



MEDIA RELEASE

2009 Lion Foundation Southern Surf League

Taylor's Mistake takes title for the first time!



In a finish that went down to the wire, Taylor's Mistake fought off the challenge of South Brighton and the All Stars to win the Southern Surf League at New Brighton Beach yesterday.

These three teams went into the final Ironman Relay event separated by only a few points. However it was fitting that Taylor's Mistake won the final event which shows the all-round strength of a team, using all team members in a combination of disciplines. South Brighton placed second and finished only four point behind Taylor's.

The Taylor's win was built around their strength in the water and on craft – Peter Rattray, Liam O'Loughlin and Megan Brooker leading the way in swim, board and ski. They also did well in the canoe events.

South Brighton's strength was on the beach with Ben Ryan and Chantel Hickman winning the beach sprint and beach flags. They were solid in the water, but suffered in the IRB events where they placed last in both the single rescue and assembly rescue.

The All Stars, made up of members from the smaller clubs, kept up a strong challenge all day. Led by their inspirational captain world champion Morgan Foster, and well supported by Jonelle Quane (Sumner), Pania Watson (Waikuku Beach) and Steven Armstrong (Waikuku Beach), their challenge only fell away in the final event when they placed last.

Stand-out individual performances came from South Brighton Chantel Hickman who won both female beach events, and U19 club-mate Sinead Lomax who was clearly superior to the older athletes in the Iron Woman. For Taylors Mistake, Peter Rattray's all round game saw him win the Ironman, and contribute to team wins in the ski and board races. Mention must also be made of the National Champion Waimairi Canoe crew who recorded wins in both Surf Canoe races.

Newcomer's New Brighton also had their moments in the spotlight. The Nash brothers – Jack and Matt cleaned up the Mens Surf Race placing first and second. And the IRB crew of James Gaskell and Kirk Williams won both IRB races against more fancied rivals.

In the light easterly breeze, sunshine, and one metre surf, a great day was had by both athletes and spectators alike.

Final Points Table.

1 st	Taylors Mistake	110
2 nd	South Brighton	106
3 rd	All Stars	98
4 th	Waimairi	71
5 ^{th=}	North Beach	64
	Composite Team	64
7 th	New Brighton	58

A comprehensive points table is also available.

Ends – 12 January 2009

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