

## **SPEEDWEEK 2007**

### **02 SEPTEMBER**

The action started yesterday so suddenly, it was as if someone flicked the magic wind switch. One moment we were hanging on the beach, with all the stars of speed sailing, watching the calm Walvis Bay lagoon and half an hour later guys were out burning some tracks down the speed course. The course was opened at 5 o'clock in the end for a fun race to give the 84 entrants time to get a feel for the new spot and fine tune their equipment.

Patrick Diethelm set the fastest time of the day with 42.3 knots run. The fastest kiter was Alex Caizergues. In the ladies fleet the fastest windsurfer was Karin Jaggi and kiter, was our very own, Sjoukje Bredenkamp. The Walvis Bay and South African locals Hennie Bredenkamp, Frank Stein, Matthias Roettcher, Olaf Marting and Gilbert Preston were all right up there in the top 20. With 84 sailors on the water the racing becomes very intense and careful attention has to be paid to the rules and regulations to avoid warnings and disqualifications. The feeling on the water is electric and for many of us being there amongst our famous childhood heroes is a dream come true. By the time the course closed the wind was at a solid 30 knots but at a very square angle to the beach.

The trip home was cold and wild and we were warned of the forces of the wind and water as the boat tossed around in the surf and the water spray cleared the deck of the ferry. Official racing commences tomorrow. The wind forecast looks good so we hope for a great day of racing. Next update will be up after the racing tomorrow here at [www.speedweek.co.za](http://www.speedweek.co.za)