

# MIDLAND SKI CLUB NEWS

JUNE 2010

## Annual General Meeting

Thank you to those who were able to attend our AGM on the 26<sup>th</sup> May when we had an excellent discussion on the club's current and future plans and direction.

You also re-elected your officers and committee - contact details on the back page - and all of us would like to thank you for your continuing confidence in us and support.

The reports from myself, the treasurer, membership secretary, head coach and race manager showed that membership is holding up well, finances remain in good shape and success with holidays, coaching and racing continues.

The main concern raised at the meeting and of which we are well aware is the lack of a social side to the club outside Ackers evenings or at/after race meetings. To address this, Bryan Arnott has become our Social Secretary and you'll see the first few social events in this newsletter: please support these events - if they are not successful, then at least we have tried!

Also Mike Thomas has agreed to become our President as he is able to actively involve himself in our management of the club and give not only me, but also the committee an objective view of how we plan and operate so as to embrace all members in our efforts.

I would like to thank Malcolm Grafton for his work as our past President and his continuing management of our insurance requirements, he does an excellent job and profitably!!

Following the AGM, Carron Thorley says on page 3 that *It's good to Talk* and I fully support her thoughts and observations. A club is as strong as its membership and even stronger with active membership involvement.

Thank for your support over the last year, we as a committee will continue to do our best to operate the "best" snowsport club in the Midlands.

*Bryan Thomas, Chairman*

## Club National Success



The second Midland Club National Race was run on 24th April at Stoke was once again a great success with over 140 racers from around the country competing - including an incredible 45 racers from MSC. Well done to all racers, especially the relatively novice racers from the Friday evening coaching groups (pictured).

More race news on page 2.

## Club Holiday



Can you guess where the 2011 Club Holiday is going? Clue: it's a major resort in a landlocked European country. For the answer and full details see page 4.

## Diary

### **Mondays @ 7.30pm**

Adult Coaching

Bryan Arnott 01827 893243

### **Tuesdays @ 6.00pm**

Race Novices - Roger

Crombleholme 01785 714073

### **Tuesdays @ 7.30pm**

Race Coaching - Roger

Crombleholme 01785 714073

### **Thursdays @ 6/7.30pm**

Advanced Race Training - Roger

Crombleholme 01785 714073

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

Junior Coaching

Jane Lee 01905 345416

### **18th June**

Midsummer Walk, Meriden

Jeff Elmore, 07958 967709

### **3rd July**

Gloucester Summer Race League

Jane Lee, 01905 345416

(also 7th Aug, 18th Sept, 16th Oct)

### **5th August**

Walk & Brewery visit

John Chesworth, 01926 856826

### **22nd September**

Get Fit for Skiing

Details to follow

# Gloucester Summer Race League

This year's Gloucester Summer Race League started in **May** with 14 teams taking part and Midland teams came 2nd, 5th and 12th. This shows such great strength and depth, it is brilliant.

We had a number of first-timers: Jack and Stef, Rachel B, Ben, Guy, Anya, Jake, and Seamus - well done to all of you.

Five skiers made it into the top 30 overall: Roger (6), Sam S (15), Karl (19), Ben (22), and Maxine(30), and 10 scored 20 points or more: Roger (28), Seamus, Sam S (23), Sam D, Ben, Jack L, John, Gerry (22), Matthew T, Karl (20)

In the afternoon duals Lauren, Tom, Chloe, Duncan, Jack L, Gerry scored the maximum 9 points.

**June's race** was held at the end of half term, and a lot of regular skiers were unavailable - but those who did ski performed fantastically with another second place for Midland A, putting us in second place overall. This is a great performance, 16 skiers have raced so far in the A team, showing great strength and depth.

There was some excellent skiing across all teams, well done to Seamus, Jack R, Ben, Helena, James H, Matthew T, Jessica, Hannah and Sam L for some particularly good skiing. The afternoon saw some confident results in the head-to-heads, particularly well done to the A team with 26 dual points in the first run.

Improvers of the month were Guy, Jayde and Molly, with Molly winning not just one afternoon race, but two, with bib number 6, well done. Race of the day was Toby (4) v Anya (5), two firm friends, great determination from both and a very close finish with Toby just edging ahead at the end.

