

MIDLAND SKI CLUB NEWS

APRIL 2010

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of Midland Ski Club will take place on **Wednesday 26th May** at Landrover Social Club, Billsmore Green, Solihull, starting 7.30pm.

Apologies for the change of date which is due to the clash with the General Election.

Nominations for the officers of the club (Chair, Secretary and Treasurer) and for other committee members, and any items for discussion should be advised to Diana Horth, Secretary (01889 800706 or email secretary@midlandski.org.uk) prior to the meeting.

Come along and take an active part in the operation of the club and what we do for all members.



MSC Club National 2010

The second Midland Ski Club Club National Race will take place on Sunday 16th May at **Stoke** Ski Slope, Festival Park, Stoke.

Registered Racers should enter via the normal online system. Any Midland Ski Club skier who is not registered should talk to their coach about participating as a day-entry racer. Note there is no longer an extra £5 fee to pay - assuming you are MSC membership is fully up-to-date.

Spectators are also welcome to come along: the day starts about 8.30am, with the first races normally starting around 10.30 - we expect to have about 150 racers from around the country - should be a good day!

Ski Servicing Workshop

MSC's Race Manager Adam Beardmore will be running an introductory Ski Servicing Workshop at Ackers on 7th May, from around 6.30 to 8pm. This will cover the preparation of skis for summer racing on artificial slopes, including base preparation and edge sharpening, including the appropriate tools and materials required.

This is aimed at both the older junior racers (who tend to do their own skis) and parents of the younger racers who still get mum or dad to do it. If there is sufficient demand, this may become a monthly feature on Friday evenings.

Wanted: Social Coordinator

Some members have asked that the number of social events organised by the club is increased. To enable this to happen, we need a volunteer to act as social coordinator. If you are willing to take on this role (which we don't expect to be too onerous), please speak to chairman Bryan Thomas, or any member of the committee.

Diary

Mondays @ 7.30pm

Adult Coaching
Bryan Arnott 01827 893243

Tuesdays @ 6.30pm

Instructor Training - Roger
Crombleholme 01785 714073

Tuesdays @ 7.30pm

Race Coaching - Roger
Crombleholme 01785 714073

Thursdays @ 6/7.30pm

Advanced Race Training - Roger
Crombleholme 01785 714073

Fridays @ 6/6.30/7pm

Junior Coaching
Jane Lee 01905 345416

7th May

Servicing Workshop, Ackers
Adam Beardmore

8th May

Gloucester Summer Race League
Jane Lee, 01905 345416
(also 5th Jun, 3rd Jul, 7th Aug,
18th Sep, 16th Oct)

16th May

MSC Club National, Stoke
Paul Lawrence 01676 533076

26th May

Annual General Meeting,
Landrover Social Club, Solihull
Diana Horth, 01889 800706

18th June

Midsummer Walk, Meriden
Jeff Elmore, 07958 967709

26th-29th October

High Altitude Training Weekend
Mike Thomas, .

Sainsbury's Active Kids

As we are now a Snowmark/
Clubmark qualified Ski Club (only
the third in the country!) we now
qualify to participate in the
Sainsbury's Active Kids program.
This will enable us to get additional
equipment free for use in training
sessions for all standards of skiers.

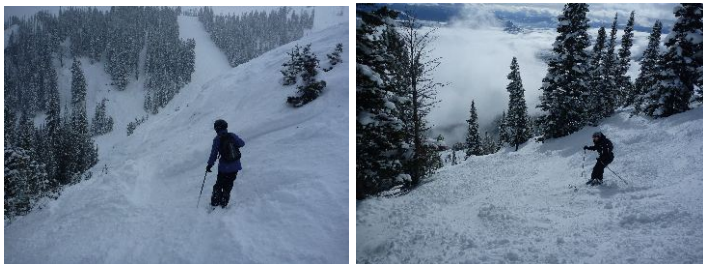
Please give your Active Kids
vouchers to Kim Hancock on a Friday
night, or to any member of the
committee.

