

MIDLAND SKI CLUB NEWS

THE MIDLANDS LEADING SNOWSPORTS CLUB

OCTOBER 2007

The 11th Annual Lockwoods Cup

MSC's annual club championship ski race is being held on Friday 5th October. This is the 11th such race, and looking back at the results over the years ago brings back lots of memories.

Come along and watch, eat from the Bar-b-q, drink, witness the exciting racing and appreciate the high skiing standards that the club is achieving, or even just chat about skiing in general.

Racers can practice the course from 6.30pm, and the race itself

runs from 7.30pm

Lockwoods will be running the ski test which has previously been part of the evening on Wednesday 17th October - see elsewhere for details.

If you have a cup from last year please return it to Nigel Dawes (0121 445 2594) - it is very disappointing to make an award when there is no trophy available.

If you can ski you can race! There are lots of age groups particularly for the younger children and juniors.

Remember LOCKWOODS of Leamington Spa offer a 10% discount (not applicable to sale items) to all MSC members on production of a current membership card - and 25% off servicing!

Monday Night Coaching

I am often asked how long I have been skiing and always find myself hesitating before I reply. The fact is that I started rather late in life - skiing was a sport for the wealthy when I was a youngster. When I DID start, after moving to Canada in my thirties, I had a few minutes instruction from my then girlfriend, who promptly left me alone on the slopes to get on with it. These tips were all I had in my repertoire for several years.

I eventually resettled in the Midlands and continued my skiing in Europe but was disenchanted by the indifference of bored Italian and Austrian instructors.

I then discovered that Monday night at Ackers is Adult Coaching evening with the Midland Ski Club. So I joined the Club and began the Monday sessions. It was a revelation: I had coaching from superb instructors who spoke fluent English and the finer points of skiing were explained. My technique improved and I began to feel really comfortable on my skis.

A few years later, one of the coaches asked me if I would be interested in training to be an



Mike Woodall - as featured on the MSC 1999-2000 brochure

instructor - I was so flattered! I joined the Coaching Scheme and found that my personal skiing improved a great deal in the process. After qualifying, I joined the team of Monday night instructors. It gives me great pleasure to coach skiers and watch them steadily improve over the weeks and months.

The Monday evening coaching

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 @ 6/6.30/7pm

Junior Coaching
Nigel Dawes 0121 445 2594

Fridays @ 8pm

Adult Coaching - Roger Crombleholme 01785 714073

5-Oct-07

Lockwoods Cup, Ackers
Jane Lee, 01905 345416

13-Oct-07

Summer Race League, Gloucester
Jane Lee, 01905 345416

(also **3-Nov**)

14-Oct-07

Cannock Walk,
Diana Horth, 01889 800706

17-Oct-07

Lockwoods Ski Test, Snowdome,
Lockwoods, 01926 339388

18-Oct-07

Jonathan Brough Benefit Evening
Gloucester.

26 to 28-Oct-07

High Altitude Training Weekend, N. Wales,
Mike Thomas, 02476 692792

2 to 4-Nov-07

Birmingham Ski + Board Show,
NEC.

19-Dec-07

Christmas Party and Prizegiving
Old Silhillians Club.

sessions are now from 7.30pm to 9pm year round, and staffed by well-qualified MSC instructors who take a genuine delight in getting people to improve in technique and confidence. The minimum requirement to join the sessions is the ability to ski safely from the top of the slope employing snowplough turns. All levels of ability are catered for and age is no barrier.

Carving turns on plastic? You bet! The sessions are fun, informal and informative.

Come along and join in!

Mike Woodall, ASSI

Christmas Party and Awards Night

This year's Christmas Party and Awards Night is on Wednesday 19th December at the Old Sils Club. We will be running the awards on the same basis as the last few years, with you the Club members to nominate people for the awards. We are looking for nominations to recognise the efforts and achievements of people from across the whole of the Club, both skiers and non-skiers, racers and non-racers. Nominations can be made for virtually anything, for example - most improved skier, best Coach, step improvement in performance, etc.

You can also nominate people who may have done a lot of charity work, have helped and contributed to organising Club activities, or have made a significant improvement or impact for the Club over the years. All nominations will be considered, but you will need to say who you are nominating and why.

