

## **'Hurricane Cold Hayling' in 2010 turned to 'Hawaii Warm Hayling' in 2011.**

90 Windsurfers turned up to Hawaii Hayling and I am sure many others did not when they looked at the wind forecast!

As usual the superb organisers at HISC had learnt lessons from last year. We all donned our 'numbered high visibility jackets' so we could be seen, put stickers on our rigs in case we had to abandon our kit and there were Zap Cats on the seafront with the RNLI/Coastguard on standby.

Well, it couldn't have been more the polar opposite of last year! The conditions were balmy but where was the wind? Factor 30, re-hydration packs and the largest rig and board you could find in those dusty depths of the garage were the order of the day.

Walking down the beach towards HISC from the RNLI station it did cross my mind that the closer you got to the club the more flash the kit was and that included the support vans with their sparkly VW alloys that Simon so admired. I even saw a sail covered with a foil blanket to keep the sun off it, if you can believe it? Needless to say the three of us - Paul Veness, Simon Cave and James Leeming - were right up by the RNLI Station. Did our kit match our position on the beach? No of course not Simon unrolled a brand new sail, Paul's sail colours will soon be back in fashion and I have the lovely flowery décor of my Kona One Board.

The 3 Slipper Windsurfers made the start line or to be more precise the beach. The beach was full with all sorts of boards ranging from those state of the art race boards and tandems to boards which had clearly been dusted off out of the garage for the event.

The first leg was a wobbly run down the Emsworth Channel. Thankfully with the tide, as the wind was hardly there at all! As we rounded the corner we could see the Slipper Supporters Club (thank you) who gave us our positions as we dipped our rigs and glided gracefully under the bridge - again with a favourable tide. We were all in the top 50 at this stage which is pretty good and Simon says he had me in his sights and was catching me fast. That must have been when I had weed on my fin!

The wind picked up a little for the leg to the Ferryboat at Langston and we were close to planing conditions and almost in the harness for some welcome relief on the arms, as we approached the Ferry for the tricky little beat out to the seafront. Again, the tide was with us as we battled the waves created by the jet skis and ski boats – Urgh!

The leg along the seafront was seriously hard work, the tide had turned and we were short taking all the way as the wind slowly died. It was about half way along that Paul and Simon and a lot of other boards found they were tacking back to the same point on the beach and decided to call it a day, catching a ride back to HISC and picking up their kit later. I managed to get to the end of the seafront, around the corner and with HISC in my sights, a strong outgoing tide, the wind completely died on me. With a great deal of pumping and thankful

that I had cut the arms of my really old shorty wetsuit, I managed to creep slowly towards the finishing line at the club, within touching distance of the shore and scrapping over the groins on the way. I was the last board to finish at the club line.

And so concludes another Round Hayling Windsurf. If you have never done it, borrow some kit next year and give it a go! It's GREAT.

## Results

[http://www.hisc.co.uk/openresults11/windsurf\\_RHI\\_2011.htm](http://www.hisc.co.uk/openresults11/windsurf_RHI_2011.htm)

**Winner of the 2011 Round Hayling Windsurf Race was Robert Kent from Calshot Activity Centre. In second place was Paul Leone from Queen Mary SC and third, Mark Kay of the West Pennine Sailboard Club. 32 of the 79 Gold Fleet entries racing from Hayling Island SC, completed the full course Round Hayling Island.**



James