



WANews11 No6 – WeatherAction Forecast Power Report presented & independence of a Weather Columnist challenged.

www.weatheraction.com - long range weather & Climate forecasters
Delta House, 175-177 Borough High Street. London SE1 1HR Tel +44(0)207939 9946
From Piers Corbyn+44(0)7958713320 http://twitter.com/Piers_Corbyn , piers@weatheraction.com

WeatherAction demonstrates Forecast Power 1400% Independence & professionalism of Philip Eden - columnist in BBC 'WeatherTest' challenged

- WeatherAction submits Winter 2010-11 Central England Temperature Forecast 'Power' ('notional bets') assessment to meeting in Royal Institution
- Professionalism + Independence of Weather Columnist Philip Eden challenged at meeting after his churlish attack on 'Self-styled long-range forecaster'
- Piers calls for EVIDENCE based science to be put before 'religiosity' & politics.

		2010 December 3-30d ahead Forecast Britain & Ireland <small>Produced under Solar Linear Action Technique SLATS - Summary - Detailed weather periods - Maps - Graphs Including Solar-based likely corrections to apply to Short-range Standard Meteorology Forecasts Weather Action are the only long range forecasters with independently proven published skill. See www.weatheraction.com For Short Range localised forecasts - Weathermet personal premium rate service on 09001100445</small>	
<small>Confidential</small>		<small>2010 DECEMBER 3-30d ahead BRIT & IRE SLATS forecast issued 29th Nov. Essential consultant with First Look Summary June 2010. News content is PUBLIC, otherwise publication of details in media or web must be agreed through WeatherAction.</small>	
DECEMBER 2010			
Extremely cold and exceptionally snowy Probably the coldest* December for 100 years (80% confidence) and very likely (90% confidence) to be in the 3 coldest Decembers in 100 years. (*using Central England Temperature measure)			
Frequent snow and blizzards at times especially in central and East / NE England on Northerly and North/ Easterly winds.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequent, black ice and freezing fog • Extremely sharp frosts with record low temperatures. • Scotland probably drier than other parts and extremely cold especially East & central parts. • West Ireland & far SW England less cold with short milder South-Westerly flow at times. 			
Christmas	Widespread blizzards & snow deluges; probably snow in all parts of Britain & Ireland over Christmas / Boxing Day.		
New Year	New Year's Eve probably dry, bright and bitterly cold. Snow returns on New Year's Day.		
Key Pressure developments Dec 2010 Britain & Ireland will be often dominated by high pressure over Scotland or to the North of Scotland connected either to high pressure over Scandinavia or (probably less often) Arctic/Greenland while active low pressures dominate South Europe / Biscaya and also attack from the West at times but are largely blocked and take a local Jet Stream South path.			
<small>© WeatherAction™ & Piers Corbyn™ accept no liability for any loss however arising from use of forecast information. Application of forecasts is entirely at the user's risk.</small>			



Blizzards & thunder confirm WeatherAction forecast advance
The end of November blizzards, white-out and thundersnow in NorthEast Britain dramatically confirm WeatherAction's 'solid weather warnings' that the Met Office would seriously underestimate the severity of the coming snow storms.
Piers Corbyn - Astrophysicist of WeatherAction says "Getting thundersnow and double the snow amounts in Met Office forecasts - both outcomes of which we warned - was great. This snow hit was especially important because although our long range November forecast had gone very well up to 21st November, the end of the month was not wet and mild as we had originally expected, but snowy. Our new advances in our SolarLinearAction Technique to SLATS explains why the circulation switched to blizzards, why relatively rare thundersnow was also likely and gives more confidence in our exceptionally cold winter forecast."
See: <http://www.weatheraction.com/ispiparticle.asp?m=2758&e5>

Above WeatherAction Dec Forecast p1 (Full forecast is in Piers' submission to Parliamentary Select Committee into Dec cold & snow crisis <http://bit.ly/hEmBqG> Below It happened!



The Royal Institution Auditorium, Albemarle St, Mayfair, Mon 28th March.

- Hosted by the BBC's Roger Harrabin to Report on progress of the *Weather Test** Project to measure and compare forecasting organisations & procedures
* http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/today/newsid_9435000/9435955.stm
<http://www.theweatherclub.org.uk/features/article/be-a-part-of-the-bbc-s-weather-test>

The Meeting heard useful progress reports on the Weather Test project from organisers – principally Paul Hardaker of the Royal Meteorological Society alongside a Fellow of The Royal Statistical Society from LSE.

There were many wide-ranging and interesting contributions on the matter of usefulness of forecasts and forecast applications as well as how to measure accuracy including skill at predicting extremes.

Piers Corbyn astrophysicist of WeatherAction long range weather & Climate forecasters said it was appropriate the meeting was held in The Royal Institution which had been founded to propagate EVIDENCE –based science when such had been lacking elsewhere; because *we are now in a new struggle to defend evidence-based science against its undermining by interest groups ,the Royal Society, Met Office & BBC* (re Global Warming matters). [See if the BBC reports this comment!].

Measuring Forecast Power

Piers said that WeatherAction already had plenty of independent confirmation (including peer-reviewed publications, pto) of forecast skill but nevertheless welcomed the WeatherTest project to advance matters further and he then gave a short report of Weather Action Forecast 'Power' (= % profit on notional test bets of forecasts at fair odds) as shown by – as one example – key statements on Winter month temperature forecasts for Central England. This, Piers explained, was in line with proposals for objective tests especially for extremes – which he had presented to the previous meeting - in the Royal Society, Oct 12th 2010 <http://www.weatheraction.com/docs/WANews10No34.pdf> . His forecasts for Central England Temperatures had been put in a form suitable for notional weather bets and on this measure alone those temperature forecasts showed a **POWER OF 1400% - ie for every £1 staked on these Central England temperature forecasts at fair odds the net profit over the winter months would be £14**. It should be noted that for Scotland, West Europe and USA the Power of his forecasts were even higher since the cold persisted there longer – in line with his forecasts; and it would also have been higher for Ireland where we had correctly forecast less cold weather relative to normals. This report (pto) does not show the high skill and *Power* of WeatherAction forecast *detail* - which could also be done.

