

MIDLAND SKI CLUB NEWS

THE MIDLAND'S LEADING SNOWSPORTS CLUB

APRIL 2005



The Annual General Meeting of the Midland Ski Club will be held at Old Silhillians Club, Warwick Road, Solihull on Wednesday 20th April, starting at 8pm prompt.

Nominations are invited for the positions of Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer and for other members of the committee and should be sent to the Secretary, Ann Williamson, 01527 404793 or email ann@midlandski.org.uk.

It is important for the smooth running of the club that we have a full and active committee. If you're interested in joining and would like to know more about what's involved, have a word with any of the current committee who'll be glad to fill you in with any details.

Any items for discussion under Any Other Business should be notified to the Secretary.

MSC Club Race - Friday 6th May

There will be a Club Race at Ackers on Friday 6th May. This is open to all racers in the Midland Region, whether registered racers or not. Full details should be available on the MSC website and on the Ackers noticeboard shortly.

MSC racers have had great success as similar races at Stoke, Telford etc over the last few years, but this is the first time we've run one ourselves. Come along and ski!

MSC 40th Anniversary Dinner

Haven't booked your tickets for MSC's 40th Anniversary Dinner? Malcolm tells me there are only a few left, so you'd better dig out the booking form in the last newsletter and get it off to him quick!.

You could also try calling him on 01676 523505 to check for places.

Diary

Mondays @ 7/8pm

Adult Coaching
Alan Parkin 01902 751288

Tuesdays @ 6.30pm

Instructor Training - Roger
Crombleholme 01785 714073

Tuesdays @ 7.30/8pm

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

!! No Friday Coaching 1st/8th April !!

1-Apr-05 (to 10th)

Family Holiday, Mayrhofen
Nigel Dawes 0121 445 2594

16-Apr-05

Telford Fun Race

20-Apr-05 @ 8pm

Old Sils, Solihull
Annual General Meeting

24-Apr-05

Telford WMSA Schools Race

6-May-05

MSC Club Race

12-May-05

British Ski Club for the Disabled,
Tamworth
Hilary Cox, 0121 554 9745

21-May-05

Summer Race League, Gloucester
Guy Hornsby, 01564 779927

21-May-05

40th Anniversary Dinner,
Edgbaston
Malcolm Gratton, 01676 523505

25-Jun-05

Summer Race League, Gloucester
Guy Hornsby, 01564 779927

25-Jun-05 (to 2nd July)

Hintertux Summer Skiing &
Activities - Maureen
Crombleholme 01785 714073

Special Olympics Medal Success

West Midland region skiers have come back from the 2005 Special Olympics World Winter Games in Nagano, Japan with 6 medals - out of a total for Team GB of 19 medals: 3 Gold, 6 Silver, and 10 Bronze.



Congratulations to

Kathryn Lumley: Advanced Downhill, Bronze; Advanced GS Bronze; Advanced Slalom, Bronze.

Francis Muller: Intermediate GS: Silver.

Katie Day: Advanced GS, Silver; Advanced Slalom, Bronze.

The team did the region proud and set a very high standard of sportsmanship and skill.

Keith Parish

British Ski Club for the Disabled

Many thanks to members who have helped with the BSCD afternoons at the Snowdome. We still need more assistance at these sessions held on the dates below. It's a very rewarding afternoon assisting BSCD guides looking after skiers who struggle even more than we do. Help is needed just to carry kit on the ski-lift, and give simple basic support and instruction. If

you can help on the following Thursday afternoons, just contact myself or Hilary Cox 0121 554 9745 - meet in the Snowdome bar after 1.30pm ready for an afternoons skiing.

- May 12th - July 14th
- Sept 8th - Nov 10th

Mike Thomas
02476 692792

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A little bit of History....

It can't fail to have come to your notice that this year is the 40th Anniversary of the MSC. Whilst the exact date of the formation of the club will no doubt keep the older members in discussion for many a day, those of us who haven't been around for quite as long have been fascinated about some of the things the club got up to in the past. For instance, MSC News was reporting:

30 years ago: the newsletter was being written the coldest Easter for years - but there was no snow in the Midlands (somethings never change...), And the summer coaching sessions were one a month at Dudley Ski slope at a cost of 75p per hour!

20 years ago: the MSC was raising money to help with Steve McLaughlin's expenses on the European racing circuit: in only a matter of a few months we raised over £1000. Maybe you should remind Steve of this the next time you are in White Mountain! The last places were also being taken for the Glencoe trip at the end of April - alas now a casualty of unpredictable Scottish snow. Dry slope

skiing was now on two nights: Friday evening and Saturday pm at Telford, and Monday evening at Haden Hill.

10 years ago: the club was still skiing in Scotland - but the report on the Club Tour of Northern Britain did suggest that it wasn't quite as straightforward as in '85. There'd also been a half-term ski holiday in Val Thorens, as well as the usually club holiday - to Flaine.

If you want to know more about the history of the club - watch this space! Both for more snippets in the next newsletter and an opportunity to get your hands on a rather larger selection of happenings.