I'm going down to Jackson

So sang Nancy Sinatra and Lee Hazlewood although they didn't specify which Jackson. We chose to go to Jackson, Wyoming.

On 30 Jan 2010 eight of us departed Heathrow for Jackson Hole via Dallas Fort Worth. Apart from some heart stopping moments getting through Dallas it was a pretty good journey. Immigration took so long that 3 of us were convinced we were not going to make the onward flight to Jackson. We ran to the gate to find they'd kindly held back the flight. A two hour trip with fabulous views of Breckenridge and Vail saw us in Jackson where the airport is roughly 15 - 20 minutes out of the town, so no long transfers.

We stayed at the Snow King resort and enjoyed a very good standard of accommodation with a condo for 6 and a hotel room for 2. With free shuttles to Teton Village for the skiing and downtown we were well set.



The weather during the first week was changeable with quite a bit of snow falling. The resort did have quite a good base but it was clear more snow was needed. Jackson Hole has a reputation for being steep and deep. It is steep in places but certainly not impossible and we had to wait a bit for the deep - well worth the wait too.

Overall the skiing is very good with a lot of variety and more than enough for the 2 weeks. The second week saw more snowfall and our last day was a fantastic experience of light fluffy stuff. Views from the top of the tram were fantastic when we could see! Note too, those crowded slopes.



There were a couple of moose who seemed to have taken up residence in a small copse under one of the lifts and were happy to remain in their prone position to be photographed. It was heartening too to hear locals getting excited about moose spotting on the bus home.

We visited Yellowstone on the second Sunday hiring 4 skidoos between us. Our guide provided some basic operating instructions and off we went. Nice and steady at first we rode for about a mile and parked up. Next stage he was roaring off at quite a pace and I did wonder if he was actually keeping an eye on us at all! We reached speeds of about 45 to 50 mph - or 61 mph depending on who had control. Quite exciting.



It was a gloriously sunny day (if somewhat cold) and the Old Faithful geyser performed bang on cue. We saw a buffalo/bison conveniently grazing just off the trail. I did wonder where the tethers were. At another stop some of the group saw and photographed a couple of coyotes that had come over for a nosy.

We visited Grand Targhee and found it to be a small friendly resort and good for a day out, if freezing cold. Targhee is supposed to have drier and greater snowfall than Jackson Hole but unfortunately it was a bit skied out on our trip.

Ann tried a number of alternative trips with some snow shoeing, hiking and a trip to the elk refuge. The Nordic experience had to wait for a day with no snowfall.

Although Teton Village has a number of bars and cafes at the base there aren't many mountain restaurants but we were not disappointed with those we did visit. All seemed good value. There were also a few visits to the Manky Moose bar for a bit of après ski.



Downtown Jackson is quite rustic with wooden boardwalks and old style architecture. It is a genuine cowboy town with a number of ranches in the surrounding areas. But the people do welcome tourists and there are some interesting shops in the centre along with the necessities of groceries on the outskirts. There appeared to be plenty of dining opportunities but we enjoyed some very good self catering so we only sampled the Million Dollar Cowboy Bar and Blue Lion for good dining experiences. And a nearby bar for more ordinary but good food after a fun time snow tubing.

We booked an Inghams holiday through Skiline.co.uk and we got a good deal with a UK online ski-lift pass retailer recommended by them.

Group: Mike Thomas, Ann Hobson, Pete and Jill Seamen, Steve Price, John Ellis, Elaine Smithson & Diana Horth

Diana Horth, March 2010



Shop Discounts **£££**

Members are reminded that many local ski/outdoor shops offer members a discount. Discounts are offered by, for example, Lockwoods (Leamington), Ski Warehouse (Tamworth), Roofbox Company (online), Two Seasons (Solihull, Leamington, Coventry, Worcester and others), and White Mountain (Walsall).

The list above is not comprehensive, so if you are buying ski or outdoor related equipment anywhere it is always worth asking.

Summer Skiing - in Holland

We have been investigating a weekend skiing trip to ... Holland. ... Holland????

