

Roundup of 2022

2022 Rhosneigr Wave Classic (Round 1): 2022 was a very challenging year for us in terms of filling our calendar. Hosted by Funsport, we started our UK Tour with the Rhosneigr event in April 2022 which only delivered enough wind to run one fleet. This was won by local boy Phil Horrocks, 2nd place Andy Chambers and 3rd place a very encouraging win for Lucas Meldrum. Lucas has come through the our 'FuturePro' development programme aimed at under 16yrs wavesailors.

2022 Tiree Wave Classic (Round 2): With only 1 previous event counting we went into this event with the Championship titles for 4 fleets up for grabs. Whilst not ideal it did create a great deal of excitement from competitors that they could secure a UK title if they won the Tiree event alone. This greatly helped subscription to this event. The pros fleet started Tiree with previous competition under the belt in Rhosneigr and so again it was a tightly contended event. Previous Futurepro Lucas Meldrum took down the existing UK Champion, Phil Horrocks in the Single elimination but Phil came back to take honours in the Double. Phil Horrocks retaining his UK Wave title for 2022.

In addition we ran a very successful futurePros Development clinic culminating in the Junior and Youths being integrated into the Tiree Wave Classic proper. This resulted in a short clip of the FuturePros project being included in the annual Tiree Wave Classic 30 minute film which reaches an annual potential audience of around 450 million. The FuturePro 'young' Development project is supported by our principal sponsor, The Mailing Room and remains one of our greatest success stories and key area of development going forwards.

Tiree also included the now well-established beach clean on behalf of Surfers against Sewage, with Competitors removing over 3 tons of rubbish from the islands beaches.

The story so far for 2023

Between 2022 and 2023 we were privy to communications between PWA and IWT regarding a potential amalgamation of those 2 associations and their wave tours. By the start of 2023 PWA and IWT officially announced the partnership. We see this as a positive step for the sport as IWT had identified a need to work with smaller entry events around the world at a time when PWA were experiencing decline in funding for wave events. In 2023 we have agreed to include the Tiree Wave Classic as a 2-star event in the PWA/IWT tour with a view to stepping up to a main event in 2023 to celebrate 40 years of the worlds longest running Wavesailing event.

2023 Rhosneigr Wave Classic (Round 1): Another challenging start to the year with 2 Rhosneigr events due to run in April but cancelled due to lack of wind. A decision was taken to rollover a 3rd time to September where wind and waves off the back of Storm Nigel provided 60mph wind at Rhosneigr. Local boys Phil and David Horrock battled it out and a very exciting final the young ripper, Lucas Melrum narrowly lose to Phil Horrocks. It can only be a matter of time before the former Futurpro, Meldrum, knocks the ever-consistent Horrocks from his Championship throne.

2023 Tiree Wave Classic (Round 2): We are 1 week away from the start of this event and the event is already fully subscribed. We are anticipating a tight battle for all fleets as many previous Futurepros now enter the Amateur fleets and we have new blood from previous Amateur fleets promoted to the pro fleet. As reported this will also feature as a PWA/IWT 2-star event with a view to hosting a world event in its 40th year of 2024. We are also working with our media production team to deliver a snapshot of 'live stream' video from this year's event. A report will follow the event

Calendar changes

To remind all, BWA has now amended its Championship Calendar. Historically the Championship fell within the calendar year. 2 years ago we took the decision to always make the Tiree wave Classic the final event of every season. Therefore any events preceding the Tiree event will count as the first event of the following season. To add, we have tried unsuccessfully to reignite the Cornwall Wave Classic with the existing Event Host, RB Sails. We are now seeking to partner with a new Event Host. Any enquiries of interest should be forwarded to nigel@britishwavesailingassociation.com

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