Any nominations must be received by the end of November so that we can sort everything out in time to present the awards at the Christmas party. If you have any questions, or need further information, contact Jeff Elmore (Chairman) on 07958 967709 or email jeffski@blueyonder.co.uk, or any committee member or any of the coaches.

MSC 2008 calendar

The MSC 2008 Calendar is all go! But you need to get your orders in quickly in order to ensure that you've got it before Christmas. Please order using the form at the end of this newsletter **by 31st October** - if we don't get enough orders by then it won't happen.

It's an A3 calendar, with each month having a photo in the top half and the calendar below, with plenty of space on each day for noting down what is happening when.

If you haven't yet sent in your photos, then it's not too late. They can be of anything related to winter-sports or any MSC event. Send digital photos to news@midlandski.org.uk, or put to MSC Calendar, 7 Saxon Meadows, Leamington Spa, CV32 6BY, to arrive by the end of October - we can then make sure the calendars will be available in plenty of time for the end of year.

Anyone submitting a photo which makes it into the calendar will get one sent to them absolutely free!



Equipment Appeal

I have been asked to take part in the development of skiing at a state secondary school. The school has its own artificial slope but is not in an affluent area. Unfortunately, there is only a small selection of skis and boots available for the students.

It is the intention to extend the use of the slope to the school's feeder schools and so a much wider range of equipment is needed.

If any members of the MSC could donate ANY skis, boots, sticks they no longer use. I would be really grateful. I can be contacted on 01384 278025 or 07814981470.

Mike Woodall

Autumn Walk

On Sunday 14th October, Diana Horth will be leading an Autumn Walk around Cannock Chase, starting at 11am. Meet at 10.45am at the carpark

2-300 yards down the road towards Pye Green from the crossroads just north of Brindley Valley visitor centre: OS grid reference 997157

Any queries to Diana on 01889 800706.

LOCKWOODS

SKI TEST NIGHT

AT
TAMWORTH SNOWDOME
Wed 17th October 2007 8-11pm

HEAD **K2 SKIS** **völkl** **DYNASTAR** **SCOTT** **ROSSIGNOL** PURE MOUNTAIN COMPANY*

Models on test will represent those stocked by Lockwoods

3 Hours of Ski Testing for the special price of £20.30

FREE NIGHT OUT

Purchase a pair of 2008 Skis from Lockwoods before the 30th November 2007, and Lockwoods will refund the cost of your entry fee from the ski test evening, upon presentation of the entry receipt. The usual Ski Club discount will still apply in addition to this offer.

One refund per pair of 2008 skis purchased.
Only test night receipts showing the discounted amount will be accepted.
Offer ends 30th November 2007

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

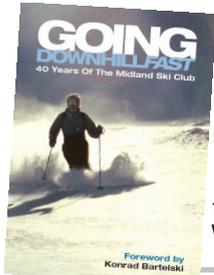
Please present this voucher at Snowdome reception to obtain the special entry price

Store News

Ski Force of Lichfield and Stafford has been forced to close its two shops due to large rent increases imposed by the landlords. We'd like to thank Ski Force for their support over the recent years and hope they'll be back in the near future.

White Mountain's two stores now have their own focuses: the Wolverhampton store is concentrating on skiing, whilst Walsall will be concentrating on other outdoor pursuits.

Jacksons of Old Arley are holding a *Family Fun Open Weekend* on 24th & 25th November. There will be special discounts in the shops plus other special features such as a bouncy castle and face painting for the children, plus a visit from Father Christmas. For more details contact Jacksons on 01676 540878"



The final copies of "Going Downhill Fast", the history of the first 40 years of the Midland Ski Club are now available at the discounted price of only £5.99.

Send cheques payable to "Midland Ski Club" to Hilary Cox, 85 Worlds End Road, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham B20 2NS

Birmingham Ski + Board Show

With a line-up that includes a huge ski slope, equipment clinics, expert talks and an ice rink, there's no better place than the Ski +Board Show at the NEC to start your ski and snowboard season.



Enthusiastic visitors to this year's British Ski + Board Show will have the chance to try out the John Nike Leisuresport teaching slope.

