

Scottish Freestyle Ski Championships 2005

The Scottish slopes don't get much better than the conditions on Sunday 6th March at the Lecht for the first Scottish Freestyle Championships since 2001. Poor snow and strong winds prevented any national competitions in the last three winters but there was snow a plenty at the Lecht this weekend. Competitors travelled from all parts of Scotland to be challenged by a strong contingent from the English Freestyle capital, Sheffield.

After battling through blizzard conditions and road closures the courses were built on Saturday. Constructing 135 metres of regular moguls with four air jumps takes some skiing and digging but the competitors and course team just managed after the late start. The Lecht management provided a fine Big Air jump and all was ready for the competitions. By Sunday the winds had dropped, the sun was shining and the hills were gleaming with soft white powder.

The moguls event was a challenge between the senior competitors, Euan Stobie (22, Edinburgh) the reigning Scottish Mogul Champion, Jack Mallalieu (28, Aviemore) current British Mogul Champion and Simon Bates (28, Edinburgh) just returned from the World Cup mogul tour. Mogul competition is a combination of speed, two jumps or airs and bumps (turns) skiing. Mallalieu had fastest times, Stobie the best airs, but Bates took the mogul title with the best turns and overall scores. He is now off to train in Tignes, France for a week before heading out to the World Championships in Ruka, Finland later this month.

Stobie reinforced his superiority in the air taking the Big Air title, where his back flips, loops and off axis jumps could not be bettered. Second and third places were a close contest between Ian Booth (16, Alford) one of the Gordon Skier juniors trained by Stobie, and Bates. However Ian's switch (backwards) landing and backflip just pipped Simon's helis and heli spreads by one point.

Many of the competitors will be challenging each other again at the British Freestyle Championships, New School events in Laax, Switzerland and Moguls in Oberstdorf, Germany later in March.

MOGULS

1	Simon Bates	24.44	1 st Senior	Edinburgh
2	Jack Mallalieu	22.58	2 nd Senior	Aviemore
3	Euan Stobie	21.60	3 rd Senior	Edinburgh
4	Andrew Longley	17.69	1 st Junior	Sheffield
5	Mike Hewson	17.57	2 nd Junior	Banchory
6	Ian Booth	16.77	3 rd Junior	Alford
9	Ellie Koyander	10.37	1 st Female	Derbyshire

BIG AIR

1	Euan Stobie	165
2	Ian Booth	141
3	Simon Bates	140