99.it/y2018/windsurf/chameleon-5x/) Price: €2,399

### WORDS AND PICS: WINDSURFING UK

**HAVING ENJOYED TESTING NOVENOVE'S STYLE WAVE GLS SINGLE FIN FREESTYLE WAVE BOARD LAST ISSUE WE WERE POSITIVELY FROTHING TO HOP ON THE BRAND'S FLAGSHIP MULTIFIN CHAMELEON WAVE SLED FOR A BLAST. COMING IN DISTINCT LIME GREEN AND BLACK LIVERY THE 93 CAN BE SET AS EITHER A QUAD, TRI, TWIN OR SINGLE FIN RIPPER DEPENDING ON YOUR PREFERENCES. THIS LEVEL OF TUNING MAKE IT A GOOD CHOICE FOR VARIOUS WAVE SAILING SCENARIOS AND CONDITIONS.**

In pro carbon construction the Chameleon is light and feels nippy from the off. Our very first sesh aboard was full power vroom from the beach. Retaining a lively nature right through it may surprise a few just how manoeuvrable and yearning for a turn the Chameleon is.

With deft technique riders can increase the speed when a ramp rears and boosting high above the brine is done with decent projection. For those who want further height then swapping the central skeg to a slightly bigger type will yield best results.

Compact in shape the Chameleon's swing weight is low ensuring any choice of rotation is fast and efficient. For

those dabbling with loops – forward and back – it's a good vehicle for taking those first steps. Just make sure you hold on!

Heading back beachward the 93 prowls for liquid walls and begs sailors to drop in. Even on gutless swells the Chameleon carries admirable speed through the bottom turn allowing full throttle hits off the top. It's not really a parallel rail design, made specifically for lacklustre conditions, but it does handle mush quite well and therefore suits real world wave environments nicely.

With an open face and pitching lip the Chameleon comes into its own. Nippy and drivey through full rail carves it



lights up most wave sessions, so long as riders have enough power. Flavour of top turn is then down to the individual: full power smack, aerial punt or other, it's all doable and fulfilling.

### Conclusion

With a name like Chameleon you'd be correct assuming this board has a multi-faceted personality. Coping well with small, real world wave sailing conditions as well as excelling in better quality down the line stuff it's a tunable sled that likes full rail turns and powered up lip belts. Drivery in tri fin mode with more grip added for hollower waves in quad set up it's a board that'll love being chucked around. Jump it, carve it, smack it: whatever the weather and/or mode you'll be catered for with NoveNove's Chameleon 93.





# Tough performer

## Witchcraft Slayer 4.5m



WITCH CRAFT

**Info:** <http://witchcraft.nu/sails/slayer/> **Price:** £619; €702

### WORDS AND PICS: WINDSURFING UK

**HAVING USED WITCHCRAFT'S RANGE OF KARMA FIVE BATTEN POWER WAVE SAILS EXTENSIVELY IT WAS INTRIGUING LAYING HANDS ON THE FUERTEVENTURA BASED COMPANY'S FOUR BATTEN OFFERING. WITH A DESIGN BRIEF, AMONG OTHER THINGS, OF BEING ABLE TO WITHSTAND THE HARSHTEST OF ENVIRONMENTS ONE THING'S FOR SURE: IT'S A WAVE SAIL THAT'S BUILT TO LAST AND TAKE A BEATING!**

Rigging is standard fair with the Slayer 4.5m setting pretty flat – easy to sheath and set from the get go. If you're a splash 'n' dash sailor then this will be welcome news as it's quick as you like getting set up and ready to ride.

One of the things four batten sails have been criticised for in the past is topping out quickly, giving less range. Witchcraft address this with a morphing seam shape which allows the sail to handle more wind, and riders being able to rig smaller quicker. For instance we found time and again that if it was 4.7m/5m weather we could jump on the Slayer 4.5m and not lose too much in terms of early planing or power. Being on a smaller sail then (obviously) gives more manoeuvrable scope when looking to stomp moves – in the air and on the wave.

