

Brits Hold their Own and Bash Aussies in Their Back Yard

A record number of Top British Freestyle skiers have headed 'down under' to train and compete in Australia during the winter season. The Brits are competing in the Aussie Continental Cup series - equivalent to Europe's Europa Cup.

In the first two rounds of mogul competitions this weekend at Mount Hotham, Victoria, eleven young Brits, 8 males and 3 females, challenged some of the world's best in their attempt to win the Series and make Olympic qualification.

On the Australia Drift piste, a 163m bump slope, they spun and jumped down the course in under 20 seconds.

Mogul skiing is judged on the quality of the turns (50% of marks), the skill and difficulty of 2 jumps landed into the moguls (25%) and on speed (25%). A top 5 place in the Australian events over the next month means the athletes will be considered for Olympic selection. The British Olympic Association will select the British team for the Salt Lake in February 2002 from those who have met qualification criteria by January 2002.

British A Team members Joanne Bromfield (18, Salt Lake City) and Sam Temple (29, Oxford) have already met the international criteria from previous events. Joanne placed 5th in Round 1 and took the bronze medal in Round 2. Sam skied into 12th place from a field of 37 in Round 1 but illness prevented him competing in Round 2.

The third A Team member, Simon Bates (24, Edinburgh) was the top British male both days, achieving 9th in Round 1 and 10th in Round 2.

'I got the speed right both days and pulled two good jumps on Saturday but my turns weren't so good. On Sunday the turns improved but I didn't manage to float my heli round so lost a point there', reported Simon.

Two young men to watch from the English team are Martin Nankoo (19, Kent) and Andy Bennett (17, Kneesall). Martin made the final 16 in Round 1 and Andy skied into 11th place in Round 2. Andy's comments on his first Australian event were

'I took too much speed into the second air for my triple twister and cleared the landing by 3 bumps on Saturday'

Laura Donaldson (29, Glasgow), British Development Team, was 8th in the women's event both days. More reports on our successful Freestyle Teams as they compete each week.
Round 1 Women' s moguls

1st Manuala Berchtold AUS 24.74
2nd Jane Sexton AUS 23.17
3rd Davina Williams AUS 22.81
5th Joanne Bromfield GBR 22.28
8th Laura Donaldson GBR 19.90

Round 2 Women' s moguls

1st Davina Williams AUS 24.38
2nd Manuala Berchtold AUS 24.27
3rd Joanne Bromfield GBR 23.44
8th Laura Donaldson GBR 21.39
16th Kathryn Harris GBR 7.23

Round 1 Men' s moguls

1st Adrian Costa AUS 26.53
2nd Tom Costa AUS 26.08
3rd Dale Begg-Smith CAN 25.55
9th Simon Bates GBR 23.89
12th Sam Temple GBR 22.84
16th Martin Nankoo GBR 20.33
17th Chris David GBR 20.20

18th Stuart Greenshields GBR 19.83

24th Andy Bennett GBR 17.57

27th Andy David GBR 16.03

29th Jack Mallalieu GBR 15.54

Round 2 Men's Moguls

1st Dale Begg-Smith CAN 26.76

2nd Lauri Lassila FIN 25.69

3rd Andrea Berchtold AUS 25.57

10th Simon Bates GBR 23.90

11th Andy Bennett GBR 23.58

17th Stuart Greenshields GBR 19.83

23rd Jack Mallalieu GBR 18.23

24th Andy David GBR 18.03

31st Martin Nankoo GBR 9.80