

PRESS COVERAGE
2013
GRAHAM EZZY



HI WIND
Issue 10 2013
Japan
Cover



SURF MAGAZINE
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WIND SURF
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BOARDS. CONTRIBUTORS



Robby Swift

Robby Swift is undoubtedly one of the UK's finest windsurfers. On a board since he could walk, Robby quickly progressed onto the PWA tour and made a name for himself as an aggressive rider and fearless competitor. Swift is now back, better than ever following a horrific foot injury. He is also focussing on running a new stop on the PWA tour, at his 'home' break in Chile.



Ricardo Campello

In the early 2000s Ricardo took a total of three freestyle world titles, cementing himself as the best in the world. Soon switching over to the waves, Ricardo moved his way up the ranking and has been consistently in the top four since 2010. One of the few that can (almost) match Köster's jumping abilities, but with a more carefree attitude we could still see something spectacular from Ricardo.



Gilles Calvet

Born and raised in Marseille, Gilles's love affair with surfing and windsurfing began at nine years of age. He clearly had a talent for it: twice becoming Windsurfer Class World Champion, and then competing on the Professional World Tour as part of the Tiga Team. His life behind the lens started in 1992 with trips to Western Oz and Madagascar, and he hasn't stopped traveling since - combining his passion for shooting epic action while searching for new spots. Gilles work can be seen in every major publication, and he now calls Fuerteventura home, where he still surfs and windsurfs.



Philip Köster

The unstoppable machine that is Philip Köster has taken world titles in unbelievable style, asserting his dominance over the rest of the tour. Growing up in Gran Canaria, Köster was a name to watch from a very young age and at only 19, who knows what he will be capable of in the future.



Marcilio 'Brazinho' Browne

Born in Brazil but now living in the windsurfing mecca of Maui, Brazinho is one of the most well respected wavesailors of the current time. Combining unbelievable style, slick moves and a power through his turns, he is regarded by some as the best there is at Ho'okipa, and has just beaten Köster at the PWA Kiltmoller event.



Andy King

This British wavesailor is always one to watch, a former world tour competitor King now enjoys the quieter life down in Cornwall. He can regularly be found ripping up his local breaks and despite stepping away from international competition, he still strikes fear into any BWA pro when he rocks up to an event.



Graham Ezzy

Graham Ezzy is a Maui local with a love for windsurfing and writing. Son of David Ezzy and educated at the esteemed Princeton, Graham is far from your average windsurfer. He shows both skill on the water and incredible insight in his writing, most of his musings can be found on surf-matic.com

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We have both sailed Jaws. This was way harder than any of that.

PART 1

Did you find what you're searching for?
Almost.

Will you keep searching?
Always.

Everyone wants a sure thing. An easy bet. We windsurfers use forecasts as our ace-in-the-sleeve, the weighted die. I check windguru on my computer; I check iWindsurf on my phone. In short: I want wind and waves; I don't want to arrive at the beach to wait around. Waiting is for suckers. Waiting is for the people not cool enough for the bouncer to lift the red rope.

But, you can't argue with the weather. The statement, "I don't know what happened. It was supposed to be windy today!" makes no sense. The wind knows no obligation. We do not ever know the truth about the wind.

A forecast from a reliable source offers something more valuable than truth: confidence. What can you do with truth? I'm not sure. But confidence allows you to act. Confidence allows you to say, "I'll do A right now to probably get B in the future."

Time is important here. You should not book a trip based on a forecast for 10 days away. But if windguru says it's going to blow thirty this afternoon, you should probably drive to the beach. The closer to the present a forecast is, the more confidence you can have in it.

If you're a windsurfer looking to score, your life is one of last-minute trips. A day before we left Maui, Kevin Pritchard made the call to go to California to catch a South Swell. We rolled the dice.

It was a plan-the-day-before trip. My new boards weren't finished, and my current favourite board was still at the ding-repair guy. It wasn't finished either, which meant that it was spotted in grey primer paint. No matter - a pretty board doesn't turn any better than an ugly one.

Bags packed, I flew to LAX where my brother picked me up and we drove to North Hollywood to buy a 14-year-old Nissan Pathfinder for my road trip with KP. Kevin arrived the next morning; I picked him up in our Pathfinder and we drove North to a beach once famous for windsurfing but long since fallen off the radar: Jalama. A beach known for heavy sand-bar waves with a tendency to break masts.

We camped the night (I slept in the car and KP in a tent) and waited for the predicted waves and wind. The dice were thrown - Fate's and ours. There is a legend from Scandinavia about two Kings playing dice for possession of an island between their kingdoms. One of these Kings has recently converted to a new religion spreading in the region: Christianity. The other rolls first and the two dice turn up two sixes - the highest score possible. He tells the Christian not to bother rolling for he probably won't be able to beat the double 6. However, he rolls and also gets a double six, creating a tie. Both roll again, both score double sixes. On the third roll the other again gets sixes, but this time when the Christian rolls, the dice land with sixes upright - but one of the die breaks - and the broken piece shows one spot. With an unprecedented score of 13, the Christian uses God to explain his extremely good - and unexpected - luck.



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TRAVEL



“KP was now on a 4.2, his smallest sail.”

We ended the day bruised and embarrassed that we hadn't pushed harder, but proud to have handled such tough conditions. We were victorious but tired and windworn, so we found a motel an hour away rather than camp at the beach as we had the night before. We wanted to be rested and ready for comeback battle with Jalama the next day.

And come back we did.

On day two, we rigged our smallest sails right away and attacked the lips. Fear? Nah. The beatings from the day before made wiping out undaunting.

PART 2

After two days at Jalama, KP and I journeyed up the coast to sail at Arroyo Laguna with our wind-priest Brian Caserio. Rocks are scary in the waves. In fast moving water, a human body is helpless. Even the fastest swimmer is no match for a current. If you fight the sea, the sea will win. Full stop. There is a story from Maui of an Olympic swimmer who swam against a current in Hana; they found her dead body later that day.

The sea does not care or even notice if a crashing wave catches your head and crunches it on a barnacle rock. The man between waves and rocks is a common image of ultimate helplessness. Think of Ulysses who would have died - smashed against rocks - had the goddess Athena not saved her favorite Greek.

But we windsurfers don't flee waves; we ride them. We try to harness the object of our fear and respect (I think of the desert people riding the monstrous Sand Worms in the classic Sci-Fi novel *Dune*).

At Ho'olupa, the waves break near rocks, and the rocks become something to worry about if you wipeout. At other spots, waves break on rocks, but these waves need to be ridden too. The trick? Not caring about the rocks.

In Pozo (Gran Canaria), the best section of the wave breaks on rocks. A few people ride the wave there. Alex Mussolini is particularly good at this. The other Pozo stars are OK too. Five or so years ago, I was watching Mussolini with John Skye on the beach, and John remarked "There's not even water there!" Mussolini's response when I asked him later that day for his trick to riding that tricky part of the wave: "Just don't care".

There's a truth in that. Just don't care and it works out. The result is ecstasy. I've taken this Just-Don't-Care philosophy with me to every wave I've sailed since.

Sailing Castles three hours up the coast from Jalama, the waves crashed on, over, and through a bed of rocks. It was scary. The locals asked "You know there are rocks there?" or "How can you sail there with all the rocks?" Just don't care.

The process: I push the thought of rocks, the thought of danger out of my mind, and I ride the wave as if it were breaking on cushions rather than



Not sure the wildlife enjoys the strong winds as much as windsurfers do!

rocks. After a few waves with no injuries, I begin to feel invincible. This comes with a surge of euphoria.

Many surfers, kayakers, climbers (especially climbers) talk about the euphoria that comes after successfully doing something scary. They relate it to enlightenment and something about being in the moment - a euphoria that comes from being one with nature.

Maybe that's true. Maybe in pushing the rocks out of mind, they disappear and I reach a little enlightenment, but I worry this is not the case at all.

I worry that this ecstasy is something akin to what a meth-head feels after taking a big hit. It's a euphoric surge of adrenaline to the brain: happy chemicals following successful navigation of risk.

It's often said that the most dangerous moment is when you're acting scared. There is some truth to this. But there is also truth in the opposite. There is incredible danger once fear disappears into euphoria. No matter how much I feel like it on the water, I'm not actually invincible. I just don't care. — **Graham Ezzy**



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THE TEN YEAR WAVE TOUR

Words: Josh Sampiero



TRAVEL

Do you want to go from novice wavesailor to pro level rider in one easy, travel packed decade? **Josh Sampiero** is here to guide you through the eleven must ride waves, that will make you into the best all round wavesailor possible; a wavesailing bucket list if you will.

