

High noon on the reef

GARETH WHITE

Kalk Bay bodyboarder Pierre Marqua, 34, is one of 20 Cape Town bodyboarders taking part in the Nomad Kalk Bay Shoot-Out, from Sunday August 10 to Tuesday September 23.

Marqua is eagerly awaiting the opportunity to put his 23 years of bodyboarding knowledge to the test against Cape Town's best.

"Kalk Bay is all about the barrels and the big moves off the end section. Its not often that you get to surf Kalk Bay with three other guys in the water so I am really looking forward to the event," said Marqua. Marqua will have his work cut out for him when he faces the likes of SA Drop Knee Champ, Sacha Specker, former SA Pro Champ, Daniel Worsley and other experienced riders like JP Nortier, Byron Loubser and Jayden Alford-Loots.

The third annual shootout will feature 20 of Cape Town's most explosive bodyboarders, consisting of locals and non-locals. The riders will be competing at Cape Town's most sought after reef break, the treacherous Kalk Bay Reef, in hope of claiming the coveted

"Last Man Standing" award. Organisers have allowed an extended window period of more than a month in which to run the contest to ensure that the competition is held in the best possible conditions within the allotted time frame.

Event organiser and Kalk Bay resident, Ian Thurtell, said that for the reef to be at its best, the swell needs to be moving in a southerly direction with a light west to north west wind blowing. He added that the reef, which is a predominantly left breaking wave, works best at low tide in water often only 40cm deep.

"The wave breaks close to shore directly in front of a raised parking area, making the venue ideal for spectators and competitors to view the action," said Thurtell.



■ Kalk Bay's Pierre Marqua will be one of the top contenders in the Nomad Kalk Bay Shoot-Out in August.

During the window period, riders will be given 24 hours notice whether the event will take place or not. With such a tight notification period, and the possibility of some riders being unable to attend, organisers have catered for seven reserves in case a rider cannot

attend. The event is geared towards recognising riders who have, over the years, become known as locals at the reef.

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