

MIDLAND SKI CLUB NEWS

THE MIDLANDS LEADING SNOWSPORTS CLUB

AUGUST 2006

HOLIDAY TIME!!!

This is the one you've all been waiting for: the opening of bookings for the 2007 Midland Ski Club Ski Holidays.

Following our well established pattern, first in January there's the 25th Early-Season Training Week, which is once again off to the Italian resort of Sestriere - this year without the restrictions that the Olympics bought last year.

Then in March, there's the regular 'social' holiday, this year going to one of our favourite areas: Les Trois Vallees in France, staying in Mottarat.

Finally, the week before

Easter it's back to the chic Swiss resort of Davos for the Family Holiday: let's hope it snows as much as it did last year.

As with all MSC-organised holidays, the savings we get from group bookings are directly passed onto you the member. If you are comparing with holidays available elsewhere, do compare like with like: the MSC trips generally *include* the cost of your lift pass and of instruction.

Looking further ahead, there's also news of another southern-hemisphere trip which is being planned for sometime

in summer 2008.

Please book using the forms on the last page of this newsletter. It's advisable to get your booking in soon - the holidays and always popular and we'd hate to have to disappoint you!

MSC Brochure

Items are still needed 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

Autumn Socials

The Autumn Social program will kick off with a Pre-Season Social on **Thursday** 14th September at the Old Silhillians Club, Warwick Road, Knowle - just off the M42.

Come along with you memories and photos from last year, and discuss your plans for next year.

Details on the other social evenings this winter will be published in the next newsletter.

High Altitude Training

This year's High Altitude Training Week will be from 3rd to 5th November, based at Bryn Gwynant Youth Hostel. Located in the heart of the Snowdonia National Park, the hostel has superb woodland grounds and stunning views of Snowdon. We will have exclusive use of the hostel annex with self catering facilities.

We will arrange walks for the weekend, but don't be put off by 'High Altitude'. Climbing Snowdon isn't compulsory; come and join us to make use of a great base to enjoy Snowdonia; walking, cycling, bird watching etc as you please.

The cost of the accommodation is £30 for the weekend. Please book using the booking form at the end of this newsletter.

Mike Thomas
02476 692792

Diary

Mondays @ 7pm

Adult Coaching
Alan Parkin 01902 751288

Tuesdays @ 6.30pm

Instructor Training - Roger
Crombleholme 01785 714073

Tuesdays @ 7.30pm

Race Coaching - Roger
Crombleholme 01785 714073

Fridays @ 6/6.30pm

Junior Coaching
Nigel 01926 445 2594
**FRIDAY SESSIONS
RESTART 8TH
SEPTEMBER**
Adult Coaching
Crombleholme 01785 714073

19-Aug-06

Summer Race League, Gloucester
Guy Hornsby 01564 779927

3-Sep-06

Cannock Chase Walk
Diana Horth, 01889 800706

14-Sep-06

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

14-Sep-06

Social, Old Sils
Jeff Elmore, 07958 967709

16-Sep-06

Summer Race League, Gloucester
Guy Hornsby 01564 779927

27-Sep-06

Ski Test Night, Tamworth
Snowdome
Lockwoods, 01926 339388

1-Oct-06

Sunday Lunch at the Heron's Nest
Rob Weeks, 01926 470656

11-Oct-06

Social, Old Sils
Jeff Elmore, 07958 967709

25TH ANNUAL EARLY-SEASON TRAINING WEEK: SESTRIERE, ITALY 14TH TO 21ST JANUARY 2007

You wouldn't believe the trouble we've had arranging the Training week. For this very special anniversary I was keen to find a new resort. Even though the great majority of people who responded to the questionnaire after last year's Training Week said they were happy to go back to Sestriere, I wanted to mark this special occasion with a special resort. Equity, our Tour Operator came up with Serre Chevalier but this brought us up against the perennial problem of taking our own Coaches to teach in France. Equity were sure they could get the OK so the Coaches sent off reams of forms in French with copies of their qualifications. You will not be surprised to learn that even after months of trying we got nowhere.

We had gone through this process only on the understanding that we were holding Sestriere as a fall-back, but by the time we had to accept the inevitable that we weren't going to France we ran into difficulty with flights. We couldn't get any from Birmingham, only Gatwick. We know how popular that would have been, so the only thing we could do was to move to a week later when we could go from Bristol. This is a reasonable journey, particularly as Equity will provide a coach.

