

SPEEDWEEK 2007

05 SEPTEMBER

7 Records fall in Namibia!

Bright blazing African sun woke all the riders this morning and that brought about a joyous mood at the skippers meeting as we all knew that today the wind was going to PUMP! And so it did. At 11:30 social kites were out in the lagoon and at 12:30 they were flying through the streets...

The following records were broken today in Namibia, all records are subject to WSSRC ratification.

Namibian windsurf men
Namibian kitesurf woman
Italian windsurf men
Croatia windsurf men
Dutch kitesurf men
Irish windsurf men

The wind jacked very suddenly but the angle was very square so the course was not at the optimum downwind angle but at least there was enough power to push the competitors to some great speeds. The first heat was started at 1pm, with about 25 knots average wind, and the action was underway. Bjorn Dunkerbeck dominated the first heat with consistent runs in the 42 knots range. He also managed the best speed of the day with a 43.13 knot run. We all watched in amazement as he seemed to be riding way too close and shallow for a normal windsurf fin? He was even closer to the shore than some of the kitesurfers, later we saw that he had cut his fins shorter; will the tossup between smoother flatter water and a more inefficient fin play into his advantage? Only time will tell! It sure worked in heat 1. Hennie Bredenkamp and Matthias Roettcher came in at 7th and 8th respectively showing that the locals have what it takes.

In the kitesurfing fleet Alex Caizergues once again showed that he has his gear perfectly dialled on number 1! He blasted down the course at a super fast 41.25 knots to take a solid lead. In the ladies fleet Charlotte managed to stay ahead of Sjoukje by only 0.17 knots by setting a 35.76 Knots run.

For heat two the wind average had shifted to 30 knots with the gusts hitting 37 knots. Patrick diethelm dominated the second heat with a best speed of 42.88 knots.



It was a great day on the water and with 2 heats and extensions the guys were sailing for more than 3 hours. The wind looks like it will be here in full force tomorrow again so we are all off to the Speedweek party tent for a well deserved beer and a rest...ha