

MIDLAND SKI CLUB NEWS

THE MIDLANDS LEADING SNOWSPORTS CLUB

OCTOBER 2006

Free Entry to Birmingham Ski Show (or Manchester)



If you can't wait for winter and are counting down the days to the start of the ski season then we have the perfect offer for you.

The British Ski + Board Show is returning to GMEX for two

days on 28th and 29th October and to the NEC for three days from Friday 3rd to Sunday 5th November 2006. To celebrate Global Ski Shows are offering members **free tickets** to the shows - just fill in the voucher(s) on page 3 and bring it along together with your 2006/7 membership card.

Whether you're a novice skier or a die-hard snow sports enthusiast, The British Ski + Board Show 2006 is the UK's best winter sports exhibition, with the widest selection of destinations and specialist retailers.

The show provides a unique opportunity to talk face to face with people who live and work in resorts and who are passionate about skiing and snowboarding. Tour operators and representatives with information on hundreds of resorts from Europe and North America will be happy to give advice and take bookings for the coming season.

When you've found your perfect holiday destination, you'll



© Chris "Bones" Holmes

be able to get kitted out with the latest clothing and equipment from some of the UK's best outdoor sports retailers including Ellis Brigham, TSA and Snow + Rock. With massive on site car parks and easy access, you can drive to the show and load up with goodies. So shopping for new skis, snowboards and clothing just got a lot easier!

World class performers will be demonstrating mind-blowing freestyle jumps from a 46ft big air ramp providing plenty of inspiration for budding skiers and snowboarders.

The British Ski + Board show at the GMEX Centre in Manchester will take place on Friday 28th October and Saturday 29th October. Admission is normally £7.90 for adults and £2 for children.

The British Ski + Board show at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham will take place from Friday 3rd to Sunday 5th November 2006. Admission is normally £10.90 for adults and £2 for children.



© John Norris

Autumn Socials

This Autumn's Social program continues on Wednesday 11th October when we'll be having a Warren Miller Film night. Come along to see one of his recent ski films and get yourself in the mood for the new season.

And then on Wednesday 8th November we will be talking about Skiing in Norway

Both events are at the Old Silhillians Club, Warwick Road, Knowle - just off the M42, at 7.30pm for an 8pm start.

Diary

Mondays @ 7pm

Adult Coaching
Lui Lopes 0121 357 2307

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 Dawes 0121 445 2594

Fridays @ 8pm

Adult Coaching - Roger
Crombleholme 01785 714073

11-Oct-06

Warren Miller Film Night, Old Sils
Jeff Elmore, 07958 967709

14-Oct-06

Summer Race League, Gloucester
Guy Hornsby 01564 779927

18 to 22-Oct-06

Daily Mail Ski Show, Olympia

23-Oct-06

Decathlon Ski Extravaganza
Decathlon, Merry Hill.

28 to 29-Oct-06

Northern Ski Show, GMEX
Manchester

3 to 5-Nov-06

High Altitude Training Weekend, N
Wales

Mike Thomas, 02476 692792

3 to 5-Nov-06

Birmingham Ski Show, NEC

8-Nov-06

Ski Norway, Old Sils
Jeff Elmore, 07958 967709

5-Dec-06

Warren Miller's Off the Grid
Leamington Spa Apollo

7-Dec-06

Christmas Party, Old Sils
Jeff Elmore, 07958 967709

14 to 21-Jan-07

Training Weeks, Sestriere
John Arnold, 0121 357 1644

10 to 17-Mar-07

Club Holiday, Motarret
Mike Thomas, 024 76 692792

30-Mar to 8-Apr-07

Family Week, Davos
Nigel Dawes, 0121 445 2594

Tignes Summer Skiing 2006

The first week in July saw 13 of us head out to Tignes in the French Alps, including Roger Crombleholme & Alan Shergold as our ski coaches. Our mission was to check if Tignes glacier was as good as Hintertux in the Summer!

