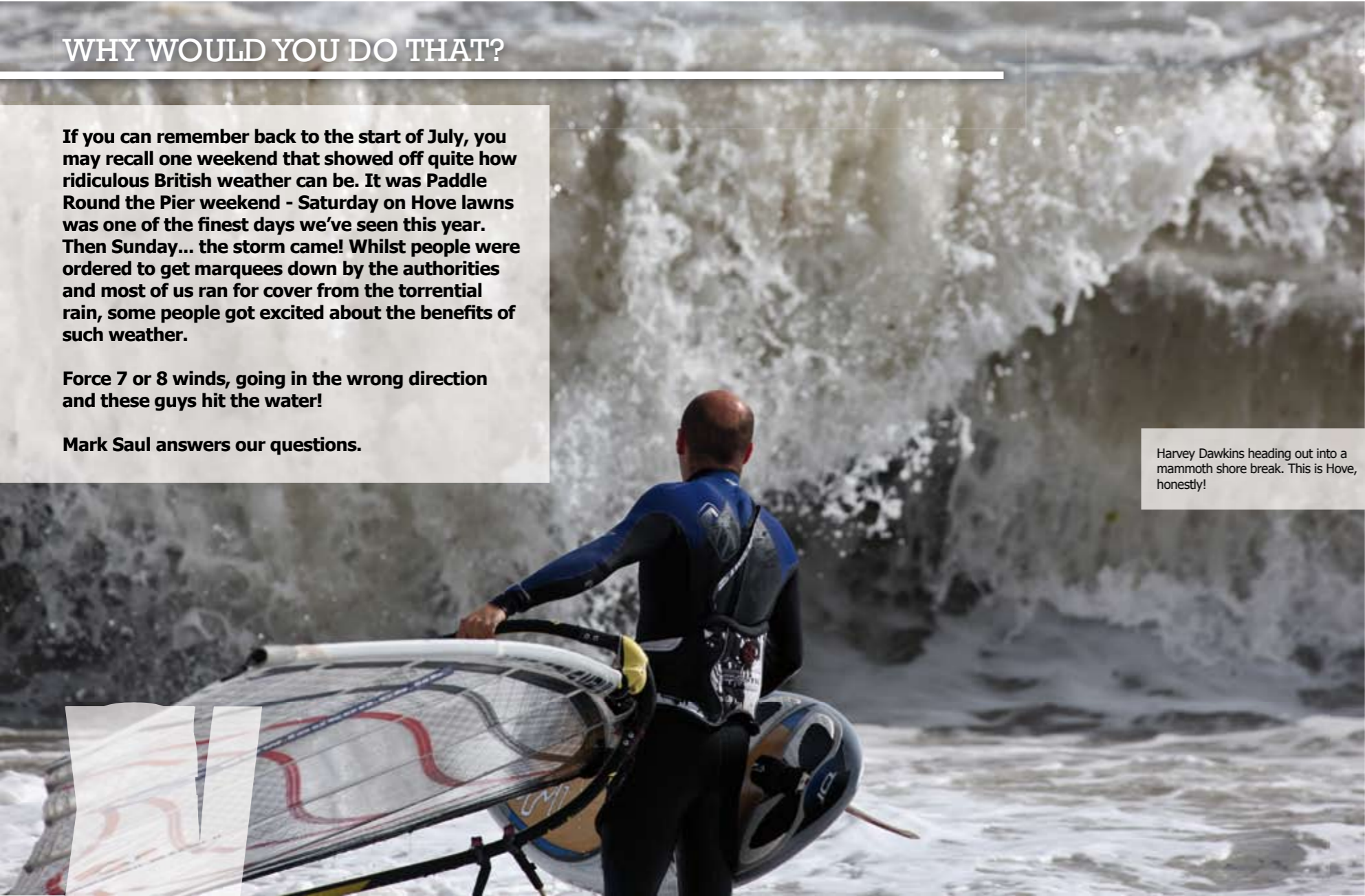


If you can remember back to the start of July, you may recall one weekend that showed off quite how ridiculous British weather can be. It was Paddle Round the Pier weekend - Saturday on Hove lawns was one of the finest days we've seen this year. Then Sunday... the storm came! Whilst people were ordered to get marquees down by the authorities and most of us ran for cover from the torrential rain, some people got excited about the benefits of such weather.

Force 7 or 8 winds, going in the wrong direction and these guys hit the water!

Mark Saul answers our questions.



Harvey Dawkins heading out into a mammoth shore break. This is Hove, honestly!

