

WINDuk **SURFING**

SAIL + WING + FIN + FOIL



Autumn 2023 issue.

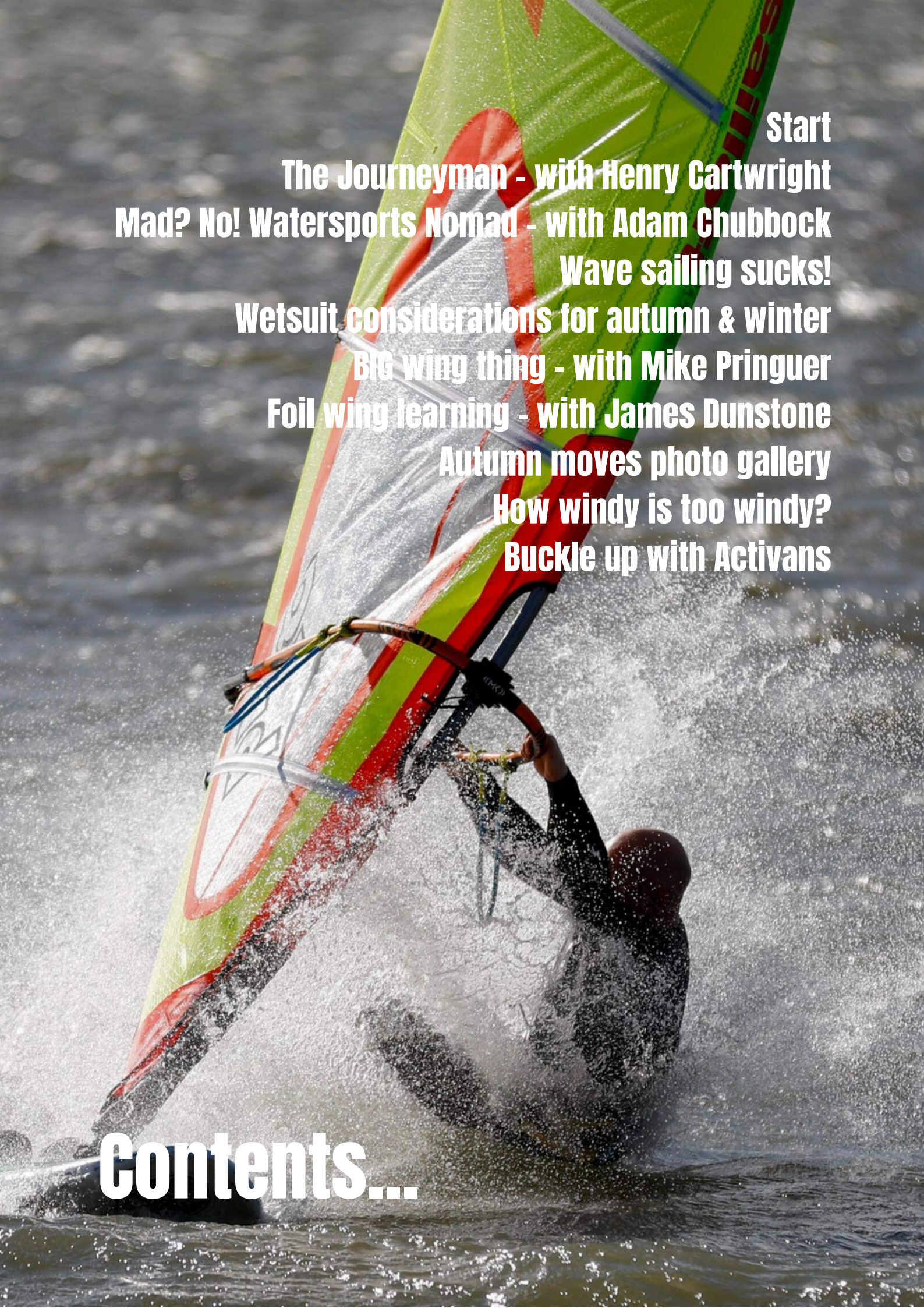
**NORTH COAST WETSUITS: for all
your windsurfing wetsuit
and accessory needs.**

**Premium new
wetsuits and pre-
loved available!**

northcoastwetsuits.co.uk



Based in Cornwall, UK



Start
The Journeyman - with Henry Cartwright
Mad? No! Watersports Nomad - with Adam Chubbock
Wave sailing sucks!
Wetsuit considerations for autumn & winter
Big wing thing - with Mike Pringuer
Foil wing learning - with James Dunstone
Autumn moves photo gallery
How windy is too windy?
Buckle up with Activans

Contents...

**Windsurfing UK published by
NCW/Windsurfing UK.
Publishers: Tez Plavenieks/Mark
Graham.
Editor: Tez Plavenieks.**

**Advertising & submission enquiries:
tezwoz@gmail.com.**

**Contributors: Mike Pringuer, Tom
Pringuer, Henry Cartwright, Adam
Chubbock, PROtography, Dave
Ludgate, James Dunstone, Activan,
Oli Lane-Peirce, James Jagger, Alex
Irwin, NCW, Foilshop UK.**

**Windsurfing UK aims to make sure all
details and info are correct at the
time of publishing. These may
change without notice. Windsurfing
UK won't be held responsible for
changes made without notice.**

**All content within Windsurfing UK
remains the property of the owners.
Any third party reproduction needs
prior consent from Windsurfing UK.**

**All rights reserved. Copyright
Windsurfing UK 2023.**



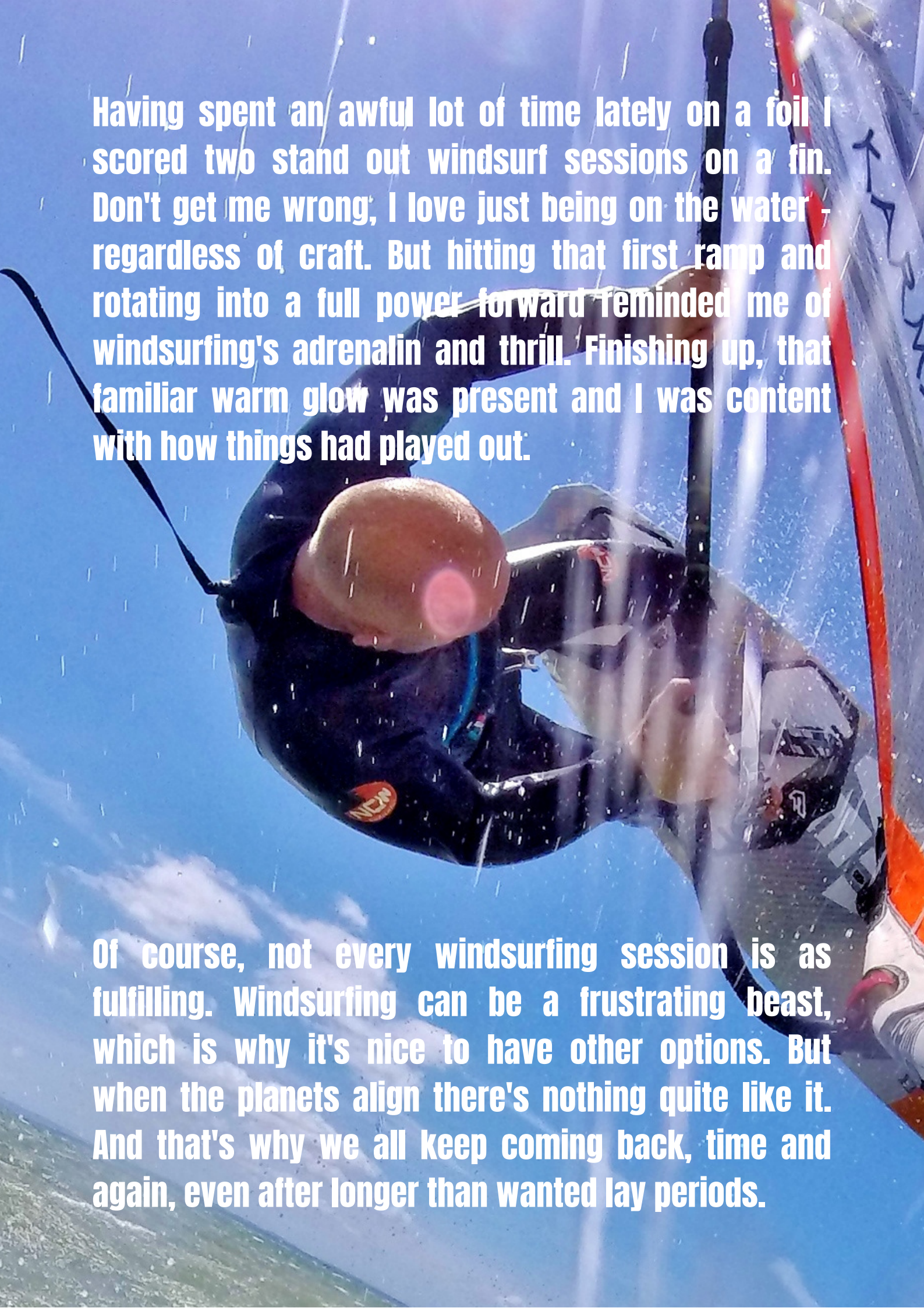
WINDuk
SURFING
SAIL + WING + FIN + FOIL



Start...