## Top 30:

Jack R (10th), Ben (13th)

## 20+ points:

Jack R (27), Ben (25), Jordan (24), Seamus (23), James D, John, Liam (21), Ethan, Matthew T (20)

## 9 afternoon points:

Jordan, Liam, Matthew T, Jack R, Libby A, James S, Hannah

Thanks to everyone who helped, it was a new experience to so many to collect and distribute bibs, record results and to keep the top of the slope running smoothly with skiers getting to the top on time with all their equipment.

*Jane Lee*

# WMSA Schools Race

This year's WMSA Schools Race is on Friday 25th June at Telford Ski Slope. Following the interest and enthusiasm skiers showed at the schools race held last month at the Ackers, I'm sure this race will be similarly popular, so make sure you start organising teams now. For full details on the race and an entry form go to [www.westmidski.org.uk](http://www.westmidski.org.uk).

# Early Season Successes

The last two months have been very busy on the racing front. The race-season opener on 17<sup>th</sup> April and Bromley and the Norwich races a few week later were well attended, although we only managed to achieve 5 age group podiums one was also an overall podium - well done to Harry Hornsby, overall 2nd in the Norwich Club National.

The Stoke & Midland Club National weekend in mid May saw good MSC attendance and 12 age-group podiums (including two 1sts - well done Mark) and two overall podiums (Harry again!). We ran the Sunday race and playing host to over 140 racers from around the country, including 45 of our own racers. Congratulations to all racers and an especial thanks to the officials and many members of the club who volunteered their time and expertise.

The remaining May weekends saw us at the first Celtic Cup at Rossendale, and to Pendle for a Club National and Grand Prix. Our racers turned in some excellent performances, with another 11 age-group podiums (including 1sts from Emily Dawes, Mark Hawkins and Adam Beardmore) and three overall podiums from Emily Dawes and Harry Hornsby (twice).

Overall the club has made a very strong start to the season, with many skiers already improving their level of performance from last year. You can always keep up with the latest results on the MSC website - just go to [www.midlandski.org.uk/racenews](http://www.midlandski.org.uk/racenews).

## Top MSC Racers

The following MSC racers now have under 100 seed points by our latest calculation: Emily Dawes (25.98), Elisabeth Thomas (68.04), Rachel Bill (97.40); Harry Hornsby (16.88), Mark Hawkins (38.30), Adam Beardmore (39.63), Nick Miller (45.74), Adam Lee (68.37) and Alasdair Thorley (81.83). The next official seed point list is out in a few days.

## Race Photos

Did you know that at many races, Neil McQuoid of Racer Ready magazine is the official photographer, and takes some excellent photos of the racers which are available for purchase. If you've not seen some of yours, get in touch with him via [neil@racer-ready.co.uk](mailto:neil@racer-ready.co.uk) and he'll send you some thumbnails for you to look at.

## Race Videos

At many races, we also video most runs of the MSC participants, and these videos are available on YouTube for you to see how you did. There is an index to the videos at [www.midlandski.org.uk/videos](http://www.midlandski.org.uk/videos).



Midland Club National: Course Inspection (photo courtesy Racer Ready)

# Social Events

One aspect of the club which used to be very popular were the social events. Following feedback over the last year or so, we are now arranging these one again.


The events do cost time and money to arrange, so please make an effort to get along to a few. If you have ideas for future events, then please get in touch with Bryan Arnott at [bryan.arnott@sky.com](mailto:bryan.arnott@sky.com).

The event calendar is as follows:

June 18th: Midsummer Walk - see below.

Aug 5th: Walk and Brewery visit - see below

Sep 22nd: Get fit for 2011 season

Oct 20th: Warren Miller film night - featuring the \*new\* season's ski film *WinterVention* 

Nov 7th Ski photography

Full details on the later events will be in subsequent newsletters.

## Midsummer Walk

Come and join us make the most of the British weather and the long hours of daylight on a Midsummer walk on the evening of 18th June in the middle of England - a relaxing 4 mile walk around the woods and fields of Meriden. We will meet at 7.00 in the car park of the Queens Head pub in Meriden and will return there after the walk to replace any essential fluids that may have been lost during the journey.

Meriden is just off the A45 Coventry Road as you head away from Birmingham past the airport. The Queens Head is just on the eastern outskirts of Meriden and just off the B4102 Main Road. As you head out of Meriden you will pass the Manor Hotel on your left, the "old" road (where the Queens Head to be found) is just a few yards past the Manor down a small slip road.

Postcode for the pub is CV7 7JP OS grid reference is 253820 (Landranger 140). Phone number 01676 522256.

The event is free and open to all. If anyone just wants to join us for a drink afterwards then they are most welcome.

