

MIDLAND SKI CLUB NEWS

MAY 2012

MSC Success at Pendle



MSC Racers had great success at the recent Pendle Club National Race. Three members took overall podiums: Lucy(2nd), Helena(3rd) and Jonny(2nd), and they also were 1st in their age groups. Additional age-group podiums were taken by Ollie (1st U12) and Adam L (2nd U21).

Sign up to get the MSC Race Bulletin - see pages 7/8

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The **Annual General Meeting** of Midland Ski Club will take place on Wednesday 23rd May at the Landrover Sports and Social Club, Billsmore Green, Solihull, starting at 8pm.

Nominations are invited for the officers of the club (Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer) and for committee members and should be sent to Diana Horth (secretary@midlandski.org.uk, 01889 800706) prior to the meeting.

It is important that we get a turnover of members serving on the committee to introduce new ideas into the club on a regular basis - so please do consider joining the committee.

A buffet will be provided.

Diary

Tuesdays @ 6.00pm

Race Novices - Roger Crombleholme 01785 714073

Tuesdays @ 7.30pm

Race Coaching - Roger Crombleholme 01785 714073

Thursdays @ 6.00pm

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Thursdays @ 7.30pm

Advanced Race Training
Guy Hornsby 01564 779927

Fridays @ 6/6.30/7.30pm

Junior & Family Coaching
Jane Lee 01905 345416

23rd May

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

LRSC, Solihull
Diana Horth, 01889 800706

25th May

College of Food meal

John Arnold, 0121 357 1644

16th June

Gloucester Summer Race League

Paul Treuge, 0121 308 5746

(also 21st Jul, 11th Aug, 15th Sep, 6th Oct)

MSC Holidays 2012/13

We can't guarantee blue skies, excellent snow and deserted pistes on MSC Ski Holidays - but we try our best. Join us on this year's selection:

New Year: Family Training Holiday, Altenmarkt, Austria - details inside.

January: Training Week, resort to be confirmed.

March: Club Holiday, St Christoph, Arlberg, Austria - details inside.



No Piste for the Wicked



Every year Tony Costin organises an off-piste week with Mountain Guide Dave Etherington, who led Tony, Peter Seamen, Barry Smith and others on their epic traverse of the Alps which became the subject of Peter's book "Following the Sun" (Copies still available and well-worth reading).

We go to Argentierre which is generally thought to provide the best skiing in the Chamonix valley, and there is no more dramatic place than Chamonix. This year the

snowfall has been heavier than for many years and we confidently arrived ready for a week of deep-powder skiing. We were in for a shock!

On our first day high winds closed the top of the Grands Montets and we could only ski the lower slopes. Did I say 'only'? It is a massive area of great bowls including the Canadian, Italian and Lavachet. We did them all- many times- virtually without going onto a piste. The area had been well skied but the snow was in good condition but it was a gigantic mogul field and I reckoned up that we did 23000 feet of descent in a day.

Conditions were the same the next day so Dave took us to Le Tour. At first sight this looks a very ordinary, small resort. Not with a Guide it isn't. We immediately ducked under the ropes at the edge of the piste and we had the place to ourselves. This is one of the beauties of skiing with a Guide. He takes you to places you would never find for yourselves. You are on your own and you feel that you own the Alps. Full of the joys of winter we shot off only to meet SASTRUGI! If you've never skied this then you're very lucky. It's horrible stuff. The wind whips the snow up into frozen peaks like meringue and you have fight like the devil to get the skis to turn. Thank heavens for modern, wide skis. The old winkle-pickers we used to have would have been impossible. We did a descent of about 800 metres of the stuff and if I never see it again it will be too soon.