Windsurfing has changed. We can all agree on that. It's no longer the sport it was. Gone are those halcyon days of before. In a world jam packed of 'others' windsurfing has become an elder statesman. Not that this makes hanging onto a sail any less addictive. Far from it. Whilst there are newer school rambunctious upstarts vying for your attention (some of which are represented in this magazine) windsurfing stands proud as ever. There's nothing quite like blatting across the water, full power, with a gale blowing - something brought back to my attention in the last few days (as of Sept '23).



Having spent an awful lot of time lately on a foil I scored two stand out windsurf sessions on a fin. Don't get me wrong, I love just being on the water - regardless of craft. But hitting that first ramp and rotating into a full power forward reminded me of windsurfing's adrenalin and thrill. Finishing up, that familiar warm glow was present and I was content with how things had played out.

Of course, not every windsurfing session is as fulfilling. Windsurfing can be a frustrating beast, which is why it's nice to have other options. But when the planets align there's nothing quite like it. And that's why we all keep coming back, time and again, even after longer than wanted lay periods.

Windsurfing may have changed. In fact, the way Windsurfing UK covers wind sports has. But those feelings of excitement, adrenaline, elation and the after sail buzz hasn't. If you've not put your feet in those footstraps for a while then I'd urge you to dust off the kit and grab a session when you can. You won't be sorry! Enjoy this issue and maybe I'll see you on the water.

**Tez Plavenieks.
Sept 2023.**



Thanks to all the contributors who helped get this issue of Windsurfing UK out there. We couldn't do it without you!



One range for all
your windsurfing
needs. Designed
by Teva Sails.



Nautix sails
available now!

3.5m - 4.5m - 5.2m - 6.0m - 6.7m

The journeyman - with Henry Cartwright.



Henry Cartwright is doing things his own way. Using his windsurfing kit as a vehicle Henry's passion for journeying and touring is right on the fringe of what most windsurfers consider the sport to be. We caught up with Henry to find out more.

Interview: WSUK

Words & pics: Henry Cartwright

When and how did you first get into windsurfing?

I got into windsurfing at the age of 13. I had a go on a family longboard with a 6.1m sail and loved it immediately. I liked going (what I thought was) fast but most of all just being on the water and feeling a really powerful sensory connection to the kit, the conditions and the water.

What appeals? Why do you love it?

Windsurfing has always been a family thing for me with my brother and sister and staying down with my grandparents on Hayling so is very much associated with fun family times at Hayling island Sailing Club. Everything about the sport appeals; a greater exhilaration than any roller coaster while being on the sea which I would describe to any skier as being one huge wild off piste! Windsurfing's physicality combined with its freedom brings it into an almost spiritual realm.

Where did you do most of your sailing growing up?

I started sailing my oppy aged 8, then raced a mix of dinghies including toppers and an RS200 in my early teens around the Junior week, Mengham week, Fed week circuit. Once I discovered windsurfing that was phased out fairly rapidly although I still like dinghy sailing a lot and also sail yachts these days. All of this and the early windsurfing happened at Hayling Island Sailing club with the occasional trip to Greece and Turkey for Sunsail holidays, Yedi Tepe in Turkey being the first time I planed on a short board! Other classic destinations like Club Vass, Dahab and Terifa have featured since.

Made it!





When and how did you get into destination, journey windsurfing?

Aged 15 (soon after I started planing) I drew into my geography GCSE atlas a plan to windsurf from Hayling to Penzance. At the time it was like a dream to land on the moon - totally absurd and just an escapism from school work. Then in 2007 I read about Guy Cribb windsurfing en masse from Bournemouth to Brighton and realised that people could travel on windsurf boards. In the summer of 2008 I parked my car in Brighton, got the train back to Hayling Island Sailing Club and set off to attempt my first long distance trip, making it just 2 miles to... Bracklesham on my 104 litre AHD totally unable to get out beyond the surf. There was a lot to learn, including packing kitchen scissors into my rucksack for anticipated sail repairs was perhaps not the best idea! Finally I returned to the garden of some strangers who had kindly accommodated my kit.

Hastings.



In 2015 and after many years of 'normal' windsurfing I followed Jono Dunnett's circumnavigation of Britain and was totally captivated. Jono and I have been in correspondence since. It was in the summer of 2016 when a friend said I should visit him in Norfolk that I set off from Felixstowe on my 112 litre bic techno, laden with tins of tuna, to work my way up the coast! This time I was semi-successful and in true Jono style slept under the sail over the course of the 2 day trip. I was terrified throughout but absolutely loved it.

Careful of that shore dump!



Taking a breather.



2017 was my first (unsuccessful) round isle of wight attempt after having completed double digit laps of Hayling that year. Again I learnt a lot rounding the Needles on a short board.

In the spring of 2019 I bought a second hand Starboard longboard which was a total gamechanger and with Mike Pringuer's help got it down to Hayling. This was the proper start of my long distance windsurfing career and I windsurfed that board down to Penzance from Hayling over 2 weeks in 2019 and 2020, finally completing the Isle of Wight Circumnavigation in 9 hours from Hayling Island Sailing Club in 2020 as well as many other trips.

What appeals about touring and covering distance?

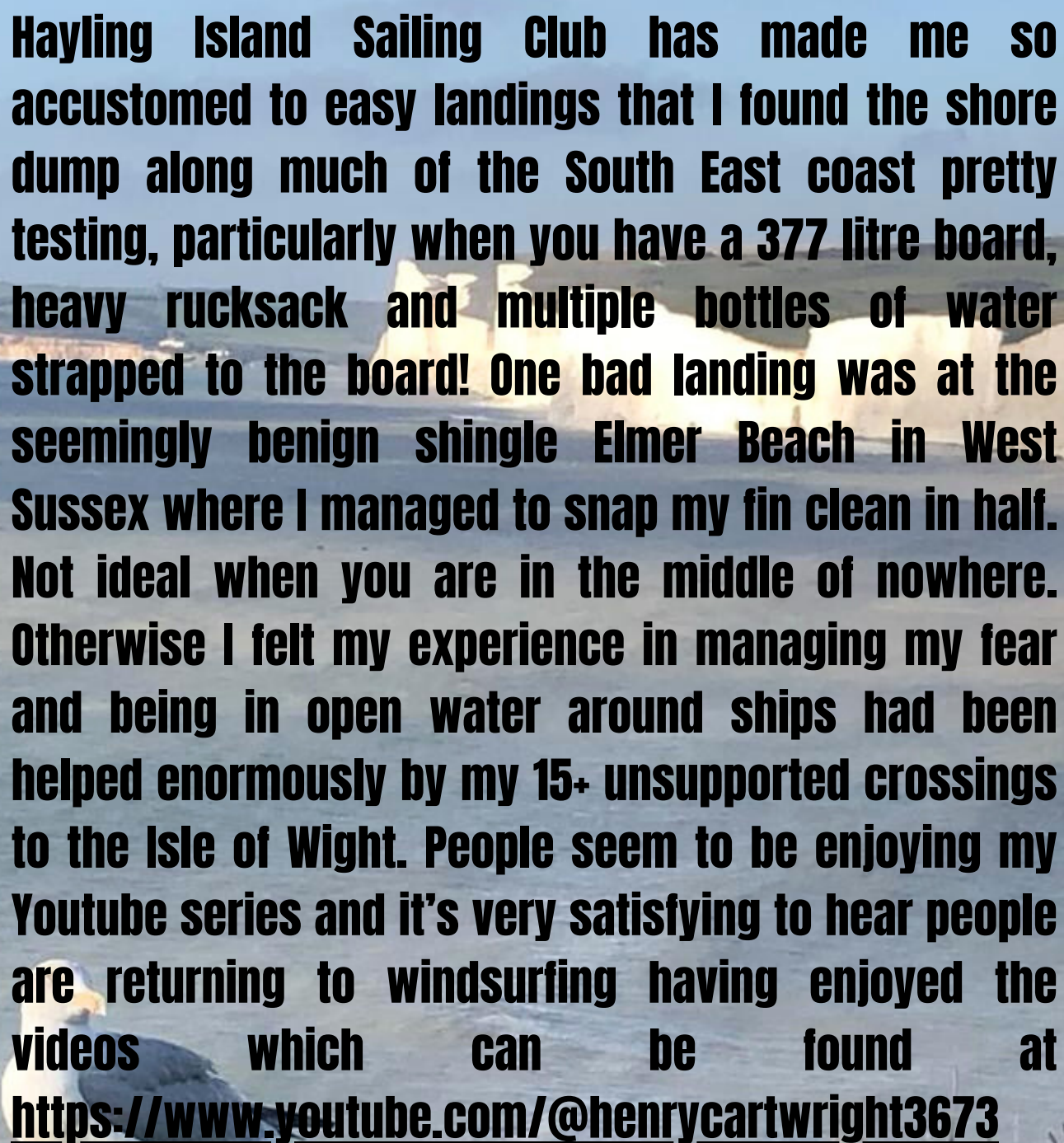
Quite simply it's the challenge and variety. There are the physical challenges and the mental challenges. The test of seamanship and judgement of the conditions makes it a constant - big stakes - strategical game with the elements. I like the decision making that is required; when to go and when not to go. The dynamic is always David vs Goliath where the windsurfer is naturally an underdog in the face of the sea. While it can be a battle - at its best feels like harmony.



