

10. LOWDOWN



ALEX WINKWORTH SMASHES THE LIP ON HIS WAY TO THIRD IN THE DK DIVISION.

FROTHING GROMS CHECK THEIR RESULTS.



ONE OF THE AUTO SLEEPERS USED FOR CONTEST CONTROL.



REMI GEOFFROY FANGS A BACKHAND HOOK.

AUTO SLEEPERS BRITISH NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS STAGE 1.

This year's British National Championships saw the UK's top riders convene on Porthtowan for the biggest UK bodyboarding event ever. Auto Sleepers have supported the event to the tune of £3,000 with the winner of the Open division due to walk away with a tidy £1,000. Needless to say the contest check-in was a who's who of the Brit bodyboarding community. The comp was lacking only a macking swell, but the competitors milked the two- to three-foot waves for every ounce of power. The Open Division was postponed to 16 November, but the decision was taken to proceed with the other categories while the waves were clean and contestable.

Saturday saw the Under 14s hit the water early to make the most of the low tide banks and waist-high barrels. The judges were impressed by the standard, with local lads in close competition with a strong contingent from the south coast. In the end the diminutive Sam Brabyn shone brighter than his competitors, reviving memories of a pint-sized Danny Wall when he used to stand a foot shorter than his fellow competitors and pop up to snatch victory from under their noses. Sam's surfing is tight and he's got a great eye for combo's in and around the pocket. Bournemouth's Harry Smith came in second and Lloyd Atherton took third, both serving notice of their skills, with Ed Sherlock in fourth.

In the Under 16s, hot favourite Luke Brabyn (competing for the last time in the division) found himself up against stiff competition in the form of contest newcomer Stephen Hall, who eliminated last year's Under 14 champion Dan 'Stalker' Garton, and Gwithian rider Callum Morse to set up a final with Brabyn and Liam Benney. In the end it was Stephen Hall who pipped

Luke Brabyn by the narrowest of margins to secure the title. The difference is the power of Hall's reverse spins, definitely the strongest move in his arsenal. Liam Benney finished third with Callum Morse struggling to reproduce his form in the early rounds.

The decision was taken to call an early end to day one of the competition and the Blue Bar provided a welcome haven for competitors and spectators alike. The evening's entertainment comprised a premiere of Mark Van Gorf's House of Cards DVD and fully funk'd up tunes from live band Cantaloop. With a Corona beer promotion the Blue Bar was well and truly rocking, and with the swell restricting the manoeuvres in the water, the BB crew were throwing down the moves on the dance floor instead.

Sunday saw a better pulse of swell come through, and the Under 18s were the first to hit the water. The pick of the day's waves were in the early rounds which saw defending champion Dave Speller pull a nice tweaked invert to impress the judges and aid his progression through to the final. He was joined by Nathan Thompson, Luke Brabyn and Stephen Hall. Channel Islander Speller again proved why he is a strong bet for a placing in the European Junior Championships (due to be held in Morocco at the end of November) by taking the Under 18 crown again. Brabyn turned the tables on Hall this time, as they finished second and third respectively, with Nathan Thompson edged into fourth place. Dave Speller has a keen eye for the lip and given better conditions would have lengthened his lead further in the final.

The Women's division was the strongest for some time. The

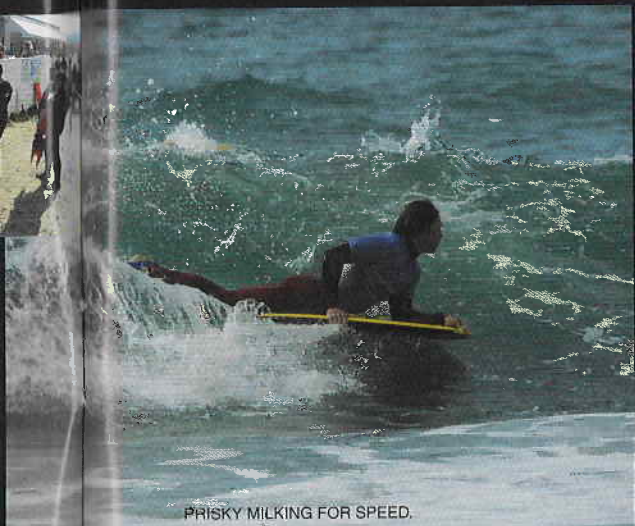
experienced Gemma Brittan from St Agnes clinched first place ahead of last year's victor Clemmie Hardy with some strong spins and rolls. Olivia Smedley and Jasmine O'Shea, in their first competitive appearances, gained valuable contest experience finishing in third and fourth respectively.

The Seniors (over 28) drew a line up that included most of the top names from the British scene from over the last decade. Danny Catten, Damian Prisk, Eldred Hawke and Bjorn Storey made the final from a strong early field. In the end it was reigning Open champion Prisk who clinched the title ahead of Storey, Hawke and Catten. The finals were held on the lefthand side of the beach, and as the tide got higher, Damian showed impeccable wave selection and powered his way to victory.

The Masters (over 35), run for the first time in 2008, was an epic contest with the five-man final comprising Catten and Hawke along with Jersey locals Colin Crowther and Simon Watkins, plus 2006 Senior champion Alasdair Newby. In the end Eldred Hawke's aerial moves were enough to narrowly secure him his first National title ahead of Catten, Crowther, Watkins and Newby.

The International division attracted interest from Australia, New Zealand, France, Portugal, South Africa, and the Canaries. In the final, Kiwi Aiden Dixon proved too much for Australian Ben Hughes and Portuguese Eduardo Alfonso.

The small swell was perhaps most challenging for the Drop Knee division, with the consequence that above the lip moves were rare. The semifinal saw Darren Halse (currently second on the world IBA Drop Knee tour) eliminated. A hotly-contested final saw Aiden Salmon clinch the UK title ahead of Remi



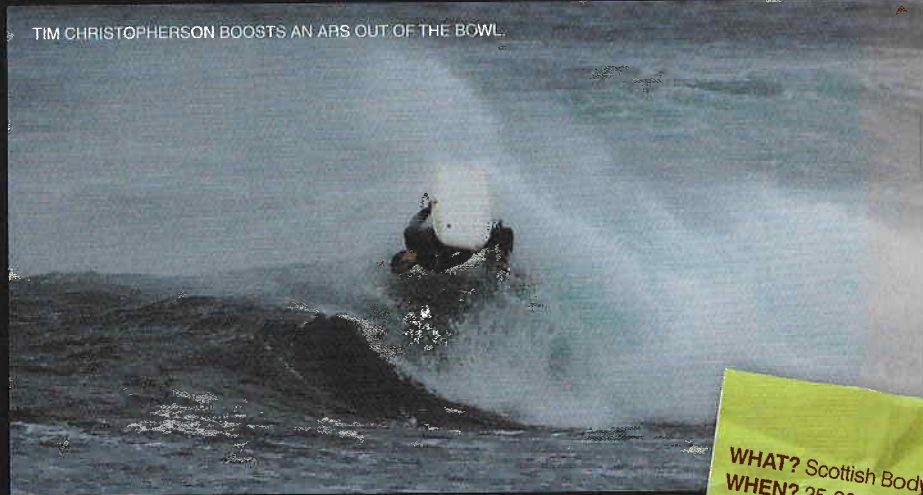
PRISKY MILKING FOR SPEED.

Geffroy, Remi and Danny Wall clashed on a wave with the judges deeming Remi the interfering rider. Ironical, as he also scored the highest score of the event with a shrapnel backhand slash that carved a rooster tail of spray out of the top of the lip. Last year's champion Porthtowan local Alex Winkworth came in third with Plymouth's Danny Wall struggling in the small conditions to place fourth.

