

MIDLAND SKI CLUB NEWS

MAY 2011

Annual General Meeting

The **Annual General Meeting** of Midland Ski Club will be held on Monday 6th June at Land Rover Sports and Social Club, Billsmore Green, Solihull.

Nominations are requests for official and committee members to assist with running the club are now open and should be notified to Diana Horth on 01889 800706 or diana.horth@tesco.net, as should any special items of business.

As part of the evenings proceedings, a **free buffet** will be provided.

Slope Usage and Coaching Charges Effective 1st June 2011

You will be aware from the previous newsletter that the way members pay to use the Ackers is changing. After consulting these will be to implemented these changes from Wednesday 1st June 2011.

Basically we have agreed with the Ackers to "contract hire" the slope. For this, we get:

Tuesdays: 3 hours shared use main slope, 18:00 to 21:00

Thursdays: 3 hours shared use main slope, 18:00 to 21:00

Fridays: 3 hours exclusive use main slope, 18:00 to 21:00

During these session times there would be no limit to the use (paying) members can make of the main slope (subject to slope capacity and safety considerations). These sessions would be available all year round except on the few occasions when the Ackers closes e.g. Good Friday and between Christmas and New Year or when there is a special event on.

You will be able to pay one of two ways – a "contract" package or "pay as you go". The charges per member are £37.50 per calendar month for unlimited use during any or all of the three sessions (the *contract rate*), or £15.00 per ad-hoc session of up to three hours (the *pay-as-you-go rate*). If you take instruction, you will remain entitled to attend the groups you are currently eligible for at no extra charge. There is no difference between adult and junior rates.

Control of use

If you take lessons, you must display your club number in 25mm high black numbers on the right hand side of your helmet (see photo). Your coach will take a register each lesson to record your attendance.



If you are a recreational skier (not taking a lesson), you must produce an MSC membership card at the Ackers reception before skiing and sign in on a register held there.

The MSC will regularly check these registers against payments received to ensure members using the slope have properly paid for the sessions they have used.

Fundamentally, the scheme is honesty based and relies on members making the right payment at the right time.

Members not respecting this by skiing without intent of paying will risk being disciplined and/or losing the right to ski at the Ackers.

Diary

Tuesdays @ 6.00pm

Race Novices - Roger Crombleholme 01785 714073

Tuesdays @ 7.30pm

Race Coaching - Roger Crombleholme 01785 714073

Thursdays @ 7.30pm

Advanced Race Training
Guy Hornsby 01564 779927

Fridays @ 6/6.30/7pm

Junior Coaching
Jane Lee 01905 345416

Fridays @ 8pm

Adult Coaching
Jane Lee 01905 345416

6th June

Annual General Meeting, LRSC

Solihull

Diana Horth, 01889 800706

Questions and answers

There must be winners and losers?

If you are a junior and ski more than 37 sessions a year you will be better off on contract than Ackers current price. Thursday users will reach a break-even point earlier because they current pay additionally for instruction. The position for Adults is neutral as the pay-as-you-go rate and Ackers adult rate are identical, but adults skiing more than 30 times a year will benefit from the contract rate. Infrequent users will be the most likely to be disadvantaged by the proposal.

I'm likely to be disadvantaged by the proposal, why should I be happy?

By selecting the contract rate you will be able to ski longer on the nights you currently use, and contemplate skiing on other nights as well all at no extra cost.

Will the additional charge for Thursday instruction remain?

No]

For payment details, see page 2

Any questions / can't remember your membership number?

Contact the MSC Treasurer, Phil Deller on 07736 955861 or at treasurer@midlandski.org.uk



Racing Opportunities

Gloucester Sunday Race League

This is a new summer race league on Sundays at Gloucester. 2 dates: 29th May and 25th September. We need 3 teams of 5 skiers each. In each team of 5 we have 3 skiers from the normal GSRL teams and 2 unrestricted skiers – any level of seed points.

The format is two runs of a slalom course in the morning, the faster time from each skier to count towards a team total time. In the afternoon teams will be organised in 4 leagues of 5 teams, and each team will race against all others in their league with points for a win, draw and lose. There will then be finals and a 3rd/4th team play-off. This is team dual slalom, a very exciting race.

If you would like to race on May 29th please let Jane Lee know as soon as you can, at the latest by 25th May. Skiers who have long since blown their Gloucester points are very welcome, this is great team practice for the Inter Regional competition in July. Contact Jane on canal.cottage@btopenworld.com.

CESA Interclub Race series

The next round of the CESA Interclub race series is at Stoke on Saturday 11th June, it would be great to have many skiers of all levels to represent the club. Please contact Claire Hodge - clairehodge0@aol.com – if you have any questions.

Celtic Cup – Pontypool 25th/26th June
Competent unregistered racers are invited to join the regulars for a days racing at Pontypool - the longest slope in southern Britain. Unregistered racers can only enter one day: Saturday is recommended: it's a great day out.