This summer you completed a milestone England to France crossing. Tell us about the experience.

Really notable was the sheer range of conditions I sailed, from getting becalmed to 30 knots, always being on the same 6m sail! It was really great seeing parts of the coastline I didn't know and the Beachy Head and Seven Sisters cliffs were a real highlight and totally majestic. I felt comfortable with the scale of the challenge and most scenarios, from limited landing opportunities to choppy sea states and difficult landings.



A seagull with a white body and grey wings stands on a grassy shore. The background shows a calm sea and a clear sky. The text is overlaid on the image.

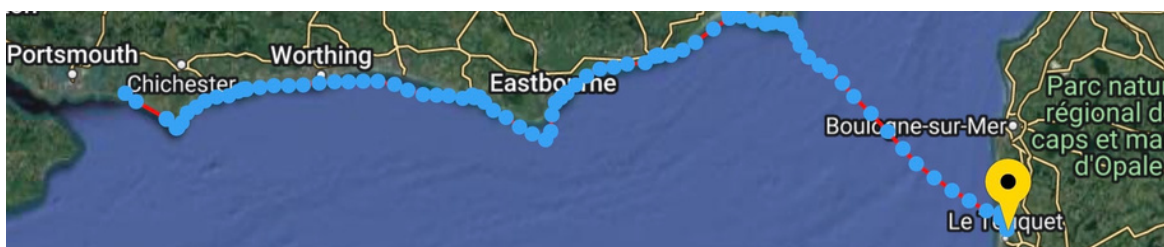
Hayling Island Sailing Club has made me so accustomed to easy landings that I found the shore dump along much of the South East coast pretty testing, particularly when you have a 377 litre board, heavy rucksack and multiple bottles of water strapped to the board! One bad landing was at the seemingly benign shingle Elmer Beach in West Sussex where I managed to snap my fin clean in half. Not ideal when you are in the middle of nowhere. Otherwise I felt my experience in managing my fear and being in open water around ships had been helped enormously by my 15+ unsupported crossings to the Isle of Wight. People seem to be enjoying my Youtube series and it's very satisfying to hear people are returning to windsurfing having enjoyed the videos which can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/@henrycartwright3673>

Any further big windsurfing journeys planned in the pipeline?

Watch this space...

What are the key tips for anyone fancying some of the same?

Do lots of smaller trips before putting yourself at risk of danger. There are many great trips in Poole Langstone or Chichester Harbours. Otherwise, they say you are only as good as your last performance but in long distance windsurfing I say you are only as good as your current one. That is to say, I am no better qualified than anyone else. The sea does not care what you may have previously achieved. It will judge you based on your decisions right now. I would suggest you get a long board with a dagger board so that you can get upwind and sail off the plane and also ensure you carry appropriate safety devices such as mobile phones, epirb, vhf radio and gps trackers and of course tell someone where you are going or ask them to track you. Do not risk kit failure so you need well serviced kit. I had my board separate from my rig 3 miles off Sidmouth due to a faulty pin. It was truly a miracle that I managed to reconnect the two while being in the water.



What are the key tips for anyone fancying some of the same?

Do lots of smaller trips before putting yourself at risk of danger. There are many great trips in Poole Langstone or Chichester Harbours. Otherwise, they say you are only as good as your last performance but in long distance windsurfing I say you are only as good as your current one. That is to say, I am no better qualified than anyone else.



Full power!



More iconic locations.

The sea does not care what you may have previously achieved. It will judge you based on your decisions right now. I would suggest you get a long board with a dagger board so that you can get upwind and sail off the plane and also ensure you carry appropriate safety devices such as mobile phones, epirb, vhf radio and gps trackers and of course tell someone where you are going or ask them to track you. Do not risk kit failure so you need well serviced kit. I had my board separate from my rig 3 miles off Sidmouth due to a faulty pin. It was truly a miracle that I managed to reconnect the two while being in the water.

Shredded hands
are par for the
course.





[Check out Henry's
YouTube channel
here.](#)

Any further thoughts on windsurfing?

While it's of course the most beautiful sport there are some obstacles that windsurfing needs to overcome. Firstly it is difficult so needs to be fun at the beginning. Something I have learnt from making videos - otherwise people switch off. Secondly it needs to overcome the 'car' issue. Fewer and fewer young people have cars so hire kit needs to be accessible. Thirdly is the wind - well that's inherent to the sport. Long boards and foiling address that and we are in a much better position than 30 or 40 years ago with better forecasts. I would love to see more people come into the sport and hope in a very small way to be showing people what can be done in the world of windsurfing!

Hitting the lip on a 130L Techno? Why not!

Words: Tez Plavenieks

Pics: Tez Plavenieks, Oli Lane Peirce



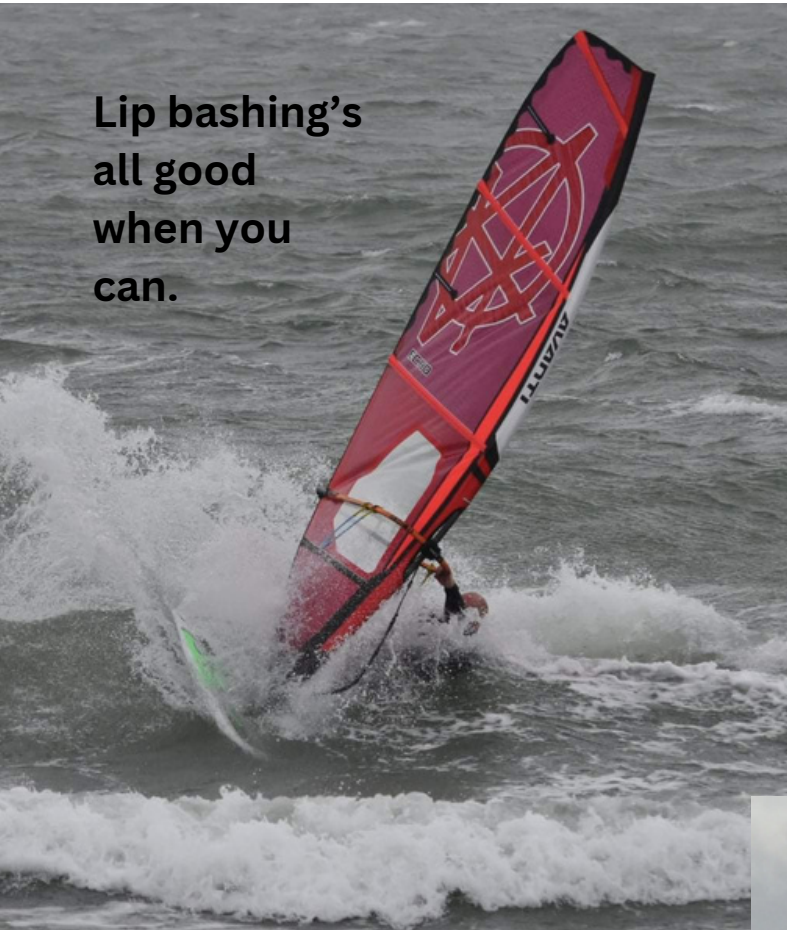
Wave sailing sucks! (Or: the merits of alternative windsurfing kit).

