

SUMMER EDITION
JULY 2023


BUCCANEER
SESSIONS

SESSIONS MAGAZINE



REACHING NEW HEIGHTS
AND BREAKING NEW
RECORDS - A CHAT WITH
LEWIS CRATHERN



NIK BAKER OWNED
WINDSURFING IN THE UK
FOR YEARS, IS IT NOW ALL
ABOUT WING FOILING?



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A NOTE FROM "THE EDITOR"
(AKA TOBY - FOUNDER OF BUCCANEER)

WELCOME TO ISSUE 1 OF SESSIONS MAGAZINE!

At long last Summer is pretty much here. Planning adventures and visiting cool spots is on my mind now that the temperature has finally climbed outside.

We've created this magazine to share some of the awesome places and people involved in Buccaneer Sessions. You'll find stories from athletes and pros in the action adventure sport industry and find out their favourite destinations. If you're planning your adventures and sessions, hopefully it'll give you some inspiration to get out and experience new spots, or maybe revisit old ones.

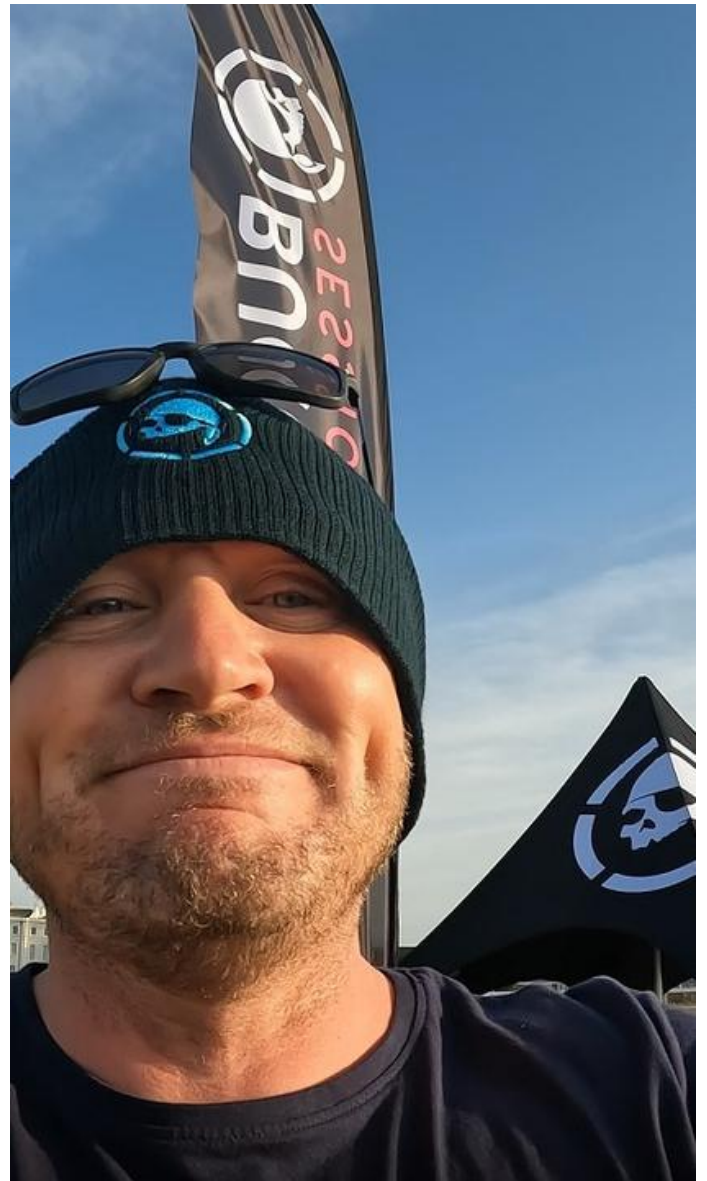
If this is the first time you are hearing about Buccaneer Sessions let me tell you a bit about it. Our purpose is to connect people to the cool places we do our sport - it's as simple as that.

Buccaneer started in 2019 by a group of (slightly techy) kites, surfers, windsurfers and mountain bikers as a way to share location and session info. We ended up being the official app partner for the Kitesurf Armada Festival in 2021, meeting heaps of new people which then led us to making the big decision to launch the app publicly.

Since 2021, we have added an events platform and a web version - so now over 10,000 people get to see us! Anyway, back to Summer and planning adventures eh?

We'd love to hear any feedback - good or bad. Is there content you'd like to see more of?

Tell us - hello@buccaneersessions.com



**HAPPY READING,
AND EXPLORING!**





WIN!

£600 H2O SPORTS VOUCHER

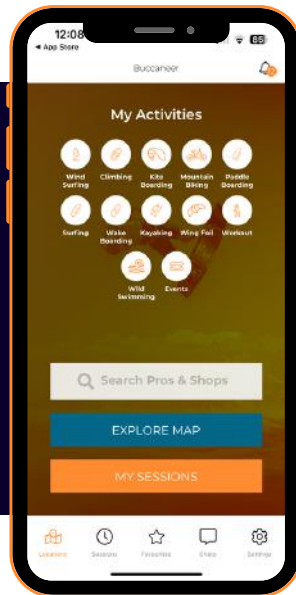
H2O Sports are specialists in paddle boards, wetsuits, kitesurfing, windsurfing, wakeboarding and kayaks.

TO ENTER, JUST FOLLOW H2O IN THE BUCCANEER APP. HERE'S HOW:

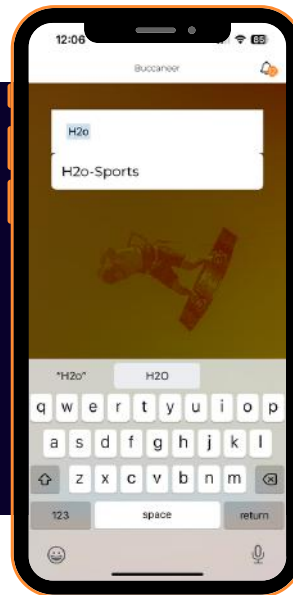
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Create an account or log in if you have one already



From the front screen search for 'H2O Sports'



Find their profile and tap 'FOLLOW THIS BUSINESS'



YOU ARE NOW IN THE COMPETITION!

Enter by 31st August 2023. H2O Sports will draw a winner at random who will be notified within 48 hours via email. [Using the email you used to set up your Buccaneer Sessions profile.]

GOOD LUCK!

H2O SPORTS

Terms and conditions: The prize draw closes on 31/08/23 at 11:59pm.. One winner will be randomly selected and notified via email within 48 hours of the closing date. If the winner does not respond after 48 hours, another winner will be chosen. Open to UK residents aged 18 or over only. The prize is as shown above and no cash or other alternatives will be offered. Prizes are not transferable, subject to availability and we reserve the right to substitute any prize with another of equivalent value without giving notice. By entering the prize draw you are agreeing to the above terms.



Kitesurfing champion and GWEC Wind Ambassador

MEET LEWIS CRATHERN



**IN APRIL, LEWIS CRATHERN BROKE THE UK BIG AIR
KITEBOARDING RECORD IN HIS HOMETOWN OF WORTHING**

**...BUT THAT'S NOT THE ONLY THING THAT'S KEPT HIM BUSY.
HE DISCUSSES BEING AN AMBASSADOR FOR THE SPORT, AND
NAMES HIS TOP FIVE KITEBOARDING SPOTS IN THE WORLD.**





LEWIS CRATHERN

When Lewis Crathern was born in 1985, kitesurfing was non-existent – but unknown to him, his hometown of Worthing in West Sussex was set to become one of the leading kitesurfing destinations in the country.

