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## Youth Freestyle Report – 2008

Despite this year's Youth Freestyle Series being plagued by poor weather (two events had to be rescheduled) it has been a successful year with even more participants than last year leading to harder competition. There has also been an increase in Novice competitors and at the final event in Nottingham there was a separate novice event where participants who were not confident in the Muncher or the Inlet gate showed how they could do eddy-line moves, stern-squirts, shudder rudders and cheesy grins at the bottom of the course. Extra points were given for those who were brave enough to throw their paddles in the air whilst doing pop-outs on a 'friendlier' Inlet gate.

The parents were rewarded from ferrying around their children with their own competition at the Nottingham event. Unfortunately for them, but to the enjoyment of the spectators, they were given a much less friendly and very sticky Inlet gate to play on and mega side-surfs and swims led to the biggest cheers of the day.

At each event the participants enjoyed the morning coaching sessions for all abilities which ranged from breaking in and out of eddies to planning competition runs. At the Boulton event Kayakjacko coaches helped with forward paddling technique and visualisation of moves (looping on the grass was quite entertaining to watch!). Surfing waves and of course perfecting the latest freestyle manoeuvres were always a feature of the coaching. An afternoon of fun competition always follows the morning coaching sessions and the final Nottingham event saw a number of competitors fighting it out for the series' win. The encouragement from the crowd and the warm October sunshine helped the paddlers produce a great variety of freestyle moves leading to huge scores in all categories on both the Inlet gate and the Muncher. Congratulations to the following for getting a top 3 position in the event series (3 out of the 5 events counted towards the series' results):

### Under 12 Girls

1<sup>st</sup> Kimberlee Aldred, 2<sup>nd</sup> Emily Hewitt

### Under 15 Girls:

1<sup>st</sup> Gabby Bates 2<sup>nd</sup> Millie Leith 3<sup>rd</sup> Tasha Isaacs

### Under 18 Girls:

1<sup>st</sup> Poppy Layton 2<sup>nd</sup> Islay Crosbie

### Under 12 Boys

1<sup>st</sup> James Bennis 2<sup>nd</sup> Brandon Hepburn 3<sup>rd</sup> James Cooper

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### Under 15 Boys

1 <sup>st</sup>	David Wild	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Adam Cox	3 <sup>rd</sup>	James Weight
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### Under 18 Boys

1 <sup>st</sup>	Stuart Parry	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Tom Turner	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Dom Brayfield
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A big thanks must go to the huge number of sponsors who helped with the series including: K3 (who funded the bibs), BCU North East (who gave a lot of support to the Teeside event), Kayakojacko, PGL, Desperate Measures and the companies that provided spot prizes throughout the series: Palm Equipment/Dagger Europe, Pyranha, Squarerock/Jacksonkayak

The series will be back next year, although there may be a few changes with locations depending on the development of some of the whitewater courses we use. We welcome all Under 18 paddlers who have a whitewater roll. Keep checking the BCU Freestyle web pages and [www.youth.ukfreestyle.com](http://www.youth.ukfreestyle.com) for details of the 2009 series.