Starting easy and getting progressively harder, this guide will have you planning your next trip, and the next... and the next.

**Spots are rated 1-5. Within ease of sailing 1 is easy, 5 is hard. Within jumping/waveriding 1 is poor, 5 is amazing.*

Let's start with a disclaimer: just like there is no truly perfect wave, there is no truly perfect way to learn to wave ride. In fact, almost every way to learn to wave ride is going to involve no small element of frustration, dismay, busted gear and a broken ego. (How do I know? Simple: I've been there. Correction - I'm still getting there.) Ask the best wavesailors on the planet, becoming a better wavesailor is a life-long pursuit. It starts as an acquisition of fundamental skills, and becomes an evolution of style. It's as impossible to plan and guarantee your progress as it is to schedule surf; you've got to be reactionary, fluid, and adaptable.

But, let's say you're a windsurfer on a mission, and that mission involves big hacks, g-force-rated bottom turns and punting it off the lip. You know there's all kinds of waves, all over the world, and that your progress is best served by a bit of travel. So, here's a guide (purely hypothetical, mind you) to just where you could go to become the best wavesailor that you can be.

JERICOACOARA, BRAZIL

TACK: STARBOARD
EASE OF SAILING: 3
JUMPING: 3
WAVERIDING: 3

Purists will scoff. They'll tell you this is a freestyle spot for PWA pros training in the off-season. And they're right. But for the never-ever wavesailor, it's a great place to begin learning how to windsurf in three dimensions. The constant tradewinds kick up a small but reliable wind swell and there's almost always whitewater to work with. Consequences are

slim, the wind (and sunshine, bikinis, and tropical drinks!) is plentiful, you'll be able to work on both cross-off and cross-on wavesailing. It's a super-friendly spot to sail; the only reason it ranks three on the difficulty factor is the offshore winds. It's a long haul to get there, so we recommend at least two weeks if you're coming from Europe, but it's worth it.

PUNTA SAN CARLOS, MEXICO

TACK: STARBOARD
EASE OF SAILING: 2
JUMPING: 1.5
WAVERIDING: 4.5

Punta San Carlos, Mexico is remote, windy, and one of the best south-swell breaks on the planet, the only easy way for non-locals to score it is with the SoloSports camp, who provides you not only gear, but food, water and shelter. Your reward for roughing it? 60 km from the pavement, four different breaks of varying size and character, blanketed in a consistent cross-off wind, perfect for tuning up your down-the-line wavesailing. Punta San Carlos offers a form of wavesailing you probably haven't tried yet: it's slog-n-bob, pick-n-pump, underpowered windsurfing. Sailors will knowingly rig too small to consistently plane, preferring to maximise their control on the wave face, where the wind accelerates significantly. You'll improve your skills at climbing over whitewater while underpowered, timing sets, and putting yourself in perfect position to take maximum advantage of the power of the wave. You'll learn that a tack isn't just for longboarders - and how to drink a Baja Fog, the infamous beer-tequila-lime combo served up at the SoloSports cantina.

Kilometer - rider Kenneth Sauton.
© ROBERT SAND



Punta San Carlos - rider Graham Eery.
© CLARE MURPHY

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WHY WE WAVESAIL

Graham Ezzy joins **BOARDS** to discuss the addiction that is wavesailing.

I was born 15 minutes from Ho'kupa and I played with the pages of windsurfing magazines before I could even read. It might seem inevitable that 24 years later, I'm still married to windsurfing.

In general, windsurfers my age—pro or otherwise—grew up, like I did, surrounded by the sport. I often hear: "Well my dad would go windsurfing. It was either sit on the beach or learn how to windsurf." The list of young pros from windsurfing families is long. Just off the top of my head: Kai Lenny, Francisco Porcella, Philip Köster, Marcilio Browne, Zane Schweitzer etc.

But I refuse to believe that a dedication to windsurfing is born simply out of boredom and convenience. First off, most Maui children of my generation (that is to say: kids of the early generations of Maui windsurfers) do not actually windsurf. But most do surf-surf.

So I ask myself "Why windsurf?" Why am I riding waves with a sail rather than just a board?

No one windsurfs because it is easy. I will

wager that even after uphauling ends windsurfing is possibly the most challenging/frustrating sport in the world. Drive to the beach on a good forecast only to find glassy water, try again the next day, rig in the freezing rain, swim for the rig after wiping-out, get pushed up on rocks by whitewater, break a mast on those rocks, rinse & repeat. Surfing sure seems to offer easier fun.

For me, though, wavesailing has nothing to do with easy fun. It is about one of two things, or both. One: conquering fear and facing the challenge of riding the power of the sea. Two: achieving a kind of meditative state in the flow of the waves.

My mind needs wavesailing. After even a one month absence, I lose confidence and feel depressed. I enjoy the quick thrill of landing a gober or hitting the lip, but these are not the things that are so important for me. Rather, each session revolves around being an individual at sea, and all the challenges associated with being at sea. One feels very much alive coming ashore after a day of crashes in the whitewater.

I think of sailors who spend years solo-sailing. Sliding down ocean swells and buffeted by strong winds, one feels on the brink of death, but it is here on the precipice that we notice how alive we are. After a solo-circumnavigation of the globe, what can dry land—with its petty politics—offer?

Why windsurf?

I asked the internet "Why windsurf?" Most responses involve freedom and/or being at one with nature. Here are my favorites:

Adrien Grelon: "I windsurf because...hmm, never really thought about it. However, I can't imagine my life without windsurfing."

Mike Magee: "I windsurf because of the thrill I get from controlling and converting aerodynamic and hydrodynamic life forces into acceleration and velocity."

James Brace: "Windsurfing is like parenthood. Very rarely in life can something be so challenging, yet so rewarding."

Ken Gothman: "I windsurf because... it's absolutely exhilarating to fly across the water powered only by the wind as your body and mind come alive conducting a powerful, yet delicate, dance between you, the board, the sail, and the sea!"

Arrigo Bellone: "I windsurf because I'd feel totally empty if I wouldn't."

Lee Kouskouris: "Makes me a better person"

Peter Dobinson: "I windsurf because the sea sets me free."

Lucas Kunnen: "I windsurf because wild water and strong winds calm the turmoil inside, ripples fade and I feel quiet, just content. Absence of distracting associations and stories, as all attention must go to (keep) sailing. I become a happy antenna of physical sensations."

Brian M. Watson: "I windsurf because there truly isn't anything better to do."

What about you? ☺



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4 QUESTIONS X 6 WORLD PERFORMERS = 24 ANSWERS

Q4 日本のプロ選手と世界との差はどこにあると思いますか？

19 | Francisco Goya イシハラ (宮央) や (本橋) マサヒロなど、日本にも素晴らしい選手は多い。それに今回掲載に来てくれた若い世代のセイラー達の成長も、僕は楽しみにしている。ここ (御前崎) でしっかり練習して、たまにマウイなんかにも遠征したりしていれば、きっと世界と戦える選手が出てくるはずだよ。

御前崎はいいところだ。風も波もあるし、それ

によりウインドサーファー達のパッションに溢れている。そのなかでいけば、きっと何かを感じるはずだ。その「何か」をどうとらえるか、それが大事なところかもしれないね。

20 | Victor Fernandez PWAの大会の多くは、ボートのグレンデで開催されている。御前崎はスタボアの風だから (日本選手がいきなりPWAでいい成績を残すのは) 難しいかもしれないね。でもここでワールドカップが開催できれば、日本人だっていい成績を残せるんじゃないかな。

問題があるとしたら、彼らが僕らと過ごす時間が少ないことかもしれない。色々な選手と知り合って、色々な場所を知れば、随分にもっとうまくなるはずだよ。

僕は学生時代に父のブッシュでグランカナリアに行かされた。そこで世界のトップライダーと練習することができた。そういう経験は大事なんだ。例えば日本にはダブルループをメイクする選手がいなくて、それをメイクしたいという気持ちは自然に強くなっていくものだからね。