Launching from the beach there's plenty of grunt that'll unstick the most stubborn of boards. Even if underpowered a few pumps yield good results. The Slayer has been slightly criticised in the past for being a tad heavy. While certainly not ultra-light it isn't overly weighty either and should actually be compared to the equivalent wind range rather than same sail size. There's certainly no issue with manoeuvres, each aerial rotation being smooth and efficient with the added comfort of it being bombproof should things go awry.

On a wave, either onshore or side shore, WC's Slayer 4.5m has a positive pull without the rider getting bent out of shape. For sure, if pure surf style riding is your thing then you may need

to tune the Slayer accordingly. For most sailors, however, the sail's drive will be welcome, delivering riders to pitching lips quick smart. Off the tops are open for interpretation. Aerials though are a particular forte of the Slayer, giving enough boost and projection to clear even the thickest lip and white water.

### Conclusion

**Witchcraft's Slayer 4.5m has a large tunable range (we used it in some pretty hectic conditions and it behaved admirably considering it's a four batten sail) and great for tackling gnarly conditions, from onshore to side off. Loving a boost, either into the air or from a wave, it'll see riders soaring high in efficient manner. As a general high wind sail it works well, so freewave sailors will find favour, whilst on a wave it has all the necessary attributes to make surf riding fulfilling. Super solid construction also give it a longevity that most sails don't possess.**





# Compact efficiency

## Severne Dyno 105 2018



Info: [www.tushingham.com/severne](http://www.tushingham.com/severne) Price: £1849

**WORDS:** WINDSURFING UK **PICS:** JAMES JAGGER  
**HAVING BEEN PASSED SEVERNE'S BRAND NEW 2018 DYNO 105 FREESTYLE WAVE BOARD WE WEREN'T QUITE SURE WHAT TO EXPECT. THE MAIN THING RIDERS WILL NOTICE IS JUST HOW FAR BACK THE THRUSTER FIN BOXES ARE, AND HOW THE OVERALL SHAPE IS SIMILAR TO THE BRAND'S NANO DESIGN.**

With a gunny/stubby appearance (think new school shaping) Severn's Dyno 105 is sensitive to tuning. Where you put the mast track versus what size sail you're on and what type of windsurfing you have in mind makes all the difference. For instance: with a centrally positioned UJ there's loads of vroom from the off whereas nudging it back reveals superior manoeuvrability – small changes yielding differing results in terms of performance.

Something else of note are the hull's contours which have been shaped to help eat up chop and make the ride as smooth as possible. Combined with its parallel rail concept we concur this to be the case having used the Dyno 105 across a variety of full power scenarios and confused water states.

Another point of interest is the board's construction. Having had a slight mishap, where the board slipped from our grip whilst carrying, we can 100%

confirm it's tough as old boots. (Similar tests aren't recommended!).

Back to on water performance and coastal blasting is fulfilling. With 'quick settings' employed riders are poised for some boosted jumps, even off small chop. Hit a full on ramp and you can sky it with the best of them. Coping well with decent power best jumping results are when fully lit. Have no fear in terms of control as the Dyno laps up blowy weather and remains composed at all times. In fact, we found the breezier it gets the better.

Dial everything back to carving performance and even hardened wave heads may be surprised how well the Dyno turns. Its new school attributes, with pivotal re-directs, make small-medium sized fast waves applicable. With a bit of chunk in the mix riders can go rail to rail but the slashier/slidier style of riding is where it's at. A nice



trait of the Dyno is the non-slip that's been added to the deck pads. Through aggressive turns feet won't slip ensuring constant feedback with each move – another tick in the box.