Organisers the BSA and British Bodyboard Club would like to thank generous main sponsors The Auto-Sleepers Group, along with divisional sponsors Alder Wetsuits, Bradfords Building Supplies, SUSO Drinks, Smith & Williamson, Reveller Clothing, The Beach Hotel Porthtowan, ThreeSixty and Sick Lane and Lazy, not forgetting sub-sponsors The Blue Bar, Seasmith Images and Corona. Join us at Porthtowan again on 16 November for the rescheduled Open event.



RUPERT WILLIAMS CHOOSES HIS LINE IN THE SEMIS.



TIM CHRISTOPHERSON BOOSTS AN AIR OUT OF THE BOWL.

WHAT? Scottish Bodyboard Open
 WHEN? 25-26 October
 WHERE? Thurso, Scotland
 WHO? The Christophersons



ABOVE LEFT: WOMEN'S FINALISTS FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: JASMINE O'SHEA, GEMMA BRITAN, OLIVIA SMEDLEY, OF SHOT, CLEMI HARDY.

ABOVE RIGHT: UNDER 16 FINALISTS, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: LUKE BRABYN, STEPHEN HALL, CALLUM MORSE, LIAM BENNEY.

RESULTS:

- SUSO Drinks Under 18:** 1. Dave Speller 2. Luke Brabyn 3. Stephen Hall 4. Nathan Thompson.
- The Beach Hotel Under 16:** 1. Stephen Hall 2. Luke Brabyn 3. Liam Benney 4. Callum Morse.
- ThreeSixty Under 14:** 1. Sam Brabyn 2. Harry Smith 3. Lloyd Atherton 4. Ed Sherlock.
- Reveller Women's:** 1. Gemma Brittan 2. Clemmie Hardy 3. Olivia Smedley 4. Jasmine O'Shea.
- Smith & Williamson DK:** 1. Aiden Salmon 2. Fiemy Geffroy 3. Alex Winkworth 4. Danny Wall.
- Alder Wetsuits Seniors:** 1. Damien Prisk 2. Bjorn Storey 3. Eldred Hawke 4. Danny Catten.
- Sick Lane & Lazy Masters:** 1. Eldred Hawke 2. Danny Catten 3. Colin Crowther 4. Simon Walkins 5. Alasdair Newby.
- Bradfords Building Supplies International:** 1. Aiden Dixon (New Zealand) 2. Ben Hughes (Australia) 3. Eduardo Alfonso (Portugal).

THE SCOTTISH BODYBOARD OPEN

The Scottish Bodyboard Open took place at Thurso 26-26 October. This event was the first of its kind for a few years and we hoped the comp would rejuvenate the boogie scene.

The decision was made to hold the contest at one of our country's finer slabs, a great hollow right which usually has big kegs and some nice rampy sections, perfect for bodyboarding. Competitors were greeted with solid swell lines stacking in, despite increasingly strong wind and rain squalls the waves were clean with some solid sets coming through with most spots out.

Eventually the final was made up of brothers Tim and Josh Christopherson from Edinburgh, French transplant Aurelien Maze from Glasgow and Rupert Williams. The wind made for some interesting blind air drops, but as long as you stuck it you were guaranteed a square keg! Josh was owning, it hooking into some sweet wedgy peaks and smacking the lip, landing some solid rolls and centimetres over the affectionately named 'cheese grater' section of the reef. Josh's brother Tim was also charging, being a bit more reckless and getting some solid technical rides. In the end Josh took a deserved first place with Tim second.

Overall the weekend was a success and hopefully will raise the stoke level of our small but dedicated sponge community and our scene forward. Nice one fellas!

RESULTS 1. Josh Christopherson 2. Tim Christopherson 3. Rupert Williams 4. Aurelien Maze.

SOUTH COAST CHAMPIONSHIPS 22-23 NOVEMBER 2008

This year's event will be held at Boscombe Pier, it's a chance to showcase your bodyboarding skills against the best of the south coast shredders or just head down there and watch the action. Check out www.bournemouth-surfing.co.uk for more info.