So, back to Sestriere it is. I hope that you are not disappointed as we know just how suitable the resort and Hotel Sciatori are for our course and the Coaches know the ski area so well that we will waste no time in getting to the best runs straight away. So, even though we have "been there, done that and have the ski shirt" we know there will be no staleness. The new gondola will make San Sicario and Sauze d'Oulx even more accessible and we now know how quickly we can get to Claviere and Mont Genevre. Newcomers, of whom I hope there will be many, will be delighted with this vast ski area and the simple but very friendly Hotel Sciatori. There will be plenty of singles so don't be wary of coming on your own, but you may be asked to share a 3-bedded room because the Sciatori is only just big enough for our party. But this creates a great house-party atmosphere.

The week will follow the usual pattern of 6 full days skiing in a group of about 8 other skiers of similar experience under the expert guidance of a fully qualified BASI or ESC coach. Your friends will be very keen to ski all day, will be supportive and encouraging but non-competitive and your Coach will have plenty of time to give you lots of

personal attention.

Of course I hope that all the regulars and lots of people who have been on previous weeks will be joining us to celebrate the great feat of reaching 25 years.

THE WEEK IS NOT SUITABLE FOR BEGINNERS or people still finding their ski legs because we have to form groups of 8. You should be happy to cruise the blue runs and be keen to move onto reds and beyond.

The cost of the week is £710 but this includes virtually everything; a coach to Bristol, flights, transfers, half board in a 2 or 3 bedded room, all the coaching, insurance PLUS YOUR LIFT PASS. About the only things not included are ski-hire, lunches and drinks.

To join us please complete the Booking Form and return it with a NON-REFUNDABLE deposit of £110 payable to Midland Ski Club. Please note that the cost includes £100 to cover the cost of the instruction and this is not covered by the insurance. Also you will have to obtain the Euro-health card E111 from a post office and have a full, valid passport.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to call John Arnold on 0121 357 1644.

SNOW + ROCK BIRMINGHAM STORE DOUBLES IN SIZE

On the 6th October 2006 Snow+Rock will open the doors to the newly refurbished Birmingham store which, following extensive works through the summer, will have doubled in size to create a light, air conditioned environment in which to enjoy all that's new for the 2006/07 season.

It will be a totally new shopping experience offering larger ranges of product across all departments including clothing, kids, ski, snowboard as well as our established outdoor clothing and equipment selection. This range will include brands that are exclusive to Snow+Rock: Kjus, Postcard and Arbor snowboards, as well as the largest ranges of

Schoffel, Spyder, The North Face, Salomon and Rossignol in the UK.

There will never be a better time to visit our Birmingham store as we will be able to cater for all winter sports enthusiasts whatever their passion!

In addition to the new and improved product choice we are pleased to announce that we are installing a state of the art Winterstieger ski and snowboard workshop, fully equipped to cater for all servicing and repairs needs which will include a "While you wait service".

The weekend of the 3rd to 5th November will see the official launch of the new store where there will be offers and trade-ins available on your old equipment!

MARTIN BELL AUTUMN COURSES

Martin Bell is running a "Pre-season Warm-up" on the glacier at Hintertux. Course dates Nov 9-12, 2006, more details:

www.whiteheatski.biz

CONGRATULATIONS!

Quite a few of you will know Chris Stopford, the MSC skier who a few years ago returned to the Midlands from exile on the Isle of Wight. Well Chris has taken another leap forward by becoming engaged to Rachelle Carden.

We understand the Wedding is planned for May next year so neatly avoiding clashing with the skiing season. Many Congratulations to you both!

SNOWSPORTS ENGLAND

Following MSC's lead, Snowsports England have extensively revamped their website to make everything much easier to find and added loads more information. So go to www.snowsportengland.org.uk and have a look around.

CLUB HOLIDAY: MOTTARET, FRANCE 10-17th MARCH 2007

For the 2007 Club Holiday we have arranged a return trip to the 3 Valleys staying in Mottaret at the heart of this huge skiing area. With over 600km of pistes, 157 lifts and ample off-piste opportunities, the 3 Valleys rightfully claims to have the largest integrated skiing area in the world. Given that most of this is above 2000m altitude, it's hardly surprising that it also boasts one of the most reliable snow records.

We are staying in the 3 star Hotel Royal le Mottaret which is 'in a prime ski-to-your-door location 50m from the Pedrix piste, a green run leading to the centre of Mottaret and the main 3 valleys lift system, 350m away.' All rooms are twin en-suite with free use of sauna and fitness rooms. The half board accommodation includes a buffet continental breakfast and a 5 course evening meal. The basic price is £555 including

Birmingham flight supplements. For full details see Neilson's second edition 2006/7 brochure.

If you have not been on a Club Holiday before, it's a social week's skiing where you will always be able to find someone to ski with as hard 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.

Mike Thomas 02476 692792.