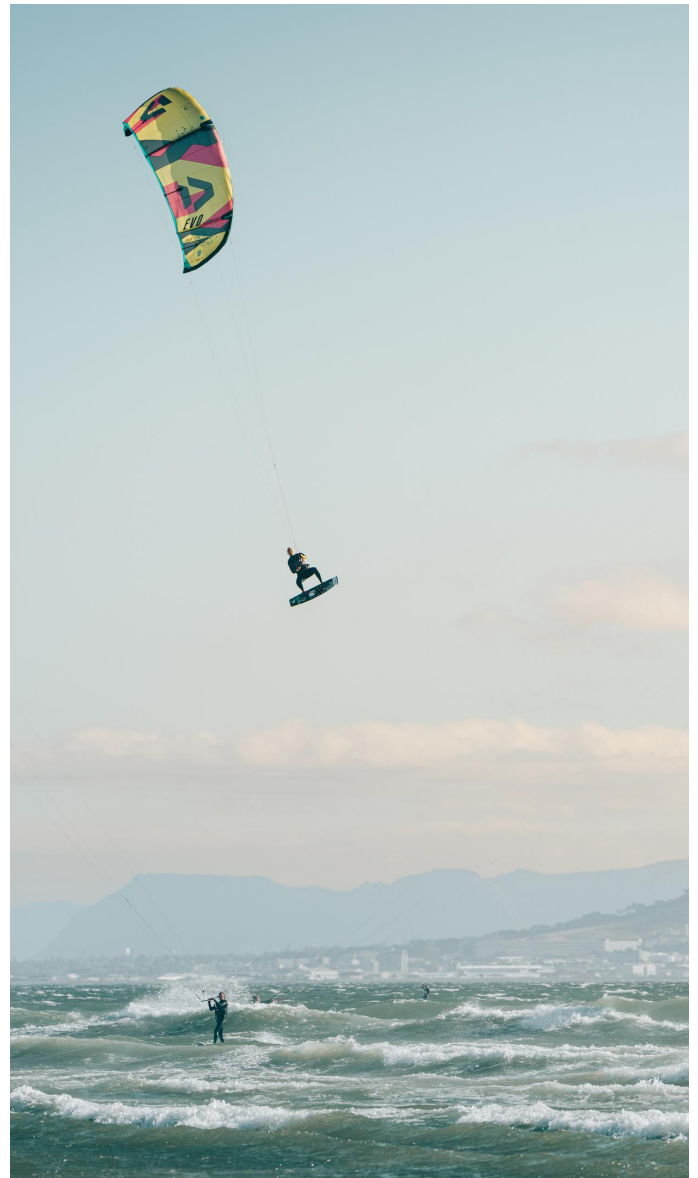
His family are sports fanatics, and being raised by the sea it was natural that, as the sport emerged, he would try kitesurfing. That was in 2003, and he was instantly hooked. His competitive nature drew him to the British competition scene, and he never looked back.

“During 2009 and 2010 I realised the massive potential of the sport when achieving my ambition to jump both worthing and Brighton Pier,” he says. “While I balance my focus between multiple roles, being the best kitesurfer I can be remains my ultimate dedication.”

It’s true that he juggles a lot of roles – not only does the sport keep him on the road; his role as an ambassador for the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC) also takes him travelling, and he now has two young children to factor in.

In the past 12 months his collaboration with GWEC has taken him into schools, highlighting themes of wind energy, sustainability, and thinking green, sometimes with a spot of kite flying thrown in.

One highlight was travelling to Egypt where he met with the UK ambassador to Egypt, did a tour of schools, and visited a local wind farm.





"That was amazing because they have a lot of dependency on oil and they're transitioning to green energy," he says. "Since then, I've been to a wind energy conference in Hamburg and met all sorts of different people. I've always loved conferences and exhibitions and I love engaging with people. These are very different work environments than typically you're used to in the kitesurfing industry, but I really thrive on that - I love performing keynotes and talking to people about how kitesurfing can make wind make wind energy fun, which is really our message."

He's also been building his commentating and broadcasting work - taking part in livestreams is one of his favourite gigs.

"I've really tried to put the work in the last few years to establish myself as one of the lead commentators," he says. "I joined Red Bull King of the Air after competing for every single event they did in Cape Town; I did nine years and then for the tenth it was the right time to join Colin Heckgroodt in the booth."

He recently commentated on the Lords of Tram event in the South of France and has been speaking on the Big Air Kite League for the last few years.

"I really want to be the guy speaking and providing consistency at the bigger events as they grow even bigger," he says.

At home in the UK, he does a lot of work with sponsor Duotone. When there's a good weekend forecast, he loves travelling to beaches such as Whitstable, Camber, or Hunstanton with Duotone UK distributor Emma Beckinsale and connecting with the kiteboarding community.

"They are the people that got me into the sport originally and to go back there and I love to have a day where we offer out the kites for people to use, maybe I do some coaching," he says.

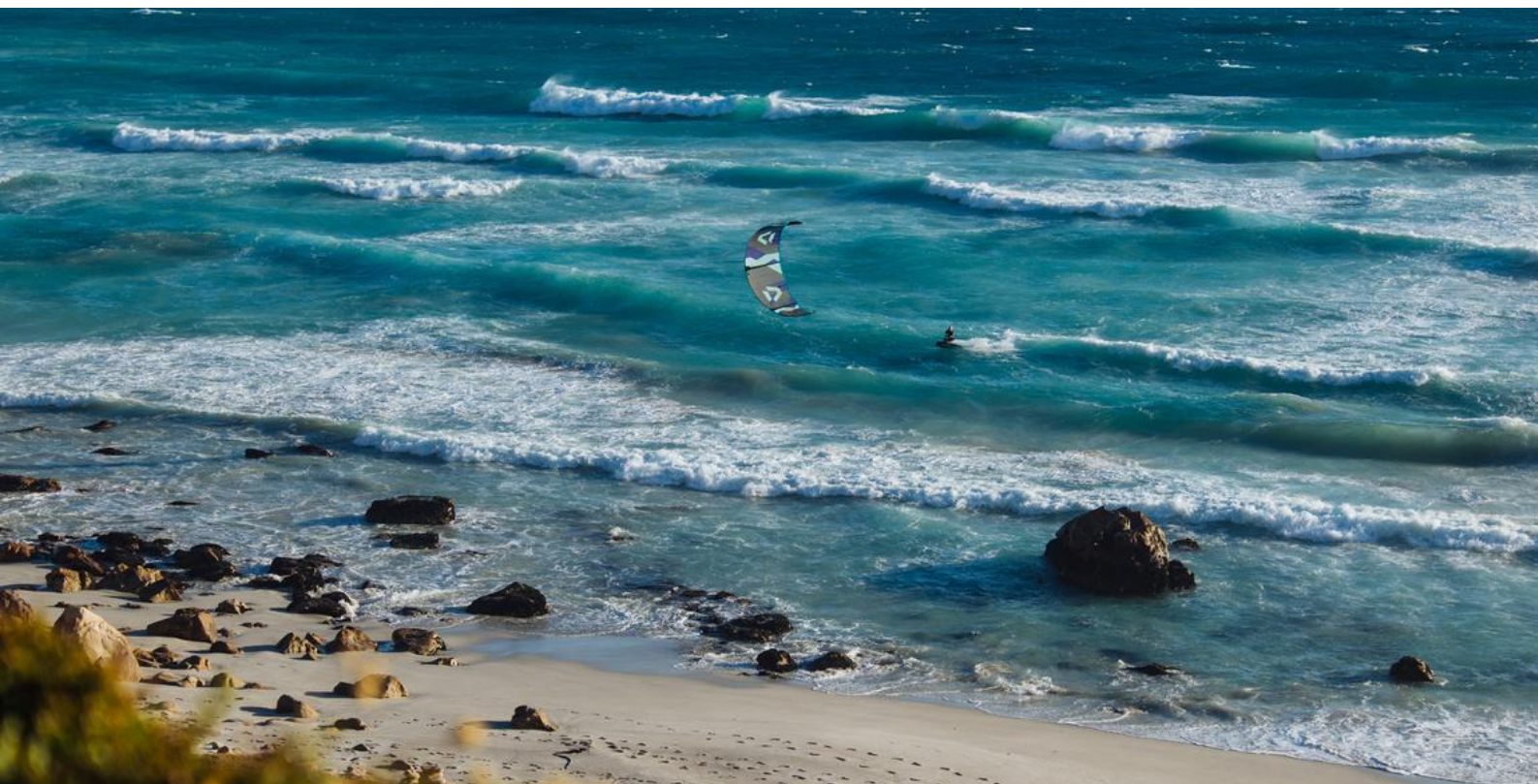
"I also do a tour with Emma to the shops once or twice a year - I'm really trying to get my roots in the UK as strong as possible. And personally, having two children has kept me very busy as well. They're both very young, still under two years."