This doesn't sound too promising until you learn that Holland has one of the largest indoor snow slope facilities in Europe, just the other side of the English Channel boasting two 500 meter pistes. It has a café and fun park also squeezed between them as well as the lift system.



So who would be interested in skiing over one weekend August this year?

The trip would be open to racers and recreational skiers, leaving by coach on a Friday afternoon, arriving Friday evening. Staying overnight on Friday and Saturday at Hotel Snowworld, with skiing two 2 hour sessions on both Saturday and Sunday,

There would be the usual great social atmosphere during day and evening generated by the MSC, and we'd return home Sunday evening. All accommodation, catering and transport included, with Dedicated race piste and gates, race and performance coaching by our own coaches

Cost would be around £300 all in travelling by coach from Birmingham, assuming 48 participants.

Full details of Langraaf on www.snowworld.com, but briefly:

Slopes

The world's largest indoor ski resort is located in the south of Limburg, Holland. With five slopes and eight lifts there are innumerable possible descents. The slopes in a row:



FIS-slope: SnowWorld Landgraaf is the only indoor ski area with an official FIS-slope. This means that SnowWorld is the only indoor ski area which may organize official FIS World Cup competitions. On this red slope descents can be made up to 500 meter.

The longest slope in SnowWorld Landgraaf makes it possible to make descends up to 520 meters. This blue slope is ideal for advanced skiers and snow boarders. Halfway through the descent, between this course and the FIS-slope you will find our Graubündenhütte.

Funpark: The world's largest indoor fun park is located in SnowWorld Landgraaf. With several kickers, rails and grinds there are many possible runs.

Beginners: For beginners SnowWorld offers two practice slopes. Even if you have never skied or snowboarded, have you the possibility to learn this.

Maoam Kinderland: In Milka Kinderland, the little ones can get their first skiing experiences. Snow World offers 100% winter fun for young and old

If you are potentially interested in this trip please send details of numbers skiers, age and skiing ability level to holland@midlandski.org.uk or speak to any of the coaches.



Obituary: Robin Gurney

Only a few older members will remember Robin, who was one of the founders of the Midland Ski Club. He was part of the triumvirate who set up the club in the mid-sixties, and arranged the original meeting in Codsall, Staffordshire, to assess the level of support for the venture. Together with Sandy Tebbutt and John Goodman, he formed the organisational structure which got the club going, and took on the post of Secretary until 1974. He booked venues for meetings, arranged coaches and hotels for Scottish weekends and, in effect, made the club activities happen. As the membership grew, others were able to take on some of these duties, but it was Robin who showed the way.

In later years, Robin dropped out of the world of skiing, and chose not to maintain close links with the club, but his death in February cuts off yet another connection to the origins of MSC. His essential contribution to this club which has given so much pleasure and fulfilment to so many members over the years should not be forgotten.

Alan Parkin

High Altitude Training Weekend

The Oriad Mountaineering Club hut in Rhyd-Ddu has been booked for this years High Altitude Training Weekend. This is a new venue for us, and a great location in Snowdonia.



If you'd like to do some mountain walking during the weekend 22/25th October to help get fit for the ski season, make a note in your diary, and look out for the application form in a forthcoming newsletter.

Mike Thomas

Committee Minutes

Following suggestions at last year's AGM, since last summer the minutes from meetings for the Committee and the Race Steering Group have been published on the MSC website. So if you want to know what has been discussed, then just go to www.midlandski.org.uk/minutes and have a read.

Note that minutes aren't published until they are approved at the *following* meeting.

MSC Small Ads

There is a new page on the website for members to advertise ski-gear that they have for sale (wanted's are accepted too). The idea is that instead of the kit languishing in the back of the cupboard for years, then you let everyone know what you have available - or want.

I'm sure that every member has something they no-longer use that someone else may be able to take advantage of.