21 | Daniel Bruch 日本の選手は、もっとウインドトリップに出たほうがいい。同じ場所であっていても、世界のトップには近づけない。新しい環境や人や動きとの出会いを求めるべきだよ。それは必ず自分のスタイルを確立するのに役立つ。実際にグランカナリアに来て (ウェーブ世界チャンプの) フィリップ・コスターの動きを見てもら



Graham Ezzy (USA-1)

御前崎でこれほど完璧な「タカ」を見られるのは、グライムは、まずオフザリップでスプリングを叩き飛ばし、そこからタカへとラインをつないでいる。体の位置、セイルの置き場所、ボードの動きなども計算通りという感じ。水面でのきれいなフライングを波の中でメイクしている。凄いね。

らよ。たまにだよ。あまりの速さに落ち込むかもしれない。でも必ず何かを見えてくる。それを自分も持っているものにミックスする。そういうプロセスを徹して世界のトップに近づくことは、間違いない。と僕は思う。

22 | Tyson Poor 日本のプロだってうまいじゃないか。見ていて楽しかった。ここでPWAの試合があれば、きっと面白いことになるよ。

でもパワーで対抗しようとは思えないほうがいい。日本人にあったスタイルを確立すべきだ。たとえばスラッシャーでクイックなターンに動きをかわさとか。ほら、今日見たる。62キロのカミール・ロドリゲスのグニエルにも、他の誰にも負けていなかった。すごく選手に見えたよ。日本人にだ

てできるはずだよ。

23 | Camille Juban ウェーブはほとんどタイミングがすべてだから、体の大きさは関係ない。僕は171センチで62キロだけど、そのことに何の不都合も感じない。いかに効率的に風と波の力を利用するか、問題はそのなんだ。

あとは波を見る能力かな。僕は7歳のときに地元のカリブの海でウインドを初めて、14歳のころからマウイで多くの時間を過ごしている。その間に僕はこの目で海を見ると、どのグレンデに行っても、波がどのあたりでブレイクするかが読めるんだ。そこは僕の強みだね。波を読んで、自然にパワーをもらって、波の動きに合わせて動く。日本人にだってできる。今日のノグチの動きは、そ

のことを証明していたと思うよ。

24 | Graham Ezzy なぜだろう、日本人はあまりジャンプやトリックを仕掛けようとしないうね。世界のトップを目指すなら、フロントサイドとバックサイドの360とか、タカとかダブルフォワードなんかを練習したほうがいい。

ダブルフォワードを仕掛けるには、もちろん勇氣がいる。精神的なプレッシャーと戦わなくちゃいけない。僕はヴィクターの高いダブルを見て、そこにある壁を乗り越えなければならないと感じた。そして越えることができた。

自分よりうまい人がいる刺激的なフィールドに飛び込んでいくこと。それはとても重要なことだと思うよ。



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***'Uiteindelijk kwam ik niet echt dat punt voorbij;
mijn wil om niet te verdrinken is
te groot denk ik'*** POMPEN OF VERZUIPEN pagina 37

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OP DE COVER

Boumaas Gullouf en Josh
Angulo tijdens de Red Bull
Storm Chase in Ierland



Beeld Sebastian Marks



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EDITO



Best een leuke foto van Graham
Erzy op Moekipa
Beeld Kevin Pinckard

Megazieke taalinflatie 'Check out this amazing new video of our German teamrider, ripping it up and showing off some sick stuff!' Oh, bedankt voor dit sympathieke mailtje! Ik ben reuze benieuwd naar wat er zo amazing is aan jullie zjerman tiemraaljder. Weet je wat? Ik trek een zak popcorn uit de doos voor bijzondere gelegenheden en klik op de link!

Op Vimeo krijg ik een stukje film voorgeschoteld wat op zijn zachtst gezegd niet per se heel sick-rip-amazing-goed is. Ik zag het gisteren mijn buurmeisje nog doen. Waar amazing en sick stuff staat, hadden de woorden boring en suf ook niet misstaan. Teleurgesteld berg ik de zak popcorn weer op.

Ik zie moves die Gollito veel amazinger doet, en Davy en Kiri veel sicker. Nou is dat misschien niet vreemd, zij zijn tenslotte de besten van de wereld, maar waarom dan woorden als 'amazing' en 'sick' gebruiken voor middelmatige actie? Ben ik verwend? Begin ik een ouwe zeikerd te worden? Is het gewoon het gevolg van een maatschappij waarin het normaal is dat iedere scheet op internet gedeeld wordt? Of is hier sprake van een stukje taalinflatie?

Op tv is alles wat gematigd grappig is 'hilarisch'. Op Facebook struikel je over woorden als uniek, epic, sick en bijzonder. Een middagje windsurfen in kniehoge prut op Scheveningen of Wijk aan Zee? 'Een epische sessie.' Dagje dobberen met een 7,5 en een 125 liter freerideboardje op een grindgat? 'Behoorlijk sick brol' (terwijl dat juist weer heel hilarisch is).

Nou geloof ik heilig in vrijheid van meningsuiting. Ik wil niemand censuur opleggen of remmen in zijn enthousiasme. Wat voor de één de normaalste zaak van de wereld is, is voor de ander bijzonder. Dit is ook geen oproep voor deugdelijk taalgebruik. (Polygoonstem aan: 'Kijkt u naar deze mieterse film van onze jonge teamrider, een stukje vertier voor het hele gezin!'). Doe wat je wilt. Maar als je wilt dat mensen je geloofwaardig vinden dan kun je maar beter een toontje lager zingen. Niet alles is amazing, dat kan en hoeft ook helemaal niet. Wat is er mis met best goed, fijn, mooi of aardig? En hoe noem je iets wat echt goed is, als het matige al amazing is?

Een tijdje terug zag ik op YouTube een filmpje van skydiver Jeb Corliss die met zijn wingsuit van een berg springt om aan een bizarre afdaling te beginnen waarbij hij eerst vlak langs een paar boomtoppen scheert, daarna een vallei in schiet, langs wat bergtoppen, over een gevaarlijk scherpe rotskam en door een lieflijk aandoende alpenweide, vervolgens wat ballonnen uit de lucht plukt om als toetje nog even onder een stromende waterval door te vliegen (waardoor hij even uit balans raakt en bijna tegen een rotswand knalt) waarna hij grinnikend zijn parachute opentrekt en alsnog veilig landt. Zijn commentaar als hij weer heelhuids op de grond staat? 'Well... I come close on that one.'

Zo draag hoeft het nou ook weer niet. Toch trek ik eerder een zak popcorn uit de kast als Jeb mij wijst op een 'interessant filmpje' dan de manager van die megagave sickrippende amazing gesponsorde tiemraaljder die surft zoals mijn buurmeisje.

Mart Kuperij • mart@soulonline.nl

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MOTION WINDSURF
Issue 2 2013
Holland
p10


mixd



DON'T LET GO

Je ne sais pas si vous êtes passé à côté de la vidéo *Don't Let Go*, mais si c'est le cas, sachez que vous êtes victimes d'une grosse erreur. Cette production vidéo produite par Flo Jung et réunissant Camille Juban, Boujmaa Guilloul, Robby Swift, Graham Ezzy et Flo Jung est vraiment une tuerie d'images d'action. Si vous n'êtes pas encore en possession de ce DVD, rendez-vous sur leur page Facebook pour le commander : [Facebook.com/DLGwindsurf](https://www.facebook.com/DLGwindsurf)

DE L'OR POUR GIARD

Beau début d'année pour Louis Giard, âgé seulement de 19 ans et déjà double champion du monde de RS-X en moins de 21 ans. C'est à Buzios, au Brésil, que Louis, licencié au Yacht Club de Carnac, a bien défendu son titre. Un an seulement après son premier titre remporté à Cadix, Louis devient un sacré client chez les hommes en RS-X, et pourrait bien devenir le représentant français à Rio.



RAID LA TRANCHE-ÎLE DE RÉ

Deuxième longue distance de France par son nombre de concurrents, le raid La Tranche-Île de Ré aura lieu cette année le week-end des 6 et 7 juillet 2103. Il s'agira des trente ans du raid. Le nombre de participants étant limité à 200, ne tardez pas à vous inscrire. Pour cette édition spéciale 30 ans, des animations sont prévues tout au long du week-end.



CHECK & SHARE

Cet hiver, alors que vous avez quitté les plages pour profiter de la montagne et de la neige, l'équipe Check & Share a poursuivi l'innovation de son produit pour que vous puissiez mieux partager votre passion et passer de meilleures sessions avec votre réseau. Rendez-vous sur www.check-and-share.com pour découvrir les nouveaux outils et ne plus rater aucune session.

