

Sports Council Report

I've returned from Sri Lanka, had a really good time during the contest, the waves were really good and the weather was very hot. I actually managed to get sun stroke the day before the competition and didn't compete as well as I would have liked on the first day. In the first round I came in 2nd place to a high seeded surfer with an average performance. On the second day I was feeling much better but had a bit of a shocker in my heat, the waves were really inconsistent and I only caught 2 waves during the 25 minutes given, the first wave was a real good score but there were not that many quality waves coming through so I tried to be patient and wait for another like the first but it didn't happen, in the last few minutes I caught a small wave but the score wasn't enough to advance, so unfortunately I got 3rd place in my heat which meant I was knocked out (only 1st and 2nd place advance). I still felt OK with the performance I gave though, all I needed to advance to round 3 was to get another score similar to the first so I am more than capable of doing well in these events in the future, just need to improve on my competitive strategies. The standard of surfing during the event was very inspiring and I've got to know some handy contacts for competing in the future.

Sri Lanka is a beautiful place, it has recently been through hard times from acts of terrorism and this event was made to help bring back tourism to the country. The media attention in the upcoming months of this event will be huge and I'm sure the Sri Lankan people are happy that the UK Surf Tour is helping to bring back tourism to the country. *Commenting on the return of the event, Sanjika Perera, UK & Ireland Director of Tourism - Sri Lanka Tourist Promotion Bureau said: "The last time the championships were held were just after the Tsunami in 2005 and they played a crucial role in reviving the area. We are very happy that the **UK Pro Surf Tour** is returning as this will help to raise awareness of the tourism opportunities that are now available on the east coast of the island which is waiting to be discovered."*
<http://www.ukprosurf.com/>

Thank you for letting me compete in this event, it has helped a lot for my future in competitive surfing.

George Watt