Taking centre stage at this year's event, the slope will give visitors the opportunity to learn how to ski or snowboard as well as watching thrilling demonstrations and competitions.

Birmingham will host the first 'Do your boots hurt?' clinic where a team of technicians will be on hand to prepare you and your equipment for the upcoming season. Whether you're looking for top tips on the best new boots or you want help to fix your favourite pair our experts will be available to help throughout the weekend.

Truly inspirational and informative speakers will be appearing at the show in the brand new talk theatre, bringing tales of their adventures and experiences, as well as advising visitors on the best places to visit.

Retailers such as Ellis Brigham, GirlsSki2, TSA and Atomic will also be at the show selling top brand names and the hottest gear for the 2007/8 season. Once you've treated yourself to new clothing or equipment, many of the world top resorts will be represented at The British Ski + Board Show, giving you endless options of where to holiday this season.

The British Ski + Board Show at the NEC in Birmingham will take place from Friday 2nd to Sunday 4th November 2007.

Ski Show Race Knockout

Global Snowshows are planning an Inter-Club Knockout competition at the Birmingham Ski Show.

First prize is a long weekend (4 days, 3 nights) in Tignes for 8 people including "race" tuition (to be confirmed) - all people need to sort out is their own flights. Prize includes transfers, lift pass and half board accommodation in a 3* hotel.

Competitors will get free entrance to the show, and their supporters will get in 1/2 price.

The intention is to run the races on all three days with a minimum of two half-hour sessions each day. There will be both a skills element and a fun element to the race.

This is all provisional at the moment, but we'll let you know on coaching nights at the Ackers when we have full details..

Last chance for £100 off Chile And Argentina

If you've not got your booking in for the 2008 South American adventure - then you better act quickly! If you get a £200 deposit to Maureen before 1st November, then you'll get £100 discount off the total price. Act now!

Full details of the trip, and the other MSC Holidays this forthcoming season are later in this newsletter.

10% off in Bulgaria

Ski-Trips.co.uk helps skiers arrange independent ski holidays to Borovets Bulgaria and for the next few months we are offering 10% off accommodation for members of Midland Ski Club.

Full details at <http://www.ski-trips.co.uk>

Benefit Evening at Gloucester



Jonathan Brough Benefit Evening

18/10/2007

With kind permission of and at

Gloucester Ski & Snowboard Centre

6.30 pm - 9.30 p.m.

- Racing open to all (no experience necessary)
- All ages and abilities welcome
- B B Q from £2.00
- Raffle : 1st prize - weekend break for 2 at Ramada Hotels
- Use of both slopes included

All this for a £10 entry fee.

Reserve your place, Entries to :-

Debbie Manns, 4 Waterloo Way, Bredon, GL20 7NA

£10 Check payable to Gloucester Ski Club

Please add your name DOB and address + ski club if any.

All proceeds to the Jonathon Brough meningitis appeal
Thanks to Gloucester Ski & Snowboard Centre & Ramada Hotels for their kind support.

Jonathon Brough is a young man, just finished school and last winter he went to Canada to learn to be a ski instructor. While there he contracted meningitis and has become paralysed from the neck down. Jonathon is in the spinal unit in Salisbury, he is able to talk a little when his ventilator allows and can communicate with a number of devices.

Can you reserve places with Debbie Mann directly, but also let me know so that I can co-ordinate entries. If you want to make a donation then you could also send this directly to Debbie, letting her know that you won't be turning up.

Jane Lee,
canal.cottage@btopenworld.com

EASTER FAMILY TRAINING HOLIDAY

Continuing our successful series, this winter we will be going to the wonderful high resort or Zermatt with a backdrop of the spectacular Matterhorn on the Swiss Italian border. This is a car free town with great history which the SCGB describe as an *Ancient, historic climbing town with lashings of Alpine charm, snow-sure skiing and the best mountain restaurants in the Alps. Suits all standards of skier and rider, as well as non-skiers.*

We will be staying in the Zermatt youth hostel - this is to the same high standard as Davos following on from the Youth Palace in its recent upgrade. All rooms are En-suite, and there is a Sun terrace, Kiosk, internet corner, etc. Their description:



The world-famous Matterhorn, or "Horn", peeps directly into the rooms of the youth hostel at the edge of Zermatt village. It is not

just the first-class location that is exclusive, however, but also the youth hostel itself. Among the most modern of its kind in the world, it welcomes international guests of every age.

