

The Halyards Cannon Rocks Kiteboarding Classic 2013



Final Report

From the outset of this 2013 edition, it became very clear that it would be another milestone in the history of the Cannon Rocks Classic contest. With a list of sponsors growing and the interest from riders spreading further afield, the stage was set for a cracker edition. All involved will agree that the organizational workload has grown with the event, and a word of thanks must be extended to all volunteers who helped make this event the success it was. Without you it would not happen. It also marks our first collaboration with the South African Kiting Organization.

A huge thanks to our partner, **The Halyards Hotel**, all our sponsors: **Peter Lynn, VanHunks, Dakine, Cannon Rocks Holiday Resort, Pam Golding, Cannon Rocks Homebuilders**. Contributing the much needed cash as well as our suppliers: **Ozone, XS-Sports, Mobecon, Cannon Rocks Tool Hire, Sunshine Coast Tourism, Thule, Red Bull, Rack n Road, Surfstore Africa, Honda marine Port Alfred, Hi-tec**. And our media partner, "Talk of the Town"



Preparation started early in the year and it gathered momentum until the opening evening function at the Halyards Hotel on Wednesday the 2nd. marking the beginning of the event.

On the Wednesday, we were lucky enough to get a training day with pretty nice conditions, giving our visiting kitesurfers a taste of Cannon Rocks conditions.



Thursday the 3rd

Very strong conditions were forecast for the first day of competition, However, strangely the wind was on the soft side at first, forcing Olaf vanTol, Head judge, to postpone the 1st freestyle heat. A Large crowd had gathered to come and watch the action. However the mellow conditions experienced was only the calm before the storm. Slowly the wind started building and then, around mid day, went off the charts. The beach was evacuated in 15 minutes, all branding material had to be removed as it was getting damaged.





The marquee tent was saved by the pegs that had been hammered deep into the hard ground of the parking area. Further tie downs were used to secure it overnight. Readings of 60 knots gusts were measured on the beach. For a little while, some daredevils kited and entertained the remaining crowds of kilters. However by 3pm the beach had been deserted.

Friday the 4th



The action got going early with the team of volunteers re-setting the flags and banners on the judges' tower and on the beach.

A large swell was running and a strong side current had developed overnight. The conditions were not easy but definitely rideable. Some spectacular moves took place in the semi finals of the Men's

freestyle, and the Final was a tight contest between the two top riders, Colin Heckroodt and Oswald Smith.

The Ladies Freestyle was dominated by Jalou Langeree from Holland. The Novices and Intermediate (Pimp My Kite) divisions also went out and entertained the crowds with simpler but bigger, flashier, less technical moves. This prompted an exhibition session by pro riders doing big jumps and wacky tricks, This proved very popular with the crowds. Note was taken by the organizer that Big jump, hang time is a must in an event like this, and we will be working hard to include this formally in the next contest.

The freestyle was followed by Wave riding. The conditions were big, with a four meter swell running. Riders were catching waves right at the backline and dealing with large white water sections. There were some spectacular take offs and maneuvers. The Final of the Men was to the last minute amongst the 4 finalists with Wave selection playing the deciding role in the end. Again a big air exhibition was included after the heats were completed.



With the contest running so smoothly, we tried to set up a course race, but ran into problems with the strong current running due to the large swells. At 16h30 we decided to finish the day with a fun session.

Saturday the 5th



The morning of Saturday the 3rd brought about soft wind and perfect weather for beach goers. Interestingly enough, the influx of spectators was less than with the howling winds of the previous days. It appears that visiting spectators wanted action as opposed to good beach going weather!

Unfortunately, the wind stayed away on Saturday. Give away merchandise to the beach public supplied by "Talk of the Town" was handed out by our "prettier riders" and a few tricks and freestyle sessions went down on the beach.

Due to the pro riders contingent having an event starting on the Monday in Langebaan, and not very favourable weather predictions for the Sunday, we decided to hold the prize giving on the evening of the Saturday. It was a festive affair with a lucky draw prizes giving every single rider something to go home with. Carmen Gee was the lucky novice rider selected to receive the Brand new Ozone kite and harness from Surfstore Africa.



Sunday the 6th

The event was set to wind down, but Cannon Rocks did its magic, and at 8h00

am a steady 20 to 25 knots started blowing and held until 16h00. This was probably the best conditions we had during the whole contest. The day was mostly about fun and sharing this amazing spot.

Results:

The results for the event are available [here](#)

Undoubtedly, the event was a success, with the future looking set for bigger things.

We would like to, once more, extend a “thumbs up” and thank you to all our sponsors and volunteers for making this event possible. To the riders for making it to the event, and to the public for supporting it.

On the Website we will carry on uploading pictures as they appear, and will keep the momentum going for a while still. www.cannonrocksclassic.com

This contest was about capturing the stoke and smiles that this amazing sport brings. If you take a look at the galleries uploaded, there is no doubt in our mind that we achieved exactly that.

Till the next one

Cedric Vandenschrik and the Halyards Cannon Rocks Kiteboarding Classic 2013 team.