Full details online, at www.midlandski.org.uk/ads

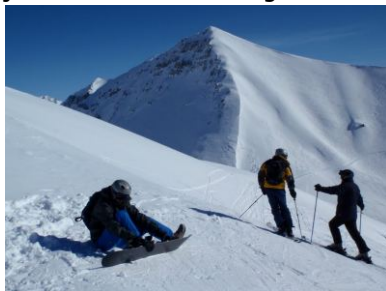
Club Holiday 2010

Serre Chevalier, France



The holiday started well flying from East Midlands on schedule. We had a small hold up at the delightfully quaint Chambéry airport as Monsieur Chauffeur (aka Alain Prost) had his steak, but with a hair raising coach journey of less than 3 hours over the Lauteret Pass we were in our resort before 5pm. Several complaints about the standard of driving and constant use of mobile ensured we had a very pleasant driver for the return journey!

Having arrived early into the resort it was easy to get ski hire and lift passes sorted out ready for an early start in the morning. The first day we endured white out conditions making getting to know the area somewhat difficult. I think a few people made similar mistakes by going to the top of the Monetier system and taking a blue run to 'warm up'. Unfortunately what we couldn't see was that we needed to let go in order to get up the hill just a bit further along. But the snow was fresh and there was plenty of it. The rest of the week we had either brilliant visibility or enough to see what was what. For those that enjoy off piste there is a lot to do in the Serre Chevalier area and I think several people on the trip hardly skied on piste all week.



We unfortunately had two injuries during the week. Dia Martin fell in a freak accident during the really poor visibility on the first day and broke her upper arm necessitating a stay in Briançon hospital where they pinned and plated the injury. Frank Taylor at least left it until Thursday to fall and hurt his shoulder. We learned later that it was a dislocation. Our best wishes go to them both for a speedy recovery.

Our multi talented club also needs to welcome a new skill into the fold. Basher Ellis (aka John) now holds a

certificate for driving a piste basher. Not being happy with 2 weeks in Jackson Hole, John felt he should keep up the ski practice in the intervening 3 weeks by going to Ackers where he managed to break his thumb. However Basher is not easily deterred and as long as it didn't interfere with happy hours etc he seemed quite content.



Some of us went to the bar across the square (also owned by the hotel) for après ski and on two evenings a couple of hours of free live entertainment was provided. I thought the blues band (duo) on the second of these evenings was really good.



On the Thursday those of us that skied back to Monetier were pleasantly surprised by a few Bordeaux tasting tables that had been set up at the base. Needless to say I think most of us tried the red, white and bubbly



We stayed at the Hotel Rif Blanc which has a charm all of its own. The owners Paul and Lisa are a British

couple who settled in Monetier Les Bains a number of years ago and they did their very best to make us welcome. The rooms however were very much on the small side and given that we originally were due to have quite a few people sharing 3 to a room it was fortunate in a way that there had been a number of cancellations. This ensured that everyone was in a twin room but it would have been hard going for 3 adults to share. There were enough beds but just no space to move or store kit.



The hotel is well under 10 minutes walk away from the lifts at Monetier and there is a village bus that does a circular route which stopped outside the hotel. The buses were free on the lift pass and it is possible to travel anywhere between Monetier and Briançon either by bus or by skiing. The food in the hotel was generally well received although evening choice was limited. But if something didn't appeal the staff were only too happy to offer an alternative.

Overall a very good resort

Diana Horth



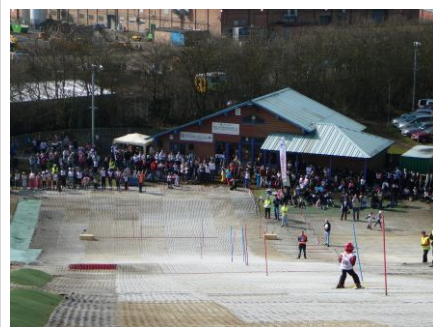
The 5th WMSA School's Race took place at Ackers in glorious sunshine and was a great success. With a record 40 teams from 20 schools and over 140 skiers of varying ability all participants had a great time as did the parents and supporting spectators.