The resort has 180km of Piste up to 3000m plus, served by 34 lifts, trains, and cable cars <http://bergbahnen.zermatt.ch/e/skigebiet/>

We will leave on Good Friday 21st March and the cost below includes coach travel from Birmingham to Zermatt, Half board accommodation, 7 Day Lift pass, and 6 days training with MSC coaches, returning home on Sun 30th March. For prices, see the panel below.

Deposit £100 per person, using the booking form below, Any queries to Nigel Dawes 0121 445 2594

Prices are based on sharing a Quad or Triple Room, as follows:

	Quad	Triple
Adult	£600	£660
U9	£440	£500
9-15	£520	£580
16-19	£580	£640
O60	£580	£640

HIGH ALTITUDE TRAINING WEEKEND 26TH - 28TH OCTOBER

We're returning to Glan Dena for this year's High Altitude Training Weekend. This is the perfect weekend to stretch the legs in the mountains to help get them fit for the ski season.

Glan Dena is in a superbly located just off the A5 in the Ogwen Valley in Snowdonia with fine mountains on the doorstep. Members who have been there before will know that Glan Dena provides ideal self catering accommodation with excellent cooking facilities, bunk beds, a comfortable lounge with a real fire, and drying facilities etc. Walks will be arranged on both Saturday and Sunday, and we will have a communal meal on the Saturday night.

The cost of the accommodation is £15.00 for the weekend. Please book using the form on page 4 of this newsletter.

Mike Thomas 02476 692792

EASTER FAMILY WEEK, ZERMATT, SWITZERLAND

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

Please reserve for me places on the Easter Family Training Week in Zermatt, Switzerland. I enclose a cheque payable to Midland Ski Club for £100 per person as a NON-REFUNDABLE deposit. I understand that the holiday cost includes £100 for the Coaching and that this is not covered by the insurance. I will obtain the Euro-health card and will have a full passport.

Names (as on passport) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Any Special or Dietary Needs? _____

Signed _____ Date _____

HIGH ALTITUDE TRAINING WEEKEND - OCTOBER 26 - 28TH

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

Please book me places on the High Altitude Training Weekend.

I enclose a cheque for £15.00 per person made out to **M.A.M.**

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

E.mail address _____

2ND BIG SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE ADVENTURE CHILE & ARGENTINA 15TH-31ST AUGUST 2008

Welcome to our 2nd Ultimate "Summer" skiing/boarding experience to South America.

This is a multi-centre holiday to Chile & Argentina, combining skiing/boarding in four areas (6 resorts, 11 days) with some time in the capitol of Chile, Santiago, including a ½ day tour. Other optional tours are also offered (contact organiser for details).

Very cold dry conditions and high altitude of South American resorts produce a lot of good powder snow, usually in August. This trip covers a large area so be prepared for internal transfers & hotel changes.



Please note that **this is a high altitude holiday, with skiing from 3800m**, so the fitter you are, the less breathless you will be and you will enjoy the trip even more.

Our trip will start and end in Santiago, the capitol of Chile, which is one of the most pleasant & relaxing cities in South America.

The first resort is "The Three Valleys"... El Colorado, La Parva & Valle Nevado which link together to form a large ski area (36 lifts, maximum descents up to 900m. Watch out for the condors!)

The next resort, Villarrica-Pucon occupies the slopes of an active volcano and is one of Chile's best resorts for snowboarding. Contact organiser for details on an exciting optional adventure to the rim of the volcano!

Then we travel to Argentina to ski Chapelco with tree skiing and Catedral which is Argentina's largest and trendiest resort, with great views out over the Patagonian desert & Lago Nahuel Huapi.



Proposed Itinerary:

Day 1: Flight to Santiago (approx. 18 hrs)

Day 2: In Santiago & City tour

Day 3-7: Drive to Farellones (1hr) & ski. Resorts Valle Nevado, La Parva and Colorado, based at Hotel Farellones for 5 nights (with hot tub!)

