

MIDLAND SKI CLUB NEWS

THE MIDLANDS LEADING SNOWSPORTS CLUB

MARCH 2006

Birmingham and Area Schools Race

The Birmingham Area and South Midlands Schools race will be held at Ackers on Sunday 2nd April 2006, supported by Midland Ski Club.

This is an opportunity for all the school / college age skiers to involve their schools in the sport and enter a team, or better still a number of teams, from their own school. The aim of the race is to involve more skiers at an introductory racing level, we're looking for a minimum of snowplough turns, controlled speed and able to use the lift.

There are categories for Under 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 19 and special needs. Teams need to be 3 or 4 skiers, either sex from the same school. Skiers from a number of age categories can form a team, with the age of the team determined by the age of the oldest skier. Individual entries can also be accepted, if it's really impossible to get a team together. Entry forms are available at the Ackers, or from Jane Lee on 01905 345416.

There are training sessions on 19th March aimed particularly at skiers who have never skied round poles before, MSC racers are welcome to come and bring along the rest of their school team.

If anyone is available to help at the race or training then please let Sally Phelps or me know.

Jane Lee

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MSC on the Internet: <http://www.midlandski.org.uk/> Email: news@midlandski.org.uk

SUMMER IN TIGNES

Come summer skiing to Tignes with MSC and take advantage of the very high standard of ski coaching and excellent company which has become a recognised part of this annual trip, come along to.

Skiers, Walkers, Cyclists and Boarders are all welcome. There are lots of beautiful paths and trails to explore in the afternoons and for you **Rafters**: you won't be disappointed with the white water trip down the Isere! Age is no limit and neither is just wanting a relaxing holiday, everyone will be made very welcome!

We're staying in the **Club Hotel**

Curling in Val Claret, close to the lifts for getting up on to the glaciers. The hotel is said to place emphasis on comfort and style with well equipped bedrooms and spacious public areas. Rooms have a private bathroom, balcony, cable TV & direct phone.

Meals include a buffet-style breakfast, **afternoon tea** and dinner.

FUN is essential and the ski coaches make their sessions very entertaining. We can offer similar coaching for Boarders too. Coaches will be Roger Crombleholme & Alan Shergold.

Skiers/boarders will leave at around 8.15am each day and will finish early afternoon. The rest of the day will be yours to do as you wish. Many adventures are available if you have the energy, or just chill out.

FLIGHTS ARE FROM MANCHESTER, but we will try to co-ordinate lift sharing and will provide details of discount car parking for those who want it.

Clothing: be prepared for Summer AND Winter conditions.

The following are included in the cost of this trip:

- Half Board accommodation, including afternoon tea at a quality hotel.
- Twin bedded rooms with en-suite, balcony, TV, & telephone. (There are some 3 bed rooms if people want them, but no singles. See options on booking form).
- Flights from Manchester
- Overseas Transfers
- 6 day ski pass



1-8th July 2006

- 6 days of performance coaching for skiers & boarders
- All costs incurred in arranging activities
- Prizes & tips as appropriate.

The cost for skiers/boarders is £560, or for non skiers £420 (no ski pass or coaching).

Excluded are: Insurance (see booking form), ski/board carriage £15, activities, cost of lunches & drinks, ski & boot hire (approx. £65)

A **deposit** of £120 per person is required by 31st March, and the balance must be received by 14th April 2006. Please book using the form at the back of this newsletter.

Maureen Crombleholme

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

4 to 11-Mar-06

Club Holiday, Saalbach, Austria
Mike Thomas, 024 76 692792

2-Apr-06

Birmingham & Area Schools Race, Ackers.
Jane Lee, 01905 345416

7 to 16-Apr-06

Family Holiday, Davos, Switzerland
Nigel Dawes, 0121 245 2594.

26-Apr-06

Annual General Meeting
Old Silhillians, Solihull
Jeff Elmore 07958 967709.

1 to 8-Jul-06

Summer Skiing, Tignes, France
Maureen Crombleholme, 01785 714073

Copy deadline for next scheduled newsletter
Sunday 26th March

White Eagles Alpine Race Club

Formed just three years ago, the White Eagles is now a strong and successful alpine race club with members drawn from ski clubs across the UK. MSC members include Olivia Waller, Dan Yeomans and Harry and James Hornsby (pictured whilst slalom training in February).



