

CONTEST REPORT

Mollymook Longboarders Charity Classic 2009

The swell forecast was encouraging, but regrettably for the fourth consecutive year Huey failed to provide contestable waves at Golfy for the 2009 Mollymook Longboarders Charity Classic that was held over the weekend of 8/9 August. However, considering the lake-like conditions on Friday, the fact that there were reasonable quality waves at Dolphin Point on Saturday morning was welcome to the 75 contestants who had come from as far as the NSW central coast, and a relief to the organisers. The move South inevitably meant a late start, and the day finished at about 4:30PM in fading light after 26 heats.

Unfortunately the Dolphin Point venue means separating the contest area from the socialising and food tent area, which detracts a little from the ambience that exists at Golfy. Nevertheless, the usual friendly atmosphere at the contest was in evidence and the club crew in the food tent ensured that there was a continuing supply of E&B rolls and later in the day superb steak sangers.

The day started at the Point with the 8 footers enjoying reasonable-size punchy waves on which Ray Lawrence Shane Dobing and local Phil Jirsa ripped. The Over 35s followed, with Mitch English showing that he was intent on repeating his win of 2008, but Jason Skinner and State Title holder Sean Chivers also showed that they would also be contenders. Local Paul Hoyer with an eye-catching performance on his 11 footer showed that length was no disadvantage in the conditions (the weight to match probably helped a bit). With an increasing wind the contest was moved into the better conditions in Gay Bay after six heats where the remaining heats were completed in a fading swell. In the Over 45s, Ross Murphy who had recently decided not have a hip replaced seemed to be unaffected by the problem and progressed direct to the semis together with Phil Jirsa in impressive displays. John Skinner in his last year in the 45s was also a standout performer in the heats. In the Open 9 foot division, Christian Pimm and Ray Lawrence both gave master-class displays of power surfing, and showed that they would again be the ones to beat in this division that they seem to have had a mortgage on in the past few years. Nevertheless, Dan Rowlands and Keiran Plim both showed that their form couldn't be ignored. In the repechage round in this division late in the day, both Matt Maris and Rhys Williams surfed on Old Mals and showed that in the right conditions the old boards may still have some advantages over modern longboards and both progressed to the 3rd round with laid-back fluid riding including some Old Mal tricks. There were only three surfers under 60 in the Over 55 division with Bob Munro from Club Malnutrition being the oldest at 68 and still cruisin'. Dave Wilson styled into the semis on his 13 footer. In the Junior division, 2008 runner-up Jackson Wright showed that he was the front runner by clearly winning his heat, but first time entrant Blake Hackett was also impressive in winning his heat. Unfortunately there were only 6 woman surfers this year including 13 year old local Maggie Purvis in her first year of surfing and in her first ever contest and in the most testing conditions she had experienced. State Title surfers the Murphy twins, Bernie and Lara, and Sam White showed that they would battle out the final. The Old Mal heats were the last of the day and worth waiting around for, with juniors Blake Hackett and Jake Bevan scoring clear wins in their heats over more experienced riders Matt Maris and Alex Kiss with impressive nose work and a few tricks thrown in.

Quite a few of the surfers enjoyed Saturday night in the Commercial Hotel in Milton where Greg McCarthy had a slide show of photos taken during the day, and some surfing DVDs

were also shown. Strangely, some surfers seemed to have more interest in the 3rd Ashes Test.

There was some pessimism in the swell forecast for Sunday, but fortunately the forecasters got it wrong, and whilst there was an increase in the swell size from Saturday, Golfy was still unsuitable for a contest, and the decision was made to shift the contest to the Mollymook Beach reef where there were very contestable 3 -4 foot waves, but with frequent close-out sets; more than usual, wave selection would be the key to success. The rising tide promised some improvement in conditions which turned out to be the case. The last three repechage heats were the first heats of the day and gave the clues as to where to sit in the line-up. They also showed the danger of getting caught inside, and throughout the day several surfers had time-sapping delays trying to get out through the white water. There were a few surprise results, with Dean Cristallo failing to reach the final of either the Over 35s or the Open 8 foot, and locals Phil Schoer and Phil Jirsa failing to reach the finals of the Over 45s. Paul Hoyer, again riding an 11 footer progressed to the Over 35 final over some perhaps more fancied surfers with an eye-catching display of power surfing.