WHEN THERE'S A GOOD WEEKEND FORECAST, HE LOVES TRAVELLING TO BEACHES SUCH AS WHITSTABLE, CAMBER, OR HUNSTANTON.





Coming up for 2023 are the bigger events like Tarifa, and the GKA awards, which he hosts with Jo Ciastula.

"I'm trying to find the right balance of family time too, so the trips that I've done in the past year have been 100% focused and planned. When I was 20, I would have loved to go on a free trip for two or three weeks and wouldn't have minded where I stayed or what was going on. But now I carefully choose the trips that have the best value for my time - and I'm not going away half as much as I used to. But when I do go away, I make the most of it."

For 2023, his aim is to maintain that balance – but he hopes to be speaking at every important big air event, including Cold Hawaii in Denmark.

He'll also continue with his ambassadorial roles. When it comes to product innovation, he's excited about new developments from Duotone and WOO, another one of his sponsors, who have "something very big" in the pipeline

"With Duotone it's obvious to mention the Evo D/LAB," he says. "It's been massive in the big air discipline, and at the events you can see how well it's performing with guys like Lee Whaley and Andrea Principi - and even Aaron Hadlow has really stepped his game up.

"Everyone wants one and you can see how much of advantage it gives those guys. That kite is massive and I'm excited about getting my hands on them as well."

He also gives a nod to Duotone's iconic Jaime board, which has some exciting enhancements for 2023.

"The 2023 edition has these really cool rails which have been inverted on the edge, so they give you a lot more grip," he says. "It's a big change to the board and one I think people will notice – I certainly have, coming away from the Team Series boards that I rode for years with bindings. I'm now really set on that board."





LEWIS CRATHERN

Despite the attractions of new kit, he's as enthusiastic as ever about bringing new people into the sport and is at pains to point out that you don't need a huge financial outlay to get started.

"I've always said that kiteboarding is not as hard as it looks - and I really think that you owe it to yourself to serve the curiosity that you have - that goes for children, young people, and adults. If you find yourself in a position where you can't stop thinking about it and you're curious, you're already on your journey, you're meant to be a kite boarder - but get a trainer kite. That's the first step. You don't need to start looking at thousands of pounds to spend on full setups.

"The trainer kite for £100 is really the tool that sets you off on your way, so I'd recommend young people ask for that for a Christmas present or a birthday present, before they scare their parents or themselves away with the cost. The cost can be something that puts you off; I remember that as a 17-year-old wondering how I was going to save the money to get into this sport."

He also recommends keeping an open mind when it comes to finding a career in the sport, as there are many different career options within kiteboarding.

"I've always adapted - I remember being on board with RRD UK in the early days and driving a van to the shops, dropping off kites and then being a coach. You can have a wonderful time travelling the world and meeting new people with many different aspects of the sport."

And while he now has several roles to juggle, there's no doubt where he's most at home. On a windy day, his WhatsApp group of four close friends comes alive with reports of where the wind is.

"I'VE ALWAYS SAID THAT KITEBOARDING IS NOT AS HARD AS IT LOOKS - AND I REALLY THINK THAT YOU OWE IT TO YOURSELF TO SERVE THE CURIOSITY THAT YOU HAVE"







**"BEING THE BEST KITESURFER
I CAN BE REMAINS MY
ULTIMATE DEDICATION"**

FIND LEWIS AT [FACEBOOK](#) / [INSTAGRAM](#)



TOP KITESURF HOTSPOTS

NO. 1 WORTHING

Wind Direction: ESE/SE/SSE/S/SSW/SW/WSW/W
Water Conditions: Flat water with chop to small waves depending on conditions.
Beach Type: Pebbles



Asked to describe his perfect kitesurfing locations, he starts with his hometown of Worthing, where he recently broke the UK Big Air Kiteboarding record at 29.5 metres.

"I wouldn't really organise who was going there because I like to just turn up naturally and have a best session in 50 knots, right foot forwards. It's definitely where my heart is - it's the place that gave me kiteboarding and it's the place that will always be the most intense place to kitesurf when it's windy and rainy, and the clouds are grey and black.

"That is what gets me excited about kiteboarding - not sunny weather. I don't want to go to Brazil; palm trees and sand are not really my thing. I want to be in the most crazy, intense, driving rain spot ever. That gets me excited and really tests me the most, and Worthing provides those conditions."

WORTHING

NO. 2 MISTY CLIFFS

Wind Direction: SSE/S/NW
Water Conditions: Medium wave spot
Beach Type: Sand



His next choice would be Cape Town, especially Misty Cliffs with its local riders.

"There are some wonderful people who ride there including some real legendary folk who look like they're in their 60s and go out on these surfboards in massive, three times your head waves. I love just turning up at Misty Cliff - it's a very beautiful, iconic spot that everybody has to ride. Looking back at the mountain is truly something special."

MISTY CLIFFS



TOP KITESURF HOTSPOTS

NO. 3 ZANDVOORT

Wind Direction:	N/NNE/SW/WSW/W/WNW/NW/NNW
Water Conditions:	Small to medium waves spot
Beach Type:	Sand



Next up, with his love to weather in mind, would be somewhere in the North Sea that's freezing and 60 knots – and he'd invite Reuben Lenten and Aaron Hadlow just for the fun of it.

"What really makes our trips that extra bit special is when we end up somewhere where it's absolutely niking and we really have to use our current skills to deal with it," he says.

[ZAANDVOORT](#)

NO. 4 LEUCATE/LE BARCARÉS

Wind Direction:	SE and NW
Water Conditions:	Small to medium waves spot
Beach Type:	Sand



Finally, he'd head to France, to Leucate or Le Bacares, where the Lords of Tram event takes place.

"I'd love to just take my classic Volkswagen Transporter van that I've had half of my life, as I've done for so many years to the Mondial du Vent event. It's a really wonderful place - the Tramontana wind is so extreme and cold and crazy and never ending."

It's not just places that inspire him – it's the other champions, including Aaron Hadlow, windsurfer Nik Baker – a near neighbour, based in Shoreham; Sam Light; Tom Court, Hannah Whiteley; and James Boulding.

"Those are people that make me think: wow, they are still in the industry and still passionate about it, they're still doing this and they're doing it well - so I can too," he says.

[LEUCATE](#)



BRITISH LEGEND OF WINDSURFING - NIK BAKER

WINDSURFING LEGEND NIK BAKER IS AS PASSIONATE AS EVER ABOUT THE SPORT. HE SHARES HIS ADRENALINE-FUELLED STORY AND NAMES HIS FAVOURITE WINGING AND WINDSURFING SPOTS IN THE SOUTH OF ENGLAND.

He's the windsurfing legend who smashed the Aloha Classic in 1999, beating his hero Robbie Nash in the final - and now, in his early 50s, Nik Baker is still immersed in the sport. As well as being the UK agent for Boards & More, he runs K66 Distribution, the UK agents for Duotone Windsurfing, Duotone Foilwing, Fanatic and ION Water – and while he's developed a love of sports such as kitesurfing and wing foiling, windsurfing – and waves in particular – are his greatest passion.



Baker grew up on the south coast of England in Shoreham-by-Sea, or Shorekipa as it's also known. He started the sport aged 12 and was racing by 15 – his first race was a British Funboard Association competition in Worthing, where he entered the under 19s and won first place.

"Ironically as it turns out, I won the Robbie Naish Trophy that year," he recalls. "Robbie wrote a foreword for a book, and rather than be paid for writing it, he asked them to put the money towards a trophy into the championship for the kids.

"My dad had said that if I won it, he'd try and get me to Hawaii one day to meet Robbie Naish. You don't tell a 15-year-old that! I think he thought that would be good motivation, but I'm not sure he'd thought through what would happen if I actually won. But that was it: I won every single round bar one. He was true to his word and he got me there."





