

MIDLAND SKI CLUB NEWS

THE MIDLAND'S LEADING SNOWSPORTS CLUB

JANUARY 2005

MSC 40th Anniversary Dinner

The Club is delighted to announce that Britain's most successful skier to date, Konrad Bartelski, will be the star guest at the 40th Anniversary Dinner to be held at Edgbaston Golf Club on Saturday 21st May 2005 at 6.30 for 7.30pm.

In 1981 Konrad Bartelski came within 11 hundredths of a second of claiming a remarkable win in a World

Cup downhill race in Val Gardena. No other British skier has come that close to winning since then. Konrad is also a veteran of three Winter Olympics, and Chairman of Snowsport GB's Selection Committee. He is a keen and enthusiastic promoter of skiing in the UK and has worked as a producer on several films. He has

written numerous articles for magazines and newspapers and still skis for fun when his busy schedule permits.

Tickets, which are £25 each, should be booked using the form below. It might seem a long way ahead, but places are limited so get your tickets today! Please note that dress code is Lounge Suits or Black Tie.

BOOKING FORM FOR 40TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

To: M. Gratton, 7 Luxor Lane, Millisons Wood, Coventry CV5 9QL

Please send me tickets at £25.00 each for the dinner at the Edgbaston Golf Club on Saturday 21st May 2005 commencing at 6.30 for 7.30 pm.

I enclose a cheque value £..... made payable to Midland Ski Club.

Name:..... Phone:.....

Address:.....

My/our choice of menu is as follows (please tick):

STARTERS

- Pan Fried Mushrooms** in a Brandy and Cream sauce
 Smoked Mackerel Gateau with cucumber spaghetti
 Avocado, Tomato and Orange Salad with honey vinaigrette

MAIN COURSES

- Medallions of Lamb** with a sorrel stuffing carved onto a redcurrant & madeira sauce
 Gressingham Duck Breast topped with an apricot mousse carved onto ribbons of carrot and courgette with an orange jus.
 Fillet of Roasted Brill with a prawn and dill veloute topped with deep fried leek

DESERTS

- Strawberry Mile High Pie**
 Bailey's Crème Brullée
 Warm French Apple Flan

Felicidad Y Esperanza

We've been sent Seasons Greetings from Chile, which I have responded to on behalf of all those who went.

I have also had my "Thank you" letter printed in the English Newspaper "News Review" in Santiago. I wrote saying how kind and helpful all the people were who we met and what a great country Chile is.

Maureen Crombleholme

John Millingham

Former member John Millingham passed away on Christmas Eve. A member of the club from about 1976/1977 until around five years ago, he was a regular at club meetings and local skiing. A lot of the older members may remember him. Our thoughts are with his family and friends.

Anyone requiring any further information please contact club secretary Ann Williamson on 01527 404793.

Accidents can happen...

Russell Dadson, Snowcard Insurance Services, writes....

One of the most frequent comments I hear goes along the lines of "I have been skiing/climbing/kayaking (or whatever) for 50 years and have never had an accident. Why should I pay the same premium as someone who has had an accident?"

Well, the answer is, none of us know what is around the corner and experience is no protection against the unforeseen as I discovered last Winter. I was skiing in January near Chamonix (in that awful January weather if you can remember!) and on my first morning I had a relatively innocuous fall but landed clean square on my head. I came out of my bindings so quickly I didn't see the fall happening and the end result was a broken neck!

Whilst serious, the fracture has mended and aside from a bit of nerve damage there is no lasting disability. I was very lucky indeed but I have now experienced the other side of the [insurance services] fence (as it were).

It is a scary experience being 'blood-wagoned' off the slopes knowing you have hurt your neck but not knowing to what extent. It is scarier still ending up in a hospital on your own, freezing cold, in shock and babbling in schoolboy French to medics with an equally poor grasp of English to call my own emergency helpline!

Travel insurance is vital to cover not only rescue, but also medical expenses. A lot of people think an E111 is enough to travel with but it is a little known fact that in many European countries you still have to pay a proportion of the costs, in France, for instance, this can be as much as 20%. The largest part of my claim was in fact the curtailment cost for loss of use of the holiday, just my luck it happened on the first morning! I had to cancel two other ski trips as well, so roll on this Winter.

