

Hythe Hotshots take first South-East Zone Junior Windsurfing event of 2010

May 25 was a really hot sunny day with blue skies and a solitary cloud - the hottest day of the year. There were 43 young windsurfers in four classes racing for team honours in the first of 2010's T15 inter club competitions at Aquasports near Redhill.

Teams came from all over the South East: Eastbourne's Spray Sprites, Hythe's Hythe Hotshots, Lamberhurst's Bewl Blasters and Redhill's Aquasports Aquanauts.

Nik Baker, the UK's most famous professional windsurfer was on the water during the races and provided some 'live coaching and encouragement' to the youngsters in conditions that were very challenging with light winds and big windshifts. Nik was so impressed with how many kids were enjoying windsurfing - a record number - that he offered to present the trophies and awards.

Despite the testing conditions, there were some outstanding performances from the Hotshots who have been training hard over the winter. Dani Conroy of Hythe Hotshots took top honours in the 6.8m fleet with great consistency in very difficult conditions with Phillipa Hemphrey 3rd.

In the 5.8m fleet, Hythe showed a strong presence at the front of the fleet, with Rachel Finch finishing 2nd, Alex Barry 3rd. and Jenna Gibson 4th.

In the 4.5m class Zara Petts fought hard to clinch second place with Guy Carney 4th.

The largest fleet was the 3m class with 18 competitors, Eileigh Hards was the first hotshot home in 6th place.

The final team prize was extremely closely fought with Hythe overall leaders from Eastbourne and Aquasports

Hythe Hotshots are looking for more team members in 2010, training courses will be run on Thursday evenings on West Hythe lake. The T15 inter-club championship takes place regionally over the summer adding a competitive edge and race training for those keen to hone their skills. Kit can be borrowed from the club and the cost of sessions is kept low. Anyone interested please contact Phil: philip.hards@btinternet.com

Or visit www.hssc.net

Danni Conroy (15) gets her first prize from former windsurfing world cup No1. Nik Baker



EighleIGH Hards in the 3.5m class



Hythe hotshots at Aquasports



Ellie Gibson in her first race: