

# Severn surfers record bid fails

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AVON Seariders played a vital role when a determined bid to crack the world surfing record was made on the River Severn last weekend.

Nine surfers made the attempt on the famous Severn Bore — and two 4-metre Seariders were there to rescue surfers who fell from the wave.

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A 4-metre Avon Searider cruises ahead of the Severn Bore as surfers Chris Fairburn, Pete Jones and Stuart Matthews ride the wave in a bid to beat the world surfing record of over 2 miles during the attempt last weekend.

The attempt was made by the Welsh Surfing Federation in conjunction with the British Surfing Association on a section of the river south of Gloucester near Minsterworth.

But the five-year-old record of over two miles remained unbroken, despite the efforts of the surfers. Photographic student Pete Jones, aged 25, from Llangennith, near Swansea, managed one run of one-and-a-quarter miles, while teacher and international sprinter Stuart Matthews, aged 25, from Wincanton, Somerset, achieved threequarters-of-a-mile.

The Seariders, powered by Yamaha engines, were used to follow the surfers and pick up any who lost the wave. The boats then raced over and ahead of the Bore so that surfers could make further attempts.

Said Ron Williams, Secretary of the Welsh Surfing Federation: "The boats coped very well with their task, and it was a successful weekend although the record was not broken.

"The Bore was about three feet high and we did the best we could. We are hoping to try again in the Autumn."