

MIDLAND SKI CLUB NEWS

THE MIDLANDS LEADING SNOWSPORTS CLUB

MARCH 2007

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of Midland Ski Club will be held at Old Silhillians Club, Warwick Road, Knowle on Thursday 2nd May starting at 8pm.

Any matters for consideration at the meeting should be notified in advance to the Secretary, Diana Horth, on 01889 800706. We need your thoughts and ideas on what you want from the MSC and how you see it developing in the future. Members' input is vital so that you get the Club that you want.

Following suggestions at last year's AGM, the accounts and chairman's report will be distributed to members prior to the meeting.

It is important for the operation of the club that the committee is representative of the membership, and that there are sufficient committee members to spread the work without relying on the same people all the time. If you'd like to see how the committee works in practice - without committing yourself in advance - then you would be welcome to come along to one of the committee meetings to see what happens. If you can help, then please speak to Jeff Elmore on 07958967709.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Not renewed your membership yet? Then this is your last chance: you'll get no more newsletters after this one. Everyone is reminded that ALL memberships are due for renewal at the beginning of October - even if you only joined during the summer, and by now even the least disorganised of you should have been able to manage it!

If you've lost your renewal form get in touch with Hilary Cox on 0121 554 9745 or renew and pay online at <http://www.midlandski.org.uk> by clicking on the *Membership Renewal* button (bottom left).

GLOUCESTER SUMMER RACE LEAGUE

This year's GSRL dates are now confirmed as the Diary (see right).

As most of you will know, I stood down as GSRL manager at the end of last season - which means a new manager has to be appointed in time for organising teams for the first race in May. So, nominations are invited! Whoever takes on this role must obviously have a keen interest in the club's racing activities and really should attend training sessions on a Tuesday or Friday to check out who wants to race, network, etc.

The GSRL is a great introduction to racing and it's important that we continue to encourage as many young racers as possible to participate. With a number of our more experienced racers ineligible

to compete in 2007 because of their seed points, I think it's vital that we now focus our efforts on building the Friday night pipeline of young racers.

This is why I think whoever takes over as manager should, ideally, be a regular Friday (rather than a Tuesday) night attendee. I have a pretty good contact list, but this now needs expanding as I don't attend Friday night sessions. In the past I would have said that anyone who intends racing at the GSRL would struggle to also act as manager on the day. But now, with so many parents actively helping out with all the race-day duties, I think the role could be done by a racer. The vast majority of the work is done pre-race in checking

Diary

Mondays @ 7pm

Adult Coaching
Luis 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

25-Mar-07

Birmingham & S.Midlands Schools
Race, Ackers
Jane Lee, 01905 345416

30-Mar to 8-Apr-07

Family Week, Davos
Nigel Dawes, 0121 445 2594

2-May-07

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Old Silhillians Club, Solihull
Diana Horth, 01889 800706

18-May-07

Ski Mart, Ackers 6pm
Jane Lee, 0XXXXXXX

Summer Race League, Gloucester:

12-May-07, 16-Jun-07, 21-Jul-07,
18-Aug-07, 22-Sept-07, 13-Oct-07

availability, selecting the teams and informing everyone who's picked to race. And, much of this can be done by attending training sessions.

The club's racing activities have grown enormously in the last few years and the GSRL has played a major role in this. Which is why I'm keen that the new race manager is appointed with plenty of time to prepare/organise for the first race.

If anyone wants to talk to me about what's specifically involved, then please call me on 07768 253515. Otherwise, nominations to me please!

Guy Hornsby

BUDDING CHAMPION?

MySnowSports.com is offering a fully paid race training fortnight at Les Arcs, courtesy of top French race club, the Les Arcs Ski Club, the French Savoie town and resort of Bourg St Maurice Les Arcs, and the SMA lift company. The sponsorship project includes flights and transfers, board and lodging, training and lift passes. Children and junior racers or their parents/coaches are invited to register with our forum and put forward their candidature. Successful candidates will be selected by MySnowSports and the Les Arcs Club.