Training camps are held three times a year in Tignes, France (October) and in Kuhtai, Austria (December and February). Whilst all of the training programmes cover slalom/giant slalom race technique and line/speed through

Retail Therapy

Until the middle of March **One World Snowsports** are back in Sutton Coldfield, just 2 doors up from where they used to be on the Birmingham Road.

They have some fantastic bargains in men's, ladies, children's and baby's ski wear and, for MSC members only, are offering an extra 5% discount off everything - including sale items! They also have a selection of wetsuits and surf wear for the Summer. The shop is at 22 Birmingham Road, just opposite the Cottage hospital, 200 yards from the Odeon cinema, and is open every day except for Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The website is running as normal at <http://www.oneworldsports.co.uk> and you can call the store until mid-March on 0121-355-4101.

Lockwoods are currently running weekly specials on their entire range of skis, with some skis at up to £100 off for a limited period. All skis and all brands may be in the offer, but the offer changes weekly - so contact (or better still call into) Lockwoods to see what they have on offer each week. There will be several models from each brand in each weeks offer, with a variety of discounts depending upon the make and model. So call now - you may be lucky to get a great deal on a pair of new skis!

Two Seasons have a fantastic sale on at the moment with up to 40% off ski clothing and hardware. The stores in Solihull and Coventry are open 7 days a week, so there's no excuse not to pop in and grab a bargain now!

White Mountain have a sale on ski clothing now on with up to 50% off leading brands, plus some very

gates, the underlying philosophy of the club is to develop the all-mountain skills of young racers rather than over-concentrating on skiing through courses. Austrian coaches have found that by changing the emphasis away from race courses and back towards technical skills development significant improvements have been achieved in race times. And who can argue with this approach given their dominance on the world cup circuit!

In addition to technical coaching, there's also fitness (mental and physical) training and pre-race/race day preparation. Although trainees are made to work hard (and have to get up early in the mornings!) they also have a lot of fun along the way and build friendship with racers from other clubs and of different nationalities.

If anyone would like to know more about the White Eagles please get in contact with Guy Hornsby on 07768 253515

special offers on skis and boots (call for more details). Stock is being cleared to make way for all the Summer camping and walking gear which Paul has been testing over the last week or so.

For those of you thinking of doing any racing during the Summer, White Mountain now have in stock all the helmets, guards and other race gear you will need.

Steve has just come back from Fernie (Canada) where he has been testing all the Salomon skis that will be on sale for the 2006-07 season and can report that Salomon have some great new ski hardware coming through - more details in the next MSC brochure!

Decathlon now have their Winter Sale now on with big reductions across the whole ski department, with up to 50% off junior and adult clothing, and skis from only £47.95. Everything must go by 16th March, including Salomon Streetracer skis reduced from £324 to only £199, and Head XCR 500 reduced from £249 to £179!

Oggie Snowsports in Halesowen have a massive clearance sale of ski gear with up to 50% off clothing and 20% off hardware from top brands such as Rossignol, Salomon, Tecnica, Head, Columbia, Helly Hansen, Trespass, Convert, and Five Seasons. Ski boots are available from £52.50, Mens and Ladies jackets from £49.50, and a great range of apres ski-wear and accessories at big discounts. These offers are available in-store, on-line at www.oggie.com or via mail order on 0870 60 900 80. New Summer season camping, walking and caravanning equipment will be available very soon.

Obituary: DAVID ASTON

Chairman, Midland Ski Club
1978-1980.

Dave Aston first appeared on the MSC scene in the 1970s, with his family at the dry ski sessions held at the Dudley Zoo slope. They were regular attendees there, and moved on to Telford when the focus of the club activities gravitated to that slope. As an active club member, Dave soon found himself elected as a committee member, and succeeded the writer of these notes as Chairman for two years.

No sooner had he relinquished this post, than he was persuaded to become the manager of our Gloucester Summer Race League team, which position he held from 1981 to 1994. Over this considerable period, he managed the team to many successes, and laid the organisational foundations for our current teams. More details of his contribution to the club over the years are to be found in 'Going Downhill Fast'.

Dave passed away after an extended illness on February 14th, 2006 at the age of 68. The club owes a huge debt of gratitude to him for his years of enthusiastic service, and all those who knew him will feel great sadness and sympathy for his family.

Alan Parkin

For Sale

Salomon Axendo 8 Lite. Ladies Carver, 160cm. With Marker Bindings. Bargain at only £45 - including free boots (size 24) if required! 01676 533534

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Midland Ski Club will be held at the Old Silhillians Club, Warwick Road, Solihull on Wednesday 26th April 2006, at 7.30 for 8pm.

