

British Freestyle Champs held at Sheffield Ski Village

Saturday the 22nd of September saw the countries top Freestyle skiers making their way to Sheffield Ski Village for the K2 sponsored British Artificial Slope Freestyle Championships. The day saw the events of Moguls, Aerials and Acro being contested by a closely matched field ranging in age from 11 to 33. Sheffield is the hot bed for Freestyle skiing in the UK and it was expected the city's skiers would feature strongly though with Kendal's up and coming skiers some upsets looked likely.

The Moguls event took place on Sheffield Ski Villages "Devils Elbow" the most feared and difficult artificial moguls run in the world. The Moguls event consists of an elimination round and final down steep bumpy terrain. 50% of the marks are given for the quality and style of turns, 25% for speed and 25% for the two jumps the athletes perform whilst skiing through the bumps.

In the men's event it was no surprise when the Current Moguls Tour leader Phil Smith (Sheffield and England) blasted into first place in the elimination round. His close rival Tom Last (Sheffield, England and Line) was lying in third whilst Martin Nankoo (Bromley, England and GB) could only manage fourth. Old Dog Dom Cowdell (Sheffield) surprisingly took second position against all early season form.

The second round saw the top ten battling it out for the first three positions. Tom Last put in a run of sheer brilliance to provisionally take first place which none of the other skiers could match except for Phil Smith who eventually edged him into second position by 2 hundredths of a point. Dom Cowdell had the second best run of his life to take a well deserved third spot.

The aerials took part on Sheffield's water ramp, the only one of its kind in the UK. Each competitor was allowed two jumps reaching 20 ft in the air before landing in water. There was a choice of two ramps, the larger being easier to carry out somersaults. Emma Lonsdale struck a blow for the girls by winning the entire competition by a big margin. Young Anthony Heaversedge (Sheffield) just pipped Emma's Brother, Ben Lonsdale (Kendal and England) for second place.

The third Freestyle discipline contested was Acro, which saw the biggest field of competitors for a number of years. Vicky Snape (Sheffield and England) lead the competition after the first round from Leigh Paley (Sheffield and England) Anna Burt (Sheffield). Vicky extended her lead from Leigh in the second round with Owain Davies (Sheffield and England) taking third spot in his bid for the combined title.

Emma Lonsdale's fantastic all round performance gained her the combined trophy with Owain Davies second and Tom last third.

Moguls Results

Final placings for the mens moguls were:

1. Phil Smith (Sheffield and England)
2. Tm Last (Sheffield and England)
3. Dom Cowdell (Sheffield)

In the womens event Moguls Tour leader Emma Lonsdale (Kendal and England) effortlessly took first place.

Age group winners

Men

B&G Michael Thelwell (Sheffield)
C2 Phil Smith (Sheffield and England)
J1 Tom Last (Sheffield and England)
J2 Martin Nankoo (Sheffield and England)
Sen Dom Cowdell (Sheffield)
Sen 2 Simon Ashton (Sheffield)

Women

J1 Emma Lonsdale (Kendal and England)
S2 Marina Jones (High Wycombe)

Aerials Results

Aerials Final Results

1. Emma Lonsdale (Kendal and England)
2. Anthony Heaversedge (Sheffield)
3. Ben Lonsdale (Kendal and England)

Age Group winners

Men

B&G Michael Thelwell (Sheffield)
C2 Anthony Heaversedge (Sheffield)
J1 Tom Last (Sheffield and England)
J2 Ben Lonsdale (Kendal and England)
Sen/Sen 2 Simon Ashton (Sheffield)

Women

J1 Emma Lonsdale (Kendal and England)

Acro Ski Results

Acro Final Results

1. Vicky Snape (Sheffield and England))
2. Leigh Paley (Sheffield and England)
3. Owain Davies (Sheffield and England)

Age Group winners

Men

J1 Thomas Spence (Sheffield)
J2 Owain Davies (Sheffield and England)

Women

B&G Anna Burt (Sheffield)
J1 Emma Lonsdale (Kendal and England)
J2 Vicky Snape (Sheffield and England)