Next day we were able to get to the top of the Grands Montets. Which immediately gives you the first problem. You have to descend the 220 steps of the metal staircase down onto the Argentierre glacier in ski boots and carrying your skis. This was just one sign of how the glaciers are retreating in the Alps. The views were spectacular with a gorgeous snowfield spread out in front of us just begging for us to lay down lines of perfect linked turns. If only! It was breakable crust! Sometimes the snow would bear your weight as you turned but more often than not you broke through and staggered round the turn. Life didn't get any easier because soon we were in amongst the crevasses. It really concentrates the mind when you are skiing a few feet from a gaping hole of blue ice. This was particularly so when we found that the only way forward was to cross a 12 inch wide snow bridge over an icy pool of unknown depth. Dave doesn't act as a ski instructor but he does give you a great deal of advice. Although when I knocked Tony into a, thankfully snow-filled, crevasse the word 'advice' is a euphemism for what he actually said.

Life had already been sufficiently exciting but we were about to experience one of the most dramatic runs in the Alps. The Pas de Chevre or Goat's path. This takes you from the top of the Grands Montets in Argentierre all the way to Chamonix past some of the most famous peaks in the history of mountaineering. You feel very small indeed as you crawl beneath the Dru, a towering vertical rock face 1000 metres high. The skiing was very challenging for me as you never knew what was coming next so you never relaxed. When we looked back all we could see was

a mass of snow, ice rocks and trees. You couldn't see how we had got through it. Then we had to get down onto the end of the Vallee Blanche which meant some very difficult side-slipping down narrow, steep gulleys.

And when we had done that and skied the Mer du Glace we had to put our skis on our backs and climb up about 300 feet onto the path you have to ski to get back to Chamonix. We had done about 10 kilometres and a descent of 2200 metres. We were exhausted but exhilarated.

After that you would think we would have a rest but I don't remember our trips to Coumayeur and St.Gervais as being restful. Dave certainly gave us our monies worth as he continued to find runs that inspired us to keep on going.

I think the moral of the week is that the words 'off-piste' only tell you what you are not skiing. They don't tell you what is coming next. You find that out for yourself very quickly.

John Arnold

The New Ackers?



Midland Ski Club (MSC) based at Ackers was nominated as one of ten Priority Facilities by Snowsport England (SSE) following the Facility Survey carried out in 2010/2011.

As those who use the Ackers slope and clubhouse know, there is an urgent need to develop and substantially improve the overall facilities to support the Club's very significant growth and success in recent years. As winner of the Club National race series last year and runner-up the year before together with SSE awards as both Competitive and Recreational Club in 2011, MSC is anxious to stay at the forefront of successful ski clubs in the UK.

Ackers and MSC work in close partnership and have decided on an ambitious programme to upgrade and extensively improve both the clubhouse and slope over the next 2 to 3 years, something that will require substantial fund raising and which we are now in the process of carrying out.

The first phase is the club house and associated facilities, such as meeting rooms, catering, changing rooms, toilets etc., so that we can accommodate and look after all skiers and visitors, whatever their skills and requirements. Currently, we have the bare minimum of facilities, which just does not attract newcomers or encourage them to come back again; it is only the very keen ones who ignore the surroundings and accept the deficiencies.

Subsequent phases will address the slope's length and width, run-off area and hopefully develop the area for boarding and freestyle.

Inspired Facilities funding is currently being sought along with several other sources as the phase one budget is £250,000. The attached modern and attractive Front Perspective will significantly enhance the whole Ackers site and help to bring improved prosperity to a part of Birmingham that needs bringing to life for all local communities. Any help that can be offered to assist in this funding will be greatly appreciated.

Bryan Thomas, MSC Chairman

NEW YEAR FAMILY TRAINING HOLIDAY

29th December to 5th January

Following several successful holidays in Altenmarkt, we are continuing with our tried and trusted formula, and returning to stay with Elke and her family, at the Jungend Hotel Ennstahlerhof. For those of you who have never visited, this is a lovely hotel in Altenmarkt, it is conveniently located at the bus stop, that takes you to either Zauchensee or Flachau, both resorts boasting a variety of runs from FIS world cup level to easy blue runs to move between local resorts. It also gives the option for any groups to explore a little further if they wish to drive. Schladming, Radstadt, Wagrain and St. Johann/Pongau, or even the Dachstein Glacier, are all possible day trips

The hotel has double, family and multi-bedded rooms, and has plenty to keep the kids amused in the evening with TV rooms, swimming pool, climbing wall and the "disco dungeon" (underground bar, which has in the past been opened up for New Year or last night celebrations). For the rest of us who don't have this much energy after skiing, there is a bar adjacent to the dining room, where many a happy evening can be spent, swapping stories from the day.