That title probably grabbed your attention! Read on to find out if the sentiment rings true as Tez Plavenieks talks about increasing your chances of scoring fulfilling windy sessions.

Foiling always delivers in terms of getting you wet.



Lip bashing's
all good
when you
can.



Before we get stuck into this let's just set the record straight: wave sailing doesn't suck! But it's a bloody frustrating part of windsurfing that many riders are in the habit of chasing.

In many cases to fruitless ends too often. Especially when other forms of windsurfing would fit the bill so much better. Or in the face of decent waves and no wind using an alternative form of surf craft altogether.

Wave sliding fun.



Bigger gear, flater water = fun!



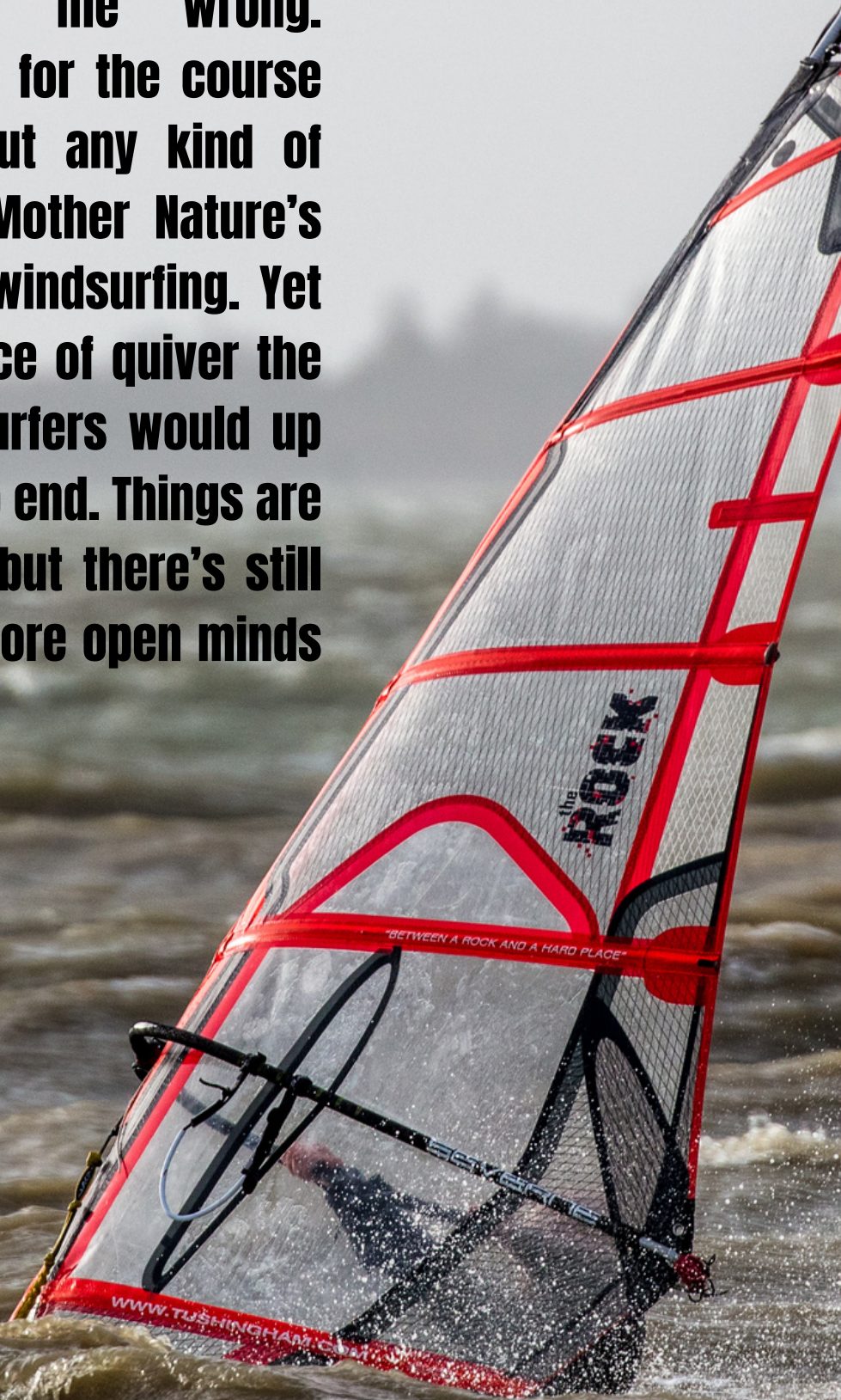
At the merest sniff of a gnat's fart windy vehicle procession to the beach, laden with all manner of maneuver oriented gear, begins. Before long the car park's full - mainly of forlorn looking faces gazing out to sea as yet another predicted bout of windsurfing weather fails to materialise. For those with responsibilities - work, family and stuff - it's infuriating. That 80L wave shredder hasn't been used in months whilst the 100L trick stick has only had a few runs out. And let's not mention that spangly new 3.7m you convinced the other half you definitely needed for all those storm force days! Sod it! You may as well bite the bullet and buy a kayak...

Reading through many windsurf mags and seeing what ends up online will have you thinking every other sailor (apart from you) is up and down the length of the country, scouring for conditions, daily. This just isn't true, however. What you're seeing is 'the dream' being sold by marketing gurus and pro riders whose job it is to get you frothing. 90% of all windsurfers are simply in no position to do this kind of thing. Most windsurfers will do what's already been explained: hit their local on a predicted forecast, hoping for some classic conditions.



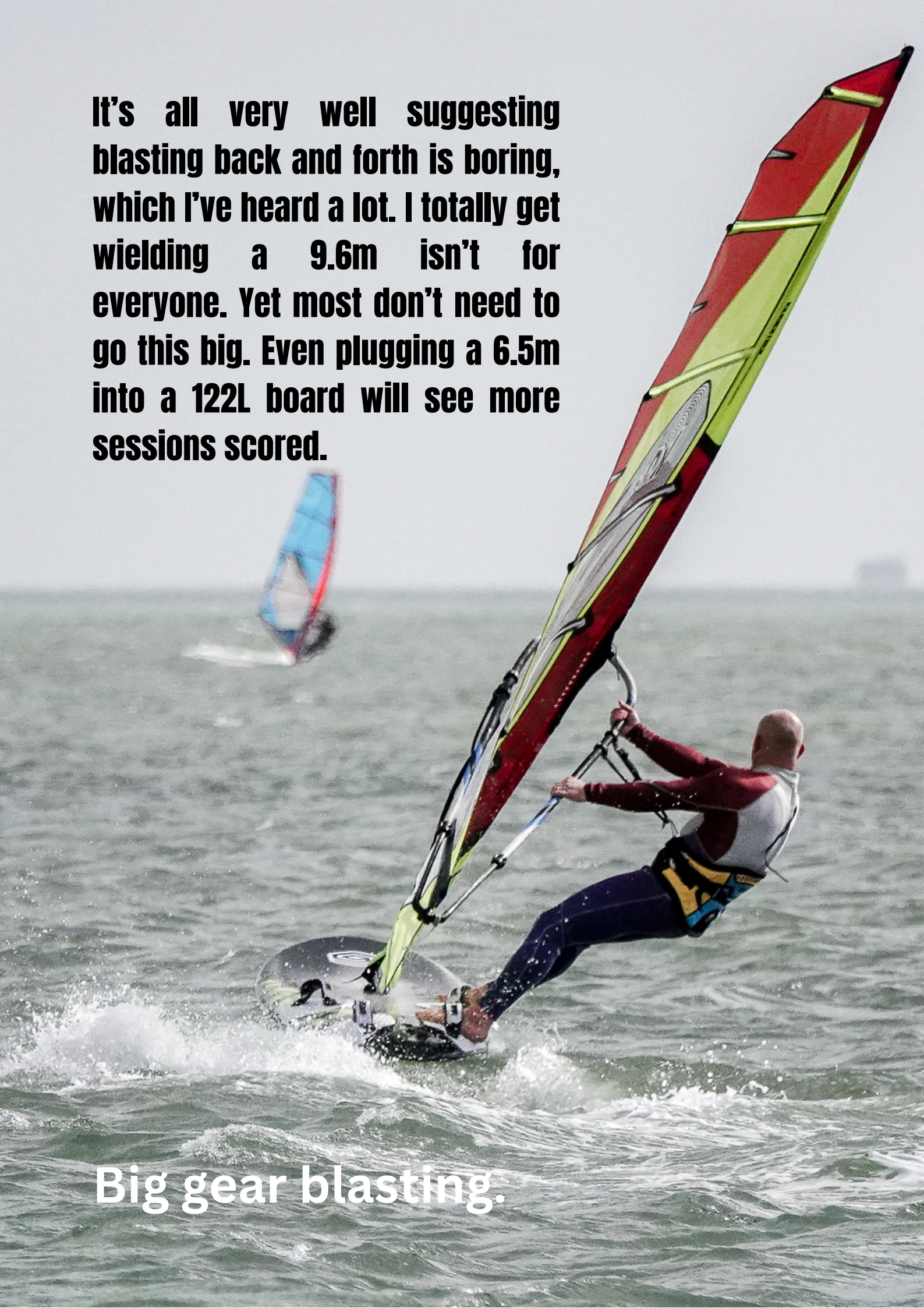
Going for a blast to get that fix is the most important thing!