NIK BAKER

His first meeting with Naish was serendipitous. He and his friend Danny Seals, who had joined him on the family trip to Hawaii, met a man who had some sails for Naish. They mentioned that they were heading to O'ahu, where Naish was based, and before they knew it, they had agreed to deliver the sails to Naish.

"It's a bit crazy now I think of it. This guy didn't know us, we could have just nicked them! We were way more intrigued about meeting Robbie, so we flew over to O'ahu and Danny literally rang him up. I guess we could have just dropped them at Naish Windsurfing in Kailua, but Danny spent an hour with the phone book in our hotel room and called numbers until he found Robbie Nash.

"Danny introduced himself and said, 'I'm from England. I'm with my friend Nik Baker. He's just won the Robbie Nash trophy in England. We've got these sails that came from Pat in Maui. We'd love to give them to you, but we'd love to meet you as well. Is that possible?'"

Naish agreed to meet them in Kailua – they had no car, so they took the sails there by bus.

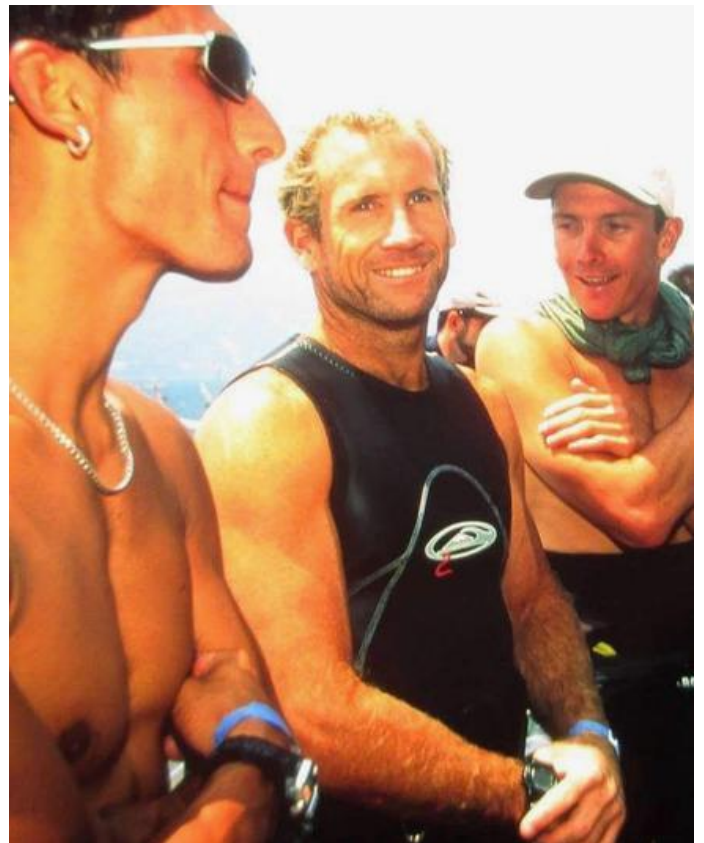
"It was awesome to meet him. Most people have someone as a hero, but often when you meet them, the reality isn't what you imagined. But for us, it couldn't have been any better. We were 16 and 13 and he took us in his car to the Naish factory, showed us around and signed posters for us. We spent about two hours with him - he was just a super nice bloke. The whole thing was pretty rad."

Back in the UK, Baker progressed in the sport, taking the sail number 6666 - chosen because he had to have 6 as a prefix, and Naish's number was 1111. About halfway through his first year the prefix was dropped, clearly 666 wasn't going to work – and then when he went pro the next year, he was allowed to pick his own number so he took 66, and that's where K66 – his World Champion sail number, and now the name of his business, came from.

"He went pro at 16 in England, sponsored by Fanatic, and then he and a friend, Adrian Bacon, decided they wanted to go and race in Europe and compete in the World Cup – so they went and raced in Tarifa.

"We got on the plane with bit of cash, not really knowing where we were going. There was no emailed itinerary in those days and no mobile phones," he recalls.

They arrived in Spain at 11pm, and eventually managed to convince a taxi driver to take them with all their kit to the place where they guessed the race site would be. They spent their first night in tents, their gear stacked against the canvas – "We figured if someone was trying to steal it, it would make the tent rustle and we'd wake up."





The next morning they woke, sweating under the Spanish sun, and started looking for the race site.

“We got lucky, we found it after about a two-mile walk up the beach and got someone to come and get our kit - and that was our first event. We raced and that was it. I knew it was all I wanted to do.

“I was meant to go to college when I came back, but I told my Mum and dad there was no chance – I had to try this. My dad had a windsurfing shop at the time, so I used to work in there when it wasn't windy - luckily I was quite light, quite small, and I was able to go on the water pretty much every day.”

The next year he did the Canary Tour. He and Bacon went to the events together, and for one event Bacon's dad transported the gear from one spot to the other while the boys hitchhiked.

“Two kids pulled over on mopeds thinking it would be a bit of a laugh and we jumped on the back and went all the way to the ferry port.”

It was worth the effort: in Lanzarote he was spotted and invited to enter the trials for the Aloha Classic.

“My parents got me to Hawaii. I remember ringing my dad, saying, ‘Dad, I've got to go back to Hawaii.’ I explained why, and he said, ‘Well, those things don't come around very often.’ I was fortunate to have supportive parents, because it wasn't cheap. I did it as cheaply as you could possibly do that sort of stuff. Danny and I used to live on \$6 a day. We'd eat potato wedges at the Minute Stop because they were like \$0.25 each, and all the ketchup and sauces were free, so that would fill you up.”

He ended up renting a place in Maui, aged about 18, and from there he made further steps forward into the pro world.





NIK BAKER

"You're always on the back foot with equipment until you get the right sponsors with all the custom stuff and the shapers and sail makers and all that. I ended up with some good sponsors. I always wanted to be with brands that I could develop equipment for rather than be with the brands that already had the big guns.

"I was with Fanatic early on and then I moved to F2 and they pulled out, so then I had to borrow some money from my granddad to buy some boards I'd ordered from Peter Thomas, who used to make Björn Dunkerbeck's stuff - he was like the legend race shaper. Then I ended up with Mistral, and Rush Wind."

As his career developed, he became known as the most successful windsurfer from England – a six times Indoor World Champion – but he always struggled with self-belief.



"I never believed I was good enough - I think that's probably why I trained so hard. I had to prove myself to my parents and to myself. That gave me the drive to perform."

The highlight of his career was, of course, his 1999 win against his hero Naish in the Aloha Classic.

"To be in solid waves competing against the world's best windsurfers and then to be in the finals actually against Robbie Nash in a double elimination was pretty special personally, and to win it as you know was even more epic," he says.

"I remember sitting on the beach sleepless nights, and in a strange way thinking, 'Please don't get to the finals. I don't want to go through that.'"

Fate had other ideas, and on the day of the finals he set off at about five o'clock for the first final.

"If he beat me we'd have to go again for the Super Final. Of course, Rob had gone through quite a few heats, so he was getting a good feel for the waves and the swell was full on, mast high, pumping.

"You're not allowed to just sail around in the contest area. You can sail prior to it or during the breaks, so I was going out for the two-minute interval trying to get a bit of a feel for what was happening on the water, but you couldn't get out properly in that space of time because the conditions were pretty big.

"Robbie was on coffee-table #2 - that's what we used to call one of his big wave boards; he used to sail these really big boards. The wind was super light and I was on this tiny little thing."



NIK BAKER

They launched on the beach, and off Naish went.

“He went straight up, basically got out straight in the middle part of Ho’okipa and was starting to ride. It took me a long time to get out back because the wind was really quite light but the heat is only 15-18 minutes long. I was feeling super sketchy by the time I got out; I’d struggled to catch a few waves. I just was not in sync with it, my brain wasn’t quite in gear. I came in and I knew I hadn’t won.”

That meant they had to go out again for the final, launching off the beach amid lighter winds than before.

“As we set off I’m drifting a bit and to get back into the comp zone I have to go through the rocks. Rob is on these much bigger boards and just cruises straight out. I’m watching him, turn after turn, and I’m drifting out through the rocks getting nailed. Eventually I got out and I got my first wave, about eight or nine minutes into the heat or something daft like that. I had a really nice wave, and I thought, I’ve just gotta go for it. I’ve got nothing to lose.”

