

European Junior Surf Championships

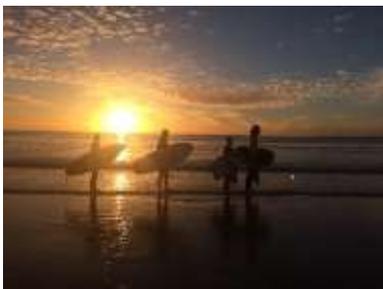
Seven young Scots have just returned from competing in the European Junior Surf Championships held in Agadir from 3-11 December. Clover Christopherson (14), Mikey Wimbledon-Hall (12) and Oisin Strachan (17) accompanied by team coach Sam Christopherson, all from Dunbar, travelled to Morocco on Dec 1st where they met up with the rest of the team from Thurso and Tiree. The competition was held in conditions ranging from perfect 3-4 ft surf under blue skies, to stormy 6-8ft surf on the beach at Anza on the outskirts of Agadir. Mikey competed in the U16 mixed bodyboard, Oisin in the U18 men's bodyboard, and Clover competed in girls and mixed surfing and bodyboarding events.

All team members performed exceptionally, charging big waves and making tough paddle outs, exceeding all expectations and reaching new personal bests, with 2 of the team, including Mikey, getting through to the quarter finals (through 4 rounds). Mikey finished 11th in Europe in the under 16 bodyboarding aged just 12yrs, Clover 9th in the Ladies Bodyboard U18 aged just 14yrs and Oisin 19th in the u18 men's Bodyboard. The team finished 9th overall out of 16 nations. This is a fantastic achievement and reflects a combination of raw talent and hard work and really sets a high baseline for the future of surfing in Scotland. The Scottish youngsters are young and inexperienced on the international competition scene and this is the first time that Scotland has had a junior team competing at European level. The youngsters learned so much from the experience and have come back keener than ever for international competition.

In addition to their sporting prowess the team excelled as ambassadors for Scotland outside the competition zones. They joined other teams and the children of Anza skateboarding, playing beach football, and generally being friendly and good humoured. They were firm favourites with the locals and competition staff and were invited to eat in family homes. Many of the Anza locals can now be seen sporting Team Scotland T Shirts and Coast to Coast hoodies and stickers! Scotland was voted best fun team by the Moroccan Surf President and beach marshalls, and the team proudly picked up a trophy in honour.

A huge thanks to all the support the trio have had from friends, family, the Dunbar local community and sponsors and supporters from far and wide. Fundraising included cake sales, a Big Blu pizza event, coast to coast surf school competition, justgiving and crowdfunding pages raised almost £3000 for the Dunbar youngsters, which made it possible for them to travel to the competition.

And now it's back home and back to the big blue training room to prepare for the 2018 Euro juniors in Norway!



Sam, Mikey, Clover and Oisin





Oisin and Mikey



The Team

Scots and Morroccans Opening Ceremony



Clover and Oisin opening parade



Mikey on Camel



Clover and Bodyboard

Sam and Mikey



The team



Scots and the Morroccans





Morroccans and the Team

Morrocan Family and the Scottish Team

