

KINGS OF THE COAST

The History

Kings of the Coast is a tag team competition between the clubs of the Central Coast. 4 teams of 5 surfers from each club compete in their age groups with an overall point score deciding the winning club. Each heat goes for an hour with bonus points for finishing within the time limit. The MOB were the winners in 2006 with Avoca winning the last two years in 2007 and 2008. This year included teams from Tea-Tree, North Shelly, Wamberall, Forresters Beach, Avoca and the MOB.

THE ARRIVAL

Small conditions greeted us upon our arrival at Avoca Beach for the 4th Kings of the Coast. The surf was out of the NE about 1 to 2 foot with peaky lefts and rights in front of the shark tower. The MOB grabbed the prime spot behind their tag box and set up our tent, blow up chairs, blow up swimming pool, MOB kite, red carpet and of course the MOB's throne. This year we added a Kings robe, sceptre and crown to our team props. Slades brought the war paint and was quickly painting 'MOB' on people's faces and other body parts with great skill (i was impressed Slades).

We decided on our team surfing order and prepared for battle.

THE COMPETITION

GROMS

First up in the water was the grommet team which consisted of u16 and u14 surfers. Our team (in order of how they surfed) included Jordy Olssen, Nik Kenny, Nav Davis, Andy McEwen and Kyle Baldwin. Jordy started strong with a great opening wave and had us in the lead from the start. It didn't take long for the MOB's war cry to go up and it was Jordy's dad Jamie who led the first MOB cry to get the whole contest (including other clubs) fired up. Nick Kenny went out next and just went nuts. 3 great waves from Nick and it had already turned into a two horse race between us and Avoca. Nav was next and was unlucky a few of his waves didn't hold up in the tricky conditions, he surfed hard and did his best for the club gaining back a bit of time we had lost. Andy went out and was like a magnet grabbing 3 perfect little right handers that he surfed so well all the way to the beach and had the crowd going nuts. Even the other clubs were shaking their heads looking at this miniature grom going off under such pressure. When Kyle went out as the last surfer we had a 0.5 lead over Avoca but were behind on time. Kyle ripped straight into a little left with his trademark forehand snap and had us all cheering. Kyle grabbed another quick two waves as the clock was running down and we chaired him up the beach in the throne just within the time limit to grab the 4 bonus points. It was so close, that we couldn't know for

sure what we got as the final scores are kept under wraps. Clint, Greeny and I thought Avoca might have just got us as their last surfer had more time to choose better waves.

Juniors

The second heat was the 20 and under division. Our team in order was Joel Tudor, Nic Sivo, Tom Kenny, Nick Raymond and Liam Thorne. The boys were under enormous pressure after their shocker last year but were all determined to make amends. The junior division was so strong with clubs like Nth Shelly and Avoca boasting a team full of competitive pro junior surfers against our under 20 tradies and labourers.

Joel got us off to a quick start with a couple of rights sending Sivo out to do his best in the small waves. Sivo almost pulled a massive backhand reo on his first wave but just couldn't stick it. By now the MOB support crew were a few beers in and the shouts and war cries were coming loud and fast. When Sivo somehow managed to get a pretty decent barrel on his 3rd wave.....well you can imagine the response.....we went completely nuts on the beach.

Tom K was next and hooked straight into a nice right. Tom was surfing on an injured leg but there was no way you were going keep him out of the Kings of the Coast. He scored three good waves and had the MOB somewhere in the middle on points when Nick Raymond headed out. Nick scored 3 sick waves and was actually surfing up a division as he was originally in the Grom team. He certainly didn't look out of place and pulled us right up towards the leaders. When the scores after the 4th surfer was red out we were in 4th spot. Two points behind Tea Tree, and a fair bit behind Avoca. Our brothers at North Shelly Boardriders were just killing it and we were cheering them on. To win the overall points for the day we couldn't afford to fall more than a place behind Avoca. Liam had to get us into at least 3rd if we wanted to stay in touch with the pointscore. He hooked straight into a nice lefthander then two good rights and got into the box before the final hooter. Fingers crossed we had overtaken Tea Tree.

Opens

The Opens is always a fierce battle between all clubs as every club had guys that ripped. The open team was Matt Mcleod, Andrew Mooney, Dom Wills, Jed Cohen and Aaron Fozzy Forster. The surf had now filled up with the tide somewhat so all the clubs decided to go back to catching only two waves instead of three. Mcleod started well with two good rights and had Mooney in the water in about 7 minutes. Moondog whipped into a good little right and followed up with a nice left which the judges liked to have us in front on the scoreboard after two surfers. Dom wasted no time grabbing a nice little right and then a good set left to have us looking in good shape. I went out next and got a good little left then backed it up with a better little right leaving Fozzy to seal the deal for the boys. After four surfers the MOB was leading by a few points from Avoca and it was going to come down to

Fozz vs Dan Moore of Avoca. Fozzy felt the nerves on the first left but managed to dig his toes in and ride a long left through the fat channel. He then picked up a larger left which kept reforming and allowed him to get some good turns in all the way to the beach. Fozz was chaired up the beach in the throne and it was now up to the judges.