Now don't get me wrong. Skunkings are par for the course when talking about any kind of sport relying on Mother Nature's moods, not least windsurfing. Yet with a better choice of quiver the majority of windsurfers would up their water time no end. Things are changing, slowly, but there's still a way to go and more open minds needed.



Full power hour!

It's all very well suggesting blasting back and forth is boring, which I've heard a lot. I totally get wielding a 9.6m isn't for everyone. Yet most don't need to go this big. Even plugging a 6.5m into a 122L board will see more sessions scored.



Big gear blasting.

And owning this type of gear doesn't need to break the bank. You don't have to go all out and buy new, there are plenty of bargains to be had if you look in the right places and are prepared to 'move' when a deal pops up.



Of course, when your number comes up that magic chart will deliver and you'll enjoy some awesome windsurfing, possibly of a wave flavour. In the meantime maybe it's time to re-visit your windsurfing roots and get hold of some appropriate tools for the job and get more time on the brine windsurfing.

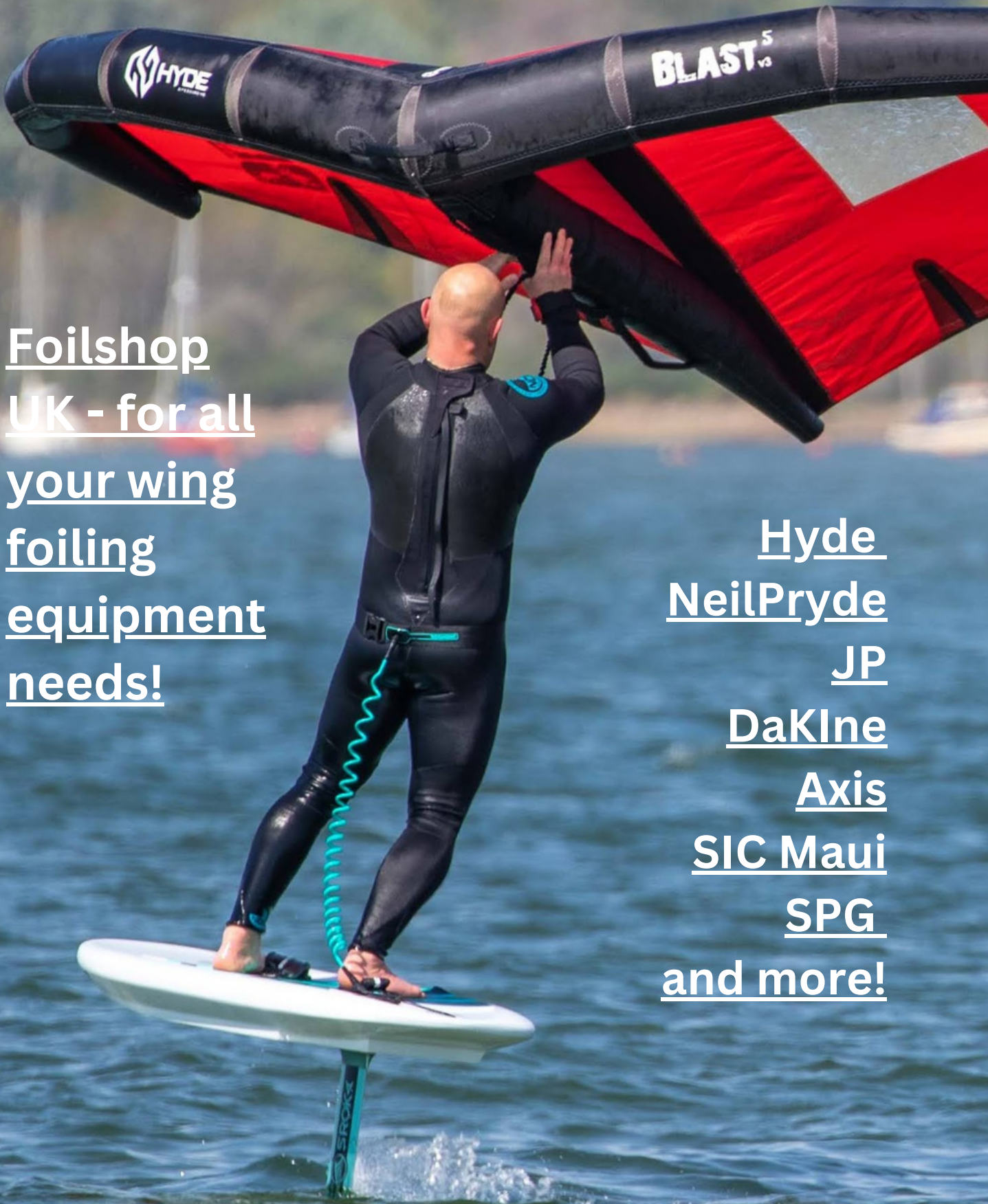


FOILSHOP

THE HYDROFOILING EXPERTS

Foilshop
UK - for all
your wing
foiling
equipment
needs!

Hyde
NeilPryde
JP
DaKine
Axis
SIC Maui
SPG
and more!