Winter Months 2010-11 Forecast POWER Report – notional bets at fair odds on Weather Action monthly Central England temperature forecasts

(NB other forecast data and detail could also be considered. These notional bets are similar in style to the stacked bets placed with William Hill in the past and terminated by the Bookie in 2000 after 12 years of losses by the bookie to Piers. See WeatherAction website Forecast accuracy button - <http://www.weatheraction.com/pages/pv.asp?p=wact5&fsize=0> If forecasts have no skill no profit is made.

CET "Bet"	Odds	Result	Profit / Loss (-)	Month profit	Month profit on stake of 10
Dec to be coldest in 100 yrs	99/1	1	+99	On stake of 3, + 132	+ 440
Dec in coldest 3 in 100yrs	32/1	1	+32		
Dec colder than normal	1/1	1	+1		
Jan in 3 coldest in 100 yrs	32/1	0	-1	(On stake of 2)	4
Jan colder than normal	1/1	1	+1	0	0
Feb in coldest 10 for 100 yrs	9/1	0	-1	(on stake of 4)	-10
Feb in coldest 14 for 100 yrs	7/1	0	-1		
Feb in coldest 33 for 100 yrs	3/1	0	-1		
Feb colder than normal	1/1	0	-1		
Total on stake of 30					+430
Total on stake of 10					+143
On a unit stake on WeatherActions England Temps forecast profit is 14 or 1400%					
• Met Office having apparently made 2 opposite forecasts, logically get forecasting power Zero%					

Piers Corbyn then said to the meeting that the article by Philip Eden in the Telegraph on 19th March – “**Self-styled long-range forecaster gets it wrong**” was unprofessional and unfair in not giving any recognition of the great skill of his WeatherAction forecast in correctly identifying the economically bruising very cold and snowy December (in a lot of detail) and that this biased unprofessional inappropriate behaviour meant that **Philip Eden should be removed from his role of assisting the project in any way including data provision /assessment**. Piers afterwards pointed out that he had been asked in good faith by someone else in BBC (Philip Eden also works for Radio 5) to try to draw in others to the project such as Joe Bastardi (USA) and ‘The Russians’ but this article by someone involved in monitoring data meant such approaches could not and should not be even considered while Mr Eden is involved in any way.

Philip Eden's article (Telegraph Sat 19 March 2011)

Self-styled long-range forecaster gets it wrong

JUST before Christmas, when everyone assumed that the wintry weather was going to last throughout January and February, I wrote in my Sunday Telegraph column that exceptionally cold Decembers were, more often than not, followed by rather cold Januarys and by mild Februarys. This was not offered as a prediction for the remainder of the winter, but simply as a statistical analysis of past events.

I therefore claim no particular perspicacity when I note that January 2011 was rather cold, and February 2011 was the mildest for nine years.

One thing that is striking is the deafening silence from the **self-styled long-range forecasters** who, following the cold December, predicted “a brutal January”, “a bitter February with widespread and disruptive snowfalls”, and even “the coldest winter for 1,000 years”..

They vied with each other to capture the headlines, and to the industry's shame the news media lapped it all up.

They, too, have fallen silent, but then “**Self-styled long-range forecaster gets it wrong**” does not a good headline make.

With the mild February almost, but not quite, offsetting the cold December, the winter quarter of 201011 was the coldest for precisely one year, and during the past 100 years 21 winters were as cold or colder.

It is natural that we remember winters when the severe weather lasted without a break for a very long period, as in 1947 or 1962-63, or those when the cold and snowy weather repeatedly returned following brief intermissions, such as 1978-79 or 2009-10.

But winters with an isolated month of exceptional cold amid a sea of mundaneness are more common, and we certainly should not ascribe to them any particular abnormality.

No one has yet come close to finding the holy grail of seasonal **forecasting**. Those who try it are bound to get lucky once in a while. The failures, of course, are quietly swept under the carpet.

Piers afterwards pointed out that this last claim is particularly “*churlish, spiteful, misleading and gratuitously damaging*” against him because his WeatherAction forecasts had correctly identified the extreme nature of all the **previous 5** extreme seasons (3 wet summers and 2 cold/snowy winters) and this clearly is success in doing reliable seasonal forecasting - and more! There are other misleading statements in the article. He had never said anything about anywhere being the coldest for 1000yrs even if others had (Russians maybe - but that was about Russia which stayed very cold). WeatherAction has had a lot of public assessment about changes in stratospheric winds & jet stream which caused the mild February forecast error. Also his forecasts for Winter had been better everywhere outside England! - well verified in West Europe – which stayed colder relative to normal. In Scotland and USA he had been superbly verified all through winter - “*Scotland is not in Hampstead - where Philip Eden lives*”.

WeatherAction Monthly meeting Frid APRIL 1st 12 noon WeatherAction Office, Borough High St
March Report + Forecasts for coming months + Royal Wedding weather!

+ Reports - Meetings in St Ives Cambs – Imperial College – Royal Institution – Royal Geographical Society (Spectator Debate) & **What Next in the fight for evidence-based science + Climate Wars?**