Will the accident stop me skiing? Never!

But I have invested in a helmet this year. If I'd hit a rock or tree I wouldn't be writing this.

Member Discount at Oggie Snowports

Oggie Snowsports in Halesowen are now giving 10% discount to MSC members.

Oggie are part of the well known "Towsure" camping and outdoor equipment company. 2004 was the first year for OGGIE SNOWSPORTS within each Towsure store, and they have released a 110 page winter sports catalogue and a web site which can be found at <http://www.Oggie.com>.

Oggie offer good value clothing and equipment aimed at the family market.

Oggie Snowsports is in Long Lane Halesowen, B62 9EF Tel 0121 422 7222. The store is not far from Junction 3 of the M5 and the A456 Hagley Road West.

Decathlon Open Evening Mountain Photography

On 26th November Decathlon in Merry Hill held a special MSC only shopping evening. The night was quite successful with members able to freely look around the vast store at the huge range of sports goods that Decathlon stock - 70 different sports we're told! Members were also able to enjoying having Decathlon technical staff on hand to answer any questions and assist with their purchases. There were several special offers available on ski gear and equipment - of which some members took advantage ("early Christmas present" was one excuse heard!).



Picture shows Rob Cater, Decathlon Mountain and Wintersports Manager demonstrating the features of the Salomon Crossmax Ltd., specially built for Decathlon by Salomon. The Crossmax Ltd. is essentially a Crossmax 8 with different graphics, but was on sale for only £169!

Pic of the Month



It's a tough life as a top ski coach!

At the Tally Ho in Edgbaston on Wed 26th January at 8pm, Fred Duffin from Jessops will be along to talk to us about photography in the mountains and how people can use their equipment to get the best results.

He will also be giving advice on use of camcorders in difficult conditions, and how to get the most out of digital cameras and digital technology in general. So if you want to improve your holiday photos or video footage, or want to learn about the digital technology that seems to be taking the photography world by storm then come along!

Fred will, of course, try and answer any specific issues or problems you may have on the night. We hope to have some of the latest equipment for you to look at and try as well.

Diary

Mondays @ 7/8pm

Adult Coaching
Alan Parkin 01902 751288

Tuesdays @ 7.30pm

Race Coaching - Roger
Crombleholme 01785 714073

Fridays @ 6/6.30pm

Junior Coaching
Sarah Yeomans 0121 449 9198

Fridays @ 8/8.30pm

Adult Coaching
Roger Crombleholme 01785 714073

9-Jan-05 (to 16th)

Training Week, Sestriere
John Arnold 0121 3571644

26-Jan-05 @ 8pm

Tally Ho, Edgbaston
Mountain Photography

3-Mar-05 @ 8pm

Dartmouth CC, W Bromwich
Creating Positive Change

5-Mar-05 (to 12th)

Club Holiday, Alpe d'Huez
Mike Thomas 02476 692792

2-Apr-05 (to 11th)

Family Holiday, Mayrhofen
Nigel Dawes 0121 445 2594

20-Apr-05 @ 8pm

Old Sils, Solihull
Annual General Meeting.

21-May-05

40th Anniversary Dinner

25-Jun-05 (to 2nd July)

Hintertux Summer Skiing & Activities
Maureen Crombleholme 01785 714073

3-Jul-05

40th Anniversary Summer Revels

Summer Hintertux Trip - Booking Reminder

SKIING OR BOARDING, WALKING & OTHER ACTIVITIES

25th June to
2nd July 2005

This is a reminder to those wishing to go on the summer trip to Hintertux, that deposits must be received by the end of January please. The trip is open to **walkers, cyclists and boarders as well as skiers.** With extensive paths, trails, a glacier offering a boarders park and additional **adventurous activities, Hintertux is a fantastic place, not matter what the weather!** Age is no limit and neither is just wanting a relaxing holiday, everyone is made very welcome!