The finals kicked off with the Old Mals. Blake Hackett showed that he could master the more the difficult conditions and with impressive surfing had a close win over Matt Maris. Justin Bevan in coming third just held off son Jake to ensure a quiet trip back to Sydney. Sam White after a slow start managed some late scores to edge out Lara Murphy in the Women's division. Blake Hackett made it a double with a close win over Douglas Toby in the Juniors. The Junior final included two 12 year olds in Caellum Purvis and Tom Kurz who were not far off the standard shown by their older rivals. In the Over 55 final wave magnet "Lucky" Dave Pimm managed to attract the best waves and had a clear win over Chris McGuckin who caught his full quota but who didn't get the quality waves of Dave. The 8 foot final was an incredible display of power surfing and had the spectators on the beach hooting. Winner Ray Lawrence pulled off some spectacular turns off the lip and reos and was a clear winner from Kieran Plim who nevertheless surfed outstandingly. Limping Ross Murphy edged out Alex Kiss in the Over 35 final with high scoring manoeuvres at both ends of the board. In the Over 35s, Mitch English made it two years in a row in a close win over Sean Chivers and Jason Skinner. The Open 9 foot division final was the last event of the day and was another master class display by Ray Lawrence, which was an absolute pleasure to watch. Unfortunately his great rival Christian Pimm had to withdraw from the final and one can only speculate about the exhibition had he been present. Ray's scores included a 9.5 and several high 8 scores. One of his rides included two almost vertical turns that had the crowd hooting and clapping. The photos of this wave that will no doubt make it into longboard mags will not do justice to the reality of the conditions. Dan Rowlands was second with Kieran Plim third.

The venue for the finals was more in keeping with the Golfy ambience, and spectators and surfers were able to watch proceedings together from the grass verge in the (eventually) warm conditions. The food tent again provided great tucker. Natalie Schoer and Sue Maris deserve considerable thanks and praise for the excellent food and always friendly service and conversation. They were supported by the rest of the Maris clan, Phil Schoer, Helen Murphy, Ken Peek, and Paul Hoyer. The range of home-made cakes and biscuits was a talking point and thanks are due to the club members and supporters who provided them. Laurie Andrew's cruisy music was also appreciated, and added to the longboard surfing atmosphere.

For the third year the contest Head Judge was Graham Sorensen assisted by "Mutley" Beaumont who provided a consistent reference standard for comparison with competitor-judges scores and passed on scoring advice. Stephen Pinnington again was the contest

Tallyer This crew certainly added to the status of the contest, and received kudos from many of the competitors

Sponsors of the 2009 Charity Classic were: Southern Man Surf Shop which arranged the donation of contest prizes from surf gear manufacturers; IGA Mollymook which donated much of the food; Keith Purvis Podiatry which donated footwear and provided a cash donation; NAJO Contemporary Jewellery which donated the Woman's division first place prize; AKWA Surf Shop Milton, which organized the donation of a Global Surf Industries surfboard that was auctioned at the contest, and competitor prizes from Ocean and Earth; Ocean Art which donated the second prize in the raffle; Mollymook Fine Wines which donated wines for the third prize in the raffle; Boost Mobile which provided the first prize in the Junior division; Deering Street Printers which donated the raffle tickets; Thompson's Commercial Hotel Milton; Rob Gillies Auto Electrical; Balin, West Wetsuits, Peak Wetsuits, Billabong, Rip Curl, Palmers, Arnette Sunglasses, Creatures of Leisure, Dragon, O'Neil, Von Zipper, Liive Sunglasses, Sticky Bumps, Honolua, and Far King, which all provided competitor prizes. The Crest longboard 1st prize in the raffle was shaped and glassed by Ken Peek (and was won by "Lucky" Dave Pimm).

Proceeds from the contest are donated to local charities and community groups.

RESULTS

OVER 55	OVER 45	OVER 35	OLD MAL
1 DAVE PIMM	1 ROSS MURPHY	1 MITCH ENGLISH	1 BLAKE HACKETT
2 CHRIS McGUCKIN	2 ALEX KISS	2 SEAN CHIVERS	2 MATT MARIS
3 WILL MARIS	3 GRANT SALMON	3 JASON SKINNER	3 JUSTIN BEVAN
4 DAVE WILSON	4 CHRIS BROWN	4 GRANT SALMON	4 JAKE BEVAN
5 GARY PAULEY	5 ALEX EVANS	5 DEAN CRISTALLO	5 ALEX KISS
6 MIKE GREENTREE	6 JOHN SKINNER	6 PAUL HOYER	6 RHYS WILLIAMS

JUNIOR	WOMEN	OPEN 8 FOOT	OPEN 9 FOOT
1 BLAKE HACKETT	1 SAM WHITE	1 RAY LAWRENCE	1 RAY LAWRENCE
2 DOUGLAS TOBY	2 LARA MURPHY	2 KEIRAN PLIM	2 DAN ROWLANDS
3 JACKSON WRIGHT	3 BERNIE MURPHY	3 ROSS MURPHY	3 KEIRAN PLIM
4 JAKE BEVAN	4 SHEREEN LOBB	4 PHIL JIRSA	4 RHYS WILLIAMS
5 CAELLUM PURVIS	5 CORALIE BURNS	5 MITCH ENGLISH	5 SEAN CHIVERS
6 TOM KURZ		6 SHANE DOBING	6