Retail News

A long time supporter of MSC for many years has been **Jacksons of Old Arley**. Last year they had a major fire which destroyed most of the building and stock. However with a lot of hard work they have now re-built a completely new store. The grand opening of this superb new building was on 14th May so pop down and see their great range of outdoor clothing and equipment. They also have a new website and on-line shop: www.jacksonscamping.com

Looking for bargains? Now is a good time to pop into your local snowsports retailer to pick up some great deals. Many stores have reduced prices on their 2011 stock as they will start to order 2012 product in the coming weeks. The range available may be limited, but if you're looking to kit up for next season then shop around and grab a bargain. Some examples are:

Two Seasons - Salomon X-Wing 8 + Z10 bindings now £249 (was £350) Check on line at www.twoseasons.co.uk or pop into your local stores - Lichfield, Solihull, Birmingham, Leamington Spa, Coventry, Merry Hill, Worcester.

White Mountain - Atomic Race SL12 Junior LTj with XTL10 bindings now £299.99 (was £400) www.whitemountainski.co.uk

Lockwoods - Nordica Dobermann World Cup 150 boot now £190 (was £360) www.lockwoods.com

Snow+Rock - Salomon men's Adrenalin jacket now £180 (was £300.00) www.snowandrock.com

Ski Warehouse - They have various Descente ladies jackets at half price from £99 to £225 www.skiwear4less.com

Decathlon - Winter stock may already have been taken off the shelves here, but they still have great prices on many dual purpose items such as fleeces. Worth popping into the Wednesbury store to see what they have on offer www.decathlon.co.uk

Don't forget that you are unlikely to be able to get any additional MSC discount on sale items.

Slope Usage and Coaching Charges Payment Process

Contract users

Contract users will need to set up and pay by monthly standing order, with a three-month payment up-front. If you wish to change to pay-as-you-go, you will need to give three months notice and let your deposit run out. If you leave the contract scheme, you will not be allowed to re-join for twelve months except in exceptional circumstances (e.g. significant injury) at the discretion of the MSC committee.

Standing order payments will be due as follows:

First payment of £112.50 per member due 1st June 2011 followed by monthly payments of £37.50 per member starting 1st July 2011.

Payments must be made to:

Account Name:	Midland Ski Club
Bank:	Co-operative Bank
Sort code:	08-92-99
Account number:	65362479
Description:	Quote your membership number e.g. 20134

Pay-as-you-go users

Pay-as-you-go users can pay in any of the following ways:

1. By bank transfer (as details above) in advance or within 24 hours of use
2. By leaving a cheque payable to Midland Ski Club at the Ackers reception on the night, quoting your club number on the reverse of the cheque
3. By posting a cheque payable to Midland Ski Club within 24 hours of use to The Treasurer, Midland Ski Club, c/o 26 The Hurst, Moseley, Birmingham, B13 0DG quoting your club number on the reverse of the cheque.

Sorry, we are unable to accept cash or card payments, or payments in any other way.

CESA

CESA (Central England Snowsports Association) has a new website www.cesnowsports.org.uk. CESA used to be West Midlands Ski Association (WMSA), but last year formally merged with the East Midlands region to form CESA.

The main purpose of the CESA website is to provide an information portal to anyone interested in any form of snowsports. The idea is that the CESA site should provide some basic information on all snowsport disciplines, clubs, slopes, facilities and what is going on in the Central England region, and then point people to other sites or contacts where they can get more detailed information. The site is growing steadily, but it is still very much "work in progress" so any input or feedback from MSC members would be appreciated.

Have a quick look and let me know what you think. e-mail me at jeffski@blueyonder.co.uk

Advance Notice

The **High Altitude Training Weekend** will 21st-23rd October to Gradbach Farm Derbyshire which is on the same site as Gradbach Youth Hostel, but a separate building with accommodation for 25 and we have exclusive use so should have enough places. Watch for a booking form in the summer.

The **MSC Christmas Party 2011** will be held on Friday 9th December 2011, at LRSC, Solihull.

New Year Family Training Holiday

~~Tuesday~~ ~~Monday~~ 27th December 2011 to 3rd January 2012

Following another successful holiday in Altenmarkt, we have again secured rooms in Ennstaler Hof.

For those of you who haven't been there before, this is a lovely hotel in the "Ski Amade" which is the largest ski area of Austria, part of the Salzburg Skiwelt.

www.en.skiamade.com. Recommended for all skill levels, with plenty of snow making capabilities and a glacier, this is a beautiful snow sure area. The lift pass covers many resorts but we found that Zauchensee, Flachau, and Wagrain offered us plenty of training opportunities.

The hotel suits family groups perfectly, with very comfortable en-suite rooms, for 2, 3, 4 or more, and has plenty to occupy the younger guests, (climbing room, table tennis, TV room. internet, swimming pool) and also a good bar for the rest of us! It is in a lovely quiet position, with a short walk to the centre of town, with the bus stop right outside to take you to the slopes. Our booking is on a half board basis, with a breakfast buffet, and 3 course evening meal. New Year celebrations include a special 4 course meal, and party with fireworks, sausages and gluwain.

