

Summer Racing News

It's summer: and that means its the artificial ski slope race season! MSC racers are active most weekends at numerous slopes around the country. So far this year they've competed at Chatham, Norwich, Llandudno, Hemel Hempsted, Southampton, Norwich, Ipswich, Pendle, Pontypool, Stoke, Gloucester, and Llandudno. Still to come are repeat visits to Pontypool, Llandudno, Hemel, and possible to Sunderland, Edinburgh and Dublin - but they are a long way! Phew!



Then of course there is the monthly Gloucester Summer Race League in which MSC have thirty skiers every month racing against other skiers from clubs within about a hundred miles of Gloucester. This is almost always followed by a large party/BBQ afterwards hosted by one of the racers families.

MSC's Race Manager Guy Hornsby reports back on the racing just about every week and you can check out his latest report at <http://www.midlandski.org.uk/racenews>. Meanwhile, here is the last report from GSRL and a selected one for races further away.

Gloucester Summer Race League 26th June 2006

Well done to everyone who raced on Saturday in the GSRL! See the website for results and photos

The competition remains very close with only 18 points separating our A team (who are lying in 2nd place) from the leaders, Slalom Plus A. With the school holidays approaching, the next two rounds in July and August will no doubt have a big impact on the final outcome of the competition. Provided we can field pretty much our strongest A team



then we'll have every opportunity of closing the gap and, possibly, even taking a lead in to the final two rounds - we've got to remain positive!

The B team is in 6th place and the Hawks have moved up a place in to 14th position. Once again, both of these teams played a valuable role in taking points off of the A team's closest rivals! And with the growing number of racers now training with the club, it was great to see five first-timers all performing really well and contributing good points.

Top score of the day went to Roger Crombleholme with 28 points (out of a maximum 29). Those youngsters now snapping at Rog's heels in the timed morning runs will just have to try again! Top-10 overall positions were achieved by Stuart Wickson (3rd), Mark Hawkins (6th) and James Hornsby (9th). And we had another six racers in the top 30 - Adam Beardmore (12th), Roger (19th), Robbie Beak (22nd), Alex Ponsonby



(23rd), Harry Hornsby (24th) and Sarah Dawes (29th).

20 points and above scorers were: Roger (28), Robbie (25), Adam (25), Dave (24), Mark (24), Stuart (23), James (21), Harry (21) and Phil (20). Special thanks to Olivia and Alex (twice!) who both had to give way to A team racers in the afternoon's head-to-head races.

Snowsport England Races

3rd July 2006

Last weekend's races at Stoke saw a fine return to Snowsport England competition by Stuart Wickson. Not surprisingly, Stuart's results mean that he immediately joins the growing band of MSC racers now ineligible for next season's Gloucester Summer Race League. Chris May and Freddie Meyer also recorded their best points of the season!

This Saturday will see most of our SSE-registered racers competing at the Gloucester Club National. So far this season, the MSC has had 16

racers competing in Club Nationals and 6 racers competing in Grand Prix events. These have to be the largest numbers the MSC has had in years



and, with more and more juniors coming through the ranks, these figures are all set to increase further next year! And, dare I forget, we also provided four officials at Sunday's (WMSA) Grand Prix - Nigel Dawes, Dave Hancock, Phil Deller and Dave Lee.

The SSE inter-regional championships take place on Sunday at Gloucester. Unfortunately, the unavailability of several MSC racers means that Stuart is our only representative in the WMSA team. Good luck Stuart - break a few poles!

Guy Hornsby

Letters: MSC@OTP

Jeff,

What a great birthday treat the show, On The Piste, at the Rep, last night turned out to be.

It was a real hoot, my face muscles hurt with the laughter.

You arranged the best seats in the house for the small crowd of MSC members, at what I can only describe as a ridiculously low price.

The show was brilliantly written by John Godber, the acting was terrific and the stage set, designed by Ruari Murchison, got a spontaneous applause when the ski slope opened up to reveal the interior of the chalet complete with ascending sauna which was put to full use "the Austrian way".

I still can't believe that they managed to do an Abba cover complete with skin tight silver Lycra and a flying white grand piano bedecked with fairy lights. I certainly wasn't expecting that.

