

LOCALS ENJOY SUCCESS IN WORLD HELI CHALLENGE

Lake Wanaka, NZ (22 August 2013) – Wanaka’s Will Jackways and Abby Lockhart both convincingly defended their World Heli Challenge titles this year, taking the top spots on the podium for snowboarding.

Sam Smoothy, also flying the local flag, reclaimed his title with first place in the skiing section following up on his solid third placing last year.

It was a very close competition for the men with Finnish snowboarder Antti Autti in second place just a fraction behind Jackways in points. “What won it for Will J was his faultless execution, big airs and smooth flow,” said head snowboard judge Mike Hygeman. “Antti had speed and strong elements but Will J pipped him on the day.” USA’s Colin Boyd rounded out the men’s snowboard podium.

All of the judges agreed the trick of the day was a huge Cab 5 landed solidly by Will Jackways. The most aggressive rider of the day, Yuta Kiyohara pulled off a big method but just missed the podium finishing his day in fourth place.

In men’s skiing it was Taisuke Kusunoki (Japan) and Essex Prescott (CAN) battling for second and third with Kusunoki narrowly taking the lead for his aggressive and fluid runs. He also pulled off the trick of the day, a big left 360 corked and stomped his landing.

Third-time winner in women’s snowboard Abby Lockhart (NZL) came out strongly against her fellow competitors with runs peppered with tricks including Cab 180s and front 360s. Second place went to the vivacious Jessy Brown (CAN) for a solid performance and third to Rachel “Ratty” Sheidow enjoying yet another place in what is her fifth World Heli Challenge outing.

In a break out performance former alpine ski racer, Taylor Rapley from Queenstown landed her first free ride podium winning the women’s ski title with fellow New Zealander Briar Peters taking second place pulling out a solid run in spite of a knee injury.

A newly named “Shane McConkey Award” to reward passion and progression in free riding was presented to Fraser McDougall and Jessy Brown. The award formally known as the “X” factor award recognises the male and female athlete who may not necessarily deliver the cleanest scores and perfect results in the competition but who inspire and excite with their riding and their attitude. “This award is about identifying those who blaze a new path, try something different, show fluidity, a sense of fun and keep their sport fresh and progressive. Fraser and Jessy have both delivered this in spades this past two weeks” said event founder and director Tony Harrington.

“Fraser was the biggest charger on the day,” said head ski judge Geoff Small. “He impressed the judges but he blew his double backflip twice, crashing and stopping in the course, which pushed him back to seventh position.”

Fraser and Jessy win a week at Points North Heli Adventures in Cordova Alaska where they will experience big mountains and terrain where Shane McConkey blazed many lines.

A highlight of the iON Showcase Awards Night is the Canon Shootout which saw a sold out Lake Wanaka Centre as the crowd relished in short documentaries and photos captured by a field of five photographers and five filmmakers throughout the two week window of the World Heli Challenge.

“What makes this event unique and special is the compelling content it generates,” said Harrington. “We aren’t just pitting the athletes against each other on the competition days, we are also challenging top action

photographers and filmmakers to capture stunning moments and create stories that are shared around the world profiling these talented athletes and this beautiful area around Lake Wanaka.”

The Canon Shootout Winners this year are:

PHOTO

MICKEY ROSS	Best Freestyle Day image
MILES HOLDEN	Best Carlton Dry image
MICKEY ROSS	Lake Wanaka Lifestyle
MILES HOLDEN	Best Exide image
NIEL KERR	Best Treble Cone Image
MICKEY ROSS	The Canon Award for Best Photo Overall
MICKEY ROSS	Best SYRP Genie timelapse

CINEMATOGRAPHY

RILEY BATHURST	Best Freestyle Day segment
SAM LYNCH	Best Carlton Dry integration
ANTONY HANSEN	Best use of SYRP Genie for timelapse or sequence
TOMOHIRO FUJII	The Canon Award for the Best Documentary
LACHLAN HUMPHREYS	Best iON POV 30 second clip

The five-minute World Heli Challenge documentary and all Canon Shootout submissions will be posted to the World Heli Challenge website – www.worldhelichallenge.com - on Friday morning for everyone to enjoy.

ATHLETE RESULTS SUMMARY – WORLD HELI CHALLENGE 2013

SNOWBOARD WOMEN

1. Abby Lockhart (NZL)
2. Jessy Brown (CAN)
3. Rachel ‘Ratty’ Sheidow (AUS)

SNOWBOARD MEN

1. Will Jackways (NZL)
2. Antti Autti (FIN)
3. Colin Boyd (USA)

SKI WOMEN

1. Taylor Rapley (NZL)
2. Briar Peters (NZL)

SKI MEN

1. Sam Smoothy (NZL)
2. Taisuke Kusunoki (JPN)
3. Essex Prescott (CAN)

For the third consecutive year event organisers used the innovative online judging format, drawing on the experience of internationally regarded judges from around the world to review each run as filmed on a long lens and analyse in detail when deciding the winners in addition to the on slope judging team.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES: For request for photos, clips or interviews with athletes please contact us on media@worldhelichallenge.com