The hotel is situated across the road from an indoor/outdoor water park the "Therme Amade", which I believe is the largest water park in Austria.

I have again arranged the hotel, instructors and ski pass, so all you need to do is find your own way there. Cheap flights to Salzburg or Munich are the order of the day, with transfers available on the internet for approx.

41 return (with skis) from Salzburg, or I would suggest train from Munich. For those who wish to drive, it is approx. 12 hours from Calais, (700 miles). This holiday is aimed at families with school age children, as we book to account for the school holidays, and generally we have a mixture from all age groups, so friends can be made, but as always, it is open to all.

If someone in your family doesn't ski, but still wishes to join us, please let me know, and I will confirm the price.

Costs include ski pass for whole area, instruction for 6 days (with our own MSC instructors), and half board accommodation in a family room:

Adults £670, "Youth" (age 16-18) £620, and child £540 (there may be a reduction of £100 for children under 7 years, but I can't promise this until lift pass prices are published.

An upgrade to a double, twin or triple room is £25 per person.

Single rooms may be available, price on application. There may also be the possibility of extending your holiday either earlier or later than these dates; I can approach the hotel if you wish.

If you don't have your own skis or boots, these can be rented locally, but you will have to arrange this yourself. I would advise renting on the Saturday, ready for skiing on Sunday, to avoid losing valuable skiing time.



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

Any questions please try to catch me on a club night at the Ackers, or call me in the evenings on: 01788 337280.

Alternatively drop me an email with your phone number, and I will try to return your call.

holidayaddicts@yahoo.co.uk

BOOKING FORM: ALTENMARKT

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

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

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 coaching, and that this is not covered by most insurance companies.

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

I am a member of Midland Ski Club - <http://www.midlandski.org.uk/membership>

I understand that the holiday price does not include transport to the accommodation or ski hire.

_____ Adults (£670 each) _____ Youths (£620 each) _____ Child/children (£540 each)

_____ room supplements of £25 each. Total holiday cost _____.

Names (as on passport), and DOB for under 18s. _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

Signed _____ Date _____ membership number _____.

Club Holiday 2012: St Christoph, Arlberg, Austria

9th -16th March 2013

Next season we are returning to Austria and will be staying at the Inghams Chalet Hotel St Christoph in the Arlberg regions. We have booked 20 twin rooms on a half-board basis.

St Christoph:

- Snow-sure location at 1,800m on the massive Arlberg ski area
- Maiensee T-bar lift just outside ski room door
- 2 minute walk to covered quad chair



The hotel:

- Heated indoor swimming pool and sauna
- Comfortable residents' bar and separate lounge with log fireplace
- Attractive and spacious dining room
- Comfortable bedrooms, all with private en suite shower/wc and TV, and many with balcony
- Ski bus for Lech/Zürs stops in front of hotel (there may be a small charge)
- Afternoon tea and cake
- Free tea and coffee all day
- Free wi-fi

- 5 course meals and wine is included (for those that went, remember Verbier!)

This is chalet style catering and staff have one night off. The local restaurants can get very busy, so the hotel offers an optional in-house 2-course dinner (approx. 12, payable locally). Or if you would prefer to eat out, Inghams do an evening trip to enjoy the restaurants and nightlife of neighbouring St. Anton

If you have not been on a Club Holiday before, it's a social week's skiing and you will always be able to find someone to ski with as hard/leisurely 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.

Flights are with Austrian Airlines from Birmingham (10.30) to Innsbruck (13.35) and the transfer time is about 1½ hrs. Return flight is to be confirmed but could be quite early.

The base cost of the holiday is **£656**. Deposit £130 per person with the balance due approx 10 December. Ski carriage is £35.