The Hintertux Glacier is one of the largest areas for summer skiing in Europe and also has some of the most varied terrain with gondolas to the top. In 2004 we had fresh snow on the deepest base we've ever had. FANTASTIC!

The hotel in Lanersbach is super, well located for catching the free Tux bus, the food is excellent with a choice of main courses and vegetarian options. The **saunas & steam rooms** are usually open for us, free of charge.

FUN is essential and the coaches, Roger & Alan, make their sessions very entertaining.

Skiers/boarders will leave at 08:15hrs each day and will finish early afternoon. People can carry on skiing/boarding if they wish. (Lifts close at 4pm) The rest of the day will be

yours to do as you wish. Other adventures are available, if you have the energy, or just chill out.

Walkers and cyclists have a great choice of paths & trails with stunning views.

Evening sessions consist of fun quizzes (thanks again to Lynne & Steve Hudson), and socialising with the friends you make on the trip.

For the quality of accommodation and level of coaching provided I am sure you will find this trip excellent value for money.

We choose the third week in June to avoid the continental holidays.

We will have access to a German speaking Agent if we have any queries or need help in an emergency.

Most of us will wish to fly from Birmingham, but **flying from Heathrow is an option**, for our more Southern members.

Clothing: be prepared for Summer AND Winter conditions.

The following are included in the cost of this trip:

Half Board accommodation at a beautiful hotel. (large buffet breakfast & 4 course dinner).

Austrian Twin bedded rooms with en-suite, balcony, TV, safe & telephone. See form for other room options & single

room supplement.

Flights from Birmingham. See form for the option of flying from Heathrow.

Overseas Transfers
6 day ski pass and area bus pass
6 days of performance coaching for skiers & boarders

All costs incurred in arranging activities

"On mountain" overnight ski storage & boot drying.

"Gift fund" (prizes, gifts for coaches & tips for hotel staff)

The cost for skiers/boarders is £680.

Non-skiers would be £530 (ski pass, storage, & coaching fees deducted).

If we can get more than 16 people, the price starts to come down for everyone!

Excluded are: Insurance (£22), ski/board carriage (approx.£24 IF we are charged), activities, cost of lunches & drinks, ski & boot hire (approx. £60)

A deposit of £80 per person made payable to Midland Ski Club is required by January 31st 2005 to guarantee a place. Bookings after this date will be on a best endeavors basis. **The balance must be received by 1st April 2005** to avoid your place being cancelled and your deposit lost

BOOKING FORM FOR HINTERTUX 2005

To: **Maureen Crombleholme, 7 St Modwena Way, Penkridge, Staffs. ST19 5ST**

Tel: 01785 714073 or 07710 511388

email: m.crombleholme@btinternet.com

Please reserve me ___ places on the summer 2005 trip.

I enclose a non-refundable deposit of £80 per person. (Cheque made payable to Midland Ski Club).

Name(s): _____ Address: _____

Tel: _____ Fax: _____ email: _____

Number of skiers/boarders: _____ No. of non-skiers: _____ No. of vegetarians: _____

Number of people wishing to fly from Heathrow : _____ (The reduction will be approx. £10 per person on final payment).

I require insurance at £ 22 person: _____ I will be arranging my own insurance: _____

Please note that if I / we do not take out the offered insurance, I / we undertake to pay the full cost of the holiday should I / we cancel and Midland Ski Club cannot nominate a replacement.

I will require the following equipment (approx £60 depending on choice):

Ski Hire (ski length based on carving skis): _____ Boot Hire (size): _____

I am happy to share a room with _____ or another suitable member of the party.

ROOM OPTIONS. Rooms are based on Austrian Twin beds, which consist of a very large bed with separate mattresses (but one big sheet) and separate quilts. A couple of rooms are available with an additional single bed for no extra charge, but these will be on a FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED basis. Please tick the option you prefer:

An Austrian twin is acceptable:

OR ___ I would prefer a twin & single bed if possible, if not, I would like to pay the **£25 supplement** for a single room:

OR ___ I would like a single room and accept the **£25 supplement**: