

Crawley BMX Jam 2009

Crawley's annual BMX jam took place on Sunday 16th August 2009. CFA crew were looking quite tired after the previous days skate jam but none the less got ready for the action. Ballyhoo skate/bmx store arrived and began to set up their pop up store, along with Rockstar energy drink and the BMXers started to show up.

The first comp of the day was the 15 and under section and with over 15 riders, it was set to be a good jam. Locals Malick, Aaron, Patrick, Corey and Luke all flowed around the course, enjoying having it to themselves during the heats. There were some other noticeable entrants including Jacob Towers and Ben Thrower who made it into the final alongside Malick Cham. The final was a treat; Malick showed us some huge 360's and a first time 180 from the bowl to the street course, Jacob was going big, with no hander landers, working the bowl and grinding the rails. Malick came in 3rd and Jacob came in 2nd, but it was Ben who impressed the judges and crowd most with his flares, whips and variety of no footers and no handers. Nice one Ben!

During the next practise session, the bands got involved, playing were; 'A day after tomorrow', 'Good morning good night', 'Before you were famous' and 'Zero killed' hyping up the crowd with some covers and original tunes. Refreshments were sought after by means of Rockstar energy drink and CFA tuck and everyone was eagerly awaiting the 16 and over jam.

There were 4 heats of riders in the next section, a handful of locals, mixed with some from out of town and one who's first time it was to Crawley Park. Locals Lang, Savage and Nathan all battled it out in the first heat, and the standard of riding was incredibly high throughout. The judges managed to whittle the competitors down to a final of 6 riders of 2 heats. Stew Gush came in a respectful 3rd place with nice turn downs in the bowl and stylish airs. Poster boy Lang held his game, with decades, 540s and an attempted 720 which resulted in him coming in 2nd place. Ben Cobley was the main man. His effortless style, mixed with whips of many variations, even a backflip whip (well that's what it looked liked to me!) earned him his 1st place victory!

The last comp of the day was the anticipated sponsored riders' category. With £175 prizes purse to be split amongst the winners, the competition was strong! 9 riders went in for the event, so there were 3 even heats. 2 locals made it into the final, Warren Daniel and Joss Fenn, with Waffle (?) bringing the number up to 3. Waffle's moves earned him a lovely little £25, stoked. It was a tough decision but Warren was given 2nd place and £50 for his destruction of the jump box, big quarter and street course. Joss deservedly won the £100! He owned the street course, 360 down a 6 foot drop?! Big transfers, but yet technical skills; 180s in and out of grinds, over 5050s too many to list. Nice one Joss the boss!

So all that's left to say is big thanks again! Thanks to CFA members, coaches and volunteers. Thank you to sponsors Sibot BMX, Rockstar energy Drink, Ballyhoo and King Apparel. Thank you to everyone who came down to spectate and to enter, see you again next year.