

MIDLAND SKI CLUB NEWS

FEBRUARY 2013

Social Evening: Boots!

Clive McLoughlin from White Mountain Ski will be talking about recent developments in Ski Boot technology on Wednesday February 6th . I am sure he will also be happy to answer any individual questions you may have.

The meeting will be at the Land Rover Social Club, Bullsmore Green, Solihull, starting at 7.30 pm.

Birmingham Area and South Midlands Schools Ski Race Sunday 17th March 2013

At Ackers Adventure, Golden Hillock Road,
Birmingham, B11 2PY

£25 per team

Entry fee includes ski and boot hire if required.

Provisional Timetable

09:30 - 10:00	Registration/Ski hire
10:00 - 11:00	Open practice
11:00 - 15:00	BBQ available
11:15 - 14:30	Timed Runs
15:30	Prizegiving

Age categories

Under 8, Under 10, Under 12, Under 14, Under 16, Under 19,
Special Needs

Pre-race training available to all entrants (must be pre-booked!)

Full details and Entry Forms at
www.midlandski.org.uk/schoolsrace

MSC needs your help!

This year a number of regular officials and volunteers cannot be in attendance on the day of the MSC Schools Race (see above). The club needs more people to come forward and assist in running what is a key event in the MSC calendar and in addition to introducing more children to competitive skiing can give parents an insight to the organisation, management and officiating of an event - or even cooking theburgers!

Please check your diary, tablet, iphone or whatever you use and make sure it is clear.

Let me or anyone from the MSC coaching team or committee know if you can help in any capacity on the day

Paul Lawrence 07976 691389

Diary

Tuesdays @ 6.00pm

Young Racer Development Coaching
Roger Crombleholme 01785 714073

Tuesdays @ 7.30pm

Race Development Coaching
Roger Crombleholme 01785 714073

Thursdays @ 6.00pm

Young Racer Performance Coaching
Roger Crombleholme 01785 714073

Thursdays @ 7.30pm

Race Performance Training
Guy Hornsby 01564 779927

Fridays @ 6/6.30/7.30pm

Skier Improvement Coaching
Jane Lee 01905 345416

Fridays @ 7.30pm

Adult Recreational Coaching
Roger Crombleholme 01785 714073

6th February

Social Evening: Boots!
Land Rover Social Club, Solihull
Catherine Frankenburg, 0121 681
3611

9th-16th March

Club Holiday, St Christoph, Austria
Diana Horth, 01889 800706

17th March

Schools Race, Ackers
Paul Lawrence, 07976 691389

SkiZog

SkiZog: the site for buying and selling secondhand race gear. The site is free to post and nothing is charged to buy or sell. It is focused on the ski race community and has worked very well for for several years.

As always at this time of year there are a lot of people looking for items for the forthcoming races. Much appreciated, every little bit helps with people keeping the costs down and there is plenty of gear out there that can be used.

www.skizog.co.uk



Dobbiacco: Loipe, Pistes, Coffee and Kuchen! Anne Ford

Dobbiacco and its surrounding areas are a great place to ski. It is at the northern end of the Dolomites. 30 kilometers north of Cortina. Less than 3 hours by train from Innsbruck. Spectacular jagged ridges and pinnacles characterise the high mountain landscape which towers above Dobbiacco (1200 metres). The famed Drie Zinnen is only a few kilometres away.

Dobbiacco is in the South Tyrol - a part of Italy with many characteristics of Austria. All towns have both a name in German and another in Italian ie Toblach and Dobbiacco.

There is a good choice of both loipe and pistes. A good selection of loipe gives you exciting and long spectacular descents and many others provide easier charming routes



through woodland and across open meadows. There are many pleasant stopping places for coffee, lunch or gluwain!

A number of pistes are well served by ski buses and trains. These provide a range of routes from coasting blues to more the

more challenging all enjoying spectacular scenery.

The *Pustertaler Classic* race takes place at the end of the second week in January and this is followed by the Dolomitenlauf at the end of the third week in January. At Obertilliach (just over into Austria) there is extensive loipe and a biathlon stadium. Alan Eason (Snowsport England) operates here throughout the winter providing specialist coaching enjoyed by many people e.g. London Nordic.

Examples of 'good loipe' include:-

Dobbiacco to Cortina 30 K. Durrensee cafe recommended.

Fischleintal to Dobbiacco approx 15K. Green Lantern cafe just outside Sexten recommended.

Praz Wildersee to Sage 6 K, combined with Sage to Brukele approx 6 K.