### Conclusion

**Severne's Dyno 105 is an efficient all rounder for coastal sailors erring slightly towards new school, onshore wave riding. Effectively tuneable, riders should take some time to get to 'know' the board before really going for it. Whilst bump and jump sailing is fun we got the most amount of enjoyment bunting about in surf. Delivering some of the most fulfilling wave sailing we've had in a while it's a board that'll help turn cruddy days into best ever sessions. We really enjoyed the Dyno 105 when winds ramped up and chunky nuggets and lips presented themselves to belt.**





# Reap what you sow



## Witchcraft Reaper 102

**Info:** <http://witchcraft.nu/boards/reaper/> **Price:** From €2009

### WORDS AND PICS: WINDSURFING UK

**WITCHCRAFT IS SYNONYMOUS WITH BOMB PROOF WAVE BOARD AND WAVE SAIL DESIGNS. THE REAPER THEREFORE MAY SURPRISE MANY WITH ITS DIFFERENT PERSONALITIES (DEPENDING ON FIN SET UP) AND OVERALL VERSATILITY.**

Out of the box WC's Reaper 102 looks more like a custom board. In fact, all WC windsurf boards have this trait, even though many riders will be purchasing production sleds. (WC do offer a full custom shaping service as well). Walking down the beach with the Reaper certainly gets heads turning. Even though the brand has been in existence for many years Bouke Becker's designs always prick interests.

Another unique trait is the three thruster fins which come in almost identical sizes, rather than the significantly bigger central fin you get in most cases. Having honed the thruster shape over countless hours all WC tri fins are guaranteed to perform at an optimum. From the beach the Reaper powers up instantly. We initially thought it may require an additional boost of power to get planing, yet with a flatter rocker and wide tail there are no issues revving up to full speed.

For sailors who lean more to freeride coastal sailing, with a bit of wave riding here and there, it'll be comforting to know the Reaper 102 is a perfectly adequate blaster. WC suggest swapping the central fin to a bigger type for this style of riding. Yet even with stock fins still in place it's an adept bump and jump machine with enough speed and projection through low altitude flights to keep most happy. If you follow advice and insert a bigger fin then you get the same and more. Whilst not technically freewave it certainly displays similar traits.

Get involved in some real world wave action, however, and the Reaper 102 is a grin inducing toy. For a sled with minimal rocker it fits snugly into the wave's pocket and delivers fast rail to rail carves, gripping just when riders need. It's possible to get a few slides going but it prefers a fully extended turn with buckets of spray chucked in the process.



Full power aerial boosts off waves are rewarding with the Reaper's compact shape allowing for snappy rotations. New school tricksters will also find favour with the board as the wider nose helps transition through moves like takas.

### Conclusion

**Bomb proof, with custom sled good looks, Witchcraft's Reaper 102 will win over riders who sail at coastal venues. Able to straddle freewave and full on wave sailing environments it's a tunable board that full rail carving orientated windsurfers will enjoy. In the air the Reaper achieves decent height and it copes with full power conditions admirably (we had it out in fully lit 4.5m weather with no issue). If you're searching for an alternative coastal windsurfing board, poised to make use of real world scenarios, then WC's Reaper 102 could fit the bill nicely.**





# Wave escapism

## Loftsails Wavescape 5m 2018



**Info:** <https://www.loftsails.com/windsurf-gear/sails/wavescape> **Price:** £569

**Buy:** <https://4boards.co.uk/product/windsurf/windsurf-sails/loftsails-wavescape-2018/>

**WORDS:** WINDSURFING UK **PICS:** JAMES JAGGER

**LOFTSAILS' WAVESCAPE 5M IS THE FIRST SAIL FROM MONTY SPINDLER'S ICONIC WINDSURF SAIL BRAND WE'VE USED. BACK IN THE DAY IT WAS THE BRAND'S POPULAR LIP THAT SEEMED TO BE CHOICE BUT THESE DAYS THE RANGE HAS A REFINED AND FRESH AESTHETIC MAKING THE WAVESCAPE VISUALLY APPEALING WHEN ON THE WATER. COMING IN STRIKING BLUE AND BLACK LIVERY THIS FOUR BATTEN WAVE SAIL IS COMPACT AND BOMBPROOF, READY TO TAKE ON ALL THAT MOTHER NATURE CAN THROW AT IT.**

Rigging is simple, the Wavescape sheathing to its recommended mast without issue. The foot has a full-length Velcro opening flap that helps no end. As with most four batten wave sails there's not really need to over downhaul.

A flatter profile will suffice to get you on the water and riding. As such the bottom end grunt of the Wavescape is tangible. There's a lot of power driving you forward onto the plane ready to hit that first ramp as early as possible.

