Kite Boarding
and
Race Management

Peter Saxton

Wyboston
Race Officials Conference
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Kite boarding and race management

The same .... but different

Peter Saxton

Kite boarding and race management

- Equipment
- Identification
- Courses
- Programme
- Conclusions

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Equipment

- Board
  - 135-165 cm x 41-46 cm

- Kites

  17m (8 knots) to 7m (28 knots)   Registration of 3 kites

  Publication of chosen kites

- Flying lines – c30 metres long   Large rigging area

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Identification

- Not on kites
- Not on boards
- So must be on riders

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Identification

TOBY BROMWICH / PKRA

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Identification

- Think about:
  - Branding
  - Quantity of riders
  - Observation process – including at pin

- Not easy!

TOBY BROMWICH / PKRA
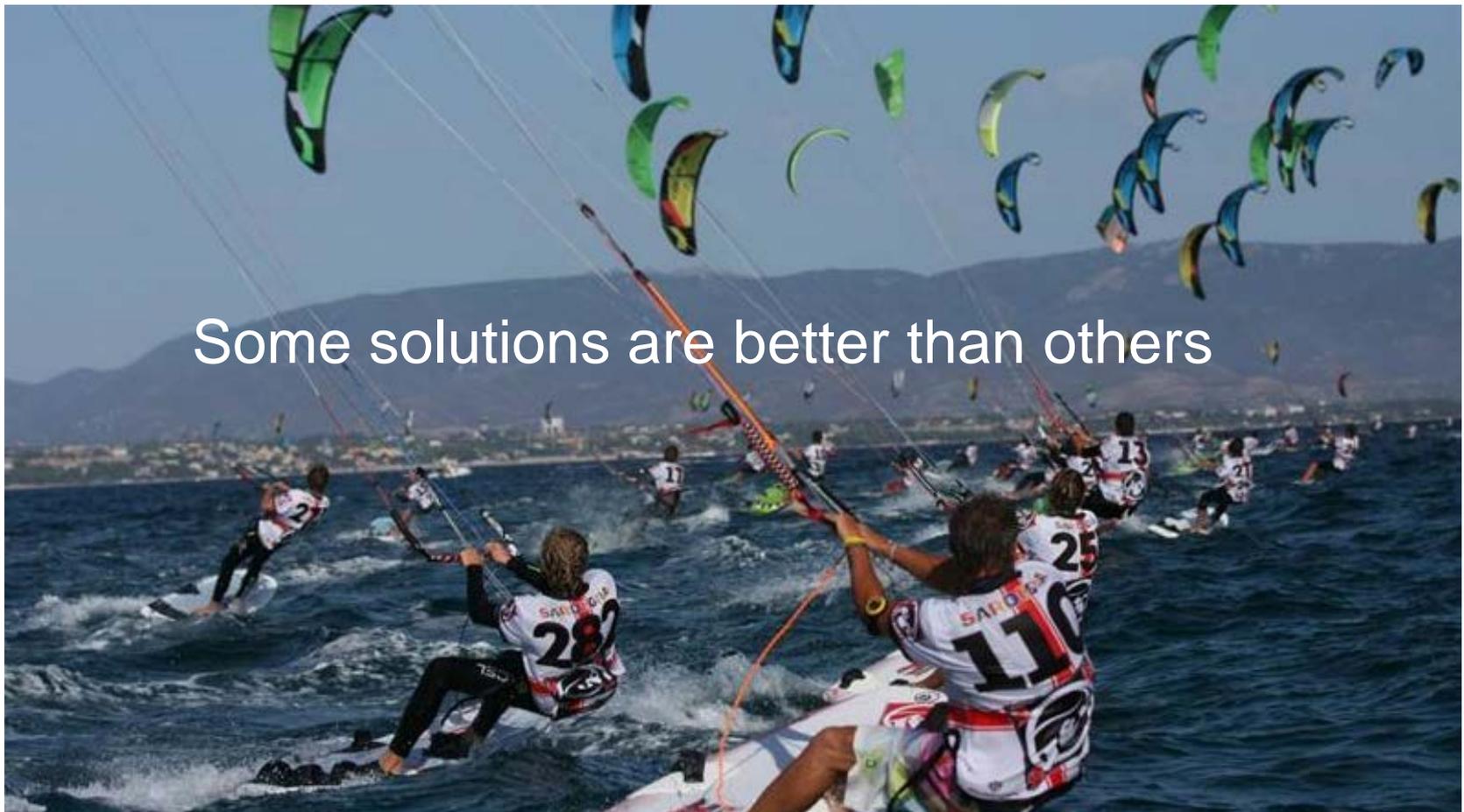
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Some solutions are better than others

