

# Battle commences at

NOVEMBER 2007  
AND THE HOODED  
ARMIES OF NORTH,  
SOUTH, EAST AND  
WEST GATHERED ON  
THE BATTLE FIELD  
OF THE MIDLOTHIAN  
SNOWSPORTS  
CENTRE TO SEE WHO  
WOULD BE CROWNED  
OVERALL WINNERS.  
THIS WAS WAR. THIS  
WAS BUDS.

Group spooning  
- a nice cuddle  
solves  
everything

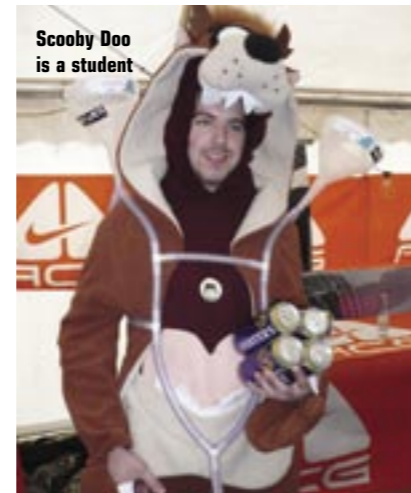


**B**UDS is the annual British Universities Dry Slope Championships - the warm up to the BUSC Main Event in Spring 2008. This year 1200 Students descended on Edinburgh for a showcase of what the academics of this country can do when they have a plank of wood strapped to their feet.

Although the weather Gods were up to their usual tricks with howling winds and biting frost, Natives did our best to keep everyone warm by supplying people with shots of Thunder Toffee Vodka. With chilled out tunes, comfy beanbags and a video link to the action, slopeside as well as a fully functional bar and füssball table, the 'Nike ACG Sweetspots Lounge' was another popular spot, providing warmth and comfort for weary legs. Liberty Skis were also on hand with advice on skis, plus our very own Natives reporter was there giving job advice and spreading (vodka-fuelled) cheer.

Last year 'Tribe' covered the sport of long-arm drinking (see Issue 2). This year the unofficial competition of BUDS was 'Danger Can'. According to Nick Cronk from Southampton Uni, 'Danger Can' is "a game of strategy, intellect and constitution it is a game for all generations". The game revolves around one simple idea: to shake your beer can vigorously and smash it against your head in order to obtain the delight inside. Whether you play 'Danger Can' on your own or with your friends, remember one thing... he who dares, wins. Sadly, this event claimed more casualties than the Dendix itself.

Saturday morning saw another non-sponsored event - Group Spooning.



Everyone was obviously feeling a little bit cold, tired and vulnerable and what better way to sooth away the aches and pains than with a group cuddle. Once everyone had topped up their warm and fuzzy feelings inside it was down to business.

The official events. The weekend commenced with the Wasteland Ski Slalom and the On the Piste Boarder GS bright and early on Friday morning. There were a few peaky faces as some had been heading up the celebrations already (we have it on good authority that Edinburgh University and the Irish mob were dancing on tables until the wee small hours of the morning).

Newcastle Uni dominated both the Wasteland Ski Big Chill Slalom and the Planet Subzero Skier GS. For the girls Rachel Adcock wiped the board in both disciplines and the boys of Newcastle showed themselves to be a strong team with Alistair Hirst winning the

# BUDS

Winners of the Dual Slalom; Tense racing



Toffee vodka from... Natives



Slalom and Matt Bruton clinching the GS - way aye!

The boarders competed in the On the Piste Giant Slalom which saw another one horse race with Ed Boon for the boys and Elie Slade for the girls - both from Kent - shooting into first position.

Saturday afternoon was taken up by the Natives.co.uk Dual Slalom. Edinburgh showed that regular training in a familiar location paid off and took

the number one spot for the skier dual. Indeed Edinburgh took the overall champions crown, while the boarders from Durham beat off all other contenders and to take top spot. All teams were fully stoked with their prizes courtesy of Natives.co.uk including the welcome gift of a woolly hat to help fight off the cold.

Commentary was provided by Rod Andean (helped out by Simon Goodacre and Paul Telling) who used his sharp tongue and dry Scottish wit to cut all the competitors down to size. He kept the freezing cold spectators entertained by letting out little bits of gossip drip by drip. No bit of scandal was left untold.

The pros showed us how it was done on the Saturday morning, thanks to Monkey (Rome SDS) and Murray Buchan (Nike ACG). However the competitors displayed excellent talent in the Liberty Big Air Ski, won by Jules Ball for Oxford Brookes and Laurie Anthony for Sheffield. The Rome Big Air was won by Ben Kinnear from Aberdeen and Moa Johanssen from Edinburgh.

All forms of rivalry were put aside by 8pm when all competitors and spectators assembled at the Edinburgh Corn Exchange for a black tie ball and the prize giving. This was the perfect ending to what all would agree was the perfect weekend. Great skiing, great tricks, great craic and some cuddling too...