

Taking The World By Storm

INTuition's corporate statement- taking the world by storm- is fast becoming an events title in itself, with the launch of the windsurfing Channel Crossing and now another HUGE challenge.

When I asked in my last email if anyone wanted to windsurf across the channel with me, I didn't expect that over 80 of you would accept the challenge. So to cut the wheat from the chaff, I then asked who could afford to spend £600 on the project (very worst case scenario pricing- certainly to be vastly reduced), who could take two days off work at 36 hours notice, and who could windsurf for four hours with out falling off. I thought this would pretty much eliminate everyone and I could casually cruise across the Channel with just one support boat on my own with almost no organisation. Not so, there are about 40 of you who answered yes to all the above questions, and I think yet more to come as the event grows in publicity.

So, the project is now an enormous charity event with the UK and French Coastguards involved, safety officers, sponsors, skippers, PR agents, helicopters, satellite tracking devices, doctors, websites etc and is way bigger than I'd ever thought. In this respect, to achieve everyone's dreams and potential, we're forced to move the event and wind window to September 10-21, leaving on the first south westerly that comes in.

The event is still in it's planning stages but will basically work like this-

36 hours notice that we're leaving UK to Cherbourg, meet in Weymouth, Portsmouth and Poole to load lorries of kit and reclining seats of windsurfers.

Beaujolais and beau jolly night out en France.

Early morning start windsurfing from beach west of Cherbourg back to Poole.

Supported by large RIBS and motherships.

The support boats create a box shape of approx 400m x 300m which all windsurfers stay within. The boats determine the board speed and rescue anyone who falls from fatigue or kit failure.

There are three mandatory stops along the way, the first immediately before the shipping lanes, the next approx 15 miles later, and a final stop approx 15 miles off Poole, from where anyone left standing races in the final stage, into the beach at Sandbanks.

Freeride kit only- no slalom / race boards (too hammering on the legs for long distance) and no race sails (too much power over long periods and too tricky to de-rig in emergencies.) Everyone must use a minimum board size of 100 litres, and probably over that for heavyweights.

Apologies for delaying this event until September, but in order to provide the necessary safety service (Richard Salamon- the Round Britain Powerboat Race Safety Officer, amongst a gazillion other credentials is our man), get a 'oui' from French authorities (it's illegal to windsurf from France to UK without permission), generate the enormous media interest, sponsorship and raise the most for charity, we've got to develop this phenomenal project properly and to it's full potential. I just can't do things by halves!

I need volunteers / employees for the following roles-

Event director- I'm just too busy to bring all this together, so I want to work closely with someone who can organise.

PR- marketing of such an extraordinary event

Large boat owners- to come and play in your Sunseekers

Helicopters- anyone got a chopper for the camera crew?

Doctors- on board the motherships and rosters in the rescue RIBS

Web designers- to build a site that will include forums, online real time tracking of all sailors from satellite system, podcasts, GPS info etc.

Media- from anyone with TV / press connections, to anyone who wants to film or photograph the event

Rescue crew- for rosters on the RIBS fishing exhausted windsurfers out of the water.

Graphic designers- design and print of adverts, banners, flags, posters, event t-shirts etc

Van drivers- ideally with their own large vans to load with kit and carry over, then bring spares and board bags back to Poole.

On the ground- helping with the start and finishing lines

Even if you can only do a little, so long as you can commit to it, please get in touch.

This brings me to the next major event, happening in May this year-

Windsurfing from Bournemouth to Brighton, May 2007

To prepare for the Channel Crossing, I'm organising a Taking The World By Storm event windsurfing from Bournemouth Pier to Brighton Pier, on the first south / south westerly wind between May 7 and 25

Anyone and everyone are invited to join me for this awesome challenge for as much or as little distance as you like.

I will be stopping at all of the following locations (TBC) where I would like to gather windsurfers to join me sailing to any of the next destinations-

Bournemouth (Durley Chine)
Christchurch (Avon Beach)
Lymington (Tanners Lane)
Calshot (Solent Sailboards)
Gosport (Stokes Bay)
Portsmouth (Southsea)
Hayling Island (Inn on the Beach)
East or West Wittering
Pagham Beach (car park)
Felpham
Littlehampton
Worthing (Worthing Sailing Club)
Shoreham By Sea (Widewater car park)
Brighton Seafront (finish line TBC)

Use Google Earth on tilt for an amazing view of this mammoth master blaster!

Join me for a leg or two, or all ten, with your cell phones in a waterproof case and a friend driving your van between the venues, and collecting you from whatever beach you phone from should you get washed ashore with fatigue or kit failure. Simple. You could even share the driving with another windsurfer, driving half the distance and windsurfing the other half in relay. And if you have a friend with a fast boat, bring your own personal on water escort!

I suggest the best place to join is anywhere east of the Solent, since the Solent will be a particularly taxing stretch.

My dream would be to gather more and more windsurfers from each venue, so by the time we arrive in Brighton, we have literally hundreds and hundreds of freeriders blasting across the ocean!

Despite the simple format, I still need volunteers, especially the following-

Event director- someone who can put my dreams into action
On the ground support at each venue- including organisers and photographers
Anyone with extra space in their vans to return other windsurfers
Web designer / support

I will only be stopping for 5- 30 mins depending on each location / or change of kit, so sailors need to be rigged and ready to go, and the local organiser will keep them posted of my (and the fleets) whereabouts and time of arrival.

I will have a support boat giving regular reports from a phone throughout the journey, and you'll also be able to track our position online.

Please come and join me for at least one of the legs, whoever you are and where ever you live, and if you're planning on windsurfing across the Channel later in the year with me, I need you to show me what you can do at this daring event in May.

There's already enormous interest in Taking The World By Storm, but please spread the word.

Anyone interested in participating in the Bournemouth to Brighton event, please go and buy yourself a waterproof pouch for your phone and prepare a driver for your van. Please do not email me yet- I am off to Margarita so wont be able to respond for a few weeks- just watch this space, I'll keep you posted.

Anyone even remotely useful for any of the volunteer or organisation roles for either of the Taking The World By Storm events, please email me asap guy@guycribb.com, and thank you for your support, my apologies if it takes me some time to respond.

Sponsorship- anyone who would like to sponsor either of these events and become associated with the excitement and extensive media coverage, please email me guy@guycribb.com