Kite boarding and race management

- Equipment
- Identification
- Courses
- Programme
- Conclusions

Kite boarding and race management

- Courses
  - Race area
  - Speed
  - Course size
  - Start line
  - Offset at Mark 1
  - Leeward gate
  - Finish line
  - Safety

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Race area

- As normal

Plus

- Wide diamond shape
- Corners are used!
- No masts/posts, including downwind of start area
- Enough depth for mark laying boats
- Large rigging area

Kite boarding and race management

Race area

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Race area

Kite boarding and race management

Race area

- As normal

Plus

- Wide diamond shape
- Corners are used!
- No masts/posts, including downwind of start area
- Enough depth for mark laying boats
- Large rigging area

But

- Tide almost irrelevant

Protecting your Rights, Promoting your Interests

Kite boarding and race management

Speed

Race duration - L2, 0.75NM
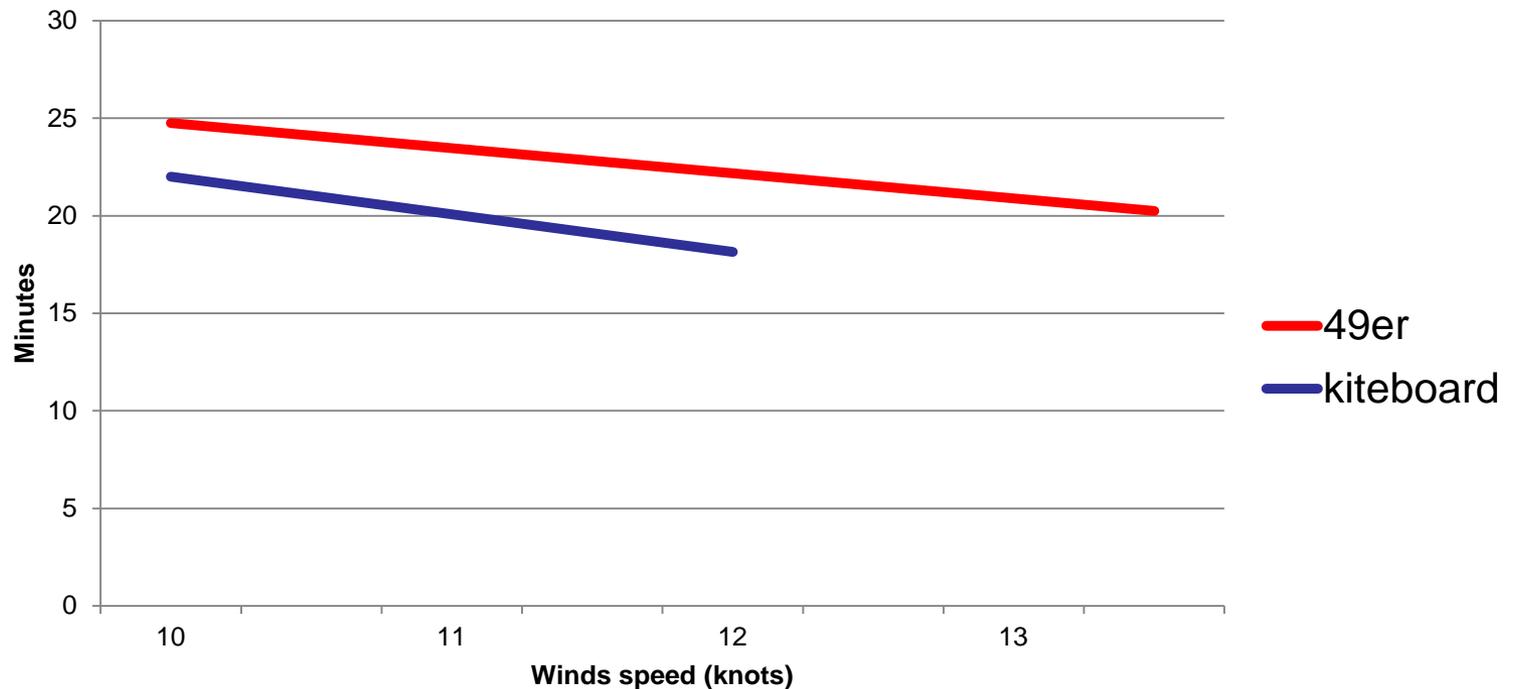
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Speed & course size

Wind 10 knots – 3 NM in 22 mins - VMG 8.2 knots

Wind 12 knots – 3 NM in 18 mins - VMG 9.9 knots

Average VMG = c 80% of wind speed

Suggested course size (L2)

| Wind speed (knots)	20 minutes	25 minutes	30 minutes
8	?	?	?
10	0.66 NM	0.83 NM	1.0 NM
12	0.80 NM	1.20 NM	1.44 NM
16	?	?	?