Also investigate Obertilliach (40 Kilometres or more), Gsiesertal (20 kilometres or more), Antholzertal (25 kilometres) .

<http://www.three-peaks.info/alto-adige/alta-pusteria/winter/cross-country-skiing/open-cross-country-skiing-tracks.html>

Pistes

Helm approached by Versciaco or Sexten.

San Candido on the edge of the town.

Moos just a few kilometres from San Candido

Cortina day trip possible using service buses.

<http://www.yanahzone.pl/uploads/images/Alta-Pusteria-Ski-Trail-Map.jpg>

<http://www.myslopes.com/italy/webcams-innichen-san-candido.php>

Local Transport

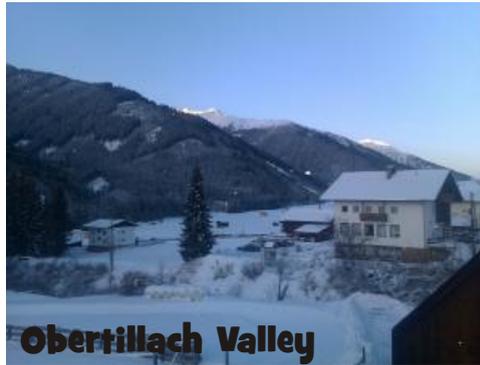
You need a loipe pass to ski on the loipe. If you get the 7 day Dolomiti Nordicski pass with Moby Card (31 Euros) you get free transport on buses and trains for the week across an area stretching to well south of Cortina and SE to Selva. The 7 day Dolomiti Nordicski pass also provides free bus travel to Obertilliach! A guide to all buses and trains is available from the Tourist Office and on some buses. There is a free ski bus to pistes.

Do remember to 'validate' all travel tickets and the moby card for *each journey* in the machines provided!!

Accommodation

Over the years many UK skiers have stayed at Hotel Tschurtchenthaler in Dobbiacco.

This winter I stayed at the Dobbiacco youth hostel (Grand Hotel formerly!!) for 38 Euros half board in a single en-suite room. Some weeks are fully booked with school parties. Other weeks can be fairly quiet. Other accommodation in Dobbiacco can be found through the very helpful tourist office. e.g. Gasthof Her-bri.



Obertilliach is another good place to stay. It is a compact village (about an hour's bus journey from Dobbiacco) in a side valley with a number of older farmhouses. I stayed at the Bucherhof for 2 nights B and B at 25 Euros per night. There is a very helpful

tourist office who will help with finding accommodation. Some weeks can be busy because of races etc. There is a pizza place in Obertilliach plus a pleasant hotel that does good meals at reasonable price.

Getting there

I flew BA from Gatwick to Innsbruck. Stayed at Travelodge in Gatwick the night before for less than 30 pounds. Packed everything into a 6ft ski bag and checked that in as my check-in luggage for no extra charge. From Innsbruck I took the train to Dobbiacco (2 changes) costing 31 Euros single and less than 3 hours travelling). On the return trip you can use your loipe 'mobi card' to travel 'free' to Brenner Pass.

Eating and drinking

There is a choice of places to eat in Dobbiacco e.g. pizza restaurant, Winkelkeller (very pleasant atmosphere). Bars include Station bar (good music plus 'biker' ambiance). Winkelkeller, St Moritz (charming 'patron'), Hotel Tschurtchenthaler (UK cross country skiing guests may be in residence).

Innsbruck

Spending a final night in Innsbruck is a pleasant option. It has a spectacular 15th century centre. There's a hotel right in the centre called Weisses Kreuz which can be reasonably priced if booked in advance. The old centre has a variety of bars and restaurants. There is usually jazz on a Tuesday.

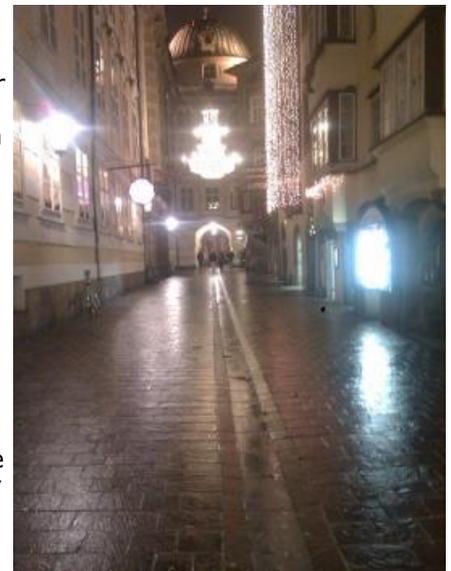
<http://www.weisseskreuz.at/en/rooms-hotel-innsbruck>

Its of course also possible to get the train to Seefeld and get in a final bit of skiing!

Useful Links

[Http://www.three-peaks.info/alto-adige/dobbiacco.html](http://www.three-peaks.info/alto-adige/dobbiacco.html)

[Http://region.austria.info/at/guide/152785sy,en,OEW/objectId,RGN628at_area,provinces-and-regions_site,us,curr,EUR,season,at2,selectedEntry,home/home.html](http://region.austria.info/at/guide/152785sy,en,OEW/objectId,RGN628at_area,provinces-and-regions_site,us,curr,EUR,season,at2,selectedEntry,home/home.html)



BIG SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE ADVENTURE#3: CHILE

13th-27th August 2013

Firstly, my apologies for the protracted finalisation of this itinerary. We wanted so much to give you a dual country itinerary, but Argentina has just proven too expensive, so we've decided on a **3 centre trip to Chile** and by going on the 13th August, the costs are reduced even more as our guide's travel costs can be shared with another group who will follow us out there for a ski mountaineering trip and Tuesday flights are currently the cheapest. We have tried our best to get the costs down as much as we possibly can. **This is a holiday of a lifetime** and costs will only go up more in future years, so I hope you'll take this opportunity to ski Chile in 2013.

Ours is an MSC exclusive multi-centre holiday to Chile covering 3 areas (5 resorts). Our flights go **from Birmingham** via Air France to Santiago.

Very cold dry conditions and the high altitude of South American resorts produce a lot of good powder snow, usually in August. There'll be some overland travel with beautiful scenery, so cameras are a must!

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.

Itinerary:

Day 1-2 -- Overnight flight, land early morning and drive to Chillan

Days 3-4 -- Ski Chillan two full days.

Day 5 -- Transfer to Los Andes

Days 6-7 -- Ski at Portillo, two full days.

Day 8 -- Day in Santiago, city tour & vineyard tour.

Day 9 -- Transfer to Farellones and ski (full day skiing).

Days 10-12 -- Three full days skiing based at Farellones.

Day 13 -- Last full day skiing and early evening transfer to Santiago.

Day 14 -- Morning coffee in Santiago. Fly home from Santiago in the afternoon.

Day 15 -- Land UK, probably late afternoon/early evening

Basic Price is £1925 per person for 6 or 7 people, dropping to £1725 for 8 or more people. (for 4 it would be £2050 each if the 4 people still wanted to go). PLUS flight costs of £900 - £1000 Birmingham to Santiago. We have also agreed a later date of the end of February for the £500 non-refundable deposit to guarantee a place.

Final payment will be required no later than 31st May 2013.

The following are included in the cost of this trip:

- ANDES leader & all leaders costs
- All transfers in Chile
- All accommodation - 3 nights Santiago, 3 nights Chillan, 2 nights Los Andes (for Portillo), 4 nights Farellones. All including breakfasts.
- Evening meals at Farellones (4 nights)
- Santiago City Tour & Vineyard Tour

We will take an emergency fund with us to support anyone in the event of unforeseen circumstances.

EXCLUDED:

- **Insurance:** evidence that you have insurance is necessary at the time of your final payment. Ensure repatriation is included.
- **Ski carriage** 200 euros total. 1 pair of skis, 1 pair

FINAL REMINDER

Anyone who would like to book a place on the trip to Chile 13-27th August 2013 will need to pay a deposit of £500 and send / email a completed booking form by 28th February please. On-line payment is possible or a cheque.

Email Maureen Crombleholme for details on how the on-line payments can be done (direct to Andes bank account or through paypal) Maureen@ims-lifebalance.com

Or post a cheque with your booking form to:

Maureen Crombleholme, 7 St
Modwena Way, Penkridge, Staffs ST19 5ST.

of poles & 1 pair of boots totaling no more than 23kg total. Couples / people sharing can avoid this charge with some clever packing and clothing limits. Contact Maureen for details.

- **Ski passes** (estimated at £30 - £40 per day for under 60's)
- **8 evening meals** (Santiago, Chillan & Los Andes), **lunches** (inexpensive & good quality even on the mountains) and **drinks**, plus general spending money for gifts, etc.
- **Ski, boot and board hire** (we recommend you take your own or hire in the UK).