BOOKING FORM: ST CHRISTOPH 2013

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

Please book me places on the club holiday. I enclose £..... Deposit(s) of £130/person. Cheques made payable to Midland Ski Club.

Name(s) (as per passport) _____

Nationality _____

Passport number _____

Issuing office _____

Passport date of issue & date of expiry _____

Country of residence _____

Date of birth _____

Contact Address: _____

Phone & email: _____

Ski carriage (qty: £35 each)

Lift passes: Adult (£194) Seniors (Over 65 - £170)

Equipment hire: Skis black (£130) Skis red (£106) Boots (£53)

Any queries or for more information contact me at dianahorth@virginmedia.com

Or 01889 800706 (evenings); 0121 3451041 (day) or 07806 777049

The holiday is sold under the terms and conditions of Hotelplan Ltd (Inghams) and full details can be found in the Inghams ski brochure 2012/13

Club Holiday - Champoluc, Italy - 18th-25th March 2012

After an early start but a short transfer we arrived at Hotel du Champoluc in good time to get lift passes and ski hire sorted out. Champoluc is definitely not a place for shopping and in line with many similar villages everything shuts for the afternoon, especially on Sundays which is when we arrived, so folk had to wait for the local mini market to re-open to buy the necessary tonic flavoured provisions.

Our rep, Phillipa told us that the area had been suffering from too much sun and no fresh snow. However that first night it started snowing and carried on well into our first ski day providing some very fine fluffy stuff although a bit heavy in places off piste. The sun appeared mid afternoon making it all seem very pleasant after the morning's hit and miss visibility. In a way it was lucky the holiday was a week later than normal because we did at least see some fresh snow.

The sunny weather returned on our second day and it seemed to get warmer each day which made for very slushy conditions each afternoon. There was good cover on piste but very heavy off piste. Quite a few did the 'itinerary' route above Alagna which is quite a serious undertaking.

Catherine, Marlene, John and Tony opted for a heli-ski trip on Tuesday and from John's photos we could see what a fantastic time they had skiing down from the Liskamm glacier.



On Wednesday a group of 7 went for an off piste taster session which involved skinning up for about 45 minutes and making the best of some fresh untracked snow. They spent the whole day with their guides getting the most out of the opportunity.

On Thursday a number of us went to Antagnod, a very small ski area a short bus ride away. Although small it was very pleasant and quiet and if snow conditions had been more extensive would be a fantastic off piste area for those who wanted the experience but with gentler slopes. Unfortunately Norman had an accident and knocked his head causing him to become quite unwell. He eventually ended up in Aosta hospital for two nights.

On Friday nearly everyone went to Aosta to ski at Pila which I'm told was very good with a lot of variety and off piste opportunities. I used the trip to visit Norman and had hoped to get a few hours skiing but like hospitals everywhere it took ages to talk to his doctor and get some sensible information. I was very glad to have Sheila with me as we then had to go into town to find some overnight and wash kit for Norman as they provide nothing.



The après ski bar was very close to the hotel and with reasonable prices became the haunt each afternoon. On the first night we were treated to some very good entertainment from the Man with the Guitar who was accompanied by a talented Swedish singer. All quite impromptu but enjoyable. A few of us tried to repeat the experience the next night as we were told Guitar Man would play at another local hotel. Unfortunately the man with the keyboard was in pole position and was cringingly awful. Guitar Man was serving behind the bar but did a few acoustic sets; luckily our Swedish singer friend appeared and the place livened up immediately. It got even more entertaining when the man with the spoons and a cardboard box appeared.

This was a First Choice booking but everything was branded Crystal. They are all part of the TUI group now. But everything was well organised and we were well treated.

All in all a good trip, Champoluc was worth the visit and with the right snow would make a great all round resort. The hotel was very comfortable with sensibly sized rooms and a good sized sitting area. Their beer prices were expensive compared to local bars and even up on the hill, but the wine was sold in 2 shots which helped. The food was good and plentiful in buffet style. Unfortunate for anyone concerned about their girth.