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- Start line
  - 10m / rider
  - 0-5 degrees **starboard** bias
  - for pin use training mark – no hulls!

- Offset at Mark 1
  - 40 – 80 metres
  - 90 degrees to axis
  - easily visible

Protecting your Rights, Promoting your Interests

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- Leeward gate
  - 70 - 80 metres wide
  - Square but not crucial
  - Visible from course corners

Protecting your Rights, Promoting your Interests
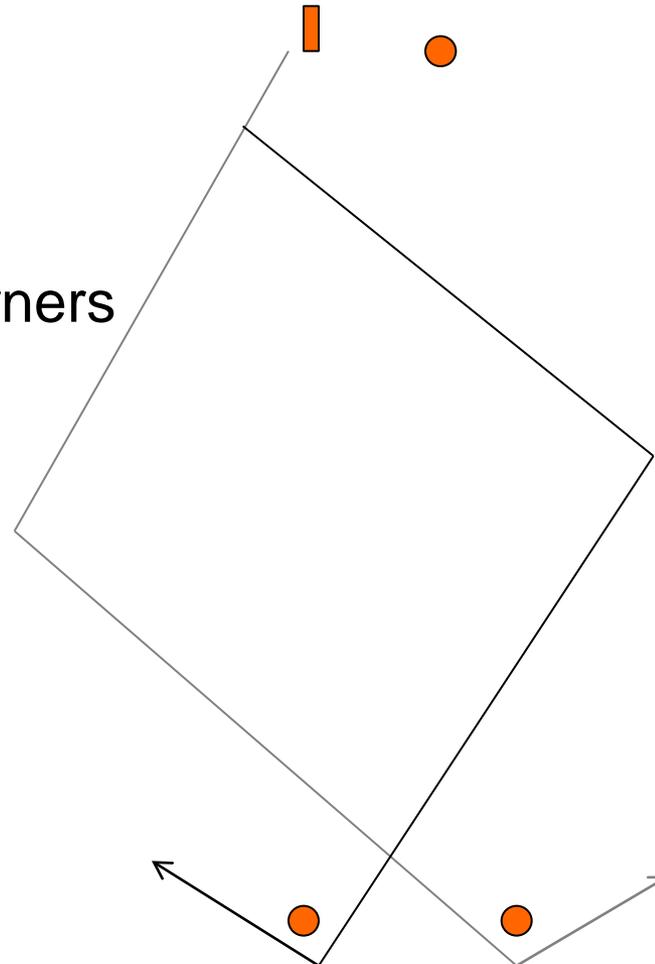
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- Finish line
  - Line length c50 metres
  - Use training mark
  - c30 degrees starboard bias – force through on port

✓

✗
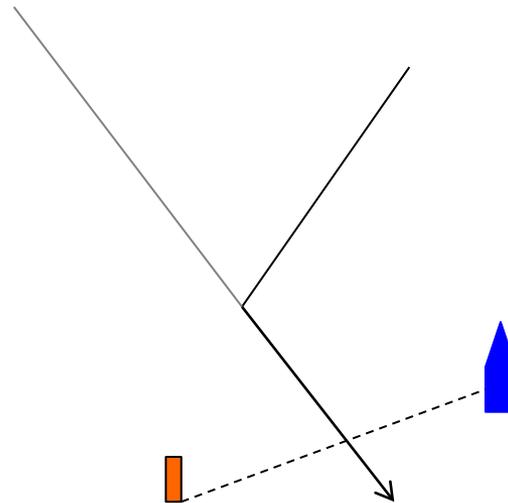
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Safety

- Riders
- Tally / beach master
- Safety boats
  - Approach
  - Recovery
- Lost boards
  - Identification

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Programme

- Starting behaviour – most like catamarans?
- All black flag starts, new processes

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View from the pin end!

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Programme

- Starting behaviour – most like catamarans?
- All black flag starts, new processes
- Start window 2 minutes?
- 20-25 minute races?
- Finish window – 10 minutes?
- Break ashore after 3 races?
  - Consider windward finish for race 3?
- Tangles – usually = retirement

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Conclusions
The same ….. but different

- Fast & efficient
- Big separation
- Difficult identification
- A different challenge!