Senior Mens

By our predictions we had ourselves, North Shelly and Avoca all pretty much on the same overall points and basically whoever could win the Seniors would take out the whole thing. Pressure !

On paper the MOB, Avoca and North Shelly all had red hot Senior teams and it was basically a three horse race for the title.

Our senior team included, Corey Myers, Joel Gribbs, Greeny, Clint James and Rod Baldwin. Corey got us off to a super start smashing a left and right in really quick time. The North Shelly boys also started well and the scores when read out had us just in front. The MOB tent was intense, we all knew that this result could bag us the trophy.....i was so amped and so nervous...I really wanted the trophy back with the MOB.

Gribbs went out next and picked off two little rights that he worked over all the way to the beach with a really nice finishing carve on his second wave. Granny Green ran out and jumped onto a good little right that he threw a few good turns, his second wave was too quick but he rode it as far as it would let him and sprinted up the beach. There was 2 surfers left and it was really close. Clint went out next and rode two good rights throwing heaps of turns but Marcus Davidson from Shelly was able to grab two set waves and took the lead for North Shelly. After four surfers North Shelly were 3 points in front of the MOB with Avoca a point further back in 3rd.

This was where things got really, really intense and not just in the water. We're not sure who started it and it doesn't really matter now, but the biggest egg fight I've ever seen took place in the middle of the contest between Avoca and the MOB and North Shelly (we always join forces especially when it means getting stuck into Avoca). It was crazy and quickly got way out of control, there were eggs flying everywhere.

Out in the water at this time it was all down to the last surfers . Baldy got a good little right which was better than Avoca and Shelly's riders 1st waves. Time was winding down. North Shelly got there last wave of the day and it wasn't too bad. This was it, Baldy had to get a wave at least a few points maybe 3 points better than North Shelly's last wave. Avoca fell to pieces with the last few waves and were out of the running for the seniors. Baldy grabbed a set left and threw two beautiful forehand reo's which had us all going mad. Once again it was now up to the judges. We chaired Baldy up the beach in the throne and copped an absolute battering from eggs from the Avoca boys but we took it in our stride and carried Baldy over the finish line.....well almost, we dropped him about 2 metres from the end but it was a good effort.

The Presentation

The preso was at Avoca Bowling Club and as anyone who has been to a Kings of the Coast knows, the presentations are really intense. Everyone was hoping for a MOB or North Shelly victory even the other clubs.....well maybe not Avoca. No one knew the final results of each heat, so we could only hope we had done enough.

With each club sitting with their own crew the preso kicked off. The Groms were announced first with Avoca just pipping our boys. It was really close and the boys should be stoked with their second place. The juniors were next, after last year we new that we couldn't afford to drop another place behind Avoca if we wanted to win. Everyone new Shelly took this one as they were ripping but our juniors managed to not only overtake Tea-Tree for 3rd but also overtook Avoca and placed second. This was an exceptional result for our boys and a massive turn around from last year. Up against seasoned competitive juniors our boys performed so well and had the MOB on equal first points overall with Avoca (no wooden spoon this year boys). The Opens were announced next. This was close and came down to the wire but the MOB were victorious ahead of Avoca. We took our first prize \$500 cheque while Mooney reminded all the clubs on the mic that the strength of your opens shows the strength of your club.....a nice rub in to Avoca.

This was it, we were in first place with only the Seniors to go. As the places were read out Clint and I were trying to tell ourselves we hadn't won yet even though things were looking good. Down to two, Avoca and MOB. In second place.....Avoca.....YEEEEWWWWWWWW..... we all went nuts. The seniors had taken out another \$500, taken the win in their division and we new we had the trophy.

Before the final results were announced there was a special award to present. Chris Green from the MOB had come up with a great idea to present the surfer who got the highest total for their two waves a trophy called the RIP award. The trophy was in memory of all surfers who had past away on the Central Coast and displayed the names of some of the most influential surfers in the different areas and clubs on the Coast. This included our own Monkey James as well as Sanga, Coke Wards, Adam Hillier and Luke Hankey to name a few. Bill Cillia had made an incredible trophy. It was a great idea from Chris and had everyone at the preso in silence as names were read out and in complete awe of the importance of such a trophy. To make things even better our very own Nick Kenny took the hounors. It was an amazing moment and one of the highlights of the Kings of the Coast 4 year history. Congratulations Nick and well done Greeny and Bill for creating such a historic moment and an award that will now rival any on the coast in surfing.