Even with all this power there's a subtle handling trait to the Wavescape 5m. This is particularly welcome when

nailing down moves. The Wavescape gives enough oomph to get you moving through those transitions with ease yet can become 'invisible' when riders need the power switching off – during backies, for instance, where forward momentum needs to be killed.

For anyone of a freestyle bent, and by this we mean those sliding tricks that have you travelling backwards, Loft's Wavescape 5m accommodates, providing versatility which could see it being adopted by a wider audience rather than just out and out surf fans.

And what about the sail's all-important wave handling ability? Just as with high

altitude moves you can switch the power on and off pretty easily. Drive into a full rail bottom turn and there's plenty of pull should you need it. Back off until needing some extra zoom and it reacts with rider input accordingly. For spray inducing turns it's a particularly efficient sail that allows riders to push hard when the NOS is engaged.

### Conclusion

**Typically grunty and early planing** Loftsail's Wavescape 5m is a powerful engine that will have you up and riding in no time. Great for boosting high, with plenty of scope for new or old school moves, it's definitely one jumpers will find favour with. On a wave it pulls sailors through turns and will suit aggressive riders wanting to eek every last bit of juice out of the wave – spray chuckers sign here. Manufactured to a high spec with distinct looks Loft's WS 5m would be a worthy addition to any wave head's quiver, particularly if you enjoy stomping moves.





# Unmasked power

## Flight Sails The Zorro 5.2m



Info: <http://flightsails.com> Price: € 588

### WORDS AND PICS: WINDSURFING UK

**FOR ANYONE FOLLOWING THE PWA WORLD WAVE TOUR, DANY BRUCH WILL BE A FAMILIAR NAME. THE RIPPER FROM TENERIFE IS ONE OF THE MOST PROGRESSIVE WINDSURFERS AROUND AND AS SUCH DEMANDS THE NECESSARY TOOLS TO PERFORM AT SUCH A HIGH LEVEL. FLIGHT SAILS MAY BE A NEW NAME TO SOME BUT DANY'S SIGNATURE WAVE SAIL, THE ZORRO, IS CERTAINLY PRIMED FOR ACTION.**

The Zorro 5.2m is another four batten wave sail, and yet, slightly different in terms of shape to many. With quite a wide main panel, tapering quickly from the clew to the head, it's almost two sails in one – the head being that of smaller rig. We should add that looks wise The Zorro is an aesthetic stand out with bright orange and white laminate scrim yelling "LOOK AT ME!"

With design input from Bjorn de Vos, Bart David (another Cabezo legend) and Jose Fernandez The Zorro is a full throttle power machine from the get go. At the merest sniff of a gust it'll get riders up and running, yet remain composed without any bad manners rearing their head.

A nice big see through window, with Z-Carbon Slat offering extra reinforcement,

dominates the main panel – great for down the line vision. And with double seam reinforcement it's a pretty robust sail that'll take some abuse.

Jumping is a pleasure with The Zorro. It's a sail that generates a lot of lift from even the smallest of ramps. If you're into rocket air or big aerial moves then apply here. Through rotations The Zorro remains controlled and makes for soft landings without bending riders out of shape. It's worth experimenting with rigging settings to make sure you understand where the sweet spot is for various types of sailing.

On a wave and it's surprisingly soft through the bottom turn. There's certainly no lacking of oomph yet there's a lot of depower meaning even purist surf riders will find favour with

The Zorro. Give it some back hand tug, however, and The Zorro reacts accordingly, allowing all manner of moves to be thrown down. In particular parallel rail wave board shapes seem to be best match for the 5.2m with plenty of spray chucking being the order of the day in less than perfect waves.

### Conclusion

Flight Sails' design team have come up with a very new school sail in The Zorro 5.2m. Perfect for onshore conditions, with manoeuvre orientated leanings, it's powerful when needed but equally forgettable when riders want to concentrate only on carving turns. For down the line days it works fine but may need a tweak in tuning to make sure you're getting the most out of it. Great for boosting big jumps, with only moderate ramps to launch from, Flight Sails The Zorro 5.2m looks the business and will turn heads at the beach.



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