Run and organised by Midland Ski Club who were supported financially by the sponsors Two Seasons, Widney Sports, Golden Hillocks School Sport Partnership and the Ackers Centre, all need to be

thanked for their commitment to making the event a great occasion.

The competition between the schools was very keen with the under 16's team from Princethorpe College of Edward Brotherton, Jack Rigby, Nick Phelps



and Izzy Snead taking pride of place as the fastest team, pipping Solihull School's under 19's team of Harry Hornsby, Amie Middleton, Hannah Shakeshaft and Elisabeth Thomas by 0.71 seconds.

The overall individual prizes with the fastest two run combined time went to Harry Hornsby in the male event and Elisabeth Thomas in the females, both from Solihull School.

The best performance for a newly participating school went to Avon Valley School.

A full list of results and winners for both the team and individual events can be found at:

www.midlandski.org.uk/schoolsrace.php

This competition is an opportunity for pupils of all abilities to participate in the sport of skiing and if they wish to develop their skills further then via our club they can do so. Ski training at all levels is available for both recreational and competitive interest.

Sally Phelps



Midsummer Walk Changes at WMSA

Can you help take the region forward?

Spring is here and it's time to get ready for Summer and those long days and balmy evenings (at least that's how it's supposed to be!). To make the most of the British weather and the long hours of daylight, we have arranged a Midsummer walk on the evening of 18th June in the middle of England. So come and join us for a relaxing 4 mile walk around the woods and fields of Meriden. We will meet at 7.00 in the car park of the Queens Head pub in Meriden and will return there after the walk to replace any essential fluids that may have been lost during the journey.

Meriden is just off the A45 Coventry Road as you head away from Birmingham past the airport. The Queens Head is just on the eastern outskirts of Meriden and just off the B4102 Main Road. As you head out of Meriden you will pass the Manor Hotel on your left, the "old" road (where the Queens Head to be found) is just a few yards past the Manor down a small slip road.

Post code for the pub is CV7 7JP OS grid reference is 253820 (Landranger 140). Phone number 01676 522256.

The event is free and open to all. If anyone just so join us for a drink afterwards then they are most welcome.

Please contact Jeff Elmore if you are intending to come along so that we know to wait for you, and so that we can contact you if there are any last minute change of plans. For more info contact Jeff on 07958 967709 or jeffski@blueyonder.co.uk

As many MSC members will know, Midland Ski Club is one of the Clubs that make up the West Midlands Ski Association which is a regional body representing snowsports across the Midlands area. WMSA is one of the nine regions within the governing body of Snowsport England (SSE). The regions are now playing an increasingly key role in helping to deliver the SSE 4 year development plan which is being funded by Sport England. The main aim is to increase participation in snowsports and to improve the quality of the whole snowsport experience for you as participants. This equates to more members in clubs, more opportunities to take part in snowsports, better facilities, more coaches and instructors, etc.

WMSA will shortly be officially merging with the East Midlands region and will represent the interests of snowsports enthusiasts from Lincolnshire right across to the Welsh borders. As a result of this merger and all the exciting developments taking place as a result of SSE funding, we are looking for one or two members from clubs in the region to assist with projects that will help to take the new region forward. Ideally we are looking for people who are not already heavily involved in the running of their Club, but who could

spare some time on an occasional basis to work on regional activities that will ultimately be of benefit to their club. We are not specifically looking for committee officers, but more for people who would be interested in working on various projects alongside existing committee members and full-time Snowsport England Development Officers. The idea is to provide some additional, limited support to the main committee so that the normal business of the Region can still take place alongside the Regional Development plan.

There are about 5 or 6 meetings of the committee a year, and whilst there will be some work to do outside of the meetings we don't anticipate having to meet more frequently than this. Anyone who has interests in other snowsport disciplines outside of Alpine would be most welcome as part of the plan is to increase the regional representation of other disciplines of snowsports.

This is a unique and truly great opportunity for anyone who wants to make a real difference and impact on snowsport activities within the Midlands. So if you are interested or want more information please contact the Regional Chairman, Jeff Elmore (jeffski@blueyonder.co.uk 07958 967709).