



# NEWS FROM THE SURF

by Tim Nunn

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## Funding gap must be plugged

THIS week's big event was the English Surfing Federation's (ESF) press conference highlighting the current funding hole that overshadows English surfing.

With a quarter of a million people currently learning to surf every year and tens of thousands of regulars in the water as well as Cornish competitors like Russell Winter performing on the world tour, it is odd that surfing is so low down on any funding strategy.

Until the early 1990s, the Great Britain Sports Council funded the British Surfing Association (BSA) to help bring on future talent who would, it was hoped, become world beaters.

However since funding was withdrawn and Lottery funding set up, sports had to be classified in one of two categories to get funding.

The two areas, Priority and Development, contain such sports as rounders - but there is no sign of surfing.

The press conference highlighted points that some sports in the Priority category like rugby and football already had huge commercial backers when surfing, which is undeniably mainstream, now received none.

The simple fact is that without grass roots funding future top surfers are going to miss out on opportunities to succeed. Surfers currently rely on sponsorship, or simply help from family to make their way.

The ESF continue to work hard to



fund both training and entries to British Junior Team for their top international event in California in October then read on.

● If you wish to help sponsor the British Junior Team for their top international event in California in October then read on.

The team of 12, plus four staff, leave

for Los Angeles' Huntington beach on October 6 for 11 days of competition against teams from all over the world.

It contains Newquay surfers

Mitchell Corbett and Tom Butler, Bude's Reubyn Ash, Billy Norway and recent Rip Curl Grom Search champ Jayce Robinson (both St Ives).

For further details contact Karen Walton at the BSA on 01637 876474 or email karen@britsurf.co.uk

● Elsewhere, Cornwall's own Russell Winter has had a tough time in marginal conditions in Lacanau, France, on the latest leg of the World Qualifying Series.

He was eliminated in his first heat which now leaves him slightly off the pace for qualification. However one or two good results would put him right back in the frame.

● A weather chart that promised so much failed to deliver again this past weekend, and the spring and summer run of weak surf continues.

The blocking high pressure system is showing little sign of movement either meaning quality swell is looking a long way off.

The forecast for the rest of the week and weekend is looking changeable with a steady but windy swell.

There is a glimmer of hope for the weekend when we may see a return to calm conditions and a long range swell.

Keep an eye on the charts and the summer drought of quality waves may just be over, although it is a Bank Holiday, and Bank Holidays are never good!

● Send your surfing news and views to [tim@wavelengthmag.co.uk](mailto:tim@wavelengthmag.co.uk)

● Cornish surfers at the ESF press conference, from left: Lee Bartlett, Jed Stone and Aislin Stokes, with Tom Good in front.