His second and last wave is what really made the difference.

“I remember going as far as I could get, as close to the main peak of the wave as I could. I thought, if you go down, you’ll go down fighting! So, I went for it.”

When he got back to the beach his friends were ecstatic, but he was convinced he’d lost, especially as he’d only had two waves to Naish’s seven or eight – but the judges thought otherwise.

““They kept us waiting for what felt like ages on stage. I remember like one of the judges came up to me and said, ‘Mate you killed it, that was amazing, for sure you won.’ And I did.

To beat my hero was amazing.”

During his career he’s notched up plenty of other highlights, spending years as one of the world’s top five windsurfers before eventually retiring at the age of 38. He suspects he retired sooner than he could have, but he got to a point where he was slipping down the positions in competitions, and was starting a family.

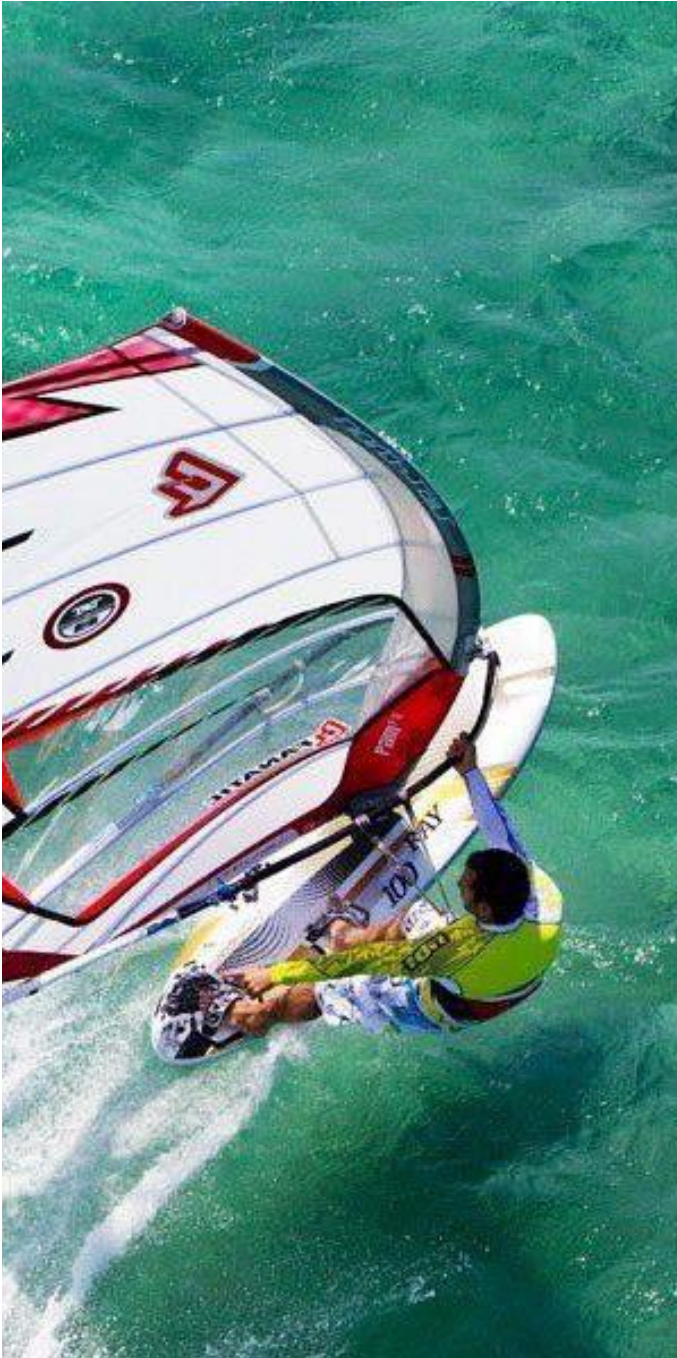
“At that point Boards and More gave me the opportunity to move into what we do now with Fanatic, Ion and Duotone, which was awesome. Having kids adds a new dimension to life. The family travelled a lot with us for a while, but as they started to get a bit older they needed a bit more routine. So yeah, a few pulls here and a few pulls there and you suddenly think, ‘OK, maybe now’s the time.’”

Challenges lay ahead, however: he got divorced, and came to see that some of the traits that had helped him as a pro windsurfer had worked against him in his personal life.





NIK BAKER



“I was a bit of a workaholic – work was all I could see. I think as a sports pro you get used to living your life for yourself and running how you need to run it to be able to perform. It doesn’t leave much room for anything else, and I guess I continued that into the business side of things.

“I’ve always been a straight down the line guy. I’ve never been a big party goer. I’ve never been a big drinker. I’ve never taken a drug in my life, I’ve just been super focused on competing, and this whole thing started to catch up with me. I went off the rails mentally and suddenly felt like I didn’t know where my life was going, what I was doing, who I was, how I was making decisions.”

It took a good relationship to make him decide he needed to take action and see a therapist.

“I went into therapy for six years, which was the greatest thing I’ve ever done. I don’t know what I’d be doing now if I hadn’t. That was one hell of a journey and a massive eye opener. I did it for as long as I did because I decided that until I felt like I wasn’t learning anything, I’d continue to do it. I’ve got teenage kids now and I wanted to give them the best chance I could. Basically I didn’t want to give my kids my shit to deal with.”

He realised he’d always lived on adrenaline – even from childhood he had barely slept, but he always maintained a level-headed exterior.

“It’s only the last few years I’ve actually been able to calm it down. The fact that I could go get on an aeroplane by myself at 16, 17 years old, leave my home, my parents, for weeks and months on end, it seems brave, but I think I didn’t really think about it at the time. I loved windsurfing. That’s all I could think of, and that helped me in competitions, because you’ve got to be really focused you can’t get emotional.



NIK BAKER

"I beat people in competitions that were way better windsurfers than me because they were emotional. They couldn't handle the excitement, the pressure. I seemed to be able to lock it away and be super focused. I seemed to be able to turn all that pressure and emotion into drive to succeed where I could not let myself and my parents down."

Now he's channelled much of that drive into running the highly successful distribution business for one of most prestigious action sports brands in the world. He speaks enthusiastically about kitesurfing and wing foiling, but windsurfing remains his greatest love.

"It will always be my passion. As much as winging is high on the agenda right now – and it's an amazing sport – it all comes back to windsurfing for me personally. To this day when it's windy and there's some waves, we're all out windsurfing. It's so hard to beat. It's such an insane, fun sport to do."

"TO THIS DAY WHEN IT'S WINDY AND THERE'S SOME WAVES, WE'RE ALL OUT WINDSURFING. IT'S SO HARD TO BEAT. IT'S SUCH AN INSANE, FUN SPORT TO DO."





TOP WINGING HOTSPOTS



His heart is always at Shorekipa (Shoreham), and he'll also head along the coast to Camber Sands, or west to West Wittering for windsurfing and winging, or Hayling Island, which is good for windsurfing - but not the type he wants to do, so he favours winging at low tide. Other favourite spots include Marezine (great waves for jumping) Gwithian (good for wave riding, but many people prefer winging there).

"We're quite fortunate in the UK as there are lots of good places. I'm a starboard tack guy and a lot of the really good places in the UK, like Gwithian, are port tack."

Windsurfing may be more demanding than some of the other sports he's embraced, but the rewards continue to make it worth it.

"It is hard as you get older, you realise you've got to have a reasonable level of fitness to windsurf. It's hard in comparison to something like kiting, but the ultimate reward when you have a good day windsurfing is pretty amazing."

- NO. 1 SHOREKIPA**
- NO. 2 CAMBER SANDS**
- NO. 3 WEST WITTERING**
- NO. 4 HAYLING ISLAND**
- NO. 5 MARAZION**
- NO. 6 GWITHIAN**

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TOP WINGING HOTSPOTS

NO. 1 SHOREKIPA (AKA SHOREHAM)

Wind Direction: ESE/SE/SSE/S/SSW/SW/WSW/W
Water Conditions: Flat water with chop to small waves depending on conditions.
Beach Type: Pebbles



The beach at Shoreham-by-Sea lies immediately to the west of the historic harbour, where the River Adur enters the sea. It is backed by Beach Road and a number of residential buildings. The large beach, which slopes steeply in some areas, is composed of a mixture of shingle with occasional rocky areas.