Nominations for the committee and any special business should be notified to the Club Secretary, Ann Williamson, on 01527 404793 prior to the meeting.

Going Downhill Fast

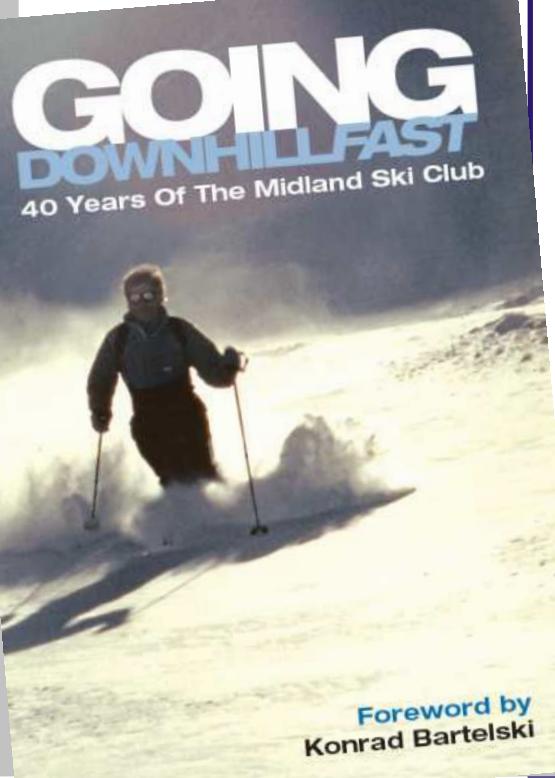
Dudley, West Midlands, may seem to be the most unlikely place to start a Ski Club, but it was there in 1965 that the Midland Ski Club was founded and we are still going strong 40 years later with hundreds of members in the Midlands enjoying the most exciting sport of Skiing.

'Going Downhill Fast' tells the fascinating story of how a few optimists, with virtually no knowledge of the sport, set out to show that you did not have to be rich and privileged to go skiing. Read how they made the Lickey and Clent Hills their own 'St. Moritz', how they would drive overnight to snatch a weekend skiing in Scotland and how the arrival of the package holiday finally enabled them to experience the real thing.

The book brings the story upto date relating how MSC grew to be the thriving Club it is today, organizing many holidays and training weeks abroad, skiing several times a week on artificial ski slopes and having a very active group of young people coached to a very high level who are encouraged to race and are given the opportunity to reach Regional and National Squads.

'Going Downhill Fast' is full of amusing stories and packed with photographs and it will be enjoyed by all skiers and anyone who has ever struggled to take up a new sport.

To obtain your copy please send your name and address and a cheque for £15 plus £2.50 p&p to Midland Ski Club, 64 Cheswick Way, Cheswick Green, Shirley, Solihull, B9 4HF.



New MSC Member is 2010 Olympic Hopeful!

We have had a new member join the club thanks to Nick Fellows of Skiing on Channel 4 fame recommending us as a great club to join. Oliver Schöner, who is just 14, joined the MSC at Christmas and lives in Wildschönau, Austria. His father is Austrian, but his mother comes from South Birmingham.

Oliver has exceptional talent as a ski racer and has his own personal coach. He wants to ski for Great Britain and has now registered for UK races as a junior.

Here is a short resume of Oliver by his coach Günther Gerhard:-

Oliver started skiing by the time he was 2 years of age. He was born in the UK, but grew up as baby in the Wildschönau Tyrol.

Oliver is a very hard worker, which he has had to be in order to reach the skiing performance level which he is at today.

Oliver skis 5 - 6 times a week in the Winter, beginning at the end of November. His skiing time is a mix of technique drills, freeskiing, freeriding off piste, race training and racing.

His race performance is such that he is within the best in the country, but he still has a lot of races to compete in for the rest of the season.

Oliver is also the star of a DVD "Ski Racing is Fun" that was produced last year. (We are hoping to get a copy for MSC members to look at - Ed)

His technique is outstanding for a 14 year old, and he will grow!

Oliver skied last year in Japan as a demo skier. He was part of the coaching seminar hosted by Günther for the Japanese Ski Federation. This year Oliver and Günther we be

Snowsport England Photo Library

Snowsport England is looking to build up a library of good quality high-resolution digital photographs which could be used on the Snowsport England web site and other publications to promote the activities of Snowsport England.