SPÉCIAL TESTS 2013

Pour ceux qui hésiteraient encore, sachez que notre numéro Spécial tests 2013 est encore en kiosque. Vous y trouverez les tests de 109 produits (38 flotteurs et 71 voiles) répartis en cinq pratiques (slalom, freerace, freeride, freewave, wave) et seize programmes. À noter que nous sommes le seul magazine à avoir testé du matériel de slalom. Alors n'attendez plus, et faites le bon choix.



MONDIAL DU VENT

C'est du 20 au 28 avril 2013 que Leucate accueillera la 17^e édition du Mondial du vent. Étape incontournable pour l'élite du windsurf, cet événement sera l'occasion de voir évoluer les meilleurs athlètes de la discipline en France. Qui sera le plus rapide sur l'eau ? Nous le serons à la fin du mois d'avril, lorsque la Sosh Cup sera lancée et laissera s'affronter windsurfeurs VS kitesurfeurs. Plus d'infos sur cet événement sur www.mondialduvent.fr





BELOW THE SURFACE

Toujours en guerre contre un cancer qui ne veut pas le lâcher, Andre Paskowski s'accroche à ses passions pour le windsurf et la réalisation. Après *Four Dimension* et *Mind Wide Open*, lui et son équipe se sont lancés dans une nouvelle vidéo, *Below the Surface*. Cinq rideurs des plus talentueux dans leur discipline y ont participé : Victor Fernandez, Gollito, Klaas Voigt, Marcellio Browne et Alessio Sillich. Ils étaient présents à Maui en avril pour shooter la partie hawaïenne et nous avons pu participer en tant que spectateurs privilégiés à une belle session à Hookipa. On peut vous dire qu'une fois de plus, la barre a été placée très haut.

Retrouvez plus d'infos sur cette nouvelle réalisation sur leur page Facebook « Belowthesurface-movie ».



AIE

Pas de chance pour Justin Denel, qui pour son premier séjour à Maui s'est blessé au niveau du torse. Après une chute lors d'un arial à Kanaha, ses ailerons auraient tenté de le découper en sushi. Plus de peur que de mal, Justin est vite retourné à l'eau après avoir soigné tout ça à base de Bétadine et autres Stéri-strips.

NP/JP WISSANT WAVE CLASSIC

Suite au succès de la NP/JP Carro Wave Classic, les marques Neil Pryde, JP Australia et All-In Sport Beach Company se sont associées au shop Windsurfing Zone et au Yacht club du Calaisis pour mettre en place leur concept de Wave Classic à Wissant. La waiting period aura lieu du 25 mai au 30 juin 2013. Comme à Carro, des alertes seront envoyées aux inscrits à partir du mardi, avec une confirmation dès le jeudi pour courir le week-end suivant. Pour ceux qui souhaitent s'inscrire, rendez-vous sur la page Facebook de l'événement ou sur le site www.windsurfingzone.fr



Port du casque non obligatoire

Grosse surprise en 2013. L'Américain Graham Ezzy, reconnu par tous pour son niveau sur l'eau et son port d'un casque à chaque session, n'est plus. En effet, finis les sessions avec la tête protégée. Dorénavant, comme tout le monde, Graham navigue tête nue. Dommage, car son casque lui permettait de se différencier des autres. En tout cas, avec ou sans, Graham continue de régaler les spectateurs présents sur la butte d'Hookipa avec ses surfs engagés, ses 360 et autre goiter one hand qu'il effectue à longueur de session.



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Robby Swift

1,75 m, 82 kg / JP Australia Thruster et Neil Pryde Combat

> À Hookipa, sur ta Thruster 83, tu avais 16 + 2x11,5 cm d'aileron, alors que les ailerons de série livrés avec la planche sont 21 et 2x10 cm. Pourquoi ce choix ? Les thrusters de série sont équipés d'un grand aileron à l'arrière pour, par exemple, faciliter le planing. Personnellement, que ce soit en thruster ou en quad, je préfère naviguer avec des modèles un peu plus grands à l'avant et plus petits à l'arrière (par rapport à l'équipement proposé en série), parce que j'aime la sensation « surf »

qu'ils me procurent. Généralement, je conserve toujours 11,5 cm à l'avant en thruster. En quad, mes sets d'ailérons vont de 9/14,5 cm à 10/16,5 cm.

> Dans quelles conditions augmentes-tu et diminue-tu la taille de tes ailerons thrusters ?

Lorsque le vent est plus on shore et les vagues ne sont pas très puissantes, je préfère utiliser un aileron plus grand à l'arrière. Je ne dépasse pas 19 cm.



Graham Ezzy

1,77 m, 81 kg / Quatro Thruster et Ezzy Panther

> Pourquoi la longueur de tes bouts de harnais est plus courte que celle de la plupart des autres rideurs pros ? J'utilise des lignes de 26" car j'aime être proche de ma voile pour mieux la contrôler. Cela m'aide dans les pushloops no hands (sans les mains), un move que personne d'autre ne passe.

> Joues-tu avec l'écartement des ailerons avant et arrière en fonction des conditions ?

Je ne change pas beaucoup la position de mes ailerons, mais je modifie leur taille. Sur ma planche thruster, j'utilise la plupart du temps des ailerons K4 10 cm asymétriques devant, avec 16 cm der-

rière si les vagues sont petites, et 17 cm si les vagues sont grosses.

> Le réglage du gréement peut-il modifier le comportement de ta planche dans les vagues ?

Le réglage est très important. Si la voile est trop plate, la planche ne va pas pouvoir générer beaucoup de vitesse. À l'inverse, une voile trop creuse va procurer trop de puissance à la planche et il sera difficile de tourner. Généralement, je joue davantage avec la tension au wishbone. Je donne une tension moyenne au pied de mât, à moins que le vent ne soit très fort ou très léger. J'ai horreur d'avoir trop de tension au pied de mât.



John Skye

1,79 m, 82 kg / RRD & RRD

> Tu n'utilises parfois que deux ailerons sur ta planche quad, pourquoi ?

L'idée était de pouvoir utiliser notre RRD Quad en quad et twin fins. Nous avons donc opté pour de plus petits ailerons devant. Il suffit ainsi de les retirer pour passer du quad au twin. J'utilise la Wave Cult 83 ou 92 en twin fins lorsque le vent est léger. La planche est plus haute et vole plus faci-

lement au-dessus de l'eau. J'ai remarqué que sur des spots comme Pozo, dans le vent fort, le nez de la planche est plus bas et le contrôle meilleur avec quatre ailerons qu'avec deux ; les deux ailerons avant semblent abaisser la planche. Par rapport au quad, le twin me fait perdre dans la remontée au près et en accroche dans le virage lorsque je pousse fort.



LES GRANDES TENDANCES À RETENIR

> Qu'ils naviguent en quad ou thruster, la plupart des rideurs positionnent leurs footstraps entre 20 et 22 cm de l'extrémité arrière de la planche.

> La plupart des rideurs ont le bord de fuite (l'arrière) de leur aileron situé pile dans l'axe vertical de leur insert de footstrap arrière ; avec un décalage de quelques centimètres chez six rideurs.

> L'écartement entre les footstraps avant et arrière (mesuré d'insert à insert) tourne autour de 44 à 46 cm. Camille Juban (47 cm), Jason Polakow et Graham Ezzy (48 cm) vont encore plus loin. Levi Siver, Kevin Pritchard, Jules Denel et Brawzinho sont les plus extrêmes, mais aussi parmi les plus grands.

> Les positions de pied de mât sont étonnamment variées, allant de 123 à 132 cm.

> Que ce soit en quad ou thruster, sur un spot de surf extrême comme Hookipa, les rideurs utilisent tous de plus petits sets d'ailérons que les modèles fournis sur les planches de production. Sur les planches quad, ils tournent autour de 9 à 10 cm devant et 13 à 14 cm derrière. Sur les thrusters, la moyenne est à 11 cm devant et 13 à 16 cm derrière.

> Les plus grands ont logiquement les wishbones les plus hauts, associés à de fortes longueurs de bouts de harnais souvent rapprochés. On est surpris de voir des bouts de harnais 7 à 8 cm plus courts que la moyenne pour Jason Polakow, Antoine Martin, Timo Mullien, Levi Siver, et la palme à Camille Juban avec seulement 33,5 cm.