As usual we had a nice mix of club members who had been on the summer trips before and some new people too.

Flying from Manchester was quite painless and it was to our great surprise that we were met at Geneva by a Crystal Rep. who advised us that they'd had a

number of enquiries for the new Crystal Active holidays and had decided to swap us from Lakes & Mountains to their new "Active" group so we'd have the services of a Rep in the resort.

Roger and Alan did their usual excellent coaching and it was nice not to catch a bus to the lifts in the morning, although for several mornings there were problems with the lifts first thing and one day they didn't operate at all, which was very disappointing. However, although we seemed to have to wait to get up on to the glacier some days, we were still actually out skiing at the same time we would have been in Austria.

We all enjoyed our skiing very much and came home having improved our skills in handling variable conditions as the snow got much softer by lunch time. There was quite a large area of the glacier open so we were able to ski several different runs, including bumps at the end of the week.

The sun shone most days, although the weather was a bit dodgy in the afternoons, but we still managed lots of afternoon adventures including: several walks, ten pin bowling, swimming, squash, mountain biking and white water rafting. We also had time to just chill out and relax at Hotel Diva (very comfortable) where the restaurant staff looked after us very well.

The dodgy weather is worth another mention to highlight how careful you have to be in the mountains. We checked out weather reports and local knowledge before some of us headed off on mountain

storm. Let me tell you that there's not a lot of places you can shelter from hailstones, they don't half rattle loudly on your cycle helmet and we arrived back at the bike shop looking very bedraggled!

A hail storm also featured in our white water rafting trip. We started off in bright sunshine and experienced "stoppers", rapids, narrow gorges and yet another thunder storm which echoed all around us and lit up the mountains with amazing lightening flashes..... and the hail stones also rattled loudly on rafting helmets. However, this was an amazing 25 kilometre trip that took us around 1 1/2 to 2 hours to complete. Excellent value and a lot of fun.

So what was our overall impression of Summer skiing in Tignes? Well, for those of us who had been before some time ago, it was sad to see how much the glacier has receded. We were disappointed with the delays on the mornings when the funicular wasn't working - there didn't seem to be any effort to test the chair lifts out early so we had to wait for ages whilst they got them running and staff got up the mountain. We did get a voucher for the day we weren't able to ski at all, but it has to be spent this coming season in Tignes and is not transferable.

On the positive side, the area is becoming much more picturesque and there is a big focus on attracting summer visitors. For 1 euro extra on our ski passes we got access to far more leisure facilities than we could take advantage of. Crystal even got us up to 3 half day bike hires each for free. There's lots to do even if you don't ski and the lakeside has been landscaped to create a lovely walk. The Aeroski gondola also runs in the summer now to take walkers and cyclists into the mountains.

As I'm now "retiring" from organising an annual summer training week, if anyone else is interested in organising a group trip, or a trip of their own, in the summer then I'm more than happy to let you have details of all the contacts I've made over the years in Austria and France, share my check lists and the pros and cons I've learned.

Don't forget, there could be a trip to ski in Chile and Argentina in August 2008. Now that's an adventure! Are you interested? Please contact me: email maureen@ims-lifebalance.com or telephone 01785 714073.

Thanks to everyone who has joined our summer adventures over the last 6 years.

Maureen Crombleholme



The Summer Skiers

Membership Renewal

Renewed your membership yet? If so, many thanks. If not, please do so as the club relies on members' subscriptions to pay the many running costs of the club.

If you've lost the renewal form sent to you last time, get in touch with Hilary Cox on 0121 554 974. You can also renew online by going to <http://www.midlandski.org.uk> and clicking on the *Membership Renewal* button (bottom left). You'll need to renew to take advantage of our great Ski Show Offer on the front page.

Ski Extravaganza

Decathlon will be having there annual Ski Extravaganza on Monday 23rd October from 6.30 to 9.30pm at their shop in Merry Hill. This is the first day of half-term week and is the first day of many ski and snow special offers. Hope to see you there!