Photos, which must free of copyright, may show instruction, training, racing or other skiing activity in any discipline at club, regional or national level and may be taken on snow or artificial slopes.

Snowsport England has a graphics placement student working for a few weeks starting in February.

If you have any photos which you think would be suitable, please send them to Stewart Smith at escmatters@inths.com.

returning to Japan to host another seminar immediately after the 2006 British Land Junior and Children Ski Championships that are being held in Meribel in April.

At the moment the plan is for Oliver to go to the Skihandelschule in Schladming next year, and start racing on the FIS tour in the Southern Hemisphere this summer.

For the future, the plan is for Oliver to compete for Great Britain in the 2010 Olympic games as an 18 year old and take things from there!



Sponsors will be needed for this project so any help or contacts you or the members of the Midland Ski Club can give would be appreciated; as would and promotion you can do for Oliver. Oliver's parents are the best, and support Oliver a huge amount, but they won't be able to afford this Olympic project on their own.....

Günther was the juvenile coach for stars such as Benny Raich (2006 Olympic GS & Slalom Gold, World Cup Slalom Gold), Mario Matt, Manfred Pranger, Christoph Gruber, so he clearly knows his stuff. Gunther says that Oliver is technically better than these World Cup stars were when they were competing in the same age group. So watch this space!

We will keep you updated on Oliver's progress.

National Ski and Snowboard Day

The 4th March 2006 sees the UK's very first National Ski and Snowboard Day. This ground breaking day will take place following the Turin Winter Olympics and hopes to capitalise on the nations new found passion for snowsports. On 4th March, non-skiers and boarders will be encouraged to give our great sports a go. Many artificial slopes are offering taster sessions and at Nevis Range in Scotland there is a special day with snowboard demos in the park and entertainment on the slopes. Glenshee and Cairngorm are also offering special deals and lessons for beginners. Snowsports shops across the country are doing

great deals and tour operators are offering amazing discounts.

For a full list of what is on offer visit
<http://www.nationalskiandsnowboardday.com>

So if you have any friends who want to try skiing or boarding send them to the website or tell them to contact their local slope or shop to see what's on offer. As Lesley McKenna, GB Olympics Snowboarder says, "Skiing and snowboarding are the most amazing sports in the whole world. You get to do them in the most beautiful places, they are lots of fun and the people that do them are even more fun."

Black Diamond DVD Offer

Black Diamond have kindly agreed to extend the special offer they have for MSC members for the Warren Miller 8 DVD boxed set for a little longer. You can get this fantastic collection for only £30 (+£4.99 P&P) by calling the hotline and quoting that you are an MSC member. This boxed set retails at £50 in the shops, and some of the DVD's on their own could cost you as much as £15! This great bargain will only be available for a limited time to us at this price, so go on, buy a set or two today, they make a great gift and will be really useful in the long Summer months to get you in the mood for next season!

You've Got to be In it to Win It



Pictures of Dan Yeomans receiving his Columbia Ice Fall Titanium soft shell jacket (worth £100+) courtesy of Black Diamond. Dan entered the Black Diamond Warren Miller Ski film competition that we ran a few months ago and was lucky enough to win the main prize. He has waited a while to get his prize...but it was well worth it!



SUMMER SKIING TIGNES - 1ST TO 8TH JULY 2006

Name(s):

Address:

Tel:

email:

Please reserve me places on the summer 2006 trip.

I enclose a non-refundable deposit of £120 per person. (Cheque made payable to Midland Ski Club).

No. of skiers/boarders:

No. of non-skiers:

No. of vegetarians:

I require insurance at - Adult £19, Couple £36.10, Senior £38, Senior Couple £72.20:
insurance:

I will be arranging my own

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. £65 depending on choice):

Ski Hire (ski length based on carving skis):

Boot Hire (size):

I will be taking my own skis and understand there will be a £15 carriage charge (please tick if appropriate):

ROOM OPTIONS. Rooms are based on Twin beds. Three person rooms are available. **Single occupancy of a twin room will be an additional £234!**

A twin room is acceptable:
for single occupancy:

I am happy to share with 2 others:

I would like to pay the extra £234

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

Please return this form and your deposit to:

Maureen Crombleholme, 7 St Modwena Way, Penkridge, Staffs. ST19 5ST
Tel: 01785 714073 or 07710 511388 email: m.crombleholme@btinternet.com