Diana Horth

Club Holiday USA Style - 18th Feb-3rd March 2012

California what's not to like? It's got sunshine, beaches, deserts, massive national parks e.g. Yosemite and the Sierra Nevada mountains.

Eleven MSC members went on holiday to Lake Tahoe, Mammoth Lakes and Las Vegas on a trip arranged by Ski Safari, a company that specialises in arranging independent accommodation, flights and vehicle hire.

We spent 7 nights in Lakeland Village in a rather swish condo on the shores of Lake Tahoe i.e. open the patio door, cross our personal decking area and on to the snow covered beach. The complex had a swimming pool and hot tub, free shuttle buses and the deal included a reasonable breakfast in the restaurant. Some buffoons even tried out the lake never has there been such rapid entry/exit.



Along with several other USA and Canadian resorts the snow had been a bit hit and miss and the Tahoe resorts had not seen any new snow for several weeks. We spent our first day at Heavenly spending most of the time on the Nevada side. We visited Alpine Meadows, Northstar, Kirkwood and Squaw Valley before spending the last day at Heavenly again. Each resort has its own charm and we made the best of some vary varied snow conditions on some unseasonably very warm and sunny days.



We then drove down to Mammoth Lakes through some stunning scenery. We couldn't get into Yosemite National Park because all the passes were closed for winter, but we did get fabulous views of Lake Mono and the trip was further enhanced by a real 'Mom and Pop' diner in the middle of nowhere.

Arriving at Mammoth Lakes we found ourselves comfortably accommodated in 2 condos reasonably close together, not quite on the scale of Tahoe but plenty good enough. The first ski day at Mammoth started out as sunny as Tahoe but got colder and colder during the day. Next day the snow started and instantly things got better with much more skiing in the trees and anywhere that looked good.

Unfortunately Steve took a slow motion fall right at the end of the second day which resulted in torn ligaments and damaged cartilage, thereby ending his skiing and other activities for some time to come. The rest of the group managed another day skiing in some incredibly high winds, we were really surprised by the number of lifts the resort managed to keep running. But, we were literally weathered off our last ski day at Mammoth. Five of us did drive up to the gondola station in a white out and nil visibility but add in the 40mph plus winds at the base and it didn't even begin to look attractive.

resort managed to keep running. But, we were literally weathered off our last ski day at Mammoth. Five of us did drive up to the gondola station in a white out and nil visibility but add in the 40mph plus winds at the base and it didn't even begin to look attractive.

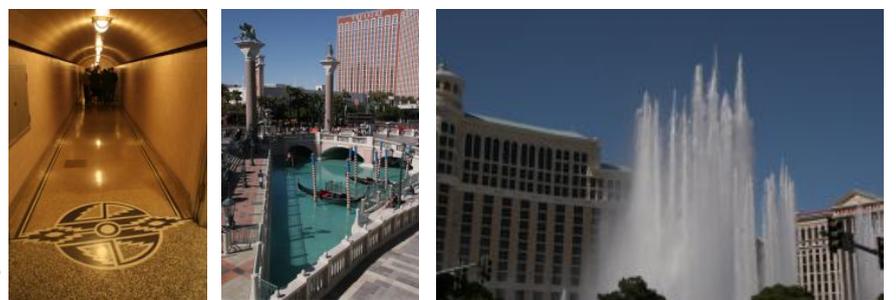


The next day we packed up again and headed for the bright lights of Las Vegas, via Death Valley. Stunning, unspoilt, remote but the diversion was well appreciated by all.

Once in Vegas people pretty much did what they wanted. Some did the sights and lights, Pete and Jill, and John and Lisa saw separate Cirque du Soleil shows and some visited the Hoover Dam. That was definitely worth the short hour's drive. Amazing to think that the interior is done out in Art Deco for the tourists and that was the thinking when it was built. It is still immaculate.

A good holiday. The skiing was good, but the travel between resorts gave it quite a holiday feel so that we felt we had seen something of California and Nevada as well as the slopes.