Day 8: Travel to Temuco & Pucon

Day 9-10: Ski Villarrica

Day 11: Travel to Argentina

Day 12 -13: Chapelco resort

Day 14-15: Catedral resort

Day 16-17: Temuco, Santiago & home

Flight costs from Birmingham are estimated, but should not vary much. Exact route & costs TBA as soon as 2008 flights are published (October/November 2007).

The price is based on 2 people sharing a twin room with en-suite. Sizes may vary between hotels, but will be comfortable for 2 people.

A discount of £100 per person off the total cost will be awarded to those paying the deposit by 1st November 2007.

If there are 8 or more of us, then the trip will be exclusive to MSC and group discounts will start to apply if we get over 10 people. Maximum group size is 16.

- **The following are included in the cost of this trip:**
- Transfers in Chile & Argentina, by road & air.



- 5 nights Farellones, ½ board
- 10 nights B&B in Santiago & the other resorts.
- Santiago City tour
- Access to tour Representative/Guide
- Coach driver/tour guide tips, contingency & emergency Fund (any unused elements of this fund will be refunded at the end of the trip)



The Basic cost is £1345 per person, plus flights estimated at £850 (to be confirmed Oct/Nov).

Additionally:

- **Insurance £78 for skiers / £94 for boarders** (70yrs or over, please contact me for further details)
- **Ski carriage approx £50 total**
- **A non-refundable deposit of £200 per person is required** with final payment no later than 31st May 2008.
- **Ski passes (£20 - £25 per day, less for the 60+)** have been excluded in the overall cost because some people may wish to go on optional excursions. Contact organizer for details.
- **Also excluded are:** evening meals (except Farellones) & lunches (inexpensive & good quality even on the mountains), drinks, optional excursions, gifts, souvenirs, laundry, telephone, etc.
- **Ski and snowboard hire.**

All queries should be made to: Maureen Crombleholme on 01785 714073, 07710 511388, or preferably by email to maureen@ims-lifebalance.com

World Cup Skiing on 4

World Cup Skiing, Snowboard, Freestyle and Nordics are back on Channel 4 this coming season with its longest series to date.

Hothouse Productions has won the Channel 4 contract for the sixth successive year. Presented by former British ski team racer and Hothouse



Productions Managing Director, Nick Fellows, the new series will once again focus on the Alpine Ski World Cup tour for

20 x 1 hour Sunday morning programmes. The series also includes Alpine World Cup Highlights on Monday, Nordic on Tuesday and a two hour Snowboard and Freestyle programme on Friday nights. Providing a total of 110 hours of winter sports coverage.

Starting on Sunday 18th November 2007 and running until 6th April 2008 the series special guest list reads like the who's who of skiing. Kristina Koznick, our reporter and former World No.2 will be joined by Martin Bell, Ken Read, Franz Klammer, Bruno Kern, Kjetil Aamodt and more.

Fellow's explained "we plan to cover more women's races than any other

season to date as I predict Chemmy Alcott will become the "Lewis Hamilton" of winter sport. Our production team is quite possibly the most experienced and confident in the UK and the result will be dynamic, informative winter sport all season long"



Join the Channel 4 ski team on Sunday 18th November at 8 am. All programmes will be repeated an hour later on Channel 4 + 1.

CHILE AND ARGENTINA 2008 - BOOKING FORM

To: Maureen Crombleholme, 7 St Modwena Way, Penkridge, Staffs. ST19 5ST
Tel: 01785 714073 or 07710 511388 email: Maureen@ims-lifebalance.com

Please reserve me _____ places on the trip to Chile & Argentina in August 2008.
I enclose a non-refundable deposit of £200 per person. (Cheque made payable to "Andes").

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Mobile: _____ Email: _____

No. of skiers/boarders: _____ No. of vegetarians: _____

I require insurance @ £78 per skier* / £94 per boarder* / I will be providing my own insurance (cross out as appropriate).

***the insurance prices are for ages up to and including 69 yrs. Anyone 70 yrs or over, please contact me.**

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.