Links to resort information:

Andes Travel : <http://www.andes.org.uk/>

Chillan Piste map: <http://www.snow-forecast.com/resorts/Chillan/pistemap>

Portillo Piste Map:

<http://www.chileanski.com/eng/portillo/trail-map.htm>

Hotel Possada de Farellones (details of ski area available from this site): <http://www.farellones.cl/> This is a very chilled hotel with excellent service you get your warm boots delivered into the hall every morning and taken away every evening. We usually take slippers and curl up on the squidgy cushions before and after dinner! Also there is a **HOT TUB** to relax in after skiing, so bring your swimwear.

For a booking form or for any queries should be made to: Maureen Crombleholme on 01785 714073, 07710 511388, or preferably by email to maureen@ims-lifebalance.com

31st Training Week: Pila, Italy

The 31st. Training Week ventured to a new resort and we were delighted to find that Pila proved to be a great choice. Just 2hrs. from Turin up a vertiginous mountain road we found a smallish resort but with plenty for us to do. The pistes were ideal for a week's coaching, with long fast sections but with sudden steep drop-offs to catch the unwary. We also found some decent bits of off-piste and some moguls to test our techniques. Piste maintenance was excellent with hardly a rock or bare patch in sight. The only downside were the ancient slow chairs which seemed even slower because the temperature was 15C. We have all skied in much lower temperatures but none of us could understand why we felt colder than we have ever been. We were all wearing so many clothes that it was difficult to fit three into an old wooden-seated chair.

The Hotel Chalet des Alpes was a pleasant surprise. We had deliberately gone 'down-market' from the 5* hotel of Bormio to try to keep costs down but I think we all preferred the friendly atmosphere of this, typically Italian, family-run hotel. It is ideally situated so we could ski out of the back door and back again in the evening.

The food was fine very Italian with few concessions to English tastes. But we all enjoyed the different flavours. Who wouldn't with 5 courses and free wine? The chaos at the first dinner, when we totally confused Maurice and Anna by moving tables from where we had ordered, made Manuel look efficient. But Linda soon sorted them out and, despite all our hard work on the slopes, I don't believe that anyone lost weight. It was so cold that no-one was tempted to go out in the evening, mainly because there was a very comfortable lounge with a log-burning fire which the Club arsonists, Thomas and Winzer, kept blazing.

Another pleasant surprise was the low cost of food and drink in mountain restaurants. You could get a hot chocolate or a vino caldo for 2 euros and a plate of pasta for 6. The Coaches encourage us not to drink alcohol whilst we are skiing but we couldn't refuse a free liqueur after lunch at the Chatellaine could we? And we got so well known in the Sollel at the bottom of the slopes that the barman bought a round!

As always the best thing about the TW is the coaching. No matter how long we have been skiing there is always something else to learn and we need to be kept up to date with the latest coaching techniques and equipment. Bruce, Clem, Rob and Roger did a brilliant job. They were given a group of people with different experience and aims and somehow managed to keep them skiing together whilst attending to each person's

particular needs. I have to say that they are helped by the attitude of you all. Everyone helped to create a real team spirit, trying your best and encouraging the others. Bruce organised a trip to La Thuile, where the TW started 31 years ago, and even found some deep powder. Many thanks again to them.

Sadly, the week was not without its casualties. Derek Walsh had to cancel because he caught chicken-pox and Norman Wright damaged his pelvis. I must give a very special thank-you to Bryan Arnott who volunteered to do all the work to sort out the arrangements with the Insurance Company and the Hospital. It meant that he

was unable to ski for 2 days and was still working after we got back. Thanks, Bryan for making such a sacrifice.

The spirit of the TW was typified by everyone's attitude when the Rep. turned up to take us back to the airport with a bus that was too small and already contained people from other hotels. Her attempts to get us and our gear aboard resembled a particularly unsuccessful round in 'It's a Knockout'. In the end she turfed the others off, much to their displeasure, crammed us on and raced down the hill just in time for us to be fast-tracked through check-in half an hour before the flight left. We could have been very annoyed but instead everyone saw the funny side and just enjoyed the fastest check-in we've had. It's this spirit that keeps the TW going. Here's to the 32nd.

John Arnold

Tony Costin, one of the regulars on the training week wasn't with us this year as he was off climbing a mountain. We are please to be able to report that Tony has completed his ascent of the highest mountain in the western hemisphere, Mount Aconcagua at 6962m. Well done Tony, we look forward to seeing the photos.

Ackers Ski Lodge

Good news! We have passed the first funding hurdle to raise sufficient funds to carry out the extension and refurbishment of our the ski lodge at Ackers.

