

### Wakeboarding Spring Tour

- 8 members attended the tour, all full members of the wakeboard society.
- The tour ran from Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March, returning on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April.
- The Felix article attached below gives a good outline of the activities on the tour, however extra activities included go karting, massages, shopping and visiting the local sights of Antalya.
- All members paid £490 towards the tour into the club account, as well as paying extra for excess luggage fees for the boards and drink and meals out in turkey. The funding from the union contributed just over £90, including a contribution from the club budget.
- All members of the tour improved their riding dramatically; the combination of warm water and easy access to the lake as well as professional coaching allowed for progression across all skill levels.
- The A & O of the tour were fulfilled.
- All members reported having a fantastic time on the tour, agreeing that the tour was a great success and looking forward to returning next year!
- The major problem on the tour was the language barrier as none of the members spoke Turkish, however this was overcome via speaking German as this seemed to be a common language.
- It was felt that 1 week was perhaps not enough time to truly gain all of the benefits of being in such a perfect wakeboarding environment. As such the club hopes to plan a 2 week tour for next year.
- Photos from the tour are included in the Felix article attached below.

FELIX ARTICLE, DATED May 22nd 2009

### **The recession has hit Britain hard, the previously rock-solid Pound taking a beating against other currencies.**

With the exchange rate slipping on the Dollar it was decided that Imperial Wakeboarding club would have to look away from the previously standard Orlando Watersports Centre in order to deliver a trip with good value for money. Luckily for us, a brand new watersports complex had recently opened near to the small city of Antalya in Turkey, and reports were trickling back that the facilities and riding conditions were world-class.



So it conspired that a group of seven met at the Union on the last day of term in order to “take the edge off” for the early morning flight, this resulted in at least six of us being completely mauled throughout the boarding procedures. Respect has to be given to President Jonners ‘dub’ Watkins for holding it together, ensuring that Thomas Cook didn’t get to fuck us on luggage allowance and that seven of us stepped off the plane at Antalya.

We arrived at the Hip-Notics wake park at around 11am and with the morning sun rising over the snow capped mountains the first thing that struck us was the beauty of the place. There are three lakes centred around a large decked area that serves as a chilling/eating zone, and at the end of one of the lakes are several bungalows that allowed us to live right at the lakeside. The owner of the complex explained that for the next two days we would be the only English speakers at the site, this meant that we would have to get by on limited German and hand gestures which was initially worrying. The day manager of the site however was the single most legendary person I think any of us have met, nick-named 'Dave' due to his complicated Turkish name he ensured that every night was heavy on outrageous antics and he picked up both fives and 21's quicker than most English-speaking people could manage. Dave also had a penchant for stacking all seven of us on his quad bike and ragging it around the complex whilst completely smashed.

Night time activities included Go-Karting, Massages, and drinking the local spirit called Raki (Turkish for Bull Semen). The potency of Raki was proved on the second night when Jak managed to fall off a wall whilst pissing rendering himself unconscious, naturally Dave was on hand to stack his corpse on the front of the quad



and blitz him back to the bungalow. The friendliness of everyone at the lake had to be seen to be believed, by the week's end we were facebook friends with wakeboarders from several nationalities along with nearly all of the staff.

Cable wakeboarding is a relatively new sport, born from the fact that fuelling a boat every time you want to ride is prohibitively expensive for all but the most wealthy. A cable is very similar to the 'drag lift' that you would see on a ski slope, but for the fact that it is very high and is continuous. The first question most people ask when they see the cable is "what is the point in wakeboarding if there is no wake to throw tricks off?", there are two answers to this question. Firstly cable lakes are usually rammed with obstacles such as rails and ramps from which to launch your tricks, and secondly there is a special technique you can learn that allows you to utilise the elasticity of the steel cables to rip you into the air from flat water, the so-called 'raley based trick'. There are now far



more tricks possible on the cable than behind a boat, hence it has become a completely separate discipline of wakeboarding with different competitions etc.

The standard of riding amongst the seven of us ranged from experienced to complete beginner, and it is testament to the quality of Hip-Notics that not one of us failed to

improve drastically. This was helped by the scorching midday heat, and the warm waters that allowed us to ride in board-shorts alone. There was a multitude of obstacles for the more-experienced to play on and even the beginners managed to have a go at the ramps by the last day. Special mention goes to Bjorn who took brutal front edges for the first four days only to impress us all on Day Five by not only becoming confident on his board but also taking on the big launch ramp, Jennifer Finerty for landing the ramp and body-sliding the funbox only to come out with a huge grin on her face, and Jak 'serial fives cheat' Wilkinson for attempting a flat water raley having only ever ridden for two weeks before the trip. Lorenzon Pikey and Jonners dub were confidently hitting most of the parks obstacles from day one with Jon attempting inverts off the ramps whilst Darko and I dedicated our time to flat water inverts along with rail riding. We all had a fantastic time at Hip-Notics and are almost certainly going to head back there next Easter.

Anyone wanting to give wakeboarding a try should contact me at [wjp106@ic.ac.uk](mailto:wjp106@ic.ac.uk) we run weekly trips to Thorpe Lakes and welcome people of all abilities.

*William Parry-Jones*