

HYTHE HOTSHOTS



ISSUE: 5 DATE: JAN 08

NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the 1st Hotshots newsletter of 2008

Review of 2007

2007 was quite a year for our team! We came under some serious pressure in the regional series, but at our home venue we did well, securing a series win and lots of individual honours.

It was a transitional year for us, having 5 of our team of last year move on through age or National squad selection. Nevertheless we put together a team of eleven for the National Team Championships at Whitwell in October, 3 of whom were new members. Welcome to: Billy Graham, Phillipa Hemphrey, and Conor Wells!!! The event proved to be a tough one for us, the lack of wind did not really play to our strengths! Saturday was raced in very light and shifty conditions, particularly on the 3.5/4.5 course, and on Sunday the wind did not appear at all, resulting in no racing. However we managed a battling 5th place overall, still a great achievement in a national standard fleet. As coach for the 1st year, I was incredibly proud of the team, and the effort shown by everyone.

We had representatives in all fleets, Sam achieved a fine 2nd place in the 6.8 techno fleet, missing out on a repeat of his 1st of 2006 by 1 point! Jamie moved up to the 6.8 open class and impressed us all with his ability, taking a 5th place in race 3, in a very tough fleet. Tom gained a brilliant 1st place in the 5.5 s, making some smart tactical decisions. In some races he led the entire 6.8 fleet home!!! Conor backed him up well with some hard earned results, to gain 7th overall, even though

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sailing his Techno against some much faster kit. His sense of humour kept us all smiling! Alex dominated the 4.5 fleet, winning 3 of the five races and came into his own in the light winds. A good year is in prospect for Alex in 2008. Fredo stepped up a sail size this year and battled away for his results, just needing more wind to show everyone his skills! Our 3.5 fleet of Zara, Dani, Phillipa, Catriona and Billy had the toughest task, racing in the area with least wind, and against the largest fleet at the event. Gaining forward momentum on some parts of the course proved a real challenge! The effort put in by everyone was awesome, and bodes well for some great results in 2008. Catriona was 1st girl and seventh place overall.

We all had some fun and games on the windless Sunday, and judging by everyone's smiles, the event was a great success.



Hythe Hotshots 2007

[Zone Squad News](#)

Congratulations to Sam, Tom, Conor, Alex and Dani for gaining selection to the RYA South East Zone squad, keeping up a fine tradition for our club. Also to ex hotshots Jack and Stuart on gaining selection for the National squad. Sadly this makes them ineligible to compete at T15 level, but never mind! We wish them luck competing for team GBR.

The zone squad training sessions have commenced, and there's been lots of wind so far!! Some very impressive progress has been noted! Watch out for our hotshots this year!

N E W S L E T T E R

Equipment

The club was lucky enough to secure a substantial grant at the end of 2007 for training. Through this, we have managed to purchase 5 Kona one design boards, 2 new tushingham rigs, new wetsuits, harnesses and life jackets, and a new outboard motor for our boat. Funds have also been allocated to train up some more windsurfing instructors. We intend to carry out this training for club members in May/ June. If anyone is interested in joining this course, please contact me. This puts us in fantastic shape this year to continue our racing/training programme.

Training/competition 2008

Important dates for your diary!!!

SAT APRIL 5th HSSC:

Get together to discuss the year ahead and hopefully spend some time on the water.

SAT APRIL 26th:

Team training at the Redoubt.

SUN APRIL 27th:

1st Team 15 event of the year at Bewl Valley Sailing club.

Regular sessions will be held throughout the year, for beginners, intermediates, T15 racers, and zone/national squad members. Details will be given at our get together meeting in April.

Attached is a copy of the provisional Youth team racing calendar for 2008. As you can see there is a lot going on for junior windsurfers these days!! I have some itinery suggestions for each team member based on their experience/ability, so contact me if you would like some ideas. Alternatively, if you can wait until April, we can discuss it then.

Lastly a big thanks to Eric Petts for producing those fantastic calendars!

Have a great New Year, and pray for some good wind!

Phil Hards

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Some useful contacts

<http://www.boardseeker.com/search.php>

<http://www.rya.org.uk/>

<http://www.team15.org.uk/>

<http://ukwindsurfing.com/>

<http://www.windguru.cz/int/index.php>

<http://www.activfolkestone.com/index.html>

