

# MIDLAND NEWS SKI CLUB

The Heart of England's Leading Snowsports Club

FEBRUARY 2008

## Hello? Dolomites, where are you??

There we were for the Training Week in the Dolomites, the most beautiful mountains in the world. What could possibly be wrong? Only one thing - we couldn't see them. But the good news is that it was because it was snowing. And boy did it snow. To give you an idea of just how much we had, Dia fell and both skis came off and it took 25 minutes to locate them and dig them out. "Why were you skiing off-piste" she was asked. "I wasn't off-piste!" she said.

In all we had well over a metre to give the best conditions in the area for 20 years. It snowed for 4 days which meant that visibility was poor, giving us very challenging skiing. But everyone revelled in the perfect underfoot conditions and we took full advantage of the vast ski terrain of the Sella Ronda area. The Sella Ronda is a ski tour about 40 km long : 26km of skiing and 14km of lifts! The tour takes you through several charming little villages which each have their own small lift systems, so that you can interrupt the tour with a few diversions of you see a piste you fancy. Modern uplift means that there is no longer the time pressure there



used to be and I think that competent skiers who kept on the move could do the tour in half a day.

Of course we came to learn which is where the coaches, Bruce, Rob, Roger and the two Grahams did such a great job. With the added responsibility of navigating around one of the largest ski areas in the world, they still found plenty of time to give everyone lots of individual coaching and there were plenty of instances of dramatic improvement being made. Many thanks to you all. A special thank you to Graham Leigh who had such a bad throat that I had visions of him having to stand on a Dolomite and give his instructions by semaphore.

Sadly there were other ailments, the most serious being Mo's damaged knee ligament which meant that she had to call on Equity's insurance services and our wonderful rep Lisa who made sure that Mo was looked after as well as possible. Also Colin got the dreaded lurgi and didn't surface for 3 days and Joyce, Penny and Roy had knocks which cost them some skiing time. Hard luck but thank you for being so stoical about your misfortune.

Thanks also to the people new to the Training Week, Bernard, Danny, Graham, Patrick and Rolly. I hope you enjoyed it and we see you all again.

The Hotel matched the snow. The Hotel Irma in Canazei is in a totally different class to anything the training week has used before. The interior was beautifully furnished, the staff totally professional and friendly and the food was like ambrosia (that's the food of the gods, not rice pudding).

Yet the best was still to come. We opened the curtains on Friday morning and there they were, the magnificent cliffs and peaks of the Dolomites glistening in the sun. We have a policy of not

## Diary

### **Mondays @ 7.30pm**

Adult Coaching  
Luis Lopes 0121 357 2307

### **Tuesdays @ 6.30pm**

Instructor Training - Roger  
Crombleholme 01785 714073

### **Tuesdays @ 7.30pm**

Race Coaching - Roger  
Crombleholme 01785 714073

### **Fridays @ 6/6.30/7pm**

Junior Coaching  
Nigel Dawes 0121 445 2594

### **Fridays @ 8.30pm**

Adult Coaching - Roger  
Crombleholme 01785 714073

### **8-Mar-08 (to 15th)**

Club Holiday, Tignes  
Diana Horth, 01889 800706

### **13-Mar-08**

DSUK, Tamworth  
Hilary Cox, 0121 554 9745

### **21-Mar-08 (to 30th)**

Family Holiday, Zermatt  
Nigel Dawes, 0121 445 2594

### **13-Apr-08**

B'ham & S. Midlands Schools Race  
Jane Lee, 01905 345416

teaching off-piste on the Training Week but it would have been sacrilege to leave a metre of fresh powder untouched and we all dived into it, sometimes literally.

We all came back wreathed in smiles after one of the best days of our ski careers. I could go on for ever about how good it was and I probably will when I meet you, but don't be surprised if next year we try the impossible - to repeat it all again.  
*John Arnold*

## How much did you ski?

Those who went to Canazei can check out what skiing you did by visiting [www.dolomitisuperski.com](http://www.dolomitisuperski.com), clicking on "Check Ski Performance" and entering your ski pass number. Jim Pielow did this and found his summary for the week was 118 lifts used, 36283 vertical metres skied, and 207 kms distance covered. Daily analysis is also available, complete with graphs - well worth a look.

# New Year Snow Races

Many congratulations to all the MSC racers who competed for their respective alpine clubs in the British Alpine Racing Ski Clubs (BARSC) Championships in Les Menuires (3V France) over the New Year period!

The MSC racers were Harry Hornsby, Chris May, Freddie Meyer, Nick Miller, Nick and Sophia Phelps, and Olivia Waller - all of whom, apart from Harry, were competing on snow for the first time and achieved some really good results (right) in tough conditions.

An explanation of the categories:

**Juniors** (FIS - International Ski Federation)

Competitors must be aged 15 and over. Racers in FIS competitions represent their countries and not their clubs. Both runs in slalom and GS must be successfully completed to achieve an overall position, age

group position and event points. Start number for the 1st run is determined by FIS points with the top 15 racers being drawn randomly. All racers with no FIS points start after those who do have points - the order being drawn randomly. Start number for the 2nd run is determined by 1st run times with the top 30 racers going first but in reverse order.

