

Media Release



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For immediate release.

Watergate Bay hosts expanded competition as British longboard surfing booms

World class longboard surfing will be on display at a Cornish beach later this month as the Extreme Academy Midsummer Classic returns to Watergate Bay.

With entry numbers up by over 50 per cent since 2008, the June 26-27 event has been expanded with the creation of two new divisions to accommodate an increasing number of junior surfers taking up the sport.

According to the British Longboard Union (BLU)'s secretary Vic Danks, the growth in popularity of the sport is down in part to the success of British longboarders on the world stage.

Vic Danks said: *"We've got three surfers - Ben Skinner, James Parry and Sam Bleakley - who are all currently ranked in the top 10 in Europe. They all take part in the BLU competitions, and I think one of the reasons why there are so many good junior surfers emerging at the moment is down to how accessible our events are. A junior surfer can enter the Open division and find themselves surfing against these top competitors and they learn so much that way. There aren't many other sports where this happens."*

As the penultimate round of the BLU series, the Extreme Academy Midsummer Classic could prove to be a decisive leg of the race to decide 2010 champions.

Surfers will compete in six divisions this year. In addition to the Open, Women, Junior (under 18) and Masters, there are new divisions for Under 16 Boys and Under 16 Girls - both of which have been heavily subscribed in the two previous events this year.

Will Ashworth of the Extreme Academy, Watergate Bay, said: *"It's really encouraging to see this event blossom. This is the second year we have supported the BLU as title sponsors of the Midsummer Classic, and for there to be so many young surfers taking part in the sport bodes well for continued success for our surfers in the future."*

Up and coming juniors will be spurred on to produce their best by Britain's two competitors on the ASP World Longboard Tour - Ben Skinner and James Parry - who are both intending to enter the event.

And with no surfer having a clear lead in the overall points standings of the prestigious Open division, there's all to play for.

Vic Danks said: *"To do well at Watergate Bay the competitors will have to surf with a blend of traditional and progressive styles - judges will be looking to see a mixture of performance shortboard moves combined with noseriding and walking the board. With such a talented field of competitors we're looking forward to a great weekend of competition."*

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Competition begins at 9am on Saturday 26th June, with the finals expected to take place on the afternoon of Sunday 27th.

Due to the increase in the number of competitors it is unlikely that beach entries will be taken on the day and surfers keen to take part are asked to download their entry forms from the BLU website: www.british-longboard-union.co.uk

More information on this and other events at Watergate Bay can be found at www.watergatebay.co.uk/events.

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Images

High resolution print-ready images can be downloaded from our online [Media Centre](#) (click for direct link).

Notes to Editors

The **Extreme Academy, Watergate Bay** is one of Britain's leading venues for beach sports and events. Founded in 1999, the Extreme Academy comprises specialist schools for surfing, kitesurfing, waveski and stand-up paddlesurf (SUP); technical equipment hire; and the Shop on the Beach, stocking a wide range of clothing and technical equipment. www.watergatebay.co.uk/extremeacademy

Located right next to the sand, **The Beach Hut** has stunning views across Watergate Bay from both the indoor tables and from the decked balcony that runs around the restaurant. From breakfast to dinner – it's one of Cornwall's best beachside hangouts. Recommended by Time Out Devon and Cornwall Guide 2010, and in 2009, The Guardian voted The Beach Hut's Extreme Hot Chocolate as 'a must-try experience'.

www.watergatebay.co.uk/thebeachhut

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