This holiday is open to all, but accommodates those who have to abide by the school holidays: this is awkward again this year as Easter is so late, and the schools are breaking up early before Christmas

As travel is left up to you, there is the opportunity to extend your stay either at the beginning or end of the core training days. The hotel can usually accommodate extra nights at a cost of approx £50pp half board.

Most people tend to drive, (approx 12 hours from Calais to Altenmarkt the hotel is just off of the main motorway). If you wish to fly, Salzburg is the most convenient airport, with transfers costing approx £40 return. An alternative is a flight to Munich, and then train. Booking early should give the best prices.

The price which includes half board accommodation in a family room (all en-suite), ski pass, and 6 days full coaching is £650 for adults, and £515 for a child. £610 for 16-17 year olds. If you require a double or triple room there is a £25 supplement per head. (subject to room availability for double rooms, please book early). It may be possible to book double room for parents, and kids share a multi bedded room, if the girl/boy split works.

Winter holiday insurance has to be taken out by all, - remember that the club does offer affordable travel insurance (please see our website).

Any questions please try to catch me on a Tuesday or Friday evening, or tel : 01788 337280.

Kim Hancock

FAMILY TRAINING HOLIDAY, ALTENMARKT, AUSTRIA

To: Kim Hancock, 12 Saffron Close, Rugby, CV23 0XA - or email holidayaddicts@yahoo.co.uk

Please reserve me _____ places for the New Year Family Training week in Austria.

I enclose a deposit of £100 per person as a NON-REFUNDABLE deposit. I understand that the holiday cost includes a coaching fee, which may not be covered by the insurance.

Cheques payable to Midland Ski Club, or by direct transfer to : The Co-operative Bank plc;

Account Name: Midland Ski Club; Sort Code: 08-92-99; Account Number: 65362479; Quote reference : **Your**

Surname FTW12

I will obtain the Euro-health card, and will have a full passport.

I understand that the prices quoted do not include transport to and from the resort or equipment hire.

Names as on passport, and date of birth of all U18s.

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Membership number _____ Any special dietary needs _____

Adults: _____ U16s: _____ 16-17yrs: _____

Special rooms requests: Doubles: _____ Triples: _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Club Holiday - Champoluc, Italy

18th to 25th March 2012

Champoluc (1,579m) is a delightful, unspoilt Italian village lying at the top of the Ayas Valley, below the imposing Monte Rosa mountain chain with its towering peaks and extensive glaciers. The Monte Rosa ski area offers high altitude skiing and covers three valleys with a modern lift system and with extensive possibilities for off-piste skiing and touring in spring. Champoluc, Gressoney, Antagnod and Alagna Valsesia are all covered on the same lift pass.

We will be staying at Hotel de Champoluc on a half board basis. The hotel enjoys an amazing position adjacent to the Crest gondola. In normal conditions, it's possible to ski back to the hotel. Recent refurbishment of the hotel's public areas has lent a sophisticated, cosy air with traditional wood panelling creating a real Alpine ambience.

5 minutes' walk to resort centre

Lounge/bar with TV

Games room with billiards and table tennis

Pool table

Fitness room

Sauna, Turkish bath, solarium and whirlpool (local charge)

Accommodation

All bedrooms have private bath and shower, WC, Sky TV, hairdryer and balcony.

Meals

Hot and cold buffet breakfast

4-course buffet style evening meals with choice of menu

Weekly local speciality dinner



The base cost of the holiday is £535. Deposit £130 per person with the balance due in the first week of December. Flights are from Birmingham.

Lift passes are approximately £177 (adult), or £137 (senior) - over 75 to be confirmed but should be free. Ski hire costs are to be confirmed.

Please contact me if you need any more information at dianahorth@virginmedia.com or 01889 800706 (evenings); 0121 3451041 (day) or 07806 777049.

CLUB HOLIDAY - CHAMPOLUC, ITALY

To: Diana Horth, 23 Lockside View, Rugeley, Staffordshire. Ws15 1NJ

Please book me ___ places on the MSC Club Holiday to Champoluc from 18th to 25th March 2010. I enclose a non-refundable deposit of £130 per person (cheques payable to Midland Ski Club please).

Name: _____

Passport Number: _____ Date of Issue _____ Date of expiry _____ Issued by _____

Nationality _____ Country of Residence _____ Date of birth _____

(Please supply the above for additional persons on a separate slip of paper)

Address: _____

Phone numbers: _____ Email: _____

Ski Carriage at £30 Yes/No How many ski bags? _____

Adult lift pass? _____ Senior lift pass? _____ (Over 75 arrange in resort)

Equipment hire: Skis: Gold/Silver/Standard? _____ Boots? _____

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

Special dietary requirements: _____

I access the terms and conditions of First Choice holidays as per their 2011/12 brochure.

Signature _____