At low tide a large expanse of wet sand and shingle is exposed. Approximately one and half miles long with the waves being larger at the east end. Best sailed on a rising tide. It can be choppy at high tide and shore dump can also be a problem.

Due to the proximity to the South Downs, Shoreham often benefits from a sea breeze cranking the windspeed up dramatically over other places near by!!

SHOREHAM

NO. 2 CAMBER SANDS

Wind Direction: ESE/SE/SSE/S/SSW/SW/WSW/W/WNW
Water Conditions: Flat water with chop to small waves depending on conditions.
Beach Type: Sand/Rocks



One of the most popular wind sports beaches within reach of London.

A safe wide sandy beach at low tide with shallow waters for up to 300 meters out making it ideal for learning. Waist deep means you're deep enough to try things out without risking injury. Windsurfers have a bit more flexibility on wind direction. Great wave riding conditions in strong winds. The Rocks area of the beach puts up better waves. The whole beach works well in a South Westerly. When it's windy Camber can provide epic conditions for more advanced sailors and riders. The swell brings great carving opportunities as well as freestyle on the flat-water lagoons formed on the beach.

CAMBER SANDS



TOP WINGING HOTSPOTS

NO. 3 WEST WITTERING

Wind Direction: ESE/SE/SSE/S/SSW/SW/WSW/W/WNW

Water Conditions: Shallow, Flat, Chop, Medium wave

Beach Type: Pebbles then Sand



At low tide this location offers a mirror flat lagoon. With a SW and a W wind, at high tide the waves can be fantastic out at the sandbar. Southerly winds can make launching a little tricky especially at high tide with the groynes. Another perk of this spot is no shore dump!

NO. 4 HAYLING ISLAND

Wind Direction: All directions at low water with a safety boat

Water Conditions: Flat water to waves, deep water to shallow water

Beach Type: Pebbles then Sand



Arguably one of the best places to kitesurf, windsurf and wing foil in the UK. On a classic windy summer's day, you will see literally hundreds of windsurfers and kites.

The sport offers variable conditions, you will see many blasting around on slalom or freeride gear while others wave riding on the sand bar at the west end of the beach and a few freestylers showing off in the shallower, flatter water near the beach. On less windy days, the spot is very popular with paddleboarders as the sandbar offers an awesome point break to paddle out and surf back in. The Hayling Kitesurf Association club beach is located East of the funfair just off the seafront road. It is a large shingle beach with very close parking making it ideal for just getting out and riding. We get frequent swell to have fun in and is a popular spot for intermediate to expert riders.

WEST WITTERING

HAYLING ISLAND



TOP WINGING HOTSPOTS

NO. 5 MARAZION

NO. 6 GWITHIAN

Wind Direction: Works in nearly every wind direction/best in a SW/W or SE

Water Conditions: Wave spot

Beach Type: Sand

Wind Direction: S/SSW/WSW/W - More westerly for good waves

Water Conditions: Wave spot

Beach Type: Sand



Marazion, located in West Cornwall, near Penzance.

Gwithian is a top, if not the top wave sailing spot in the UK. Popular for surfing, windsurfing and kitesurfing.

It's an epic wave location featuring a massive bay (Mounts Bay) with the stunning backdrop of St Michael's Mount.

The most common sailed winds are from the South and West. Combined with swell these can give amazing port tack conditions.

The bay works well, best in a South Westerly , W or SE but handles many directions. Marazion is generally quite wavey, great spot for wave riding when the conditions are right, for windsurfers Kites and Foil Wing. Facilities - There is a cafe at the Marazion Car Park plus plenty of shops in Marazion.

Gwithian seems to pick up a lot more swell than the more sheltered beaches to the south of the Bay. In a Southerly, Gwithian will give you a classic riding day, from knee to mast high.

MARAZION

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BROKEN RIDER TALES

Up until now the Buccaneer Platform has been pretty much entirely focused on Watersports but as location suggestions have landed from our subscribers, we have started to accumulate more and more suggested spots for mountain biking. With that in mind we thought it would be cool to feature a section in the mag on exactly that.

So, enter Tom Redfern Founder and MD of Broken Riders.

MEET TOM REDFERN



MEET THE BOSS: TOM REDFERN, FOUNDER OF MOUNTAIN BIKE CLOTHING BRAND BROKEN RIDERS

The Broken Riders brand is basically all about taking knocks and trying again. Its founder Tom Redfern shares memories of his most spectacular stacks and names his favourite trails.

Tom Redfern's clothing brand reflects the spirit in which he approaches mountain biking: everyone gets broken – it's part of the journey, and he has the scars to prove it. The very first time he took to the trails in 2000, riding a borrowed bike over the South Downs, he headed down a flight of wooden steps and went flying.

"It's probably my first experience of being a broken rider - I went forwards over the bars," he says. "But I loved being out in nature, exercising, and the fast elements of coming down a trail. There's something about it."

Bruises notwithstanding, he was hooked, so he bought his first bike – a Marin Bear Valley hardtail.

"I never thought about how to improve my skills; it was just a question of getting out and riding – and I rode that bike to death. It was a proper polymer fork aluminium hardtail and I did things on it which one should never do on a polymer forked hardtail, hence why I had 13 stitches in my face."





TOM REDFEARN

He got the injury in Friston Forest, where the trails are great in summer, but in winter the chalk makes the going slippery.

"It was my first big proper stack - I was coming down a track, which crossed over a fire road. I probably got a bit cocksure, a bit too ahead of myself and my skill level, so basically I hammered it down this trail, didn't brake, hit the end of the fire road as the bank dropped away and just went into the air.

"Without the skills to control what was happening, I rotated forward and landed on the front wheel and then just catapulted down the bank of this hill, came to with the bike wrapped around me, covered in mud and thought I'd better call it a day.

"I remember cycling back to the car. Nothing seemed to be bleeding. I put the bike on the bike rack on the back of the car, got in the car to reverse, looked in rear view mirror and saw that my top lip had split in two and I'd got a massive gash in the chin. It was so deep, it wasn't even bleeding.

"This was in April, and in September I was getting married, and my first thought was, 'Shit, Janine's going to kill me.'

It was after that first stack, still with stitches in his face, that he went to South Wales for the first time and fell even more deeply in love with the sport. The trails at Glycorrwg had only been opened the day before. It was raining, packed with mountain bikers, and although he and his mate Jez were not ideally equipped for the conditions, they loved it.

"It had turned into a massive quagmire, it was practically impossible to cycle - and back in those days we were both riding hard tails and had super skinny tires, with rim brakes and elastomer forks. But we did it - we got round and we thought it was absolutely amazing. This was what real mountain biking is, with proper, designed trails. That first visit to Wales is when my excitement about the sport really started."

Fast forward to 2013 and his passion found a new outlet in his Broken Riders brand. It was a natural step for him, considering his career background.

"I've always been very interested in art and design, even from a young age," he says. "It probably started with football programmes - their layout and all the graphic elements in there. Design and art have been a big part of my life."





TOM REDFEARN

He'd gained a degree in product design then switched graphic design, working first for a London-based military engineering company, then moving to Brighton in 1996 where he continued to work in graphic design. He also started hand coding websites - work that funded his passion for windsurfing and enabled him to spend a total of about two days a week pursuing the sport.

In 2003 he joined protective solutions provider HESCO as creative director and spent more than a decade commuting to London before being laid off in 2013.

Broken Riders was already waiting in the wings – he'd designed t-shirts before, following time spent travelling in Europe after completing his degree.

"I got into dance music and I started a little business called Synthesis, designing techno based ravers' t-shirts," he recalls. "It was just about making money to be able to fund my lifestyle."

He designed his first Broken Riders t-shirt in 2006 - a short run of about 10 shirts as Christmas presents for close friends.