Racing News

You may have noticed a distinct lack of coverage of this summer's dry-slope ski racing. The reason isn't the lack of it, but it moves so fast that we can't keep up on the newsletter! Race Manager Guy Hornsby posts updates after every race, and news of forthcoming races most weeks at www.midlandski.org.uk/racenews



This year's Warren Miller ski film *Off the Grid* will be having its only Midlands showing at the Leamington Spa Apollo on Tuesday 5th December at 8pm. Tickets onsale now at www.warrenmiller.co.uk

SKI APARTMENT: ARCS 2000

Ski apartment in Arcs 2000.

Doorstep skiing, sleeps 5. High season from £210 per week. Available on following dates 16 Dec-6 Jan, 3 Feb -3 Mar, 10 Mar-21 Apr: Sat-sat preferred but some flexibility. Also half share of the apartment is for sale: £20,000. Ken Gee, 01902 326667. Email tricia@gee-1.fsnet.co.uk

Small Ads

Skis for Sale: Salomon Axendo 8 Lite, 160cm. Ladies carver with bindings. Good condition and little used. Bargain at £45 ono. Tel 01676 533534

PA System available for Hire. £20 per day, £50 deposit. Tel 07958 967709

MSC HOLIDAYS: WINTER 2006/7

Places are still available on this forthcoming season's ski holidays. If you haven't booked already, key information is below, including contact details for the organiser. For full details and booking forms, see August's or September's newsletter (available online at www.midlandski.org.uk/news if you've mislaid them).

TRAINING WEEK: SESTRIERE 14TH-21ST JANUARY 2007

On the MSC Training Week, we ski in groups of about nine people of similar experience with our own BASI or Snowsports England Coaches. We ski for six full days and the amount of encouragement, advice and sheer mileage you will enjoy are certain to make you a better skier. Your fellow skiers will be friendly, supportive, enthusiastic and keen to ski all day.

We'll be based in Sestriere, but have the opportunity to ski all the Milky Way resorts, taking advantage of the big improvements put in for last year's Winter Olympics, including the new gondola for fast access into the top of Sansicario.

The week is not suitable for beginners or for people who are not ready to have a go on red runs.

The price of the trip is £710, which includes flights, transfers, half board at the Hotel Sciatori, **and your lift pass**. About the only things you will have time to spend money on are lunches in mountain restaurants and drinks in the evenings.

For further information and bookings, please contact John Arnold on 0121 357 1644.

CLUB HOLIDAY: MERIBEL MOTTARET 10TH-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.

For further information and bookings, please contact Mike Thomas on 02476 692792

FAMILY HOLIDAY: DAVOS, SWITZERLAND 30TH March -8TH APRIL 2007

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 the usually best value, the club can set this up for you at a competitive price.

For further information and bookings, please contact Nigel Dawes on 0121 445 2594.

Latest offers...

Ski Olympic is offering MSC members £25 off all Chalet and Chalet Hotel holidays booked before 1st November. Contact Ski Olympic on 01302 328820 or see their website at www.skiolympic.co.uk

Snow and Rock's newly refurbished and enlarged Birmingham store has the following special offers available to MSC members:

1. Buy a pair of Ski boots and Get 3 Pairs of Performance Zone X-Static Ski Socks worth £13.95 FREE
2. Buy a pair of skis and Get a pair of K2 Carbon ski poles worth £25 FREE
3. Save £25 on the latest ski helmet from Dainese

You must show your membership card to be eligible.

FREE ENTRY TO GLOBAL SNOW SHOWS 2006

This coupon entitles the redeemer to **one** free adult ticket at The British Ski + Board Show at the G-MEX, Manchester or at the NEC, Birmingham. This voucher can only be used once. Photocopies not accepted. No cash alternatives and not for resale. Offer is limited to one voucher per member.

Name:

Address:

Email address:

Club: **MIDLAND SKI CLUB** Membership Number:

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