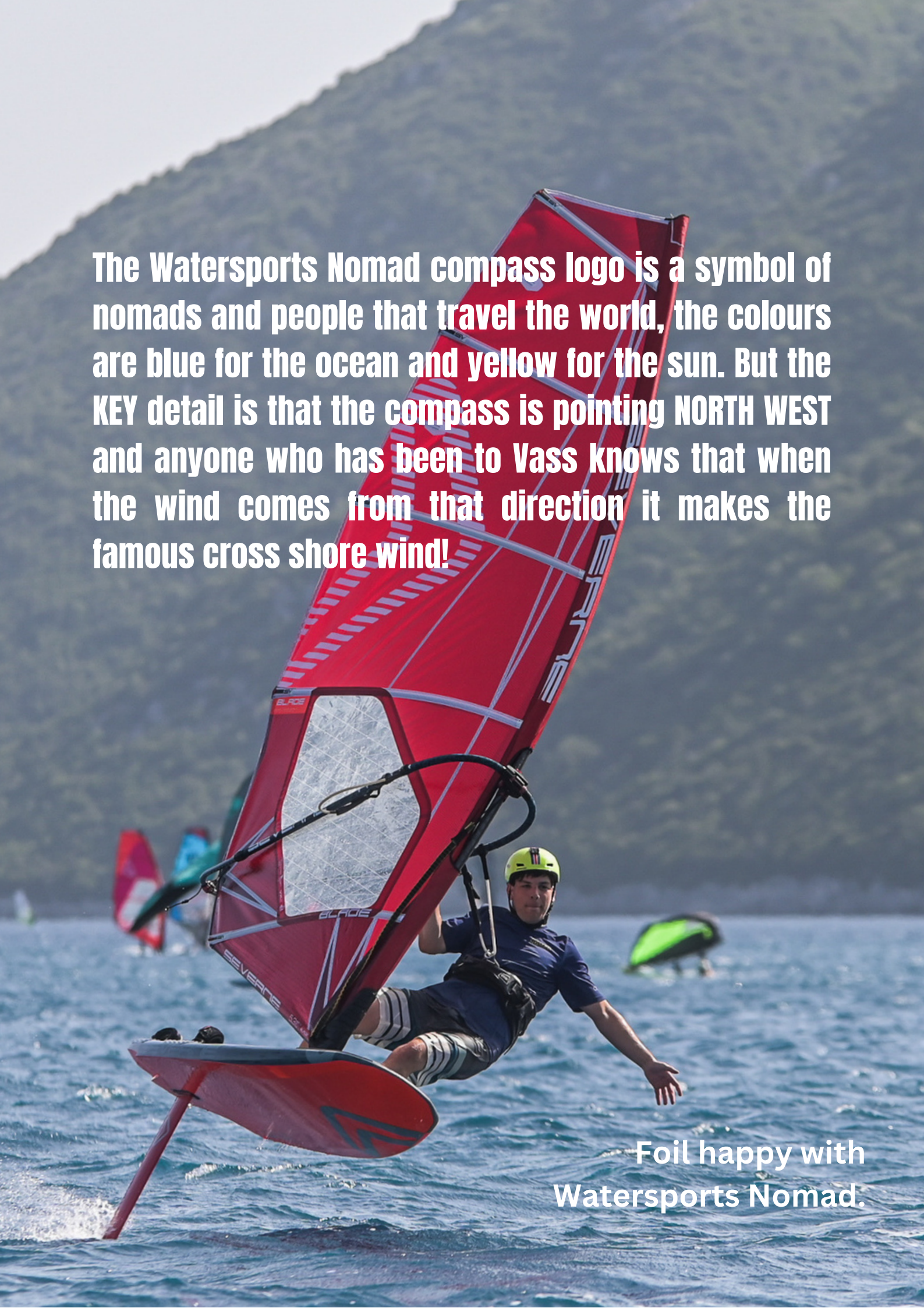




Mad? No! Watersports Nomad!

Pics: PROtography with Adam Chubbock.

Watersports Nomad was born during Covid in the dark days when we were considering if the world would ever be the same again. I thought: “Am I MAD to be RE starting a watersports Instructor training company in Greece??” Then I thought of all the people that have been through Vassiliki instructor training and had a life changing experience and gone on to travel the world using their watersports qualifications. I thought that's NOT MAD hence WATERSPORTS NOMAD!

A windsurfer is captured in mid-air, performing a foil on a red sailboat. The sail is a vibrant red with white and blue accents, featuring a prominent compass logo. The windsurfer is wearing a blue shirt, dark shorts, and a yellow helmet. The background shows a blue sea and a hazy, mountainous coastline under a clear sky. Other sailboats are visible in the distance.

The Watersports Nomad compass logo is a symbol of nomads and people that travel the world, the colours are blue for the ocean and yellow for the sun. But the KEY detail is that the compass is pointing NORTH WEST and anyone who has been to Vass knows that when the wind comes from that direction it makes the famous cross shore wind!

Foil happy with
Watersports Nomad.

The aims for all Watersports Nomad students on our courses in Vassiliki are as always:

- 1. Push your personal Windsurfing / Sailing skills as far as you possibly can.**
- 2. Pass the RYA instructor Certification and complete all the personal pre requisite certificates, tests and powerboat exams.**
- 3. Learn all the skills and tricks required to be a competent seasonnaire living and working in a foreign country and gain employment at the end if that's your goal.**

**Blasting fun in
Vass bay.**



The start of the season is always exciting. There is a buzz in the air because everyone is excited to be there, reunited with old friends and making new ones. With everyone telling stories about their winter and getting charged up on the summer ahead. The temperature is nice and there is usually lots of water-time!



The beauty of Vassilki

Chubsy boosting!



The industry is still fulfilling the objectives of allowing people to have the sunshine escapes and travel either during uni breaks or instead of uni altogether. There is a massive opportunity to make more of a career. High end operators are crying out for people with qualifications and experience to fill their management roles which can set you up for a lifetime!



Watersports is still a viable career path! But you need to be adaptable and pay attention to the path you want to take. These qualifications can open doors and allow opportunities to present themselves that you never knew would be possible.



You will meet many new people and the next step will become clear usually 6 months at a time....

The best
training
provider.

WATERSPORTS
NOMAD

I will use a quote from one of our feedback forms:
“It’s an amazing experience like nothing else; a great way to learn and progress in a sport and become an instructor in the sunshine. The location and equipment are fantastic and there is lots of water time! The Instructors are so friendly and personable they make you feel like you are joining a new family!”

Vass still has all the elements in one place; a range of wind conditions throughout the day to suit all levels, warm water, a gently shelving sandbar, brand new equipment. The strong wind in the afternoons allows everyone to participate in the show or to watch from the bar, either way the energy is exciting. Vass has also expanded its repertoire to Foiling and eFoiling plus the biking and eBiking just keeps getting better. There's too much to do!

Yes!



Ooo arrrr!



The party scene is still based on all the original factors: a load of like minded individuals thrown into a small easy going Greek village, with relaxed rules and warm long evenings! The WILDWIND and CLUB VASS bbqs are both very fun events each week and the Zeus bar is available at (nearly) all hours!

We had some great sessions in September this year. The weather stayed warm and having strong wind with fewer people in the bay allowed the staff to celebrate the end of peak season with some ripping around! It always feels like winning when you know it's chilling down in the UK but the summer is still in full swing in Vass.

Essential skills.



Many special memories have been created this summer, we have had a fantastic bunch of students with a wide range of ages and backgrounds, we have trained over 45 new instructors who are ready to take on the world! The times I love are celebrating the countless breakthroughs of the first time footstraps, planing, Water Starts and Carve gybes, with hard earned beers at the beach bar!! The party stories will live on with these guys who will be friends for life no doubt!



I am already planning for next summer, reserving spaces and making sure everything is ready. I will be spending time with my family in Vass and UK, also planning to do a trip to Bonaire for some private coaching and Caribbean time.

Mr Chubbock in the house!



The courses for 2024 have the highest level of pre bookings I have ever experienced, some of the courses are full or nearly full already. It's going to be mega! I am hoping to have the same staff team back as they were amazing this year.

I have to take this opportunity to say a massive thank you to my team; Jake Williams, Alex Mclean, Scott Mckenzie and Ricky Catherine! As always thanks to Ollie Scott and everyone at Club Vass as Well as Joe Bennett and the team at Wildwind, not forgetting Sam at E-Vass.

Change your life with
Watersports Nomad. Click the
Watersports Nomad logo link
below for more.



 WATERSPORTS
NOMAD

Wetsuit considerations for autumn & winter.

Wetsuit considerations for autumn and winter may get you all groaning. But as we head forwards the off season is here now. To keep windsurfing in autumn/winter thinking about your wetsuit kit should begin now.