Vous voilà informés sur les habitudes des meilleurs wave-rideurs de la planète.

À votre tour d'aller jouer avec les neuf points de réglage de votre matos, à la découverte de nouvelles sensations de navigation et d'un meilleur contrôle pour radicaliser encore vos surfs.



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p48-49



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COVER

BEELD JOHN CARTER
RIDER GRAHAM EZZY

#05 2013





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GRAHAM EZZY

'Ik probeerde een lift te krijgen op een jetski van iemand, maar dat lukte helaas niet. Blijmer, want ik wilde deze sessie echt niet missen. Zo vaak krijgen we niet de kans om op Jaws te varen. Net als Danny en Boujmaa besloot ik ook via de moeilijke route het water op te gaan. Via de rotsen.'

66 SURF



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FRESH GEAR

GURU 2014

Allround wavezeil voor echte wavers. Het zeil geeft een gemiddelde power, iets softer dan de Banzai. Dit zeil is ideaal voor golfrijden en gecontroleerd jumpen. In de Guru 2014 zijn de low-end eigenschappen verbeterd, dus sneller in plané. Dit is mede gerealiseerd de de nieuwe 4-latten shape. De nieuwste hightech doeksoorten zijn gebruikt. Het pvc venster en de dubbel geschikte en verlijmd naden maken dit een oersterk wavezeil.

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France
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JAWS

Boujmaa Gulloul was the standout sailor on this day, scoring many of the best sets, sailing deeper and carving under the lip like a man possessed.

PRELUDE

DANY BRUCH

For the last few years I've been super keen to try out this amazing break. I always wondered what Jaws would be like to sail. I mean, we get massive waves in the Canaries, but I really wanted to experience a huge swell in Hawaii. I didn't expect it to break so late in the season, but once I saw the forecast I was determined not to miss it. A few days before I'd arranged Matt Schweitzer's boat to be there for the day, from sunrise to dawn - that should have it covered! I started to call some mates to share the costs and formed a crew. Everything was sorted, now we just needed the swell to hit! We arranged to check it out at 6 a.m. I don't know if I was still short on caffeine or what, but I could hardly see any sets break. I was so bummed. We delayed the boat for a bit, had breakfast with some friends and then checked again at 8, at 9, and at 10 a.m. But still no waves and it really looked like it wasn't happening. So we called it off and cancelled the boat. Boujmaa [Gulloul] and I then decided to go for a sail at Ho'okipa, but to our surprise it looked pretty crap - with lots of current and gusty winds. Then we heard Kauli was going to sail up to Jaws from the lighthouse at Haiku. That helped clear it in my head. "Let's get out at Jaws - no matter what!" The only problem was that the boat had been called off so our only choice was to jump off the rocks as well...

18 JULY 2013



BOUJMAA GULLOUL

I wasn't so sure about the forecast, nobody was! The period was so-so and the size was not predicted to be that big. Dany Bruch eventually talked me into it. He was organizing a boat beforehand and trying to get a crew to share the costs. In the morning we checked, but the break wasn't that consistent. We waited for the swell to pick up but it didn't really improve. Finally Dany had enough of waiting so we went back up to Jaws and decided we were going to jump off the rocks and just give it a go.

KAI KATCHADOURIAN

I spotted that swell a week before and just hoped the call would pull something together. When I saw it would be windy with some bigger waves late on I kept my hopes up that a few solid ones would roll through.

MARICILLO BROWNE

I decided I was going the night before and booked up Keith Baxter's boat to take us up. It looked like a solid swell. Not massive, but I was sure it was enough for Jaws to break. Sometimes when the forecast is like that it just gets too big and messy at Ho'okipa, especially when there's a lot of west in the swell. I felt like there was nothing to lose. This was most likely the last big swell of the season and I didn't want to let it go to waste.

GRAHAM EZZY

I couldn't find a ride so I went to Maliko Gulch and tried to hitchhike up on somebody's jet ski. Nobody had any room but I was determined not to miss a Jaws session. We only got one or two a year.

I knew that Robby and Kauli had launched there before. It was kind of scary just driving down the track. After that it was just a matter of scouting the right spot to launch and waiting for the right moment to jump in. It wasn't so bad in the end!

KAULI SEADI

I saw the forecast was looking very promising. It wasn't going to be massive, but for this time of year it was extremely lucky to get a shot at riding Jaws. I was actually feeling very sick the day before. I had a serious fever and pain all over my body but I knew I couldn't miss this opportunity. I headed up to the lighthouse at Haiku to try and jump from the rocks but there was so much mud I turned around and rigged in Maliko Gulch. It took me over an hour and fifteen minutes to get upwind and make it to Jaws.

KATIE MCANENA

I'd been eyeing up the forecast for about a week coming up to the Friday and was hoping to get out there via a boat. I'd intended to bring my gear and check it out on the day but was never going to make a decision about going out to windsurf it until I'd checked it out first-hand and knew exactly what the conditions of the day were. Unfortunately the boat I was included in with Dany, Muzza, Boujy and Flo fell through so that was no longer an option. After sizing it up over a couple of hours and watching the guys I ultimately ended up approaching it by launching off the rocks at the base of the cliff.

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JAWS

DANNY BRUCH

For sure the best wave and most adrenaline-filled ride was the last one I took with Boujmaa. We'd already had a break on the Baxter's boat when the wind died out and the rain came. Before we had to go in over the rocks, I remember saying to Bouj, "Come on, let's have a last one", so we tried to get a couple more. We were in the perfect spot when a bigger and super-clean set came in. I remember pumping to get some speed and as soon as I was moving I rushed to get in the straps. A second after, my board started to get lifted from the speed. It felt like the wave was rolling away under my feet and I couldn't make the drop. I remember being in the air, having Bouj about 1.5m away from me downwind. I was holding on to the boom almost with my teeth so as not to let go. I basically air-dropped from the top of the wave down a few meters onto the face. If I'd let go I would have killed myself and Bouj too. I couldn't believe it when I made it. The adrenaline dominated everything! When I kicked out of the wave, Bouj and I were screaming for a while! It was a sick moment I have to say, but I'm thankful and really lucky not to have had any wipeouts on my first day at Jaws. That's something I'll still have to figure out some time, but I'm not worried about it too much now - I know I'll experience it sooner or later!

GRAHAM EZZY

Ever since I started sailing Jaws a few years ago I have one rule - I have to hit the lip at least once! I don't care if I bail, I just have to go for it. A couple of years ago I had an experience where I was kind of late and the end bowl was already breaking so I had to back door that west bowl and did a back loop. That kind of opened up some things in my mind. It made me think that there was more possible at Jaws. This session wasn't too crowded and the surf overall wasn't that big. I felt it was perfect for pushing it. This time I hit the wave and I knew I was going to go in front of the wave. I hit the wave pretty late and the lip was really hitting the bottom of my board. It tossed me into the air and I went into this crazy rotation. I didn't really know what was going on. There was an insane draught from the wave. It was so powerful that I got launched way further in front of the wave that I expected. Somehow I managed to bring it around and land it in the flats more or less. It was one of the flattest, hardest landings I've ever had.

