

Icicles Cup 24th /25th January 2009
Westward Ho!

Saturday
Westerly winds 15- 18mph

Blue skies and wind welcomed early Saturday morning for registration
After a frantic hour of taking peoples money, some more than others! It was time to get on the beach

This year the Icicles Cup was scheduled for an early start due to the tide times which was recorded on the faces of the pilots

The recent bad weather hadn't done the beach any favours and a myriad of hazards were awaiting any unsuspecting pilot. One such person turned out to be Tim Aggett as he tried to run over the field of large pebbles situated in the middle of the beach!

Followed by Alan Merrills and then Karen Mansfield, all came out unscathed apart from wheels suffering from damage from the latter two

4 races were run over the course of the day, with varying degrees of success from pilots, Tim leading the fleet at the start of a race only to be confounded by having to negotiate a turning marker! Tim was later heard to be saying he won the One Lap Championship? We didn't know there was one!

With much hype from the freestyle fraternity the Icicles was attended by one competitor namely Dave Roberts aka "stupiddave", who looked to be having a ball trying to keep up and pass Tim, but found out to his cost that being able to handle a big kite doesn't always pay off especially on the up wind sections, so Tim always had the edge on him.

Thomas Munday 14 had his debut at the Icicles Cup, who fought really hard amongst a fleet mostly made up of seasoned racers, and a very admirable job he did. Well done.

Another debut went to Lewis Reeves competing in a very shiny buggy which had all the hallmarks of a Popeyethewelder job –a Cougar .Great to see new people attending these events

Meanwhile some of the "seasoned" virgins of the Icicles were having problems of their one of those such namely Tommy Grierson who seemed to be keeping the top turning mark company for an extraordinary amount of time.

The usual suspect stayed at the front for three of the races –Gray Steel 1st. , even though he suffered equipment failure in the 2nd race.

Ryan Mc Gavin pipped Dan Trainor to 2nd overall by attaining a very credible 1st place in race 2.

The day ended with a few brave people donning wetsuits and doing a bit of kitesurfing, this would prove for one, training for the Sunday!

Sunday
South Easterly 6-15mph

Another early start, and with just one additional pilot registering for the Sunday the 3 Hour Icicles Enduro was about to start.

11.30 The pilots started in earnest, well not actually. The wind was marginal and a fleet of about 8 started and negotiated the course with large kites being the order of the day.

Grayam Wass led the field for a number of laps until he suffered problems at the top mark resulting in a wet kite from a dunk in the sea. Dan Trainor then took the lead and really didn't look back Gray Steel suffered again from equipment failure and wasn't seen on the course for some considerable time.

Matt Job seemed to be having a good race and was in 2nd place for a number of laps, but then had a problem in the pits, which resulted in Ryan McGavin and Gray Wass fighting for 2nd place.

Meanwhile Rob Wells was trying his hardest to upset the 2nd and 3rd placings

The wind kicked in about 2 hours into the race and more pilots decided to enter the race, Gray Steel restarted who then stormed through the field which in turn put Rob down the field into 5th after he suffered equipment failure late on in the race.

Jon Blake did a sterling job of plugging away throughout the 3 hours for a very credible 6th.

With surging tide the last hour proved to be entertaining for the pilots and audience alike as a number of pilots were engulfed in a foot of water when the tide rushed in periodically by about 50mtrs! One such person turned out to be Alan Merrills who took the traditional fishing prize usually awarded to Neil Bodsworth(Titch)when he struggled valiantly to keep the water out of his kite but to no avail. Kite surfing the day before seemed to draw him to the sea again! Other "sea buggiers" were Chris Payne, Ryan McGavin, Boz, and a close call for Gray Wass.

The last 40 minutes proved a challenge just to keep the water away from the turning marks with the top mark being moved 3 times before the end of the race. The last lap saw the start/finish gate being overwhelmed by the sea.

And that was the Icicles Cup Enduro 2009

From all of us we would like to thank all those who took time out to help stage this event namely:

Gray Wass and the 2 volunteers (sorry guys no names)

Pete and Toni

Chris and Denise

John Hichens

Adrian Wells

Teresa

Torrige District Council

And any others I may have forgotten thanks again

I think everyone would agree a great event and an even greater location that is Westward Ho!

Look forward to next year

Mark