The Surfing Tribe: a history of surfing in Britain


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Abstract / Summary

"The Surfing Tribe" presents a unique insight into the forgotten story of Britain's pioneering surfers. How did a sport practised in Hawaii find its way to the chilly Atlantic shores of Britain? How did a photo in a 1929 encyclopedia inspire a Newquay ice-cream man to become Europe's first regular surfer? How did the British surf industry grow from a handful of backyard board builders into the multi-million pound industry it is today? "The Surfing Tribe" tells the full story of the history of surfing in Britain. It explains how a quirky seaside pastime transformed itself over seven decades into a phenomenally popular sport and lifestyle. From Newquay to Newcastle and from Jersey to Swansea, the origins of Britain's separate surfing tribes are revealed and all the top British surfers from the various eras are profiled. The book also charts the evolution of British surfboards, and looks back at the films and magazines that have portrayed British surfing over the decades.

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The Surfing Tribe is the definitive story of the history of surfing in Britain. First published in 2009, this second edition has been significantly updated and expanded with an additional 32 pages and 60 new photos. Written by renowned surf historian Roger Mansfield, the book pieces together the origins and history of the sport around the country. All the key characters are profiled, from early pioneers like Rod Sumpter to international heroes on the pro circuit like Russell Winter. The book also charts the evolution of British surfboards and looks back at the films and magazines that have appeared from many parts of Polynesia in the early twentieth century, a small number of people in Hawaii. The tradition is alive. In 1912, it spread to the east coast of the United States, and in particular to Virginia Beach, which became an important surfing centre. Surfing developed quite rapidly from then on, and the design of surfboards became more sophisticated. However, it was not until the 1960s that surfing became a truly global phenomenon, boosted not only by the success of surfing films but also by pop songs about surfing culture. Roger Mansfield. "The Surfing Tribe" presents a unique insight into the forgotten story of Britain's pioneering surfers. How did a sport practised in Hawaii find its way to the chilly Atlantic shores of Britain? How did a photo in a 1929 encyclopedia inspire a Newquay ice-cream man to become Europe's first regular surfer? How did the British surf industry grow from a handful of backyard board builders into the multi-million pound industry it is today? "The Surfing Tribe" tells the full story of the history of surfing in Britain. It explains how a quirky seaside past is where the British surf scene was born and has produced some of the country's biggest stars. Back then the public saw surfing as a strange cult. Photograph: John D Houellebecq/Roger Mansfield collection. Facebook. Watford-born Rod Sumpter was Britain's first surfing superstar. He spent his teenage years surfing in Australia and California, and by 1964 he was effectively the World Junior Champion. When he moved back to his homeland two years later, he brought a whole new level of professionalism to British surfing. Throughout the decade he competed alongside the best surfers in the world. Photograph: Doug Wilson. Facebook. Twitter. Pinterest. The essence of surfing was the same in the 60s as it is today: enjoying a sunset session with your mates.