Diana Horth



MSC RACE BULLETIN

Welcome to MSC Race Bulletin No 7. Anyone is very welcome to contribute to a race bulletin, just send the detail to me (Jane Lee- email: canal.cottage@btopenworld.com). All we ask is that the information is relevant and attachments are kept to a minimum. It will be great to see results of fun races, schools races, snow races sent in to be distributed to all.

1. Gloucester Summer race league 2012 - Team selection for May 5th

The teams for the May race on 5th May are:

A Team:

Tilley O'Brien	Jack Teague
Seamus O'Brien	Ethan Hemming
Jessica Mayhew	Sam Dewison
Karl Hancock	Dave Hancock
Gerry Elgy	John Elgy

B Team:

Anya Hemming	Mia Evans
Rachel Mayhew	Isabelle Teague
James Care	Macaulay Clover
Libby Albutt	Chloe Care
Toby Tarrant	Joe Bird

A difficult choice of teams, almost every skier has a claim on an A team place. At this stage we don't know how many skiers will be in each age group overall so selection has been spread across age groups as much as possible to reduce the risk that we suddenly find we have a really tough age group, as we did last year with the U12 age group.

Paul has asked me to remind you it's £7.00 per skier correct change if possible as it makes things so much easier. The fee is subsidised by the club. Practice starts at 9am so it's worth getting there in time to change and be ready to get on the slope as soon as possible, there is an hour of practice around the actual race course. Hire equipment is also available at 9am. There's bacon butties available at breakfast and a BBQ at lunch. Take tough shoes and a change of clothes just in case it's a bit muddy still. We expect the races to finish about 3:30 this year.

Please contact Paul Treuge immediately if you are unable to attend or if you have confirmed availability and are not on the list.

Remaining race dates:

Saturday	16th	June
Saturday	21st	July
Saturday	11th	August
Saturday	15th	September
Saturday	6th	October

This is a great development opportunity for all our new skiers, everyone is welcome to take part as long as they are club members, can ski safely enough to race and feel they would like to be seen as representatives of Midland Ski Club. Gloucester is a team race and entries are made only by clubs entering teams of 10 skiers. MSC have entered two teams.

If you would like to race then please:

a. Contact Paul Treuge now with outline availability for the remaining 5 races

b. Confirm availability with Paul for the June race by Friday 8th June when we will pick the teams

Contact: Paul Treuge. 0121 308 5746 (evenings only) p.treuge@sky.com

For further details see previous race bulletins www.midlandski.org.uk/racenews.php. Please feel free to ask any coaches or experienced racers and their parents for more details.

2. Timing Night Results

Timing nights were run on 17th and 26th April and results are available www.midlandski.org.uk/raceresults.php. Improvements on

The MSC Race Bulletin is issued every few weeks (depending on what is happening) and distributed to members via email. The latest bulletin is on this page and the next. If you are not getting bulletins by email but would like to do so, please send an email to admin@midlandski.org.uk asking to be added to the distribution list and we'll get it done!

17th for Toby T, Ethan, Jessica, Libby A, James S, Rachel, Macaulay, some superb skiing on 26th from Lucy and Sam Dewison.

In addition 25 skiers enjoyed a very successful dual slalom night on 20th April, there was some great racing and some great improvements. Unfortunately also two great hailstorms but thankfully our new dual slalom traffic light equipment coped with the weather even if some of us on the slope struggled.

3. National racing

We have a new Team Manager for national racing to help racers at National races, to manage their interests and to represent racers to the club. This is Andy DuPlessis, one of our very fastest and most respected racers. Please ask Andy if you need his help, please talk to him if there's anything you feel he can do for you. Contact details are Andy DuPlessis Email: Andy3v53@gmail.com Phone: 07904200232

The first two GBR indoor races on snow at Manchester and the first two outdoor Club National races at Pendle have now completed.

Manchester - Seed points on snow were high again and no skiers reduced seed points. There were age group podiums for Ollie (1st U12), Helena (3rd U16) and Rachael (3rd and 3rd SEN). Congratulations to Amy for some good times on Sunday and some superb skiing from team manager Andy. After 2 races in the GBR indoor series we have an impressive number of skiers with series points from finishing top 30 overall or top 5 in age group - Overall :- Andy 6th, Rachel 19th, Adam L 21st, Jonny 27th, Lucy 29th, Amy 30th, Helena 36th - Age group : Rachel 3rd SEN, Andy 3rd SEN, Ollie 3rd U12, Helena 4th U16, Adam L 8th U21.