"I came up with the name Broken Riders because ultimately, if you mountain bike, at some point you're going to be a broken rider. It's such a savage sport. It's all about not being embarrassed at failure. It's that good old British motto of getting back up and dusting yourself off and having another go. I began with the tagline of 'ride it, stack it, get back on it' and I think that sums up the Broken Riders philosophy. Ultimately, especially in extreme sports, the only way you get better is by failing, learning from it, and then getting back on and have another go."

At present, Broken Riders is a lifestyle brand for mountain bikers, but ultimately, he wants it to be a lifestyle brand for anyone who rides anything in extreme sports. The brand has already travelled far and wide, with customers in Japan, Brazil, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Abu Dhabi and all over Europe.

"It's been slow, organic growth, which is great in some ways and frustrating in others. It's been really good to meet a lot of people I wouldn't have ordinarily met. When I go to trade shows or mountain bike events, it's great to get people coming up and saying they love the brand."

They've had some good celebrity endorsement too – Fatboy Slim wears the Broken Riders smiley t-shirt and Ethan Nell, a big Red Bull Rampage rider, wore Broken Riders when he was starting out.





TOM REDFEARN

Now Tom is developing ideas for water sports-based apparel, which he is hoping to release soon – and, hopefully reflecting the 'Ride More, Work Less' motto on one of his Broken Riders t-shirts, he's still getting out on the bike most weeks.

"My regular ride is a night ride around Bedgebury Forest which is great for fitness and for keeping pedals turning," he says, adding that he's more motivated by playing than improving his times.

"I think playing is underrated when it comes to learning a sport. Younger people are probably better at playing than we adults are with our limited time - we just want to motor through a section, but if you chase improved times, as you get older, you're in diminishing returns. You've reached your peak physically, so why not just focus on play instead, and just, find that extra route to pop off and or that little drop and if it if it works, go and do it again and master that skill."



He loves climbs like those on Whites Level Trail at Glynccorrwg – so much so, he would rather not have a lift to the top of a trail.

"I've been to Bike Park Wales numerous times. It's an amazing place to ride - it's designed to progress your skills, and the trails are just so well built it's phenomenal. But for me getting in the back of the van to the top means there is something missing.

"You can do more runs down, and that's fine if that's what floats your boat. But for me, I can always come away from Bike Park Wales feeling a little bit incomplete - whereas when I go to Afan Argoed and Glynccorrwg, I get a greater sense of satisfaction because you've put your legs through that pain and negotiated your way up the hill. Llandegla is good as well, and that's an evolving trail centre. It's small but the guys really understand what makes mountain biking interesting."

He also loves the community spirit of mountain biking, and the place Broken Riders now has in that.

"It's great when you see somebody on a trail and they've got a Broken Riders sticker on their bike, or are wearing Broken Riders – when I spot one, I'll introduce myself," he says.

FIND TOM AT [FACEBOOK](#) / [INSTAGRAM](#)



TOP MTB HOTSPOTS

NO. 1 BEDGEBURY FOREST

NO. 2 BIKE PARK WALES



Bedgebury Forest has miles of trails for family cycling, walking, running and more serious single track mountain-biking.

There is a Go Ape tree top adventure or tree top challenge course. The Bedgebury cafe set beside one of the lakes is great for a post ride brew.

Roughly 14km of purpose built single-track. Nice flowing trails. One of the only trail centres in the SE with marked routes and well maintained tracks. Great for a quick blast and not overly technical. Can be a bit boggy after sustained rain fall.



BikePark Wales was born from a passion to create the best mountain bike facility in the UK, the UK's first full scale bike park to rival the best in the World.

It is built for riders, by riders. An incredible biking experience unlike anything you have experienced in the UK before. They even have a 1km green run for beginners and can offer coaching sessions for riders at any level.

The concept is simple, picture a ski resort, remove the snow and replace the pistes with an array of sweeping flowy bike trails meandering to the bottom of the mountain and you are close. Add a bunch of adrenalin and big sprinkle of fun and you are pretty much there. BikePark Wales is an exhilarating way to spend your day in the Welsh mountains.

BEDGEBURY FOREST

BIKE PARK WALES



TOP MTB HOTSPOTS

NO. 3 AFAN ARGOED



Twisty, rooty, rocky and in places wildly exposed, the singletrack in Afan Forest Park is the enthusiasts dream.

The trails here have been carved out of hillsides once surrounded by coal mining, but now the valley has been transformed into a bikers heaven. Afan Forest Park is home to 6 world class trails including, the 'Penhydd', 'Y Wâl', 'White's Level' and 'W2', boasting over 100 km of singletrack trails. There's also the Afan Bike Park (launched in 2013) allowing riders to improve their riding skill and have hours of winding, swerving fun with berms and jumps.

Located only minutes from the M4 it's perfect for those wanting to reach a variety of fantastic riding without the hassle of long journeys.

[AFAN ARGOED](#)



SCOTTY STALLMAN

Alongside the big international names that everyone has heard of we also wanted to focus on emerging UK talent as well and hear their story so far... and pontificate on what future glories may be in store for them.

Enter Scotty Stallman - future windsurfing legend and key operative at the OTC in Weymouth.



SCOTTY STALLMAN

From the early days and achieving his Start Windsurfing Stage 1, he then joined in with the centre's Team15 group. His progress was rapid.

By 2016 he was crowned Weymouth Speed Week Junior Champion for three consecutive years, he was the National Watersports Festival (NWF) Young Windsurfer of the Year and was the first junior (Under 17) in the UKWA Pro Fleet, and seventh overall.

In 2018 he made his debut to the international scene at the IFCA Slalom World Championships (Youth, Junior & Master) in Lake Garda, Italy.

Come 2019 Scotty finished second overall in the UKWA Pro Fleet Slalom series and took top spot overall in the UKWA British Slalom Foiling Fleet; he competed in the Mauritius Attitude Challenge and got his first taste of life on the PWA (Professional Windsurfing Association) world tour in Marseille, France. Then topped off his year becoming British Speed Champion.

Scotty continues to shine and has won every event in the 2021 UKWA British Slalom Pro Fin and Foil Fleet!

In 2021 Scotty won the British Slalom Championships for the first time becoming the British Champ! Along with Windsurfer of the Year and British Speed Champion!

Scotty is currently leading the 2023 British Slalom Tour and placed 24th at the World Cup in Sylt.

Scotty set a new windsurfing harbour record for Speed Week in 2022, which has stood for nearly 14 years. He is also a member of the Windsurf Magazine's Test Team. Right now, Scotty is competing at the Prince of Speed ISWC World Championships, placing fourth on day two, we are awaiting his final position!





SCOTTY STALLMAN



Let's go right back to the beginning, you were nine years old when you had your first go on a windsurfing board, talk us through that first experience?

"Well it feels like quite a long time ago now, I suppose it was 12 years ago now. It was my ninth birthday. After the first session it was a pretty insane feeling to get out there on your own be self-sufficient and going up and back and it was something completely different to what I normally do, used to play lots of football and rugby, but windsurfing appealed to me as it was something I could be totally self-sufficient, enjoy it and have a bit of fun."

Growing up, your progression has been rapid, from that nine year old who joined Team15, you went on to smash every race you entered. Did you have a plan?

"To be honest I have to thank a lot of the local guys really including Tris, as these were the guys who got me into the racing. For me windsurfing was just a sport I could do at the weekends or after school. After school it would be straight down on the water and have fun, With the help of some of the local slalom guys, speed sailors including Kev Greenslade, Tris Best and Pete Young they all helped and mentored me and said why don't you try a bit of the speed slalom, there's nearly a dozen guys down here doing it. Give it a crack and I remember my first session and Pete Young gave me a five metre fully cammed sail it was the first time I had been on a fully cammed sail race sail and one of his 80 litre speed boards, I went out and I did nearly 28 knots and I was like this is insane! I think it ended up being quite a good result for a such a young guy. So from then onwards I figured I can go quite quick, let's push it a bit more. The first event I went to was a UKWA Master Blaster which was down at Portland. It was perfect I could get on the water it was home and I could just enjoy it. To be honest that buzz from my first race has kept me wanting to come back for more and now that I have progressed some more the feeling is still the same."