Number requiring Ski Hire: _____ / I will take my own skis & boots (Carriage is estimated at approx. £50 for the return journey. You have approx: 20 kilos for all of your luggage)

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

Signed _____ Date _____

MSC 2008 CALENDAR ORDER FORM

To: MSC Calendar, 7 Saxon Meadows, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire Cv32 6BY

Please send me _____ copies of the MSC 2008 Calendar at £5.99 each. (Cheques made payable to "Midland Ski Club").

Please tick your delivery method:

I will collect the Calendar from Ackers

I will collect the Calendar the Christmas Party and Prizegiving on the 19th December.

Please post - I enclose an additional £1 per calendar.

I enclose a cheque for _____, payable to "Midland Ski Club".

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

CLUB HOLIDAY - TIGNES, FRANCE 8TH-15TH MARCH 2008

For the 2008 Club Holiday we are going to Tignes. We will be staying in 2 chalets in Tignes Le Lac. They are located approximately 100m from the nearest piste and you can return on skis to within 100m of the chalets on the same piste. They are a 400m walk from the main Aeroski lift and ski school meeting place and the centre of Tignes.

The chalets offer the usual standard of catering with breakfast and freshly baked afternoon tea on seven days with a three course evening meal with free wine and soft drinks for six nights. Chalet staff have one night off when we will have the opportunity to try local eateries.



The 5* Chalet Les Andes offers a level of luxury rarely found in chalet accommodation in the Alps. All bedrooms are ensuite and have the added luxury of televisions. The living room is stunning with widescreen TV, CD and DVD players. The chalet has a sauna, free use of an indoor pool and a boot heater. It is just below its sister chalet, the Chalet Alaska in Les Almes area of the resort.

The 4* Chalet Alaska is situated in Les Almes area of the resort and has a sauna, hot tub and satellite TV. All bedrooms are ensuite.

We will have sole occupancy of both chalets and will all be able to use the facilities in each chalet.

Further details can be found in the Neilson Ski brochure 2007/08.

If you have not been on Club Holiday before, it's a social week skiing and you will always be able to find someone to ski as hard and as long and as you want. There's often a drinks party before the evening



meal, and generally as much après ski as you can cope with.

The basic price is £600 including Birmingham flight supplements. Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Chalet Les Andes sleeps 20, based on 2 per room and Chalet Alaska will take 24, based on 2 per room.

Insurance is mandatory, but is NOT included, as so many members now have annual cover. Please see the MSC Insurance article elsewhere in this newsletter, and indicate on the booking form if you'd like a quote.

Diana Horth 01889 800706

CLUB HOLIDAY, TIGNES 8TH-15TH MARCH 2008

To: Diana Horth, 23 Lockside View, Rugeley, Staffs WS15 1NJ

Please reserve places on the MSC Tignes 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? _____

Single travellers please indicate who you wish to share with: _____

Area Lift passes Please indicate quantities you require:

Adult Area lift pass £136 []

Seniors (60-74yrs) area lift pass £115 []

75 and over passes are free but will arranged in resort

Ski/Board Equipment hire (6 days)

Skis & boots standard	£65	<input type="checkbox"/>	Skis & boots superior	£76	<input type="checkbox"/>
Skis only standard	£40	<input type="checkbox"/>	Skis only superior	£54	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ski boots only standard	£25	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Snowboard & boots	£69	<input type="checkbox"/>	Snowboard only	£45	<input type="checkbox"/>

I have or will arrange my own insurance/Please send quote for MSC's insurance (delete as applicable).

I accept the terms and conditions detailed in the 2007/8 Neilson brochure

Signed _____ Date _____

EARLY-SEASON TRAINING WEEK CANAZEI, ITALY. 13TH. TO 20TH. JANUARY 2008

And now for something completely different. For the last 5 years we have been to Sestriere which has been excellent, but we have had great difficulty in finding anywhere else which matches it, both in the range of skiing and the hotel accommodation we require.

So we have come up with a different type of skiing experience in the Superski Dolomiti Area. This is in the Sud Tirolo region of Italy and is the largest (not totally linked) ski area in the world. It used to be part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and it now enjoys the dual advantages of Austrian quality and Italian prices, particularly in its mountain restaurants. Also it has the most spectacularly beautiful mountains with a stunning view around every corner.