Pendle was amazing, unbelievable, cold, wet, windy and some absolutely fantastic results. On Saturday there were more podiums than MSC racers with Lucy(2nd), Helena(3rd) and Jonny(2nd) all winning overall podiums plus 1st in age group. In addition age group podiums for Ollie (1st U12) and Adam L (2nd U21). Sunday was wetter, colder, windier and the skiers found it all more challenging. Good skiing from Helena for 2nd in U16 and Jordan 3rd in U14. Podiums also for Adam L (1st U21), Ollie (2nd U12), Jess (3rd U14), all with more determination for survival than style at times, Lucy went home early, Jonny tumbled out at the end of a very tough weekend, Sam, Amy (and Ed), all in tough age groups, finished successfully. This wasn't the best day to be an official at top of slope J. Points reductions for Lucy (24.78), Helena (33.03), Amy (95.69), Jordan (167.10).

This is a link to race results this year www.midlandski.org.uk/results/MSCRacerResults2012.xls. Our skiers between them have won an unbelievable total of 46 podiums this year so far, by the end of April, compared to 4 in April last year, an indication of how the race calendar is changing as well as a great improvement in results.

4. Opportunities for parents

For those of you who are officials or who are interested in becoming officials we have the following opportunities - these are all races where your skiers may be taking part and we need your help to make the races run smoothly. We are lucky in our club that we have so many parents that we can ask for help, in many clubs the numbers are so small that it's part of the contract, all racers have to provide officials.

Gloucester Summer race league - this is where you start learning the jobs, to wave flags when skiers commit gate faults, to manage teams, help at the top of slope and record results. Please let Paul Treuge know if you can help.

CESA schools race – volunteers as officials on the course are absolutely necessary for this race to run. Please contact Bryan Thomas.

Level One officials course at Manchester on 12/13th May with one free place available to all schools registered with ESSKIA www.esskia.com/category/news, it's open to all who are interested. Please contact Bryan Thomas or Carron Thorley.

MSC Club National at Stoke on 1st July – opportunities here for all levels, for those who have done level 1 or 2 courses and for those just starting out. As well as the usual jobs we have bib issue and provisional board reporting, on the job training will be given.

Cardiff Club National at Gloucester on 9th June – we have been asked to help Cardiff who are running their first club national, they would very much like help from any level 1 or 2 officials from our club or any who would like to start learning.

Timing nights – we need 3 volunteers to run each timing night at the club and we need a second team who can learn to set up the timing to give the club more flexibility.

Please let me (Jane Lee) know if you are available or would like any more information.

5. Schools race opportunities

There will be a schools race at Telford on Friday 22nd June from 5pm. This is run by CESA – Central England Snowsports Association. Entries for this race close on 18th June. Teams are 3 or 4 skiers, mainly single sex except U8 teams can be mixed teams and in addition each school may enter one mixed team in the boys race. The race also accepts individual entries, so if a school can't make up a team on the day but has skiers who would like to take part then this is fine. An entry form is here www.cesnowsports.org.uk/cesa/schools-participation/2012-cesa-schools-races

ESSKIA is the English Schools Ski Association - www.esskia.com. This is part of the English School sports series run across all sports for schools. Skiers can represent their school, first in regional qualifiers and then at national finals if they qualify, with the winning schools from here going to the British Schools finals. Skiers can also be selected to represent their country, initially by selection to the ESSKIA training squads in Norway and Austria and then the final step, selection to race in the ESF World Championships. There are opportunities for all skiers here at all levels. First step though is for the school to register with ESSKIA - www.esskia.com/join-esskia and to form school teams. Next step might be to attend an ESSKIA training day – 27th May at Stoke or 17th June at Gloucester - www.esskia.com/training/. We have our own club training dates, see below, and more will be added before the ESSKIA races.