SCOTTY STALLMAN

More recently, you have become a Team Rider for Gaastra Windsurfing and Tabou Windsurfing International Windsurfing Team for the 2023 season and onwards, how excited were you to get that big signing?

“Yeah it is a pretty surreal feeling to be honest, didn't really expect it to be honest, obviously I have had a good past couple of years but then to get an actual international signing is a pretty surreal feeling. I have got the kit coming in now I have had a go on a few of the boards, I absolutely love them, sails are on their way. They should be here any day and I have had a go on last years kit and it all feels really good and I can't wait to push it this year and see where we get.”

How important has the support of Tris at The OTC been to your success?

“It has been massive, not only down to support with kit and actually getting on the water, it has been having that mentor, it could be off the water when we are planning events or something is not going quite right I will have a chat with Tris and it is that second eye, you can rely on him talk about stuff.”

How important has the support of your family been to your success?

“Massive from day one, just taking me down everyday in the van dropping me off, letting me go windsurfing when I wanted it has been massive and even to this day dad still loves to come down and take photos and get involved and to be honest with you I wouldn't be anywhere near where I am today without them.”





SCOTTY STALLMAN



What advice would you give other young people getting into windsurfing?

“Just enjoy it, the key thing with everything, the moment you start not enjoying it is when stuff starts to go wrong, it becomes a bit of a burden to do it. Just enjoy it and relax. Just see where it goes. Those first few years windsurfing especially when you are that young get out on the water and make the most of it just have fun with your friends.”

Why do you love windsurfing so much?

“I think it is just that independency on the water, that once you are out there it is totally you. All that training you have done at the gym or the sessions before with other guys once you are on the race course it is all down to you. You have got to push 110%.”

What makes you go out everyday and keep training?

“I think it is the bigger picture, you have got to look at the events you are going to, going to amazing places, the levels so high nowadays you can't really afford to say I am going to take a month off, you have got to be constantly on the water, pushing, the kits developing really quick, the foils seem to be developing every few months you need to be switched on with it I think you have to look at the good times right that day when I am going to be sat on the beach in Croatia waiting for my next race if I haven't put the time and effort in here at home and don't get the right results that is when it goes down the drain.”

You have a really exciting 2023 ahead, what are you looking forward to the most?

“There is so many events going up and I am pretty to do the whole UKWA circuit this year but one event that is going to stand out for me is the Defi Wind, I have heard so much about it growing up within windsurfing it is that one race that everyone has to do at least once! And I think this year is going to be pretty epic to do it! If it is on fin or foil.”



What has been your most memorable moment in your windsurfing career, so far?

“I think so far, there is lots but I think in particular last year was very good we had Weymouth Speed Week and it was the 50th anniversary and I managed to set a new windsurfing harbour record for Speed Week which has stood for nearly 14 years that was quite special to me to go out and at my home spot win the windsurfing speed week and set a new record it was pretty special moment.”

What are your hopes for the future of your windsurfing?

“As long as I can still windsurf and enjoy it and stay within the industry I think that would be really good.”

FIND SCOTTY AT [FACEBOOK](#) / [BUCCANEER SESSIONS](#)



**OTC TEST CENTRE
WEYMOUTH**



TOP WINDSURF HOTSPOTS

NO. 1 OPSPREY KEY (PORTLAND)

Wind Direction: Best wind conditions SW/W but is sailable in all wind directions.

Water Conditions: Flat water



Portland Harbour known for its easy sailing conditions, fantastic learning opportunities and spectacular speed sailing days. It is home to the famed "Weymouth Speed Week" and hosts many huge sailing events. In a prevailing wind, SW, it blows over the pebble bank of Chesil resulting in windy and flat water close to the beach, perfect for blasting up and down all day long.

On its day, provided it being windy enough, the run down the beach turns into a speed strip where you'll find some of the fastest windsurfers and kitesurfers in the UK pushing their limits. The spot is enclosed by the Harbour wall maintaining it as a very safe spot, at low spring tides there are a few sandbanks to be made aware of.

NO. 2 MARAZION

Wind Direction: Works in nearly every wind direction/best in a SW/W or SE

Water Conditions: Wave spot

Beach Type: Sand



Marazion, located in West Cornwall, near Penzance. It's an epic wave location featuring a massive bay (Mounts Bay) with the stunning backdrop of St Michael's Mount.

The bay works well, best in a South Westerly, W or SE but handles many directions. Marazion is generally quite wavey, great spot for wave riding when the conditions are right, for windsurfers Kites and Foil Wing.

There is a cafe at the Marazion Car Park, plus plenty of shops in Marazion.

[OPSPREY KEY](#)

[MARAZION](#)



TOP WINDSURF HOTSPOTS

NO. 3 GWITHIAN

Wind Direction: S/SSW/WSW/W - More westerly for good waves
Water Conditions: Wave spot
Beach Type: Sand



Gwithian is a top, if not the top wave sailing spot in the UK. Popular for surfing, windsurfing and kitesurfing.

The most common sailed winds are from the South and West. Combined with swell these can give amazing port tack conditions.

Gwithian seems to pick up a lot more swell than the more sheltered beaches to the south of the Bay. In a Southerly, Gwithian will give you a classic riding day, from knee to mast high

NO. 4 WEST KIRBY BEACH (MARINE LAKE)

Wind Direction: N/SSE/S/SSW/SW/WSW/W/NW/N NW
Water Conditions: Great flat water spot
Beach Type: N/A



Hailed as one of the most reliable venues in the North West for great conditions. West Kirby has essentially two spots: It has a massive beach (Dee Estuary) - tonnes of room for safe launching and landing.

Then there is the Maine Lake, epic speed sailing destination!! (Seriously world class.) Basically the closer to the wall you go the flatter the water and the faster you go... assuming your nerve doesn't break first.

GWITHIAN

WEST KIRBY BEACH

DIRECTORY

Here are some of the cool businesses in the Buccaneer platform that offer retail and /or instructor services. Check out their profiles and follow them in Buccaneer to get notified about their upcoming events, gear, demos and sessions.



Click the map pins for more info

DIRECTORY

Here are some of the cool businesses in the Buccaneer platform that offer retail and /or instructor services. Check out their profiles and follow them in Buccaneer to get notified about their upcoming events, gear, demos and sessions.



British Kitesports is the National Governing Body, or 'NGB' for kitesurfing and other kitesports in the UK.

Visit their website to find out more about the many different kitesports you can enjoy. Kitesurfing, kite buggying, kite landboarding, snow kiting, powerkiting, wing foiling and kite sailing (that's right, boats pulled by kites). Experience the action and adrenaline of kitesports with their national network of British Kitesports Recognised Schools.

You can also then join one of their many Affiliated Clubs to make the most of your time kiting.

Work they do includes:

- Supporting local Clubs to promote grass-roots participation and development and safe participation
- Provision of 3rd party public liability insurance to members, helping to ensure responsible participation
- Meeting with Councils, land owners and local authorities to ensure kitesports are represented locally
- British Championships
- Youth training programmes to develop young riders and offer advancement to national and international competition
- Working with Sport England, ROSPA, Surf Life Saving GB, Surfing GB and the Sports & Recreation Alliance

[CLICK HERE](#) to check out the BKSA in Buccaneer and follow their profile for notifications on events and news.

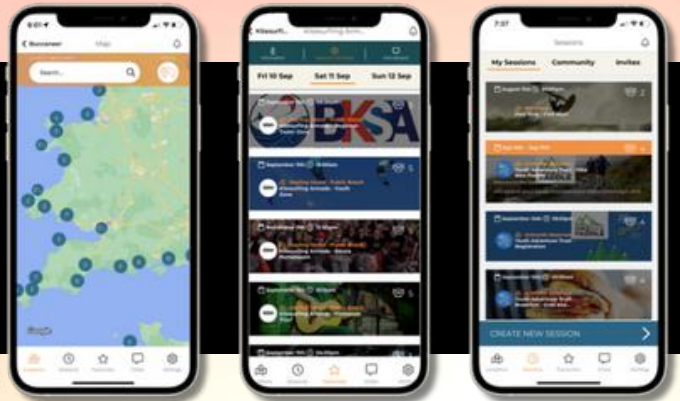


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