



THE INTERNATIONAL SPEED WINDSURFING CLASS

An ISAF International Class

2013 Report from ISWC to the Windsurfing & Kiteboarding Committee

The class activities have, once again, been badly affected by the world economic situation. However, this was not wholly unexpected and the focus has been not on “championship” events but upon “record attempt” events.

What drives this class is the attempt to break a record – one’s own personal record, a national record, a continental record, a world record ... and the ultimate “outright speed record”!

Zara Davis

Zara Davis is not a full time sailor, she works as a full time Osteopath in Portishead near Bristol in the UK. But she has a passion for speed windsurfing and entered her 1st competition in 2005 in the Sotevento, Fuerteventura.

Since then she has won the ISWC (ISAF Class) European championships 3 times British championships a record 8 times and holds two WSSRC official World speed sailing records. The most recent was in November last year in Luderitz, Namibia. Held over a month, on the 2nd of the event Zara set a World record of 44.19 knots/h on the Luderitz 500m speed strip breaking the old record set by Karin Jaggi SWI by nearly 3 knots/h. This was done in winds of 28-35knt/h, which was enough to set the new record.

Zara then continued to push for more speed and preyed for more wind. She broke the record again and again 3 more times in total, finally setting the fastest speed of the event at 45.83 knots/h which still stands as the women’s windsurfing world record.

Zara is the only women in history to hold two (500m and the Nautical mile) official world records at the same time.

Luderitz 2013

The Luderitz Speed Challenge is an annual speed sailing event, held since 2007 in Luderitz, Namibia, in the southern hemisphere spring. It is observed by the World Sailing Speed Record Council (WSSRC) and the International Sailing Federation (ISAF).

The concept of the Luderitz Speed challenge is to take all the best sailors in the World, to put them on a perfect speed strip with the best wind conditions and then let them loose to show what they are capable of. We have seen around 30-40 riders every year displaying great performances as a result of hard work made, persistence, perseverance and dedication, pushing the limits even further. 80% of the performance is from the concept and the efficiency of the channel. This is the place where 50 knots is now a really common achievement (reached by windsurfers and kitesurfers for the 1st time in history) and where the 100 km/h and then the 55 knots were also broken for the very first time in the sailing world: Namibia has the monopoly of the performance.

<http://luderitz-speed.com>

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