



PRISKY'S TRADEMARK CUTTY REVERSE WAS UNLEASHED IN THE FINAL TO GREAT EFFECT.

PRISKY TAKES BRITTS

A HUGE ENTRY, CASH PRIZES AND GOOD SURF. THIS YEAR'S THE SMITH & WILLIAMSON SOLOMON HARE/BLUE BAR BRITISH BODYBOARD CHAMPIONSHIPS WAS THE BEST EVER.
REPORT BY ROB BARBER. PHOTOS BY MIKE SEARLE (UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED).

Late September saw the start of the British Bodyboard Nationals in clean two- to three-foot peaks at Porthtowan. Due to big cash and kit prizes (over £3000 in total) the entry was the second biggest in British bodyboarding history, with over 80 money-hungry boogers, a gang of new faces and all the top names from the British scene (notably missing was Jack Johns who was taking his jetski course exams). The event also served as a qualifying event for the British team who will compete in the World Surfing Games in Portugal in 2008. Colin Crowther and his band of sponge freaks from Jersey made the trek over, the Bournemouth, Welsh, Devon and Cornish crews were represented, and it was only a last minute sketchy forecast that stopped the Irish crew from missioning over.

The contest took considerable planning, with a real drive to run a professional event with a high standard of judging by qualified bodyboarding judges, held in waves conducive to high performance bodyboarding. The first heats hit the water just on high tide and the wedgy peaks offered the opportunity for some solid riding. As the tide receded the waves got a little slacker but there were some strong combinations from the riders in the Junior and Youth divisions. Standouts of the early rounds were the brothers Hone (Ed and Joe) who demonstrated a similarly smooth,

flowing style with some tight crossed-legged spins, setting them apart from the other riders in their divisions.

Just before low tide the DK division hit the water. The much anticipated second heat saw Danny Wall choosing to sit way outside and wait for the bigger sets. Unfortunately for him, during his heat the tide moved off the bank that he was planning to surf leaving him wave starved and facing a shock early exit. Hassan Ingram looked strong in the early rounds with some move filled waves and the skinniest man in British bodyboarding — Aidan Salmon — made it look easy as he glided through sections that other riders were bogging in. Move of the division went to Laurie McCall who jammed a forehand hack that shifted buckets of water.

The Seniors division became a real event for the first time with an entry almost as big as the Open. Dan Catten was looking strong at his home break from the off, with Aaron Dinham and Eldred 'The Aggressor' Hawke surfing fast. Eldred jammed his trademark double Tamega-style spins on every section, and boosted loopy rolls or backflips whenever a section presented itself.

At low tide the Open division hit the water and the action really hotted up. Ali Daniels lived up to high expectations and showed some Aussie flair with his tight

cuttie forwards and reverses. Bjorn Storey was on form as usual, sliding his way through move after move. Cheech Bullen also caught the judges' eye with some spray shifting cuttie reverses and lip moves.

As the tide pushed in the surf didn't pick up as forecasters had predicted and the gap between sets was getting longer and longer. It was agreed to run the comp all the way through until dark to get as many heats run as possible. Again the high tide banks were the best hope of some quality peaks. At dusk the semi final of the open division showcased what was to be the best surfing of the entire event. Semi one saw Anglo-Saffa Darren Halse school Prisky, Hawke and Catten with a display of sick back flips and ARS's. Even though Prisky was ripping Halse made everyone look ordinary, considering he's been living up in London he was surfing like a man well and truly on top of his game. Semi 2 was held with out Ali Daniels as unfortunately he'd made the classic competitors error of leaving the beach with out asking the beach marshal if he would be competing again that day and ended up missing out! The waves were breaking really fast so squeezing moves in were super tricky. Bjorn Storey couldn't find any peelers and for the first time in recent history didn't make a final. Splinter shoved his little frame in to a couple of barrels, rolled out of them and won the heat. Alex