EASTER FAMILY HOLIDAY: DAVOS, SWITZERLAND

30th MARCH - 8th APRIL

This year in Davos was excellent, so the choice to go back and find some of the runs we may have missed beckoned again. Once again we will be staying in the Youth Palace. Davos offers 300km of pistes up to 2800m, a great network of lifts, with some very punctual trains and buses. The holiday is based on 6 full days of coaching and one day of free skiing. The accommodation is half board all en-suite travelling by

coach leaving on the Friday 30th March in the early evening from Birmingham, returning on Easter Sunday.

The prices are all in - Travel, accommodation, lift passes and training - with only your equipment, insurance, liquid and lunchtime refreshments to pay for.

Prices are: 4 Share £570 each, 3 share £600, 2 Share £680. Child discounts are £40 (15-17), £90 (13-14) £130 (6-12) £190 (under

6). Insurance is not included but it is a requirement that a policy is in force to cover the booking, annual policies are usually best, the club can set this up for you at a competitive price.

Please book using the form in the newsletter, any queries please call 0121 445 2594 or ndawes@dsl.pipex.com

CAN YOU HELP?

The club urgently needs someone to help with sourcing MSC-branded clothing and other goods and to look after the sales of these.

If you can help, please contact Jeff Elmore on 07958 967709.

LOCKWOODS SUMMER SALE

A few items spotted on Lockwoods' website may be of interest to some:

Scott Leg protectors now £25 (was £35)

Pole protectors (Integral and Standard) now £10 (were £18)

Salomon Crossmax helmet 2004 (60cm) now £80 (was £120)

They've also got 10ast seasons boots and skis on special offer.

Find Lockwoods on the Rugby Road in Leamington Spa, or online at www.lockwoods.com

Half Price Servicing

Tamworth Ski Warehouse's half price pre-season ski service offer to MSC members has been extended to be valid until the end of October (was 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.

Cannock Chase Walk

A walk has been arranged around the northern parts of Cannock Chase, starting from the Seven Springs Car Park at 11am on Sunday 3rd September.

The walk will be around 7 miles, and afterwards there is the opportunity to eat at the Wolseley Arms a short way back down the A513.

The Seven Springs can be found approximately halfway between Milford and Rugeley: turn up the narrow lane opposite the minor road to Little Hayward - see the MSC website if you need a map.

Diana Horth 01889 800706

SOUTH AMERICA 2 - 2008?

After our highly successful and very memorable trip to Chile to ski in the Andes in 2004, I wondered how many MSC members might be interested in a South American skiing / boarding adventure again?

I've been in touch with the specialist travel company we went with before, Andes, and they now run a combined trip to Chile and Argentina. The outline details are as follows:

17 days mid to end of August 2008 (the best time for Southern Hemisphere skiing).

Day 1-2 Flight & day in Santiago, Chile. Bed & breakfast

Day 3-7 Tres Valles resorts near Santiago (Valle Nevado, La Parva & Colorado) ½ board. Staying at Hotel Posada de Farellones where we experienced Pao's hospitality.

Day 8 Travel to Temuco & Pucon. Bed & breakfast.

Day 9-11 Villarrica resort, Chile.

Day 11 Travel to Argentina

Day 12-13 Chapelco resort

Day 14-15 Catedral resort

Day 16-17 Temuco, Santiago & travel home

Services of a British tour leader would be provided.

Land prices for 2006 are £1295 and flights are currently around £800 (14 hour flight). This **excludes** day tickets at the resorts, insurance, equipment, meals and snacks in restaurants & cafes, laundry, tips & drinks. An estimate for the cost for the whole trip would be in the region of £2,500 per person, depending on how much flight

costs go up over the next 12 months and how many people go. (The more that go, the larger the group discount will be).

Restaurant meals in Pucon & in Argentina are approx. £10 for a 2 or 3 course meal and wine. Our experience on the last trip was that food on the mountain is very good and cheap.

We wouldn't be offering ski or boarding instruction. Last time, people tended to get together in different groups and if any of the group went "off piste", they'd just arrange to meet up with the others further down the mountain. There is a nice mix of pistes and conditions to suit most abilities, you don't have to go off-piste to have fun!

I'll not pursue any further details or planning with Andes until I have an idea of how many people would be genuinely interested. Note that I'm suggesting we aim for 2008 to give people chance to save up.

Another advantage of this trip is that MSC do not have to outlay the deposit money to hold the places. We will state a final cut-off date to book your place and you pay the deposit straight to the travel company.

If you are interested, then please let me know by email, if possible: maureen@ims-lifebalance.com or post me a note containing your contact details to:

M A Crombleholme, 7 St Modwena Way,
Penkridge, Staffs ST19 5ST.