We will be staying in Canazei which is on the famous Sella Ronda ski tour route. This is a ski journey which can be completed in a day and covers a total distance of 40 km, 26km of which are ski runs. On the other side of the valley is the similar but smaller Skitour Panorama. These routes pass through several villages which have their own small lift systems. For instance we are only a few lifts from Arabba which in my opinion has the best skiing in the whole area. So we will very much be 'learning on the hoof' with the Coaches instructing as we ski around this vast area.

Otherwise the week will follow its usual pattern. You will ski for 6 full days in a group of about 9 people of similar

ability under the care of a fully qualified BASI or SSE Coach. Your friends will be keen to ski all day and they will be supportive, encouraging but non-competitive and the Coach will have plenty of time to give you lots of personal attention.



Our hotel is the 3-star family run Hotel Irma: www.albergoirma.it. All the rooms have private facilities and there is a small 'wellness centre' with a sauna, Turkish bath, gym and sun-bed. The hotel will just hold the 50 people we are taking so there will be the usual house-party atmosphere. But it does mean that we shall have to ask singles to share 3 in a room if all the double rooms are booked by couples.

The flight details have not yet been settled so I have to warn you that there is the danger that we may have to go

from Gatwick at some ungodly hour. But Equity will be providing a coach to and from the airport so the journey will not be that horrendous.

The cost will be £750 which reflects the fact that we will have the full Skidolomiti skipass and I am told that the Hotel Irma is of better quality than the Sciatori in Sestriere. (I'll believe it when I see it!) The cost does include virtually everything; coach to the airport, flights, transfers, half-board in the hotel, all the coaching and the full lift-pass. It also includes Equity's insurance, which has always proved adequate, but if you wish you can save £15 by relying on your own insurance and not using Equity's. Personally I think it is worth the extra £15 to know that Equity's rep. will be fully aware of all the insurance problems and will deal with any difficulties straight away, but it is up to you. About the only things not covered in the cost are lunches and drinks.

To join us please complete the booking form and return it with a NON-REFUNDABLE deposit of £120 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 from a Post Office and will need a full passport which is in the name you give on the booking form. Balance cheques, when due, should be payable to Equity Ski.

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

EARLY SEASON TRAINING WEEK, CANAZEI, ITALY

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

Please reserve for me places on the Early-season Training Week in Canazei, Italy, from 13th. to 20th. January 2008. I enclose a cheque payable to Midland Ski Club for £120 per person as a NON-REFUNDABLE deposit and I undertake to pay the balance of the holiday cost by 30th October 2007. I understand that the holiday cost includes £100 for the Coaching and that this is not covered by the insurance. I will obtain the Euro-health card and will have a full passport.

Name(s) (as on passport) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ **Email**

Any Special or Dietary Needs?

Do you require Equity's insurance?...YES/NO

Do you wish to hire skis at a cost of £32?

Skiing Experience: I have skied for ___ years and am happiest on blues/reds/blacks/off-piste (please delete as appropriate)

Signed _____ Date _____

MSC Race News

You can keep up with the exploits of the MSC Racers after each race by going to www.midlandski.org.uk/racenews. Here's the latest news...

Gloucester Summer Race League September 22nd, 2007

September saw a really good morning for the A team with 166 points, not bad at all for such a challenging course. The afternoon



Emily Dawes, showing how it's done

was less positive, but as a result of the good morning skiing the A team moved up a place in the league to 3rd. The B team also had a good morning, strengthened by some of the usual A team members and moved up to the top of the B team table. The Hawks maintained their position, in 12th of 15 teams. The table now looks like

Slalom Plus A	906 points
Gloucester A	869 points
Midland A	849 points
Western Counties	846 points

Welsh Pillagers and Welsh Raiders are next with 567 points each

There were some impressive individual performances - with Harry finishing first overall, Nick Miller second overall, Robbie first in group with all 29 points, Roger first in group and Sam Allen second in group, coming back after injury. Harry worked hard under great pressure to take the first spot, Nick put in two very fast runs, leading overall after the first run was complete. Nick has come a long way since his Gloucester debut in the Hawks under a year ago. Robbie reached the magic 29 points for the first time, he's having an excellent season.