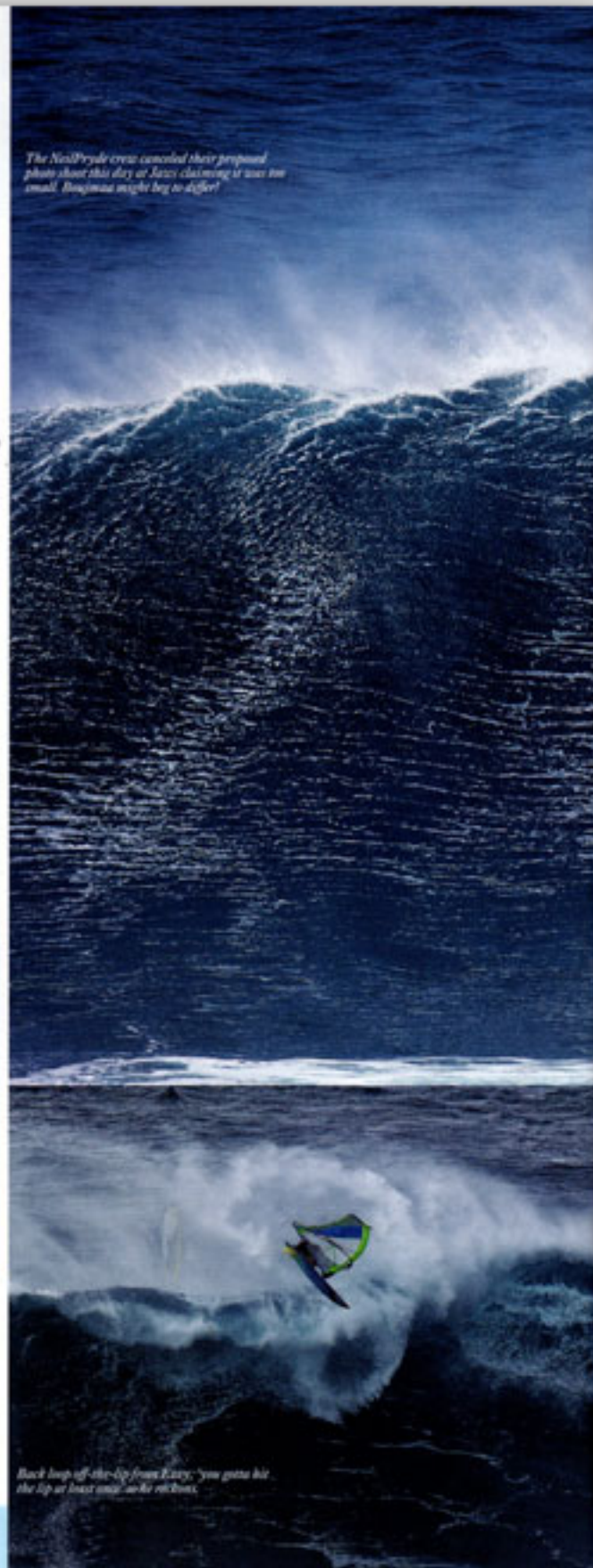


Danny Bruch drops down the wave face towards Boujmaa in his full Boujmaa.

MARCILIO BROWNE

I scored two or three waves that felt very clean with a solid size. The biggest and cleanest one I rode was the wave I shared with Kauli. It felt like a carpet all the way from start to end, it was also a pretty long ride for Jaws - we both had two amazing turns. That wave made it all worth it. Antoine Martin had a real gnarly wipe out. I saw it from the boat and for a second I thought he could have been hurt bad. He was very deep, on a set wave and had the lip to break behind him, which was not a good place to be at all. I also got scared another time when I went for a bottom turn but hit a piece of chop and my fins popped out. I did a half-grubby, but luckily the board came back into place.

22 JULY 2013



The Nautilus crew cancelled their proposed photo shoot this day at Jaws claiming it was too small. Boujmaa might beg to differ!

Back loop off the lip from Ezzy: "you gotta hit the lip at least once, make it count."



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FANATIC WAVE AND FREESTYLE 2014

QUAD TE:

Designed to operate at maximum performance close to the curl, the Quad has been tuned up even more. A new scoop rocker line with a reduced concave/double concave bottom shape, plus the wider center with a flatter deck, offers simple stability combined with the snappiest of turns. An early planing, easy-to-use board – designed for radical wave action.



TRI-WAVE TE:

The TriWave is completely redesigned for 2014, each of the six sizes features a tuned-up shape that begins with an overall wider and more compact outline. Super-easy, and user-friendly. This is the board for all-around wave conditions.

FREEWAVE/TE/TEXTREME®:

With our flagship FreeWave range being one of the most loved boards on the market the task was to introduce a new board that's even better, available in 3 technologies: TXTR, TE & CWS. All new FreeWave TE or Textremes can be used as a Thruster or a Single fin for best performance.

SKATE/TE:

To guarantee Gollito's quiver is never lacking, we've built 4 brand new shapes of the Skate TE, including two models on the small side of the range. For Freestyle newbies, those practicing classic and carving moves and even small wave use we've kept the test-winning 100 and 110 models which are slightly longer and forgiving for Freestyle fun at any level, available in economic Biax Glass Sandwich Light technology only. Dealer and demo details via k-66.com or fanatic.com

PIONEERING

Despite smoothskin (or single-lined) wetsuits giving good wind-chill protection, until now they've always had limitations in terms of stretch and durability to knicks and tears. ON reckon they've now come up with the solution – NEXKIN – using a Sheico material that is exclusive them in the windsports market. After a 3-year cold-water testing program they're confident their new fabric is ready to go. The technique involves a double-lined jersey laminate but with an extra wind-resistant layer bonded on top. They also say the fabric is 20% lighter and has 25% more elasticity than traditional single-lined suits. For the winter upcoming season they're offering 3 of their well-known suits in NEXKIN versions in the STRIKE, QUANTUM and ONYX ranges. More at www.ion-products.com or k-66.com



ION TRINITY FOR LOVELY SMELLING LADIES



→ The double lined Trinity wetsuit – the gorgeously redesigned sister line of Strike Select – now features ION Anti_Smell using the Sanitized® – a certified antibacterial fabric with active biocidal substance zinc pythion treatment to prevent the unique smelly characteristics of regularly-worn neoprene. To fight this typical wetsuit odour, caused by bacteria, algae, fungi or mildew in moist or sweaty environments, ION uses a brand new weapon: The ION Anti_Smell function, a built-in Sanitized® protection technology. Sanitized® prevents bacteria growth and odour development very effectively. Furthermore, Sanitized® products are considered as baby safe by Allergy UK and are also bluesign® approved, which guarantees an eco friendly production. The combination of Glued Blind-Stitched seams with the ION S_Seal provides an outstanding water seal and bomb-proof tearing strength. Superb Stretch combined with the super warm Hello_Plush quickdry jersey is suitable for surfing as well as for kitesurfing, windsurfing, wakeboarding or SUPing. Check out the whole ION women's wetsuit range at www.ion-products.com or k-66.com



EZZY ELITE 2

→ For 2014 Ezzy have released the second incarnation of their Elite – a flatter, lightweight wave sail, designed for on-shore and side-shore waves, as well as flat water. Ezzy say it's "Super balanced and stable, with a wide wind range" and that their "calibrated rigging system makes setting the downhaul a no-brainer". Also new are printed downhaul indicators for rigging on non-Ezzy masts and this season sees 3.4 and 6.1 sizes added to the range. As ever, every sail is rigged and inspected before leaving the factory! More via sailingreports.com or ezzy.com

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Cover After graduating from Princeton last year, Graham Eazy is now busy dedicating his time to windsurfing and sailing. Here he is at his home base in Maui, riding it to perfection as he strikes the water with awesome style. Photo JOHN CARTER

This Page Morgan Nivernaux was born in France but moved to Maui when he was one month old (Lucky guy!). He started windsurfing when he was seven years old and never looked back. He keeps it the closest back to his front door and not surprisingly it's his favourite sailing location. Raised by many as one of the best young riggers in Hawaii, Morgan likes to hear his style on close friend Bernd Rindiger, Levi Siver and Kauli Soudi. Photo JOHN CARTER



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BEST OF BRITISH

K4 FINS

WEB WWW.K4FINS.COM



The unmissable yellow fantastic plastic fins from the UK are taking the world by storm. But how did the story start and what can they do for you?

The UK's midlands are hardly the most likely place to manufacture performance windsurfing fins – the K4 factory being pretty much as far from the sea as you can get on this island nation.

MIDDLE ENGLAND

But that geographical location suits founder Steven Thorpe (sail number K4 of course!) just fine. Firstly, because he's born and bred there and this is the heartland of British manufacturing – not to mention the site of his family's plastics factory – but secondly, because from his base in Leicester, Steve can strike out equidistantly to almost anywhere on the U.K. coastline to score the most appropriate testing conditions. Which he does, fanatically. In fact 'Thorpe' has a massive reputation for the amount of miles he drives to hunt down wind and surf and scream down the speed course. Some say he might even be subject to a special carbon tax for the colossal amounts of fuel he burns. But that effort is all for your benefit, because these yellow foils are no gimmick.