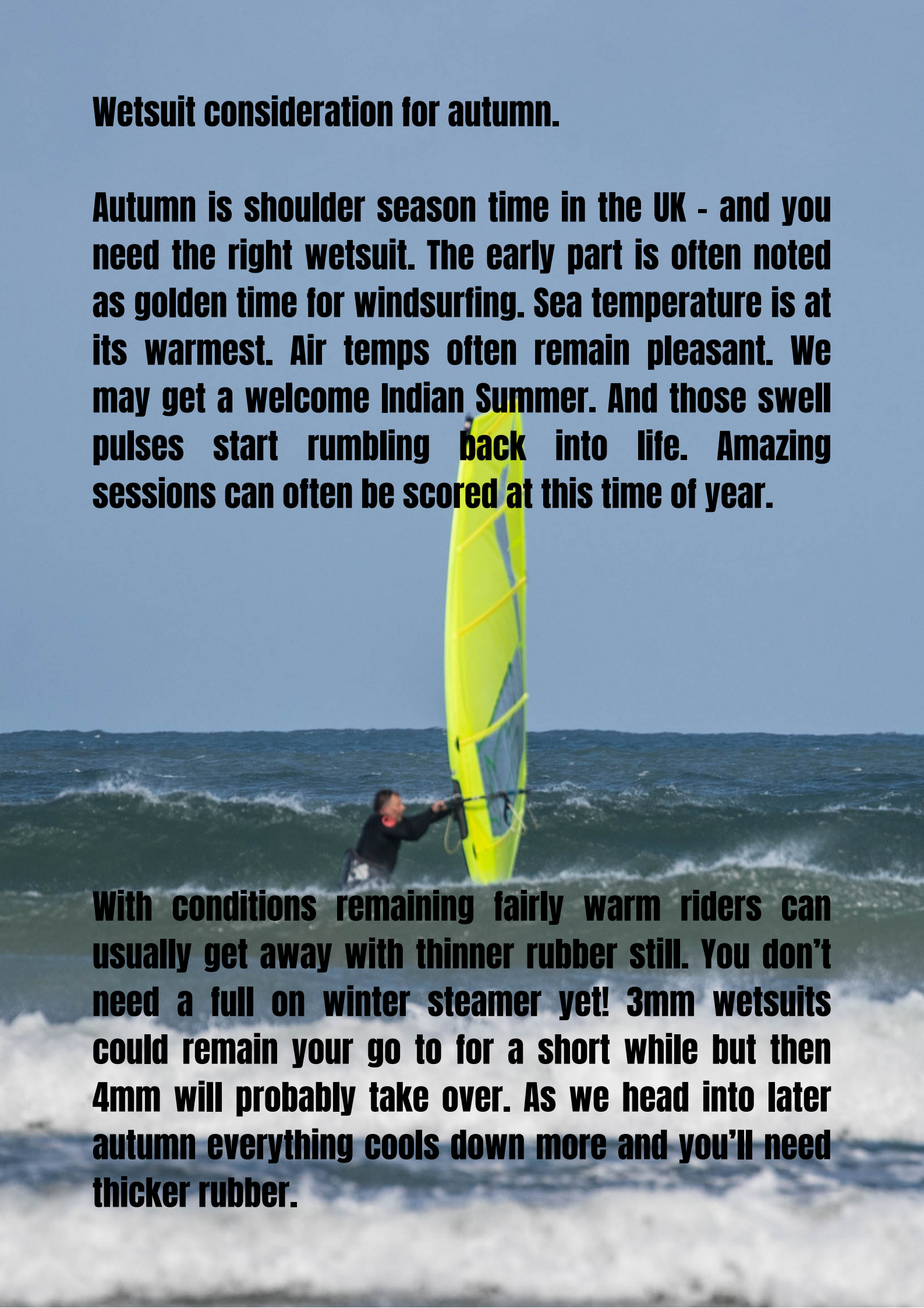
Words: NCW



Wetsuit consideration for autumn.

Autumn is shoulder season time in the UK - and you need the right wetsuit. The early part is often noted as golden time for windsurfing. Sea temperature is at its warmest. Air temps often remain pleasant. We may get a welcome Indian Summer. And those swell pulses start rumbling back into life. Amazing sessions can often be scored at this time of year.

With conditions remaining fairly warm riders can usually get away with thinner rubber still. You don't need a full on winter steamer yet! 3mm wetsuits could remain your go to for a short while but then 4mm will probably take over. As we head into later autumn everything cools down more and you'll need thicker rubber.



Winter wetsuits -
essential for
house work!



Wetsuit considerations for winter windsurfing.

November time is most likely when the winter wetsuit will be reached for. (Unless we get a particularly warm later autumn). There's still usually no need for boots, gloves or hoods but you'll definitely want additional windsurfing protection.

Staying warm is key to winter windsurfing.

A decent 5mm (+) thick wetsuit is a must for off season windsurfing in the UK. Without one you're high and dry - literally! The only alternative is to head somewhere warm for winter where as much rubber isn't needed. For most, this isn't an option. The right wetsuit for autumn/winter prep.

We appreciate the thought of winter is often pushed to the back of riders' minds while high season is still in effect. But with things changing quickly, it'd be a shame to end up scrambling around at the last minute.

Here at NCW The Rubber Shack we keep a large catalogue of stock primed for all needs and uses. We have winter wetsuits and accessories ready and waiting for those who need gear such as this. If you're the prepared type that means you're in luck as you'll be able to nab yourself that must have winter wetsuit kit well in advance.

Check out NCW's full range of wetsuits and accessories by following [this link](#). If you have any questions please [get in touch here](#).



Suited and booted, ready to rock.



TECHNO



TM



TAHE

The CLASSIC freeride windsurfing board range
you know and love!

133L / 148L / 160L / 185L

BIG wing thing.

with Mike Pringuer.

Big wing wing foiling is on the rise. A number of brands have recently chucked new designs into the mix - Hyde Sails being one with their Rush 7m, 8m and 9m offerings. We got hold of the Hyde 9m Rush to check out.

Words: Mike Pringuer

Pics: Foilshop UK, Terry Page.





Hangglider or BIG wing?

Big wings as they stand today (as of 2023).

We talked about big wings in [this post](#) from a while back. Fast forward to now and things have changed as far as wing design goes.

Materials have improved, brand/designer knowledge has increased and performance overall is much better. Granted, prices have also increased with this newfound understanding - especially where big wings are concerned.

Mike cruising on
the Hyde rush 9m



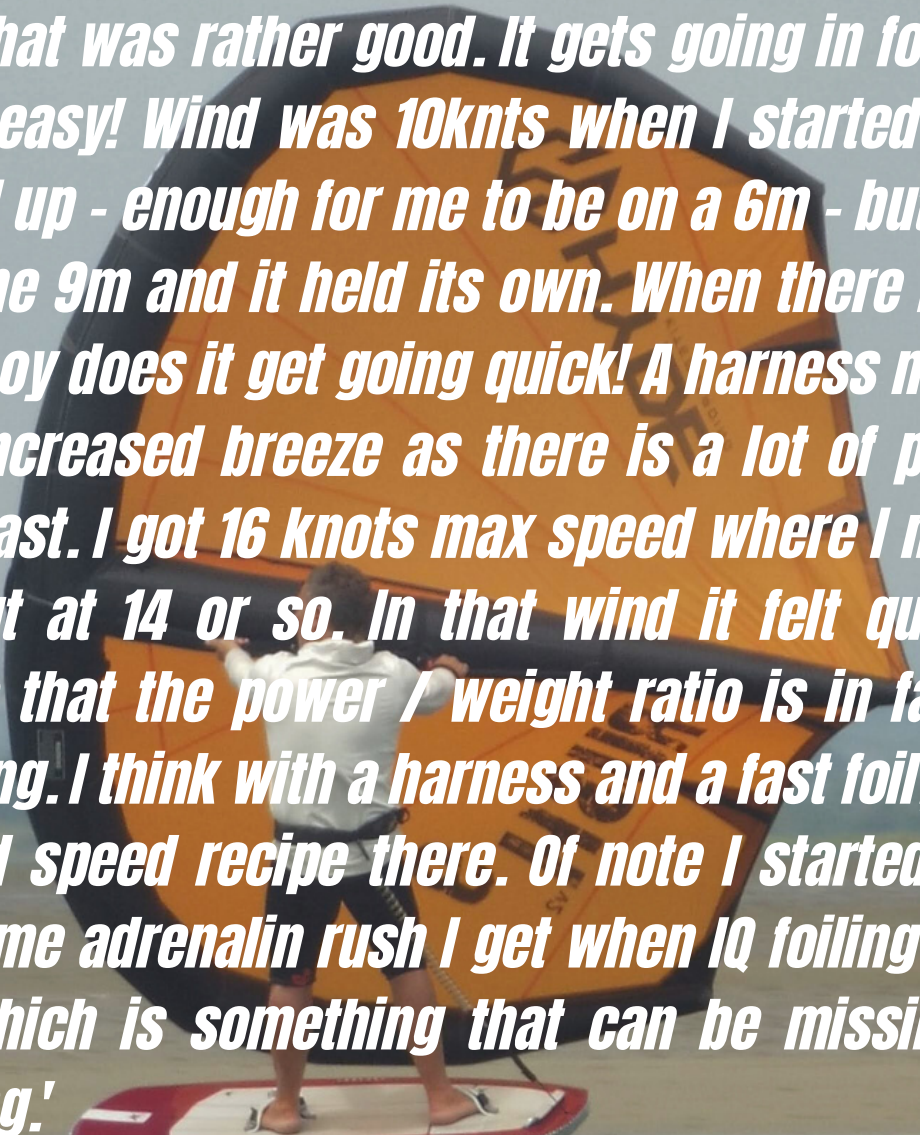
Why use a big wing for wingsurfing?

There are many reasons a rider would want a big wing. Rider weight can play its part. Heavier wingers may simply want more grunt. And being bigger they're probably able to handle a big wing foiling wing without issue. Local conditions could also be a factor. If you ride in a particularly light wind or gusty locations big wings will help you get on foil easier and cruise through the lulls more efficiently.

Mike's comments.

