

## **SPEEDWEEK 2007**

**03 SEPTEMBER**

We awoke to a thick heavy fog this morning, and as the locals say: "if the fog is too thick and does not clear quickly in the morning, then the wind won't be strong." Well today they were certainly correct.

As we made the trip across to the speedstrip the damp air and mist made it feel a bit like we were in an English winter. But in true Walvis Bay style, at around 2pm, the mist cleared and a gentle SW breeze started to waft over the sandbar. The wind was exceptionally cold and it had a nasty bite which went right through any clothing you had on. I felt a bit sorry for the poor Red Bull girls, but then again we really needed them so, thanks girls!

The wind continued building very slowly throughout the afternoon and in the end at 4:30 the green flag went up and it was go go go... The wind had reached the minimum 20 knots average. The riders took to the water in a flurry of colour and made the best of the light wind conditions. The heat was a blessing for the lighter sailors who could use the less windy conditions to gain some rankings on the heavier sailors. Finian Maynard set the best time of the day with an amazing 35.17 knots. For a big strong guy, the world record holder sure knows how to make the best of the lighter conditions. The Top local riders were Owen Kitchen at 6th, Gilbert Preston at 13th and Darren Barker at 18th while Maaike Kallenborn finished 2nd overall in the women's windsurfing fleet. In the Kitesurfing fleet Alex once again did the fastest speeds and managed a 32.9 knots run. The top Locals were Rob Munro at 3rd Taro Niehaus at 11th and Seb Cattelan at 12th. Charlotte Consorti set the best speed for the woman's fleet with Sjoukje Bredenkamp hot on her heels in 2nd.

Today we had a new group of professionals join us on the speedstrip, they had R100 000 worth of equipment and they were not even sailing! This was the crew from Supersport! Yes that's correct, MNET Supersport are filming the whole event and will be making a 1 hour documentary, which will be broadcast locally on MNET Supersport and on internationally sports shows. These guys are so professional, I must commend them. They were filming everything which moved. They even have a quad bike with which they race along the shore next to the sailor to get up close moving footage. All this excitement really makes one feel like you are in a rock band performing for a crowd. Hats off to the organisers and officials who braved the cold and made for an awesomely run heat in very taxing racing conditions, good job guys.