This could be your ski or boarding holiday of a lifetime.

Maureen Crombleholme



Ski Soleil

Self catered apartments; self catered Chalet L'Orchis, catered Chalet Chanterelle, Montchavin-Les Coches, Plagne 1800, La Plagne, PARADISKI.

Great value with a high level of personal service including ski hosting.

www.skisoleil.com

10% off at Sainte Foy

Ski Sainte-Foy specialises in party bookings for groups of 8 or more that want the sole use of chalet Col Du Mont, en-piste so no walking with your board to the slopes. You can even board or sledge to the bars of a night on the floodlit piste that the chalet sits upon!

Sainte Foy receives rave reviews, very powdery, natural drops & kickers, off-piste next to the piste to cater for novices & experts, plus 1700 metres vertical decent at the north face of Foglietta. We have discounted guides, recommended so that you don't miss

parts of this huge area that must be seen.

At the end of the day relax in the chalet's own sauna. We have discounts for car-hire, transfers, boot/board hire, flights, lift pass, bars/restaurants. Just drop us an email.

If you are in small groups, we run trips for a minimum of 2 people at £150 each on 17/12/06-22/12/06, 07/1/07-14/1/07, 5/3/07 & 8/4/07 & with flights at £28 return inc. tax last year, you will ironically experience the best & the cheapest holiday.

We cater for novices, improvers & experts.

www.skisaintefoy.com



SKI TEST NIGHT AT

THE TAMWORTH SNOWDOME

Wed 27th September 2006 8-11pm

Here's your chance! Test the brand new 2007 models from Salomon, K2, Atomic, and Rossignol for a Special Price of £19.60 giving you upto 3 Hours of ski testing!

(Present the voucher below to obtain the Special Entry price)

FREE NIGHT OUT

Purchase a pair of 2007 Skis from Lockwoods before the 31st October 2006, and Lockwoods will refund the cost of your entry fee from the Ski Test Evening, upon presentation of the entry receipt.

One refund per pair of 2007 skis purchased.

Only Test Night receipts showing the discounted amount will be accepted.

Offer ends 31st October 2006



The usual Ski Club discount will still apply in addition to this offer.

If the maximum allowed number of skiers on the slope is exceeded, the Snowdome may, at times, need to limit numbers of skiers on the slope.



LOCKWOODS SKI TEST VOUCHER

This entitles the bearer(s) to a special entry price of £19.60 each on Wednesday, 27th September 2006 from 8pm-11pm at the Tamworth Snowdome

HIGH ALTITUDE TRAINING WEEKEND - 3rd-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 _____

TRAINING WEEK SESTRIERE - 14th-21st JANUARY 2007

To: John Arnold, 102 Yateley Avenue, Birmingham B42 1JL

Please reserve ___ places on the Early-season Training Week. I enclose a cheque payable to Midland Ski Club for £110 per person as a NON-REFUNDABLE deposit and I undertake to pay the balance of the cost at the end of October. I understand that the cost includes £100 for coaching and this is not covered by the insurance. We will obtain EHICs and have full passports.

Name(s) as per passport:

Address:

Post Code Telephone:

Special dietary requirements?

Do you require ski hire? **Y/N**

Please say how long you have been skiing and your present level so we can put you in the best group.

.....

Signed Date

CLUB HOLIDAY MOTTARET - 10th-17th MARCH 2007

To: Mike Thomas 71 Cannon Hill Road Coventry CV4 7BT

Please reserve places on the MSC Mottarets holiday. I enclose a non refundable deposit of £130 per person, payable to Midland Ski Club

Name(s) as per passport:

Address:

Phone number: Email:

Special dietary requirements?

Please indicate quantities you require: Adult 3 Valleys lift pass £144 []

Ski and boot hire £83 [] Seniors (60-71yrs) 3 Valleys lift pass £115 []

I accept the terms and conditions detailed in the 2006/7 Neilson brochure

Signed Date

FAMILY HOLIDAY, DAVOS - 30th MARCH-8th APRIL 2007

To: Nigel Dawes, 5 Private Way, Cofton Hackett, Birmingham B45 8UD

Please reserve ___ adult and ___ child places on the Family Ski Holiday. I enclose a cheque payable to Midland Ski Club for £100 per person as a NON-REFUNDABLE deposit and I undertake to pay the balance of the cost at the end of January 2007. I understand that the cost includes £100 for coaching and this is not covered by the insurance. We will obtain EHICs and have full passports.

Name(s) as per passport:

Address:

Post Code Telephone:

Special dietary requirements?

Do you require ski hire? **Y/N**

Signed Date