

Crawley Skate Jam 2009

The annual Crawley Summer Skate Jam took place on Saturday 15th August 2009. Apart from a slight breeze, the weather was all good, definitely better than we had last year! CFA crew members started to arrive throughout the morning, offering their support with setting up duties. After the stage had been erected, the tuck shop fully stocked and banners hung, it was time to watch the skaters flood in!

The park filled in no time, with over 150 skaters getting in their lines before the big comp. A noticeable amount of out-of-towners had come down to West Sussex' prime skatepark to compete for prizes from 'Matix', 'Chocolate', 'DVS' and 'Rockstar Energy Drink'.

On time and eager to start, the 15 and Under event began at 2.15pm, with over 25 participants. Heats were a close call, as the standard of this year's event was incredibly high. Judges found it difficult to call, but in the end it was an all Brighton final consisting of Oli Chapman, Jack Stinton and George Terry. These 3 skaters were busting out for the victory, Oli showing the crowd what going big really meant, Jack keeping it smooth and consistent throughout and George using the whole park with styles for miles. In the end, only one boy could win and that boy was to be George Terry, with Jack Stinton in 2nd and Oli Chapman in 3rd. Hats off to all of you lads!

After the 15 and under comp, the stage was graced by the band of the day, Horsham locals, 'Mr Fynn'. It was a great set, including covers of Skunk Anansie and King of Leon but also the bands own tracks! Skateboarders were enjoying rolling to live music and the atmosphere was becoming really hyped for the 16 and over category that would follow.

Heats were organised, Judges were in position and Trev was back flowing on the mic. It was time to begin the next event, which saw 6 heats of Sussex skaters battle it out. After taking notes from the earlier comp, it was clear to see that everybody really made an effort to use the whole park, with people diving in and out of the bowl, cruising over jump box and getting street on the street! The judges whittled it down to 2 semis of 3 skaters, which resulted in a final between local Phil Batchelor, and South coasters Leon Barakachian and Jake Snelling. The judges really had their work cut out with this one! Everybody seemed to have their consistent feet on; Phil worked the street section with flips and grinds and finished with a cheeky f/s flip on the quarter. Leon was everywhere; rock fakie on the cradle was rad, as well as proving he could stick it on street with a butterz f/s shove-it over the driveway. Leon and Phil were given joint second place as judges felt their efforts were too close to split! So, the winner was...Jake Snelling. Jake skated like he rode Crawley everyday. He floated massive judos and madonnas over the jump box, worked the bowl with airs, b/s bonlesses and grinds and also had time to 5050 the handrail on the street course. Well done Jake, come back to Crawley more!

Finally it was the turn of the sponsored Skateboarders, to give the crowd a show and land some sick stunts. It was great to see that Ben Powell, Sidewalk editor (the UK's major Skateboarding magazine), coming down to film and also bringing Pro skater Mikey Wright along for the ride! Mikes trademark magic skateboarding skills were a pleasure to watch, with 270 boardslides and front blunts, Mike was killing it. Local

legend Matt (Harry Potter) Hill was in attendance and was shredding the park to the highest standard. Another local; Lucy Adams made it into the final with the 2 above guys, using every bit of the park, with a consistent run. These 3 were looking tired as final runs got underway. Lucy started with an tweaked grab over the Jump box and started to make her way around the course, unfortunately not as consistently as in the heats. Potter was up next, giving it his all with his massive pop and ledge tricks. Mikey Wright was last but not least and wowed the crowd with some power rail stunts and blunts! The judges decided they couldn't call it and it the audience that they handed out the responsibility to. Potter came out on top of the crowd-o-meter, leaving Lucy in 2nd and Mike in 3rd.

All in all the day was tremendously successful and thanks goes out to everyone who attended the event. Big thanks to the sponsors; Revival distribution for putting up the prizes, also to CFA volunteers in the tuck shop, who organised the PA, who did registrations, who sorted the money, who picked up litter, who swept the leaves, who took photos and filmed...and did just about everything else. Thanks to Trev who MC'ed, Judges who judged and the band 'Mr Fynn' for playing a wicked set!



Sponsored finalists from L to R: Lucy Adams 2nd, Harry Potter 1st, Mike Wright 3rd