Volunteer Needed - Ullswater Outward Bound

The Coventry Rotarians have arranged a week for disabled teenagers at Ullswater Outward Bound Centre, and need a lady (or possibly a couple) to accompany the group. If you can spare the time for the week commencing June 25th you would be provided with free transport from Coventry to the Lake District, accommodation at the Ullswater Outward Bound Centre, and the chance to join in with the exciting outdoor activities during the week. The holiday is being arranged for students at Exhall School and Herewood Collage between 14 and 21 year old. If you have the time to enjoy an exciting week in the Lake District, please phone John Hartley on 02476 502333 for more details.

Club Holiday - Alpe d'Huez

Mike Thomas

From the letters and kind words at the end of the Club Holiday, I can confidently say that the Alpe d'Huez trip was a huge success; we had some brilliant skiing, and were superbly looked after by Neilson's and the MMV hotel staff in Alpe d'Huez. Given the weather conditions generally in the southern alps this year, it appears we had the best week so far this season.

Fresh snow greeted us at Lyon Airport, and it snowed on and off during the first two days. Clear fresh conditions for the remainder of the week meant that we could ski the whole of this fine area. Alpe d'Huez is a top flight resort in fine conditions, when you can ski a choice of runs across to Vaujany and in the opposite direction to Auris-en-Oisans. With the addition of the runs way down from the centre of the resort to Villards and the old village of Huez, this is a BIG resort. Plus the challenging black runs from the summit of Pic Blanc 3330m including the famous tunnel, we all found something very enjoyable and often challenging to ski.

The new lift giving to the Glacier de Sarenne made our base in the Bergers part of the resort very appealing due to the ease of access to the best slopes, including the long Sarenne run which was very popular. Most of the group skied this at least once, often in superb conditions.



We've stayed in MMV hotels in Les Arcs and Flaine, but the new MMV acquisition in Alpe d'Huez has to be the best so far, with endless quality food including a splendid fresh salad bar, accompanied by never ending free wine. Full board meant that most members came back to the hotel to tuck into 3 courses washed down by yet more free wine, while those who wanted a packed lunch helped themselves from a table heaving with goodies. We were a bit surprised when we arrived at the hotel, somewhat late due to heavy traffic, to find the bar closed at 11.00. We soon understood why; who wants to pay

for drinks when you can sit at a dining table for ever and drink good free wine! For at least two evening meals, we arrived at the restaurant to find there was a speciality meal with the room appropriately decorated in Turkish and Oriental style to accompany a fine spicy meal.



The holiday certainly ended on an alcoholic high. We arranged for everyone to eat together on the last night, and preceded this with yet another pre-dinner drinks party; any excuse to use up the duty free dregs. The party was going fine with 51 of us sandwiched into rooms 520 and interconnecting 522, where the gin and tonics were going down great, to say nothing of boxes of beer and wine to help celebrate a great week. I was downing my 6th G& T or thereabouts, when the lovely MMV Manageress Geraldine popped in to say that if we wanted to eat together, there would be a delay till 8.15... so we just had to keep on drinking.

During this delay, and with a memory dulled by an excess of gin, I seem to remember giving out prizes sponsored by Lockwoods, for heroics, stupidity and bravery during the week. As usual the nominations were plentiful. Frank Taylor, what a mover on the dance floor, was given the MSC Fred Astair award for his dynamics at the Sunday evening bop, together with the MSC's very own Ginger Rogers alias Joyce Chambers showing the rest of us how to enjoy the après ski as always. We had hoped that Dave Gines, and his young firemen friends on the holiday would be able to show us a thing or two about keeping going late at night, but I'm



afraid I had to award Terry Smith a prize for sloping off at the crack of 10.00...pm! Geoff Paddock gained the prize for stupidity, skiing with just a cigar to keep his head warm, while the rest of us had frozen ears under hats and hoods in serious sub zero temps.

Actually Geoff had a very serious fall on Thursday skiing a 'near vertical black run', dislocating his shoulder. Thankfully there was a French doctor following Geoff, who did a quick re-assembly job. Geoff can still drink and smoke with his other hand, and we all hope he can cast off his sling ASAP.

John Haines kindly organised one of the drinks parties, and we have photos of him carrying the necessary back form the supermarket. His award was nominated by his wife Di who tells me his uncharacteristic enthusiasm for tidying up their room is to be celebrated by the purchase of a new Dyson cleaner for John's birthday!!



John Arnold and Barry Smith were kind enough to spend Wednesday coaching a group, and on one occasion John went on to demonstrate a point, only to disappear to the point where the group spent considerable time with Barry trying to find their leader! And there were loads of other daft prizes, but we eventually had to stagger down to our evening meal, only to find yet another delay in the form of a Champaign reception. It's a tough life on an MSC holiday.

Well it was such a good holiday I guess we'll have to do it all again next year!

Thanks to everyone who helped so much with the parties, guiding, coaching, and for all the laughs - it was great.

PS Thanks to Barry Smith for these photos. More of Barry's photoes can be found on the Midland Ski Club website at <http://www.midlandski.org.uk> - together with details of you how you too can share your photos.