Please contact Jeff Elmore if you are intending to come along so that we know to wait for you, and so that we can contact you if there are any last minute change of plans. For more info contact Jeff on 07958 967709 or [jeffski@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:jeffski@blueyonder.co.uk)

## Brewery Visit & Walk

We are again risking the obvious derogatory comments, and arranged an event in a brewery.

On Thursday 5th August we will be visiting the Churchend Brewery at Ridge Lane, Nr Nuneaton, CV10 0RD, about 2 miles south of Atherstone (OS grid ref. SP 294 948).

We will meet at the brewery at 6.00pm for a thirst-building walk led by Mike Thomas, and then return at 7.30pm for a buffet meal (including a drink) followed by a guided tour.

The cost is £8. Please book now by sending a cheque payable to Midland Ski Club to John Chesworth, 32 Alpine Court, Kenilworth, CV8 2QB. Tel. 01926 856 826 for any other details.



## It's Good to Talk - and Act

There was a very useful open discussion following the formal proceedings of the recent AGM on how the club should develop in the coming years. We have a very hard working committee of volunteers who act on our behalf to keep the club running smoothly and help us to enjoy the numerous benefits of membership - whether it be discounts in ski shops, help and advice on insurance, resorts and equipment, fantastic club holidays/snow training weeks, superb coaching, adrenaline-rush racing, new friendships or social activities.

However, the committee cannot work in a vacuum and, as an annual event, the AGM is not much use as a means of communication in either direction if news/feedback has to wait another 11 months to be said! We have two-way channels of communication that are always open, so feedback can be picked up and acted on at any point in the year.

Our regular newsletter (email, post, website and hard copy) keeps members up to speed with recent and forthcoming activities. Other short notice events or information are notified by email. The website is comprehensive and frequently updated so visit it to see what's new; many people beyond our own membership look at our website for information. If you want to know exactly what your MSC representatives are discussing at any time of the year, just read the latest minutes which are put on the website once approved ([www.midlandski.org/minutes](http://www.midlandski.org/minutes)). Finally, each year we produce the club brochure, based around a compilation of articles from members - it's your club brochure so own it! This is distributed at different events to showcase our activities to a wider audience and to attract new members.

So how do members communicate back to our committees? The most instant way is to use the 'contact us' facility on the website. Feedback/ideas/concerns/general enquiries will be picked up and sent to the committee or relevant person(s). You will always get a response.

If you would rather chat to one of the committee members, there are usually a number around on training nights at the Ackers if you are not sure who they are, just ask - or just pick up the phone!

Please contribute your knowledge, experience or opinions to the newsletter (copy deadlines given at the bottom of the front page). Write a short piece in the coming year on a club matter/skiing activity that you would like to share. Or contribute to this year's brochure which, it is hoped, will be distributed at the British Ski and Board Show (NEC 29-31 October) - we would love to hear from you.

By the next AGM, if you have had an idea, feedback, concern, solution, I hope you will have used any of the 365 days to act on it within the club making the club richer and stronger for it. We are waiting to hear from you.....

Carron Thorley

# Club Holiday 2011 - Verbier, Switzerland

12th-19th March 2011

For the 2011 Club Holiday we are going to Verbier. This is an Inghams holiday staying in the Chalet Hotel de Verbier which is situated centrally about 400 metres from the lift.

[http://www.skiline.co.uk/clubhotel\\_de\\_verbier\\_a6232.asp?CurrentPage=5](http://www.skiline.co.uk/clubhotel_de_verbier_a6232.asp?CurrentPage=5)



We will have chalet catering i.e. buffet breakfast, afternoon tea with homemade cake or biscuits, 3-course dinner with coffee and chocolates on 6 nights per week, free wine with dinner and a cheeseboard 3 times a week. You will need to arrange to eat out on the staff night off. All rooms are simply furnished with en-suite facilities, cable TV, telephone, radio, alarm and hairdryer. There is free tea and coffee all day free Wi-Fi internet access lift cable TV with some English channels in all bedrooms

Centred in the Swiss Four Valleys area, Verbier offers good skiing and challenging off piste. The resort has a good percentage of high-tech lifts, most famously 'Le

Jumbo' cable car, which carries 150 people at a time up to the Mont Fort glacier. In addition the Funispace lift contains giant gondola cabins on twin wires each capable of carrying 30 passengers. Other recent additions are the Chaux Express and Les Attelas lifts, increasing capacity and speed of access on key routes

For the more adventurous highlights include the legendary Tortin snow bowl with its huge bumps, the extreme couloirs down from Les Attelas, the steep skiing around Mont Gele and the notorious Gentianes run below the cable car.

There is also a huge choice of blue/red trails.

Verbier lies on the legendary 'Haute Route' between Chamonix and Zermatt.

Cross country skiers have half a dozen 4 and 5km (2.5-3 mile) loops to choose from starting in the various Vallées villages, and there is a eight kilometre route through Val de Bagnes.

If you have not been on a Club Holiday before, it's a social week's skiing and you will always be able to find someone to ski with as hard/leisurely and as long as you want. There's often a drinks party before the evening meal, and generally as much après ski as you can cope with.

We have 16 twin and 2 double rooms to offer.

Flights details; 12 March with Monarch 0925 from Birmingham to Geneva at 12.30. Transfer is about two hours. Return flight is 18.55 arriving into Birmingham at 19.45

The base cost of **£635** includes flights, transfers, Birmingham flight supplements and half board accommodation. Ski carriage is an additional £18 for the return trip. It does not include lift passes and the price I have for these are estimates for the moment. Inghams are quoting £228 for the adult area pass and £184 for the senior area pass. I expect to get a reasonable discount on these prices but will not have exact figures until later in the year. For those born before 1932 lift passes are free. Again this will need to be confirmed.

The cost does not include ski equipment hire. Again guide prices are on page 5 but I should be able to get a reasonable deal with Swisspasses.com.

Please book using the form at the end of this newsletter. Note you must have your own insurance.



The huge Lac des Vaux bowl with lifts rising in every direction is one of the many options.

## High Altitude Training Weekend

We have another new venue for this year's High Latitude Weekend in North Wales; the Oriad Mountaineering Club's house 'Tan-yr-Wyddfa' in Rhy Ddu.

This is superbly located to the west of Snowdon, next to a railway station on the newly completed Welsh Highland Railway, and there's a pub nearby. Tan-yr-Wyddfa has bunk bed accommodation, good self catering facilities, a comfortable lounge, and a good drying room (not that it ever rains on a HATW!!) The cost is only £20 for the weekend which includes accommodation and the Saturday evening meal.

Please complete the booking form at the end of this newsletter to secure a place on this weekend, and please include your email address in the application so I can send you full details etc. Don't be put off by 'High Altitude'; the weekend will be a great weekend of mountain walking to help get fit for the ski season, and hopefully we will be able to offer a choice of easier and harder walks.

Mike Thomas 02476 692792



Diana Horth

# CLUB HOLIDAY 2011 - VERBIER SWITZERLAND

**To:** Diana Horth, 23 Lockside View, Rugeley, Staffs WS15 1NJ

Please reserve ..... places on the MSC Club Holiday to Verbier from 12th-19th March 2011. I enclose a non refundable deposit of £115 per person, payable to Midland Ski Club

**Travellers details:** (any more travellers please on a separate sheet please)

Full names as on passport		
Country of Issue (e.g. UKPA)		
Passport number		
Passport Issue Date		
Passport expiry date		
Passenger country of residence		
Passenger nationality/citizenship		
Date of birth		

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Special dietary requirements? \_\_\_\_\_

**Single travellers** please indicate who you wish to share with: \_\_\_\_\_

**Area Lift passes (4 valleys) please note these are guide prices from Inghams brochure.** I should be able to get discounts. Local lift passes (Verbier) are cheaper e.g. adult local £208.

	area	local	Qty	Equipment Hire	all approximate prices	Qty
Adults	£228	£208	_____	6 day boot hire	£35	_____
Senior 65 - 78	£182	£168	_____	6 day standard ski hire	£63	_____
Over 79	free	free	_____	6 day silver ski hire	£83	_____
I accept the terms and conditions detailed in the 2010/11 Inghams brochure				6 day gold ski hire	£105	_____

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

## HIGH ALTITUDE TRAINING WEEKEND

**To:** Mike Thomas, 71 Cannon Hill Rd, Coventry. CV4 7BT

Please book me \_\_\_\_ places on the 2010 High Altitude Training Weekend in North Wales, from 22nd to 24th October 2010. I enclose a cheque for £20 per person, made payable to Midland Ski Club

Names \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number(s) \_\_\_\_\_

E.mail \_\_\_\_\_

**MSC  
Officials &  
Committee  
2010-11**

**Officials**

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