Why did you go out in these sort of conditions (see left) when all others were running for the hills?

That's the rush! I saw Harvey out there so I felt up to the challenge, even though I saw him getting battered by the shore break just trying to get off the beach.

(Harvey Dawkins is the owner and Managing Director of Lagoon Watersports)

Surely you and Harvey are mad?

Yeah, some of those watching may have thought that, but seriously Harvey is the best wave sailor around, he's recognised for it nationally, so it wasn't a foolish attempt by any means. Anyway, the wind suddenly changed and turned completely around, this let us get out there and that's when the pictures that you can see were taken.

Presumably, like Harvey, there is a crew of very competent guys down here who all push each other to perform better?

That's right, there's some excellent wave sailors down here, there's Harvey, John boy, Vince, Laird, Safety, Jimmy Stewart, Lee, The Ryan Humphrey Show and of course me to name just a few.



Mark Saul shows off his skills. All in a days work. This could be you in a few years if you wanted!



Harvey and Mark, doing what they do best

Lagoon Watersports, what more could you ask for....

Lagoon Watersports on the Sussex Coast is one of the UK's leading watersports centres. Established in the 1980s originally as a windsurfing school, Lagoon Watersports has grown to become one of the most dynamic and thriving watersports centres in the UK. Their ethos of being owned and run from day one by people who are passionate and knowledgeable about watersports shines through all they do.

Watersports is a great way to enjoy yourself whilst keeping fit, active and enjoying life.

Lagoon have three main locations, Brighton Marina, Hove Lagoon and Barcelona. Each one specific to its environment and offering a substantial range of activities, training, corporate and membership solutions.

Hove Lagoon has often been described as 'probably one of the best locations in the UK to learn to Windsurf'. Hove Lagoon offers Windsurfing, Sailing, Kids Windsurfing and Sailing, Surfing, SUP, Surf Skis, Waterskiing, Kayak, Corporate and Watersport events.

Harvey Dawkins, managing director of Lagoon Watersports says: "Our club is all about offering people the chance to live the life style of a windsurfer or sailor"

"Our club members can even SUP, Zap Cat, yacht sail, surf and boogie board, all for no extra charge. Our club is really about enjoying being out on the water."

To find out more about trying these out and becoming a member of Lagoon Watersports call 01273 42 48 42, or email info@lagoonwatersports.co.uk. More information about the huge range of other lessons, activities and courses that Lagoon Watersports run can be obtained by visiting www.lagoon.co.uk.



Mark Saul

How long have you been at Hove Lagoon working for Lagoon Watersports?

This is my 3rd season now. The seasons stretch from March to November.

What do you do in the winter?
I like to snowboard, that was my big

thing before wave sailing. But there's only so many kickers you can crash into in the mountains, before you start to realise that hitting the water doing this, is much less traumatic on the body!

What's the biggest rush you've found?
This!

Best thing about your job?

Simple - I get to go windsurfing when its windy! I arrive at work at 7 and go Wave sailing (the term for windsurfing on the sea), then hop back over the promenade and have a coffee before work. And when I'm working generally I get to make people have fun and I always make sure the other guys get out on the water first - It's a great job!

How would someone go about getting into wave sailing?

Well firstly you would need to do Level 1 and 2 courses, each of these can be done over a weekend and would cost you only around £250 to do all of that - after which point, providing you pass, you could feasibly be able to get on the sea.

What if somebody wasn't so good even after that?

Well, unlike anywhere else we have a safety guy keeping watch 7 days a week.

How long would it take us mere non-windsurfing mortals to reach the level where we can be flying up in the air off waves like you?

Hmmm... With the staff we have here and a keen student we could possibly get you there in 4 years.

Is Windsurfing getting more popular?

Yes it is. We sold 200 windsurf taster sessions at the Paddle Round The Pier event alone. I think people are really keen once their eyes are opened to how easy and how affordable it is to do - especially when you compare it to something like Gym membership.

So is your mission to open people's eyes to the benefits of the watersports on offer?

That's right. For £40 per month, which is less than gym membership, people can come down here and get out on the water, all equipment is fully maintained, stored and insured. Windsurf sails are rigged for you and with third party insurance it's an unbelievable offer. Plus you get to be in the great outdoors and you can be a part of our community down here.

By community you mean the clubhouse and the social side of Lagoon life?

That's right we make sure that everyone is happy, its really about having fun and making friends. We have loads of social stuff going on, loads of parties, we even have a band who play down here 'Lagoon 5'.