



GOING BIG

The Midlands Nautique Grass Roots Tour

Midlands Nautique started off this year by winning the bid to become the sponsor of the UK Wake Nationals for the next 3 years, 2024-2026, and we're so excited to get riders behind a G23 Paragon for this year's Nationals at Xtreme Wake 20-21 July.

To give riders around the country a flavour of a top spec competition wakeboard boat, Midlands Nautique are also supporting a 3 stop grass roots tour, with Team GB rider Mark Goldsmith taking the Nautique G23 around the UK to clubs that don't have access to a competition wake boat.

As well as giving riders the chance to experience a ride behind a Nautique G23 and benefit from coaching from Team GB riders, it's an excellent opportunity to encourage engagement with all matters Wakeboard UK and British Water Ski and Wakeboard, whether that's improvement through the Progressive Programme, or explaining the competition pathway and encouraging entries to the Virtual Wake Open (see page 40).

First stop was Plymouth Wakeboard and Waterski on 4 May. In addition to coaching from Mark Goldsmith, fellow Team GB rider Mark Osmond was there, both for coaching and to provide the photos, and Miles Smith was there as a boat driver and mechanic.



The G23 is a lot bigger than Plymouth's usual wakeboard boat (see the photos above!) and we had to launch the G in the main harbour and then ferry the members out to it. We headed back up the Plym estuary to the area in front of the Club and found perfect conditions.

Words : Mark Goldsmith and Mark Osmond
Photos : Mark Osmond

It's easy to be intimidated when faced by such a big wake, but all the club members relished the opportunity to attack the wake and showcase their skills behind the Nautique G23. We even had one club member trick ski behind the G23 - is that a first?

With riders aged from 20 to 72 enjoying their time behind the boat, it's safe to say this event was a massive success and a great pathway to making wakeboarding and wakesurfing bigger in the UK.

Huge thanks to Midlands Nautique for supporting the event. And a massive thank you to Trevor and all the crew at Plymouth Wakeboard and Waterski for hosting us and making for a wonderful day.

At time of writing, we're yet to confirm the next two venues so if you are interested in experiencing a G23 at your club, please e-mail mark@wakeboard.co.uk