**Children** (BASS - British Alpine Seeding System)

Racers represent their clubs. Both runs in slalom and GS must be completed to achieve an overall position and age group position. However, each of the two runs count towards BASS points - it doesn't matter if a racer fails to successfully complete both runs to score points. 1st run start order is similar to FIS races - although CH1 racers go before CH2 racers (in FIS races the age groups are irrelevant). The 2nd run, however, is in reverse bib order irrespective of 1st run times. This is to give children racers a fairer start order and greater opportunity to score points.

**Minis**

Start order drawn randomly and no points awarded.

Date	Category	Discipline	Total Racers	Racer	Start Number	Overall Position	Age Grp Position	Time (mins)	Event Points
30/12/2007 FIS (Junior Boys)	SL	72	Harry Hornsby	31	18	12	1.53.98	268.27	
				Chris May	67	33	23	2.33.79	549.14
31/12/2007 FIS (Junior Boys)	GS	56	Harry Hornsby	23	37	30	2.23.78	423.30	
				Chris May	48	38	31	2.28.84	465.09
31/12/2007 Minis	GS	25	Nick Phelps	31	22		0.41.19		
02/01/2008 BASS (Children Girls)	GS	84	Sophia Phelps	67	63	39	2.35.53		
				Olivia Waller	72	DNF1	DNF1	DNF1	
02/01/2008 BASS (Children Boys)	GS	132	Nick Miller	126	78	47	1.48.51		
				Freddie Meyer	119	DNF2	DNF2	DNF2	
31/12/2007 Minis	GS	25	Nick Phelps	34	19		0.46.80		
03/01/2008 BASS (Children Boys)	SL	140	Nick Miller	115	35	25	1.35.63		
				Freddie Meyer	125	42	28	1.38.22	
04/01/2008 BASS (Children Girls)	SL	76	Olivia Waller	67	57	37	1.59.16		
				Sophia Phelps	74	62	40	2.35.05	

## Val Burton

It is with sadness that we heard of the passing away of Val Burton on 10th January. Val was a member of MSC for many years. Condolences to friends and family.

## For Sale

Boots! Lange 4-clip ladies ski boots, size 6. Medium fit. Good condition. Offers. Sue Brown: 01564 774076.

## Ski in Gressoney?

Following Mo's injury on the training week, she won't be skiing for the rest of the season. So there is a place available for a lady in a triple room in the Hotel Ellex in Gressoney, Italy. Half board, flights from Birmingham. Details from Mo Woodful on 0121 445 3839.

## DSUK

The next three Disabled Skiing UK sessions at Tamworth Snowdome are 13th March, 8th May, and 10th July. If you can help out at these very rewarding sessions, please contact Hilary Cox on 0121 554 9745

## MSC Calendar

They are a small number of MSC 2008 Calendars remaining at £7.50. Please call Rob Weeks on 01926 470656 if you want one before the last few go.

## Summer Skiing in South America

Places are still bookable for this summer's trip to four ski resorts in Argentina and Chile, from 15th to 31st August. For full details see previous newsletters, or call Maureen Crombleholme on 01785 714073 or preferably by email to [maureen@ims-lifebalance.com](mailto:maureen@ims-lifebalance.com).



## Reports Wanted!

Send us your resort reports or stories (good and bad) from your holidays - other members may find the information useful. And don't forget to send us your pictures - you might feature in next year's MSC calendar or brochure!

## Killy in Tamworth

Ski Warehouse in Tamworth have new stock of ladies top name "Killy" skiwear in at great prices. And for those of you just about to set out for the slopes, Ski Warehouse can now offer same day ski servicing (Mon- Fri) and weekend drop-offs with a wax and edge costing only £20.00, so your ski's will be in top condition before you hit the slopes. The store is open Mon - Sat 9.30 - 6.00 and Sun 11.00-4.00. For more details call 01827 313138 where Lyndsay and her team will more than happy to help.

## Two Seasons open in Lichfield

The former Ski Force store in Lichfield has now been taken over by Midlands based Two Seasons, and we are delighted to report that Mark Scarrett (ex-Ski Force) has been appointed store manager and is able to offer MSC members the same high level of expertise and knowledge that he did previously when he was part of Ski Force. The Schools hire part of Ski Force is also now under the Two Seasons banner.

## Kids Buy Back

Vaughan Homer, store manager in Snow + Rock, Birmingham, has asked us to make MSC members aware of the "Kids Buy Back" scheme that they operate. When you buy children's equipment from Snow + Rock and they grow out of it, you can take it back and be given up to 30% credit towards your next purchase of equipment. This could be very useful for families who have to keep buying new equipment each year for their rapidly growing offspring!

For full terms and conditions see page 336 of the Snow + Rock catalogue, visit their website, or pop in and see Vaughan and his team. Vaughan is a BASI instructor and has previously coached at the Ackers, and will be more than welcoming towards MSC members as he too is a keen and enthusiastic skier.