In addition, we currently have a number of sponsors offering spot prizes on our "Budding Champions!" forum. Last week alone some £600 was donated to individual racers and a dry slope club! All clubs and racers need to do is register with MySnowSports, and tell us something of their needs, hopes and goals for the future on the forum.

Mysnowsports.com is an entirely non-profit organisation, run by volunteers - find them on the web at <http://mysnowsports.com>

IN THE SUMMER TIME..

Summertime is fast approaching, and apart from that meaning a busy racing season and ongoing coaching, we're now looking at other summer events.

Anyone who has any suggestions or who would be prepared to organise or host an event should contact any of the committee with their ideas.

TELEMARK AT ACKERS

Matt Higginson is continuing his campaign to get more skiers telemarking. Here is one of his pupils at Ackers learning to weight what will become the rear ski - when linked turns are performed.

Contact Matt through <http://www.telemark-skiing.co.uk>



Adopting a telemark stance requires balance and control.

THE GOLDMINER'S DAUGHTER

Felicity Biddle

This was my first trip to Utah, or more specifically to the Goldminer's Daughter Lodge in Alta.

I went with three friends who had praised it to the heights, & they were right, except they had forgotten to mention the many blizzards when 24" of snow can (and does) fall overnight or 7' in as many days. In the morning one could find there was a "lock in" i.e. where no one is allowed outside the Lodge on pain of death or a hefty fine. When the ban is lifted - that is the avalanche danger is over - there is a dash by the powder hounds to be first to make their mark in the deep snow.

There are however days when conditions are perfect for less competitive skiers. Wide pisted areas (8 "piste bashers" will have been working overnight) and the sun shines out of an azure blue sky. One is liable to meet a leopard chasing a zebra down the slope & a praying cat can be seen from one of the lifts. Also the squirrels and porcupines can expect cake crumbs (or a pink ski pole!) to be dropped from above. Nowhere will one see a snowboarder.

I was told the owners of the G.M.D.Lodge would welcome us like family and indeed they did.

Nothing was too much trouble to make our stay enjoyable. There were still smiles on their faces when we Brits beat them in an hilarious table tennis match. I even got "Liquorice" with my early morning tea. She is a cross black labrador belonging to "Trainer" the master of the bar. Having given me my tea she got a small reward - maybe it was all cupboard love. I'm sure

I was privileged - so don't expect this nicety should you ever visit.

G.M.D. is a SKI IN SKI OUT Lodge. What a treat this is. There is unlimited use of their computers (if you must keep in touch with the outside world). One can come home to a feast of a tea, any time between 4 & 5 p.m while their hot chocolate is quite the best I have ever tasted. Who could have asked for more? What a pity this delightful area is so far away.

P.S. The leopard and the zebra are skiers in costume while the praying cat is a tree stump.

ROPETOW HANDLES

Many members will recall the portable ski tows that we used to have, and recall trips to the exotic slopes of the Clent and Lickey Hills, or further afield to Burton Dassett and even Derbyshire. As winter snow became an extreme rarity, the tows were sold but similar are still being used in more northern climes.

We've been asked by one such user if anyone recalls the handles

used on the rope to assist grip, and especially if anyone has dimensions and a sketch of the handles so they can make their own. If you may be able to help, please get in touch with Karl Moar by emailing karlmoare@hotmail.com.

You know I mentioned portable tows were used in more northern climes? Well, Karl lives on the Shetland Islands....

SHOP NEWS

We may now be into March - and as every skier knows that means spring skiing - but whilst skiing opportunities will continue for a few months yet, the outdoor shops are getting ready for summer - which means they have their Ski Sales on!

Lockwoods (Leamington), and White Mountain (Walsall & Wolverhampton), and Solihull Ski Centre (Knowle) and Facewest (online) all have some great bargains available.

White Mountain (who have a great new website up and running: www.whitemountainonline.co.uk) say "of particular note are the reductions in leg guards, pole protectors and helmets for the racers"

Discounts vary from shop to shop and on what you are buying, from "only" 10% up to 30% or in some cases even more! Check out your local ski shop soon.