



/ Jake Williams



/ Robert Donaldson



/ Hannah Tomsett

VIRTUAL WAKE OPEN



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 Photos : Access Adventures, Mark Osmond & Mich Rowley

THE 2023 MALIBU VIRTUAL WAKE OPEN WAS THE UK'S 4TH ANNUAL VIRTUAL WAKE COMPETITION ORGANISED BY WAKEBOARD UK WITH THE SUPPORT OF MALIBU BOATS UK

The competition was first held during the pandemic when it was not possible to get together for more traditional competitions and, given its success, Wakeboard UK has kept it going. Whilst it's a relatively new format for wakeboard competitions, it's the longest running wakesurf competition in the country.

This year the competition was run from the 1st January through to 15th October. The event was open to all BWSW members who could film their run anywhere in the world. IWWF wakeboard/wakesurf rules applied with wakeboard runs scored on Execution, Intensity and Composition and wakesurf runs

scored on Execution, Intensity, Difficulty, and Variety. But, in a difference from the normal competitions, wakeboard runs constituted a maximum of 5 tricks and wakesurf runs were a maximum of 45 seconds.

And, for the first time, this year riders were able to submit replacement runs. This meant there was no need to hold back submissions in case they bettered their runs and it could be used by clubs as a coaching aid, encouraging riders to learn new tricks.

The event was judged by a panel of IWWF qualified judges and Wakeboard UK representatives, with three judges for each category. A big thank you to all the officials who helped with this event.

WAKEBOARD

In wakeboarding there were 22 entries and we were delighted to have our first ever para athlete entries, from Hannah Tomsett and Jan Tünnemann at Access Adventures. We really hope it inspires others to film for this event next year. Thank you both!

Winners in the Open categories in wakeboard were Team GB riders Travis Beaton and Charlotte Millward. Max Williams won Groms and Jake Williams (no relation but another of the riders from ISIS Waterski and Wakeboard) won again in Junior Men. Emma Pickard took the win in Masters Women with Matt McCreadie winning Masters Men and Mark Goldsmith winning Super Vets Men.



/ Jan Tünnemann



/ Emilia Whitehouse

WAKESURF

In wakesurf, 15 surfers from across the UK entered the 2023 event. Ant and Jen Edwards took wins in the Open Skim categories with Emilia Whitehouse taking the win in Open Women Surf. In Junior Men Ryan Thayne won Skim with Ryan Fox winning Surf. Rob Donaldson won Vets Men Surf.

We'd love to see more people entering next year. Look out for news on the Virtual Wake Open in 2024 – Wakeboard UK are hoping to run it through the entire season again.



WAKE BOARD



WAKE SURF

Full results of the 2023 Virtual Wake Open are available on Instagram at @ukwake and Facebook @WakeboardUK and you can check out some of the video submissions on the websites, just scan the QR codes opposite.