There were some good improvements, Elisabeth won 8 afternoon points after a good morning run, missing only one point for a dead heat with Rob Weeks, Fiona moved up another 15 bib

numbers in the afternoon, beating an opponent with 245 seed points, Jack yet again beat his best overall position, now 62nd, having been 105th in the first race, Marcus completed every run and won 6 morning points, Alasdair won his first morning points coming 15th in group. Abbie was our only first time racer, with bib number 18 in the afternoon, a very respectable first time result.

It was a bad day for injuries, Sam Allen came back from a broken shoulder and fell but no further damage, Fiona fell and broke her shoulder, the news is that she is up and around and raring to come and watch next time despite the damage, Robbie's opponent in the afternoon, 12 yr old Sarah Lambden fell and was hospitalised, but appears to have no broken bones this time.

20 points - Robbie (29), Harry (25), Roger (25), Dave H (23), Gerry (23),

Mark (21), Sam Allen (20), Emily (20)

9 points in afternoon - Emily, Robbie, Oliver Weeks, Gerry, James Elgy, Lucy

Well done everyone, a good days skiing.



Nick and Harry fighting it out

Apres ski was with Maurice and Carolyn, a very enjoyable evening with good food, excellent wine and of course even better company. The trampoline was really popular until all the kids just hadn't any strength left to do anything but collapse. Thanks very much to both of you, and sorry that you missed Nick's big day while getting ready for us.

Jane Lee

British Championships September 19th, 2007

Flying the flag for the MSC at the 'blue ribbon' weekend in the artificial surface race calendar were Sam, Nick, Freddie, Chris, Harry, Dan, James and Robbie. With all of the UK's top male racers present (apart from David Ryding who's training/racing in South America with the GB team and now regularly beating the Baxter brothers) the standard of racing was exceptional. Great credit must therefore go to our guys who delivered a number of fantastic performances!

The English Open took place on the Saturday with Harry leading home the MSC racers (8th JN1 and 74.18 pts) closely followed by Dan (12th JN1 and 89.61 pts), James (18th JN2 and 91.71 pts), Nick (10th CH2 and 117.65 pts), Robbie (5th MAS and 121.16 pts), Chris (19th JN1 and 127.23 pts) and Freddie (15th CH2 and 151.54 pts). Unfortunately, Sam wasn't able to start the 2nd run because of illness. Nick, Robbie and Freddie, however, all recorded their best points of the season - all the more notable for doing so in a Championship event!

The main event, the British Championships, took place on the Sunday and, with a further 2 gates being added to each of the courses, the failure rate was high - with Sam, Nick and James all 'casualties' of the first course. However, top-10 age group positions were achieved by Harry (5th JN1 and 92.05 pts), Dan (8th JN1 and 117.90 pts), Robbie (5th MAS and 156.01 pts) and Freddie (8th CH2 and 162.47 pts). Chris, in the mega-competitive JN1 category finished just outside the top-10 in 13th place (150.44 pts).

So, all in all, a very successful weekend - excellent age group positions and several lowest points of the season! Perhaps, most importantly, great experience of competing in such a high-calibre competition.

Norwich is an excellent ski centre - privately owned, first-class facilities/viewing and an outstanding race slope. Yes, it is a long way from the Midlands but it's certainly worth including in your SSE race itinerary for 2008 as they will undoubtedly be hosting a Club National, Grand prix and a National Championship.

That just leaves the European Championships in Pontypool on 28th/29th September and the Irish Championships on 13th/14th October in Dublin.

Guy Hornsby

SUMMER'S OVER.
WINTER'S NEARLY HERE.
THAT CAN ONLY MEAN ONE THING...

IT'S PLAYTIME



NISSAN
SPORTS ADVENTURE

presents

WARREN  MILLER'S

PLAYGROUND



NATIONWIDE SKI AND SNOWBOARD FILM TOUR RUNS THROUGHOUT NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2007



Warren Miller's latest film *Playground* is coming to the Midlands - Dates and venues on www.warrenmiller.co.uk

OCTOBER 2007