

INTER-CANARIES SURF TEAMS CONTEST AND THE FIRST AUTUMN SWELL HITS THE ISLAND...

BY DANIEL ALCOCK

The weekend of the 13th and 14th of September saw the third edition of the Inter-Canaries Surf Teams Surf contest, this year held in Gran Canaria.

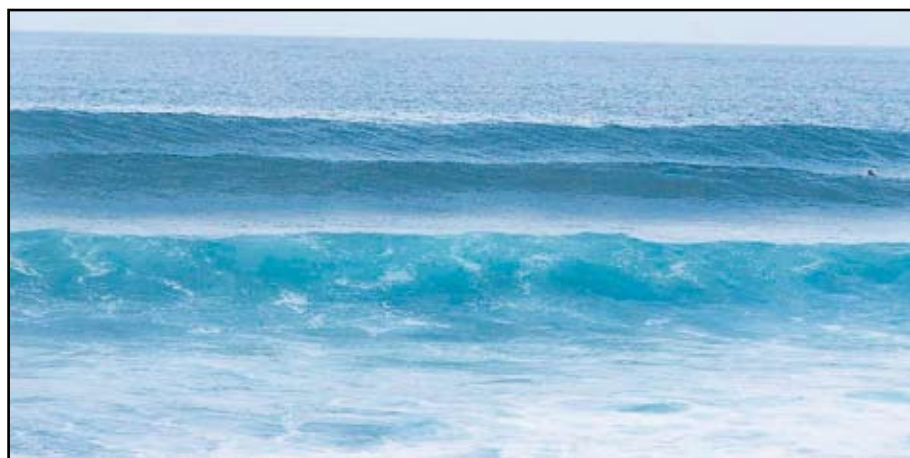
One of the prime objectives of this event is to build a unique surf contest, taking the individuality out of the sport and adding a team spirit to it. The event was held over various categories, but each competitor simply won points for his or her team, resulting in a real united atmosphere within the teams and lots of support for each person in the water albeit surfers, body boarders, knee boarders, long boarders, kids, adults or masters. 8 teams took part, 5 from Gran Canaria, 2 from Tenerife and 1 from Lanzarote and one thing really apparent was exactly the objective of the event: team spirit. The older competitors giving advice to the younger competitors, the feeling of fun and the general support for each surfer during their heat. A prime example of this was that of the Alexandra Rinder's heat. Just ten years old, the competitor from Lanzarote was helped out to the peak by an older member of the team and was guided into the waves,

eventually gaining a third place and an unforgettable experience for the young surfer. The eventual winners were Punta Blanca from Tenerife who will, in keeping with the event's tradition, host the event next year.

Final results:
1 Punta Blanca Tenerife 11.140 Points
2 Costa Este Gran Canaria 10.585 Points
3 Oleaje Gran Canaria 9.295 Points

4 Tembladera Tenerife 8.450 Points
5 3RJ Gran Canaria 8.435 Points
6 Reverso Lanzarote 8.245 Points
7 Mosca Point Gran Canaria 8.190 Points
8 Ocean Side Gran Canaria 7.955 Points

In other surfing news: The north of the island has been receiving its first quality waves of the winter, with last week seeing overhead waves in a number of spots.



Standouts were El Confital in Las Palmas (where the World Qualifying Series will be held next month), Quintanilla and San Andres (Arucas).

Shown are a couple of images from these days. Meanwhile, In England, Tara Pacheco, from Arguineguin, has won the 470 Sail For Gold Regatta in Weymouth, confirming her as one of the best 470 feminine sailors in the world. Congratulations to her.



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BY DAVE BEECHAM

I thought this would be an interesting way to start this long awaited article about fishing in Gran Canaria.

A little about me

I began fishing at the age of seven. My school friend introduced me to fishing and looking back; what would I have done without it! As no-one fished in my family, my dad took time out to take me on his own. He was not an angler - he was either patient or had a lot of time on his hands; which he didn't! He just saw a happy child with a rod in his hand. Thanks, Dad!

I fished for every species until I was 14years old, when I caught

my first common carp. After that, I never looked back. I have spent 31 years in search of these fish all over Europe, America, Canada and of course, Gran Canaria. I had many a girlfriend turn their back on me, until I met my wife Alison; someone who was happy for me to go fishing rather than be in the pub, so here we are today with the business. I always knew this would happen!

I think all in all, I have fished around 9 lakes on the island. I think Lake Chira was probably the most important lake with carp anglers from all over Europe, before the big exodus to France and mainland Europe. In those days, a 30lb fish was big but nowadays there are guys hunting fish twice that size. To think in 1981, Chris Yeate's Redmire fish at 51lbs was a world record from



England, truly huge. Now there are hundreds of 50lb carp but not here, apart from a few special lakes near Las Palmas, where I truly believe there are some uncaught monsters. Real fish. Old fish; gaining weight through natural food, not the fisherman's bait.

Presa de Chira

I came to Gran Canaria to fish some 20 years ago, when Rod Hutchinson and Kevin Nash, now famous carp anglers, made their journey to fish Presa de Chira. In those days, there were really big fish. I know of a mid 50lb being caught way back then! Today, you will find that

the big fish are mainly female, heavily spawned, holding at least 10lb extra weight. As the lake is lightly fished, we will never know how big the biggest fish are! The lake is 180acres, with maybe 6 rods a day. Unless we pick the lucky card, we will never, ever know! For some unknown reason, it's always the guys that have never fished it who say these fish are not in there! Oh yes, they are!

We bait up every day to give every client the best chance to catch fish and I think it has worked. I know catching fish is not guaranteed, but with our catch rating we are obviously



doing something right! Shown are a selection of photos of the event for Royal fishing, which we covered in the RTN. We managed to raise €150,000 for a charity called Kinderlife, for deprived children in Europe. In the near future, we will be running excursions by helicopter with ISLAS

HELICOPTERS. It will take 6 minutes to get to the lake, so if you don't fancy 1 hour by jeep, for an extra supplement you can travel VIP style!

I hope you enjoyed the article. Until next time...



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