FLEXIBLE FRIENDS

A lifelong surfer, Thorpe – who happens to be an advanced Fluid Dynamics Engineer – has long enjoyed the memory and flex that surfing fins provide. So when multifoil wave boards first started appearing on the scene a few seasons



"THE BENEFITS ARE WIDE-RANGING, FROM SUPERIOR FLEX – STORING ENERGY AND RETURNING IT AT THE RIGHT TIME – GRIP, DRIVE, ANGLES OF ATTACK – NOT TO MENTION SIGNIFICANT WEIGHT-SAVINGS"

back, his inquisitive mind and access to top-of-the-line injection moulding equipment and materials got him sucked into a whole new universe of windsurfing fin performance away from the stiff and expensive G10 options that dominated the market. The benefits are wide-ranging, from superior flex – storing energy and returning it at the right time – grip, drive, angles of attack – not to mention significant weight-savings – cost and durability had his early models fought over as they popped off the production line.

With some of the UK's and world's finest sailors clamoring to try them and endorsements from greats such as Graham Ezzy, Thorpe has struck a 'golden' vein with his breakthrough. The line now features speed fins, a 'Bubble' signature freestyle model and all manner of compatibility with the various SlotBox, US and PowerBox heads, asymmetric models and sets with predetermined toe-in on offer – not mention a whole load more in the pipeline.

Check out K4 at your local store or www.k4fins.com and know you're supporting 100% British-made industry!



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PROFILE

Breaking boundaries, Graham Ezzy almost defying the laws of gravity with his controlled style of wavesailing. Check out his precision timing as he throws down a one-handed gofer during the late session at Ho'okipa.



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Story & Photos JOHN CARTER

GRAHAM EZZY

PRINCETON THE SEA

Raised on the north shore of Maui and son of world famous sail designer, it's hardly surprising that **Graham Ezzy** has become one of the most prominent wave riders on the planet. But cutting loose with the most radical windsurfers in the world at Ho'okipa is just one facet of Graham's incredible talents.

Back in 2009 he gained a place at the prestigious Princeton University. Four years later, with an English literature degree secured, Ezzy let it back in Hawaii mixing up his progressive style of wave sailing with his writing inspiration. We sent Windsurf's heavyweight intellectual protagonist John "Three X Levels" Carter for an eyebrow cross examination with Graham to find out more about his ambitions, life on Maui and a few insights into his latest literary projects.

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PROFILE

With or without his trademark helmet, Graham charges fearlessly at his home break.



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You would imagine the son of Dave Ezzy, must have been drip-fed on windsurfing since the day he was born. With a sail loft in the garden and his dad heading for Ho'okipa every windy afternoon, surely it just had to be a matter of time before his son was hooked on sailing?

GE: "My dad didn't make a special effort to push windsurfing into my life. He left that up to me. But given that his whole life revolves around windsurfing, I couldn't escape being a part of it. When I was really little my dad was a designer and board member of North Sails. When I was four, he left North and focused on Ezzy Sails, which he had started way before I was born. Every month, the mailman would deliver windsurfing magazines from around the world. During some point of my childhood, even Josh Angulo lived at our house for a short period of time. I can't escape it! I am a child of windsurfing. Even so, I didn't step onto a windsurf board until I was 10 or so. And that wasn't with my dad. It was at a summer kids' camp at Kanaha. All my friends did it, so I did it too. After that, my dad started teaching and sailing with me." **Having one of the best designers in the world must have its advantages but does their ambition to make the best wave sails in the world end up with family squabbles at the beach?**

GE: "I hear other riders complain about not having any influence on their sails but I get to have a say in everything I ride. I love R&D and am definitely a part of it. Development is never-ending. Lighter, faster, more efficient, more range. We want a sail that's quick and easy to rig and allows the rider to forget about the rig. We make sails that are built for purpose. David is the first to ride on every sail, then Kevin Pritchard and myself get to test them. By the time we release a sail into production, we always agree on the design in the end. But on the path to that final model, there can be some disagreement but that disagreement is usually good, it reveals an area of the design that needs to be examined more closely so that's what we do." **Before he headed off to Princeton Graham could always be easily spotted out on the water, because he was pretty much the only guy out at Ho'okipa wearing a Gath helmet. Originally it had been something his dad had insisted on but the Gath soon became a trademark until an accident on the US tour made him think otherwise.**

GE: "The helmet was my trademark. I liked that it protected my head and that it looked different. In what other extreme sport do people not wear helmets? Look at skiing and snowboarding. All the riders wear a helmet now. I like to tease Ricardo [Campello] that he should start wearing a helmet because it's cool, but at the end of the day it's just common sense! I don't wear mine as often now. The reasoning behind this isn't very logical. Last summer, I smashed up my face during the Oregon AWT event. I cut up my skin and broke a tooth down to my gum. After it happened, I was in a ton of pain. The tooth's nerve was exposed and would bleed constantly. Losing the tooth affected me emotionally more than any broken bone or ripped skin and believe me I've had plenty of both. Teeth don't fix themselves. While it looks perfect, the replacement tooth is completely fake and foreign to my body. And, what body part matters more than the face? And on the face, the mouth. Without a mouth, you can't eat or speak. After the incident, I thought, how am I going to protect my face? I could add a full-on face guard to my helmet, 'à la American Football'. But even that doesn't fully protect everything. If I want to be safe, I might as well stop windsurfing, as windsurfing is about taking risks. I choose to risk my life and limb with the windsurfing I do. After those thoughts, wearing a helmet all the time seems silly and counter to my go-big-or-go-home windsurfing philosophy on the whole. That said, I still adamantly support people wearing helmets. Especially those riders who don't put so much emphasis on taking physical risk. I still wear my Gath - just not all the time!" **While most of us dream of living in a place like Hawaii with wind and waves at your disposal, many Maui residents often feel the need to escape island life, Graham is no exception.**

GE: "Maui, I love-slash-hate it, I guess. Growing up here, I know everybody. In the grocery store, out to eat and at the post office, so I run into someone every 5 minutes. I like the small-town feel, but I need a dose of anonymity too. I need to spend time in places where I can go somewhere or do something without anyone knowing. So yes, Maui is great for windsurfing and watersports. And it is beautiful. But there is a huge cultural deficit. There are talented people living on the island. Artists, successful businessmen and Pulitzer-prize-winning writers, but they moved to Maui to get away from society, so there are no communities. I find myself spending a lot of time in New York City."

" MAUI, I LOVE-SLASH-HATE IT "

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Either creating new moves, or taking the old ones and blowing off all the cobwebs, Graham is one of the new generation of sailors really taking the sport to the next level.



All my friends from Princeton live there now, making NYC a sort of small town too. When I'm there, I run into people in coffee shops and on the street. But it's New York City - one of the biggest cultural hotspots in the world."

Leaving windsurfing behind and headed for Princeton for four years was obviously a major decision in Graham's life. But the chance to attend the sixth highest rated university in the world was obviously an opportunity too good to miss.

GE: "My father left the decision up to me. He sat me down and said: 'Don't do what you think I want you to do. Don't do what you think other people want you to do. You have to find what you want and do that, no matter what it is.' I wanted to go to college. And from my high school, everyone goes to college, so it would have been weird to be the only one to stay on Maui. During my final year of high school, I decided that if I didn't get into one of my first choice schools, I would take the year just to windsurf and reapply the following year. Princeton was by far my first choice. After I was accepted, I planned to defer my enrolment for a year so that I could train and compete on the PWA tour without any other distractions. But then I met a European girl who was also just accepted to Princeton. We met up that summer, I fell in love, and I headed to Princeton that fall. We have long since broken up, but I'm forever happy to have gone to school right away. I graduated at 21, free to go back to windsurfing fulltime but with a host of new friends and a life-changing experience. Princeton was a tough four years, but I emerged with a degree and many life-long friends. I did not start with English. I originally was studying economics. I made a late switch so my education was a bit two faced. My first two years were heavy economics but then I switched to two years of very concentrated literature. I passed everything so was pretty pleased when I graduated!"

So pretty much four years away from Ho'okipa must have taken its toll on Graham's level of sailing or did the break actually help iron out the rough spots and allow him to redefine his style?

GE: "I definitely missed being able to train all the time. But during my time at Princeton, I progressed more than I had in the previous four years. I rowed (light-weight) for my first 2 years and that kept me in good physical shape. And I went back to Maui for all my holidays. Though, the whole thing felt like I was juggling.

At the end, if I had to go one more day, all the balls would have fallen. Or so it felt."

Any new moves in the pipeline?

