

# Media Release



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For immediate release.

## World champion kitesurfer to race at Watergate Bay

A world-beating kitesurfer is set to compete at Watergate Bay next month in the opening round of the national kitesurf course racing championships.

Exmouth's Steph Bridge has won the world championships for three of the last four years, and is widely recognised as one of the world's best performance athletes in the sport.

She will be joined on the weekend of the 9th and 10th April by many of the UK's leading riders at the British Kite Surfing Association (BKSA) event, which sees kitesurfers compete in a series of races around a course marked by buoys.

Will Ashworth, Managing Director of hosts The Hotel & Extreme Academy, Watergate Bay, is looking forward to a spectacular start to the beach venue's year of sports events.

He said: "With up to 30 competitors taking part in each heat, course racing is one of the most exciting variants of kitesurfing to watch. Similar to dinghy sailing races, the start is crucial with riders fighting for the best positions when the hooter sounds.

"The power that these kites can generate is quite incredible, and while course racing is all about speed, it is fascinating to watch the different tactics the riders use to navigate their way around the course."

The Watergate Bay event is the first of five rounds which will decide the BKSA's national course racing champions.

With professional riders of both genders competing in the Open races, Steph Bridge will be facing tough competition from the likes of Penzance's Lee Harvey, and Cornishman Denzil Williams (Par, St Austell), who came second at the Watergate Bay event last year.

Also looking to perform well is 2010 British champion Callum Edge, from Weymouth in Dorset, who clinched the title with a series of strong performances in the tail end of the 2010 season.

An experienced windsurfer, Edge only started kitesurfing in 2009, focussing on the course racing discipline. He said: "Course racing is quite technical. It's not so hard physically compared to freestyle, but you do need strong legs and I've been doing a lot of cycling over winter to keep my legs strong. Technically you need to be good at flying your kite in light winds, and tacking upwind and direction changes are where a lot of competitors fall down so I've spent a lot of time in training working to improve these aspects.

"The first race of the year is always really interesting to see how everyone has been training through winter. I'm hoping I will be able to carry through my form from the end of last year when I was a lot quicker than everyone else. I don't know how much everyone else has been practising, so we'll have to see what happens."

Eight races will be held over the weekend, starting at 10.30am on Saturday 9th and at 10.00am on Sunday 10th. On Saturday night there will be an event party at The Beach Hut. Starting at 8pm, the £10 tickets include entry to The Beach Hut, a hot buffet and music from a DJ. Tickets are available from Alison Payne on [alison@watergatebay.co.uk](mailto:alison@watergatebay.co.uk).

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Full details of all events at Watergate Bay can be found at [www.watergatebay.co.uk](http://www.watergatebay.co.uk)

## **Provisional Schedule (subject to change depending on weather conditions).**

### **Saturday 9th April**

8.30 to 9.30 am	Race Registration
9.35 am	Rider Briefing
10.30 am	Course Races 1 & 2 (back to back)
1.30 pm	Course Races 3 & 4 (back to back)
8.00 pm	Party at The Beach Hut

### **Sunday 10th April**

10.00 am	Course Races 5 & 6
1.00 pm	Course Races 7 & 8
5.00 pm approx.	Prize giving

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### **Press Call**

A press call will be held on **Friday 8th April between 11am and 2pm.**

Competitors will be on the beach and available for interview, and can work with photographers and camera crews to set up filming opportunities.

Event organiser and BKSA Chairman Richard Gowers will also be available for interviews.

### **Images**

High resolution print-ready images can be downloaded from our online **Media Centre** (click for direct link).

### **Media Contacts**

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### **Notes to Editors**

Set on its own spectacular surfing beach on the north Cornwall coast, **The Hotel & Extreme Academy, Watergate Bay** has earned a reputation as one of the 'must visit' coastal destinations in the UK.

**The Extreme Academy, Watergate Bay** is one of Britain's leading venues for beach sports and events. Founded in 1999, the Extreme Academy comprises specialist schools for surfing, kitesurfing, waveski and stand-up paddlesurf; technical equipment hire; and the Shop on the Beach, stocking a wide range of clothing and technical equipment. [www.watergatebay.co.uk/extremeacademy](http://www.watergatebay.co.uk/extremeacademy)