

REALTIME WEATHER FOR SOLENT AREA



Real-time free weather reports updated every five minutes at locations from Chichester to Southampton can be accessed via WAP enabled phones. A group of volunteer professionals and freelance consultants have got together to build and install the weather recording system using sensors positioned at four strategic spots.

The first Chimet website was designed and built in December 2000, by Timothy Yau-Kwan Chan, as part of an MSc in Computing and Information Systems at Greenwich University. Chimet was followed by another site, Cambermet, in June 2003.

In June 2004, two more sites, Bramblemet and Sotonmet, were added to the network. Bramblemet is jointly funded by the RNLI, ABP and SCRA, while Sotonmet is supported by data from an existing port weather station funded entirely by Associated British Ports.

The instruments record wind speed, gusts and direction, air and sea temperature, wave height, tidal height and visibility.

Chimet is at the Chichester Bar Beacon (50° 45'. 92N, 00° 56'. 46W) www.chimet.co.uk/wap

Cambermet is at Camber Pile (Thorney Channel) (50° 47'. 84N, 00° 53'. 97W) www.cambermet.co.uk/wap

Bramblemet is at Bramble Pile (50° 47'. 41N, 1° 17'. 15W) www.bramblemet.co.uk/wap

Sotonmet is close by the Vessel Traffic Services Centre building (50 53.01N 1 23.66W) close by Southampton Dockhead, roughly at a height of 53m, well above any interference from surrounding buildings. www.sotonmet.co.uk/wap



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THE WEB'S BUSIEST MULTIHULL RESOURCE MOVES TO WARMER WATERS

Multihull Maven, which surfaced this year as the web's busiest resource specialising in sailing multihulls, has recently moved its HQ from the UK to Malta. The company founders, Gesine Kernchen and Brian Fielder made the move from Southampton to Valletta in the beginning of October to find warmer winter winds to sail their Corsair F-27 and brighter winter days to work on expanding website, www.multihull-maven.com.

The project to build a comprehensive reference site for multihulls kicked off two years ago after Gesine and Brian bought their own trimaran. They had consistently found it frustrating searching for data on multis online. "It's perhaps not surprising how fragmented information is considering how many hundreds of multihull designers, models and of course, opinions on boats there are. Still, we imagined what a valuable service to prospective purchasers and excellent promotion of multihull sailing it would be to get all the available information on all the multis in one place," Gesine explained.

Besides profiles of multihull designers, builders and models, Multihull Maven publishes a list of around 2,000 used multis for sale in brokerages around the world. "Linking the used boat list to the background data on the models and designers makes it very convenient for people to see what is available for sale, and then dig into the detail of a particular boat without further searching," said Brian. "Visitors can specify search criteria like price range, location and type of boat, and we even email them weekly updates so they don't have to keep checking!" Whilst the on-going adding of more and more models is the prime focus right now, plans for www.multihull-maven.com include sections on multihull cruising, chartering, gear, and the inclusion of the fast-growing segment of power multihulls.



Gesine Kernchen and Brian Fielder
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