Altogether it was a truly hilarious and entertaining evening, a birthday to remember. Many thanks I can't wait for the next event.

Kind regards Steve Bonner

Summer Glacier Skiing Update

As many of you are aware, this year's summer training week was moved from our regular venue of Hintertux to Tignes in an effort to bring down costs, which we did.

However, Tignes is not as popular as Austria and, along with some initial "hiccups" with publicity, numbers are low (although I'm sure we are going to have a good time as usual).

I have done some initial research into the costs of going back to Hintertux next year and already it is obvious that the cost would be between £750 and £800 to keep us within reasonable traveling distance to the glacier and ensure that we are fully ABTA covered.

This seems a lot of money to me. I've already tried to get the price down further different hotel, different flights, etc, but the level of effort involved is far more than the reductions I can get.

In addition, the glaciers in Europe are getting smaller year by year and therefore the amount of quality runs on which to train are getting smaller.

I've therefore decide not to run a summer glacier trip to Europe in the future. If someone else would like to take over organising these annual trips or would like details in order to do their own bookings, then I'd be more than happy to spend time with them going through what I've learned over the last 6 years.

So, what could we do instead? How about a very special "Summer" skiing trip once every 3 or 4 years? For further details you're going to have to wait until next month's Holiday Newsletter!

Thanks to everyone who has supported the glacier trips in the past. I know many of you have some fantastic memories and I'm sure those of us going to Tignes on July 1st will have a lot of fun too.

Maureen Crombleholme

Snowsport England Photographic Competition

1st Prize £250 - 2nd Prize £150 -3rd Prize £100

Snowsport England in conjunction with Integrated Handheld Solutions Limited is looking for three photographs that best illustrate the wide and varied range of activities of Snow Sport England.

Activities can include pictures from club days, race meetings, freestyle competitions to even a club night out.

The competition is open to any Snowsport England member; this can be a club member, a performer or a coaching scheme member.

Entries must be made electronically, emails sent to chair@snowsportengland.org.uk with details of who took the picture, brief details of the picture and your status as a Snowsport England member. Closing



date for the competition is the 31st August 2006. So make it snappy!

All entries will be placed on the Snowsport England website, a panel of judges will select the top 10 and these will be published in the October edition of The Piste with a voting form for members to vote for their top three choices.

Every voting form will be entered into a prize draw, the winner receiving FREE SSE registration for 2007!

Please note that photographs must be free of any copyrights. By entering photographs for the competition you are allowing Snowsport England to use these images for future use.

Any questions email chair@snowsportengland.org.uk

Ski Show Dates

With the days already getting shorter again, it's time to make a note in your diaries of the UK ski shows this Autumn. Daily Mail show - Olympia 18th - 22nd October; Northern Show - G-Mex 28th -29th October; British show - NEC 3rd - 5th November (much later than in previous years)

Half Price Servicing

Tamworth Ski Warehouse are offering MSC members a half price pre-season ski service, until the end of August:

Ski/Blades normally £15.00

MSC members £7.50

Board normally £19.00

MSC members £9.50

Please inform staff of membership when skis/boards are left for service.

Base repairs from £7.00

Hot wax only £5.00-£8.00

Tamworth Ski Warehouse can be found on Castle Trading Centre, Mariner, off Lichfield Road in Tamworth: Tel 01827 313138, just 5 minutes from the Snowdome.

MSC Brochure

Items are wanted for this year's MSC brochure. Articles, stories, pictures, puzzles and competitions are all welcome. Contact Rob Weeks on 01926 470656 or email news@midlandski.org.uk if you've ideas or can contribute.

The brochure is paid for by the revenue raised by selling advertising space: discounted rates are available to members who want to advertise - it doesn't have to be snow related so support the club and get your message over at the same time! For advertising, please contact Jeff Elmore on 07958 967709 or email jeffski@blueyonder.co.uk

HIGH ALTITUDE TRAINING WEEKEND - 2nd-5th NOVEMBER 2006

To: Tony Costin, Lea Farm, Post Office Road, Seisdon, South Staffs. WV5 7HA

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

I enclose..... [£30 per person] for the High Altitude Training Weekend in North Wales. Cheques made out to Midland Ski Club

Signed _____