ESSKIA regional races – for most of our schools the regional race is at Stoke on Saturday 15th September, for Worcestershire schools it's at Gloucester on Sunday 16th September. Entries need to be made in June – at this stage you need to decide which teams you will be entering, names are not needed until early September. There are 4 age groups : Under 19 – years 11, 12, 13 Under 16 – years 9 and 10 Under 14 – years 7 and 8 Under 12 – years 5 and 6. Teams are 3 or 4 skiers, a choice of all male, all females or mixed, 1 or 2 of each. Skiers from a younger age group may take part in an older team.

As usual feel free to talk to coaches and other parents to ask more, or contact Bryan Thomas if you are interested in further news about ESSKIA schools racing.

6. Further Race opportunities for all

Fun races at Stoke Ski club on 12th May, 9th June and 21st July. This is great for skiers just starting out in racing with age groups from under 6 to over 19. Entry form on <http://cesnowsports.org.uk/cesa/racing-participation/2012-stoke-fun-races>.

Chill Factore in Manchester. Races on 12th May, 3rd June, 30th June and 1st August - www.chillfactore.com/ski-board/race-academy/fun-summer-race-league.

Both series of races are suitable for all standards and ages and skiers may race one or more races in the series. Both follow the same format of slalom course in the morning and dual slalom in the afternoon, so plenty of race practice.

Telford will be running their club fun race on Friday 25th May from 6pm. All skiers are welcome to take part, an entry form will be distributed when it is available.

There is a British masters race at Manchester on 18th August. A masters racer is a skier born in 1982 or before, with or without previous race experience. This really is a race for all, not just for our experienced racers. There are age groups for every 5 years, so 1982 to 1978 born through to 1912 to 1908 born, this final group sometimes struggles for numbers. If you want to know more please talk to John or Gerry Elgy.

These races are all individual races and entries are made to each club directly by individuals.

7. GSRL and Schools Race Training sessions

There is one remaining training session for skiers who wish to race at Gloucester for the first time this year or at one of the summer schools races. This is an introduction to racing and includes all the skills needed to prepare racers to race safely and effectively. Please contact me (details below) if you wish to go so I know expected numbers. These are free to contract skiers and will be £10 for pay-as-you-go and skiers new to the club. This session is also suitable for school friends who would like to learn more about racing and wish to join the club.

Race training - Tuesday th June 6:00 to 7:30pm

Race timing night – Friday 25th May – 6:00 to 8:00pm - for all Friday skiers and those interested in GSRL and schools races

8. 2012 Midland Club National – sponsored by Ski Racing Supplies

A date for your diary – Sunday 1st July 2012 – the Midland Ski Club CN at Stoke. It's a great day to race and volunteers will be very welcome to help run the race and to support our racers. It's not too early to enter this race, online race entry www.britski.org/online.htm. For day entries please contact Carron Thorley (Email: raceseecretary@midlandski.org.uk) or me directly for the forms that you need.

Ski Racing Supplies was run by Gary Ryding but has now transferred to Pete Cutler and Michelle Farr from Peak Performance Ski Club and parents of Ollie Farr who many of you will know. They are up and running for business to provide you with all your ski racing needs. Contact details :- Email remains info@skiracing.co.uk Tel No 01143 484320 Mobile 07730 530838

9. Useful links and noticeboard

If you haven't found the MSC noticeboards at Ackers then why not have a look? Much of the information needed by skiers is on the notice boards, generally kept fairly much up to date. We have plenty of information on the MSC website www.midlandski.org.uk and there is information on the Britski site that is of interest to new skiers, particularly

See the links in the online version of this Race Bulletin: www.midlandski.org.uk/racebull_2012/120501-Racebull7.htm

Please feel free to ask me or any of the coaches if you have any queries.

Jane Lee

canal.cottage@btopenworld.com

0774 923 5579

If you have read this as a hard copy or on the website or in the newsletter and would like to subscribe to the mailing list then please ask through the 'contact us' section of the website, giving your name, email address and membership number if possible.