After the session Mike gave us a few comments about his experience with the Hyde Rush 9m wing.

'Well that was rather good. It gets going in force f-all super easy! Wind was 10knts when I started. It then picked up - enough for me to be on a 6m - but I stuck with the 9m and it held its own. When there is some wind boy does it get going quick! A harness may help with increased breeze as there is a lot of power in the beast. I got 16 knots max speed where I normally top out at 14 or so. In that wind it felt quick and seems that the power / weight ratio is in favour of the wing. I think with a harness and a fast foil, there's a good speed recipe there. Of note I started to feel the same adrenalin rush I get when IQ foiling coming on....which is something that can be missing from winging.'

A person is standing on a hydrofoil board, which is a red and white board with a red foil underneath. They are holding a large, orange and black wing. The background shows a body of water and a hazy sky.



You don't necessarily need to go 9m. But equally if you have a scenario that may require you to use a bigger wing foil wing then don't discount it. And if price is a deal breaker then don't forget Hyde Rush wings are coming in far cheaper than many other premium brand big wings.

Big thanks to Mike Pringuer for helping with this article.

[Check out more about the Hyde range of Rush wings here.](#)



WINGS V2




HYDE
KITEBOARDING

- Ultimate light wind performance
- Great for heavier wing foilers
- Easy handling, relative to size
- 7m / 8m / 9m



AVAILABLE NOW!



Words & pics:
Foilshop UK.

Foil wing learning - James' journey.

Our friend James Dunstone comes from a surfing and paddle boarding background. He was interested in learning how to wing foil around a year ago. We said we'd help by setting him on a specific pathway and letting him use the appropriate equipment. At the right time. Also, guiding him towards the right location with the right condition when they popped up.



Wing handling
beach drills.

The route we chose (and ‘tools’ used) have been designed to make James’ journey as smooth as possible. With zero prior wind sports experience we felt it better to do things this way than force the issue. Also, it meant James got to play with other toys and enjoy a broader range of experiences related to wing foiling and foiling in general. This isn’t necessarily the right or only way to do things but it’s been fun and rewarding none the less.



Foil wing kit choices.

All the foil wing kit James has used was chosen because of its lightweight, accessibility and the experience it was likely to deliver. The McConks Go Fly 6m wing may sound large for learning but its super light handling and moderate power made it a worthy choice for James' first foil wing. Sticking with McConks James also used the brand's one wheel style Magwheel which is the closest thing to foiling on land. Pairing this with a wing allows foil wing drills to be practised away from the water.

McConks also supply the Go Free inflatable crossover inflatable SUP. Combined with the popular retro fitted Driftstopper this was a great combo for wing SUP drills. Hyde Blast wings have always proved their worth - for beginners or experienced wingers.



Wing skating fun!

James has used a Hyde 5m Blast wing with awesome results. And more recently, James' newly acquired Axis Foils PNG 1150 foil has been providing the accessible, high aspect lift for getting on foil. Here at Foilshop UK we've seen MUCH success with the Axis PNG 1150 which remains a solid choice for ANY foiler wanting to change to a higher aspect foil with superb low speed lift, tons of glide and bang on pumpability.

Time to wing SUP...



The chosen pathway.

We did things very specifically with James. Rather than chucking him straight in at the deep end we wanted to build skills progressively and keep enthusiasm and confidence intact. Plus safety.

eFoiling feels.



More wing SUP runs.



First off we practised wing handling on land. Then we shifted focus to riding a one wheel Magwheel to get some foiling muscle memory in the bag. Adding a wing to James' Magwheel riding followed. This really is a great way (in little to no wind) to gain some foil wing understanding. Wing skating in a bit of breeze was next. Then it was onto flat water wing SUP style, sans foil, to move James along nicely using the Tahe Techno Wind Foil 160L. (This might be billed as a windsurf/windfoil board but it's turned out to be a great foil wing trainer as well). Getting him out for a raz on an eFoil setup to gain some actual foiling experience was gold. With a bit more wing SUP to consolidate skills following that. It was then time for some wing foil action proper!





Up...



Up...

The results.

With all the previous groundwork put in place, James was ready, and safe, to start foiling. So with foil connected and James able to confidently get himself back upwind off foil (super important from a safety point of view) James had his first wing foiling experiences just recently (as of Sept '23). Awesome job!



...and AWAY!



Back and forth, no problem!

For James, it's now a case of consolidation and continuing his journey. More sustained flight is the next goal. Followed by learning how to gybe - which we all know can be tricky. But James will cross that bridge when he gets to it. For now it's a MASSIVE BIG UP from us at Foilshop for having the patience and determination to stick with something completely alien and unfamiliar. Well done James!



FOILSHOP
THE HYDROFOILING EXPERTS

Over the handle bars.



Windsurfing and storms - how windy is too windy?

Words: Tez
Plavenieks

Windsurfing equipment has come on leaps and bounds in the last 20 odd years. So much so recreational, real world riders can now comfortably do battle with Mother Nature's rambunctious moods.

Pics: Alex Irwin



Ooosshh!

Windsurfing in storm force winds.

Windsurfers and love a good blow. For those riders who've been involved for years the windier the better. As we said at the start of this article windsurfing equipment has evolved to the extent that 'normal' storms (let's say with winds around 30-40 knots) are doable for riders with skills and experience. It may be baffling to the uninitiated - there are often comments to be read online about the selfish nature of riders venturing out in such conditions. And whilst there's an upping of the ante in terms of risk most windies battling weather such as this will have plenty of skills and experience of dealing with such elements.



On rails.

But there does come a point. For various reasons. So how windy is too windy for windsurfing ?



Iconic horizons.

Water state.

Whilst the focus is often on wind it's often the water state which proves prohibitive to riders. Overly choppy, rippy and frothy sea states are extremely hard to contend with. Boards rattling over confused waters make things tricky. It's one thing having to contend with ferocious gusts, and your power source (ksail). But having the board bouncing around all over the place adds more variables to the mix.



Choosing your location wisely can often be key when chasing storm force winds.

Booting one.

In an ideal world super flat water, sheltered from chop and flotsam, with minimal current would see most wind strengths be doable. With the right equipment in tandem of course.



Unfortunately, these types of spots are extremely rare. Even the majority of what we describe as flat water spots aren't that flat when conditions go off the Richter. And this makes a lot of storm riding prohibitive. Should a rider be lucky enough to have access to a location like this then game on!



It should go without saying that if you're planning on windsurfing or kitesurfing with any storm activity in the mix make sure you're well and truly up to the task. If in doubt don't go out. Don't put yourselves and those who may have to come and help you at risk. There's no shame in sitting it out on days like today.

Buckle up!

For an unforgettable windsurfing adventure: Activans' campervans, the ultimate way to chase the wind!



advertorial

If you're looking for an adrenaline-pumping escapade like no other, look no further! Activans has created a windsurfing paradise by seamlessly combining the excitement of road trips with our beloved water sport.



Imagine the freedom to explore wherever the wind takes you, discovering hidden gems and renowned windsurfing hotspots along the stunning Costa Brava in Catalonia.

A grey motorhome is parked on a sandy beach. The motorhome has a blue and white graphic on its side that reads "van rentals & More...". In the background, there is a beach with a few people, a kite surfer in the distance, and mountains under a clear blue sky. Windsurfing equipment, including a blue and white board and a purple and blue sail, is lying on the sand in the foreground.

And for those who dare, set a course for the legendary shores of Tarifa in Andalusia, dance with the Tramontana winds in Leucate or conquer the Atlantic waves in Portugal. Now you can add to the thrill by embarking on your journey in a fully equipped motorhome, thoughtfully designed for dedicated windsurfers like us

What sets Activans apart is its pioneering approach to windsurfing holidays. When the wind refuses to cooperate or your favourite spot fails to live up to expectations, Activans has a new solution. They offer you the perfect fusion of a fully equipped motorhome and premium windsurfing equipment from Fanatic and Duotone. This ensures you're always in the right place at the right time to catch the perfect wind conditions.

Founded by true windsurfing enthusiasts Ronan Kersaudy and Nora, who have decades of experience managing Ion Club windsurfing and kitesurfing centres around the world, Activans has taken the windsurfing holiday experience to new heights. They use their expertise to tailor your trip to your skill level and length of stay, guaranteeing you an unforgettable escapade.

Get ready for a unique adventure with Activans! Click on the link and book your windsurfing road trip now at - <https://www.activans.com/sport-packages/windsurfing-holidays>