There's always something new to try! Lately, I've been going for no-hand goiters but so far I have only pulled a couple. I'm trying to get more consistent on the 'Hangover', which is a frontside, flat-spin 360, preferably with a slide. My generation of sailor, guys like myself and Brawzinho are just coming into their own. Everyone is pushing the limits. It is a wonderful time to be on the water in Hawaii. I love doing the turns but also love doing all the tricks when I am sailing. There are so many rotations and new things to try. Either taking a hand off doing the taka or goiter or doing different spins. Windsurfing is a hard sport and the only way to get consistent at these moves is to train them hard. No-handed jumps and wave moves are really cool too. I just started doing the no-handed goiters which can be kind of scary. No-handed pushloops were the first no-handed move I did. They are fun but also really scary because after you throw the rotation and let go, there is no control. I have had a few where I get stuck upside down and land on the rig. That is when I just curl up in a ball and hope for the best. It's a tough move to try every day because the risk is a bit higher, so it is more of a photo shoot or contest move!

Taka Secrets?

I have no idea what I did to please the taka Gods enough for them to bless me with the power to pull that move. I've been doing them since I was 12 and was the first to consistently do them in down-the-line conditions, pioneering the carving taka. Somehow that move just works for me.

What is the atmosphere like on the water at Ho'okipa these days, is it still quiet aggressive or is it mellower than the old days?

Way more mellow than the old days! Back in the 80s it was all aggression and fights. It mattered how long you'd been on Maui by the month. My dad was part of the very first generation of windsurfers at Ho'okipa, way back in 1981, with Mike Waltze being the pioneer. I hear a lot of stories from him about Ho'okipa in the 80s being a gnarly place, tales of very well-known pros beating people up in the shorebreak because they were new to Ho'okipa and not respecting the rules. Ho'okipa is definitely more friendly than then. It might be hard to catch waves as a tourist, but you definitely won't get beaten up.



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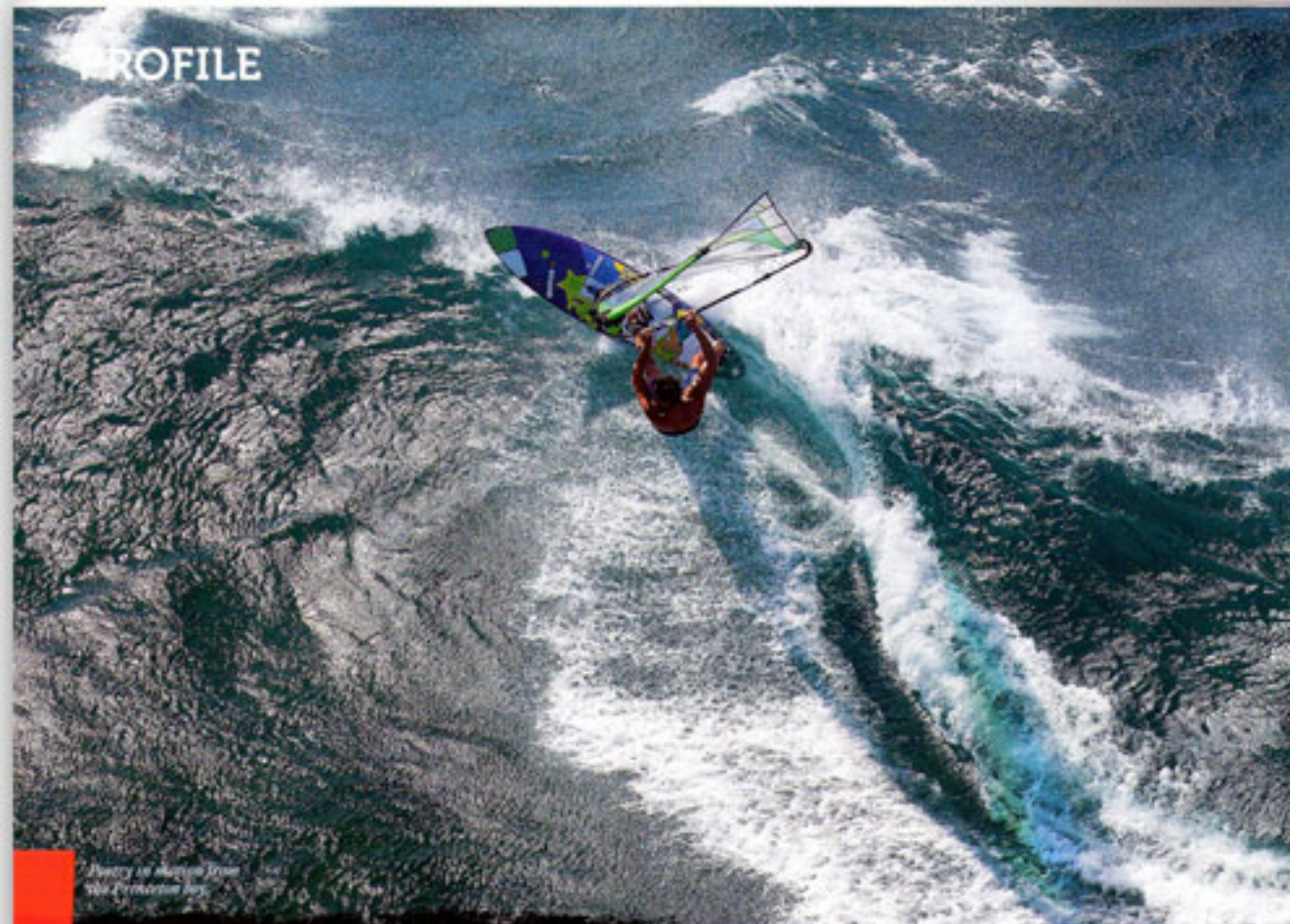


Photo by Michael Jones
for WindSurf Magazine

What other sailors are your biggest influences and why?

I'm influenced by everybody. I love windsurfing and watch what everyone does. My biggest influences are Jason Polakow, Levi Siver, Mark Angulo, and Josh Angulo. Polakow pushes the borders of wave riding with his vertical, charging attacks on big waves. Levi was the first to bring the tricks into powerful lines on the wave. Mark invented almost all the tricks. And Josh has serious style and flow in his riding. With his Princeton era over Graham is now free to either get a real job or follow his passion and see what happens with his windsurfing career. Right now it looks like he is trying to juggle with both options.

GE: "Windsurfing is a real job! At the end of last year, I was upset with the windsurfing industry and I started looking for finance jobs in NYC. But after the interviews, I thought 'What the hell am I doing? I don't want to quit windsurfing!' Right now, I'm windsurfing and writing. I'm working on two books - a novel and a collection of short stories, poems, and essays. The first book is set in Guincho, it's a novel. It's about two guys that just finished college and they are spending the summer in Portugal before they start work. One of them is a windsurfer, so that is why they chose to go there. They end up getting in trouble with the local mafia and owing a lot of money to different people. I have spent a lot of time there, and I started imagining all the underworlds that go on there. The other book is called 'A Sailors Almanac' which is a bunch of short stories about traveling as a windsurfer. Some of them are about sailing and some about stories on the road. I hope to publish them one day but right now they are far away from being finished. Let's see what happens."

Thanks Graham.

"I'VE BEEN GOING FOR NO-HAND GOITERS, BUT SO FAR I HAVE ONLY PULLED A COUPLE"

QUICKFIRE QUESTIONS

What are you looking for when you go on a windsurf trip?

The combination of culture and conditions.

Where do you see yourself in ten years time?

I have no idea. Hopefully writing cool stories and making films. And still windsurfing at the top of the sport!

What are your ambitions in life?

So many things ... I see myself as an artist. I would like to make art that I like. This mainly includes films and books.

Describe a typical day in Maui for you when the wind and waves are firing?

Head to the beach! That is the only priority when it is going off. I make sure that I've eaten a big breakfast and then spend as much time on the water as I can. Sometimes up to five to six hours!

So is all the hype about wild parties we see on the movies about US colleges true?

I think there are schools like that but, academically, Princeton was very tough so there was not much time for partying and students are a lot nerdier. It was fun and people there were amazing but it's definitely not 'American Pie'.

What other sailors do you hang out with in Hawaii?

I like to train and hang out with Levi Siver and Kevin Pritchard. Flo Jung and I spend a lot of time together when he is on island. But I'm a bit more solitary when on Maui.

Could you ever see yourself taking over your dad's business?

Yes, but I don't think David will retire any time soon ...



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