We have recently secured **£50,000** from our Inspired Fund bid with Sport England. We are now approaching other potential funders to secure further funding which we can now do with greater confidence with this under our belt

Still a way to go, but our chances of succeeding have increased greatly. If any of you have funding avenues that we could follow, please let me know.

An optimistic Chairman, *Bryan*



MSC RACE BULLETIN

Welcome to MSC Race Bulletin No 19. Anyone is very welcome to contribute to a race bulletin, just send the detail to me (Jane Lee- email: canal.cottage@btopenworld.com).

1. Schools Race – Sunday 17th March

The Birmingham and South Midlands area schools race will take place at Ackers on Sunday 17th March. Teams are of 3 or 4 skiers from any school within or outside the region. Full details will be here www.midlandski.org.uk/schoolsrace.php soon.

2. Rule changes

There are some important rule changes that will affect races in the UK from the start of next season. Will all parents please ensure that these are shared with racers.

614.2.3 is a new rule that means a competitor in all events with a fixed start interval (i.e. everything except Slalom) must not continue through the course or climb back up the course if they come to a complete stop. For Slalom they may restart after a complete stop as long as they don't interfere with the run of another competitor.

623.1.1 now requires a competitor who is obstructed to stop immediately the incident takes place and report this to the nearest gate judge. This is a new requirement, previously they were only required to apply to a Jury member.

644.6 strengthens the emphasis on getting protests in on time, now stating that "protests not submitted on time, in the correct manner or submitted without the protest fee will not be considered".

667.3 which covers supplemental duties of the Gate Judge is amended to require them to record the details of any incident which involves a competitor being obstructed during their run.

Further information on next season's changes is here www.britski.org/arb131.pdf

3. Awards

There have been a few awards recently to MSC members for their part in the skiing and racing scene last year, so it's worth summarising them here.

Snowsport England run a coaching conference yearly and at this conference coaches vote for winners in a number of categories. We're very proud that Guy Hornsby was voted winner of the Participation Coach of the Year Award by his fellow coaches. Guy has attended very many of the national races over the last few years, not just as MSC coach but also as course setter and referee. He spends as much time as he can at each race helping and advising skiers, not just MSC skiers, he's always happy to help anyone who asks. A very well deserved award – congratulations.

Snowsport England also give a number of volunteer awards, some went to MSC members for their work to support racing, not only for MSC but nationally. This was for work as officials and for the invention and creation of a device to make slalom racing safer, particularly for use at Pontypool, but now used for all major dual slalom races in both Wales and England. Volunteer of the Year went to Dave Lee, Young Volunteer of the Year to Adam Lee. Again, very well done. Carron Thorley was runner up as Volunteer of the Year – she has been very important to MSC racing in the last few years. In addition MSC were runners up in the Race Club of the Year award.

4. Excel race 9th March

Snowsport Wales will be running an Excel format event at Pontypool on 9th March, starting around midday. This is an event of two seeded races (if time allows), 4 runs on the same course, with each pair of runs counting as a separate seeded event. The entry form will be available nearer the time. The race is open to all registered racers with over 20 seed points and to unregistered racers. There will be U10 and U12 races in addition to the main races. This is an excellent way to start the new season in a very low key event.

The MSC Race Bulletin is issued every few weeks (depending on what is happening) and distributed to members via email. This is the latest bulletin. 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!

5. Telford race 20th January

Telford Ski club are running a race event at Telford. It is aimed at new entrants to ski racing albeit open to existing racers as well. They would like to expand this and invite Midland Ski Club racers. It takes place on Sunday 20th Jan between 09.00 and 13.00. It is through a simple stubbies course. Registration is at 9am followed by open practice and then 2 runs on a stubbies (short pole) course. This will be followed by a dual slalom race and finally presentation at 12:40. The entry fee is £6.50, payable on the day, there is no need to enter in advance, simply turn up on the day ready to race.

6. MSC Club National 2013

The MSC Club National is at Gloucester on Saturday 22nd June. This is a race for experienced and quite new racers, anyone with a little race experience is encouraged to take part. Please talk to coaches about preparing for this race.

We have 3 important jobs that we need to have volunteers for. This is shadowing the 3 main Club National Roles, with an aim to provide a supporting role in 2013 and possibly a leading role in 2014. These are roles for new parents, for those not yet ready to play a full part in organisation but with a willingness to be involved in the future. It is essential that we build a new team to continue the work of the existing team whose children are growing up and leaving home.

Race Secretary – Carron Thorley – a shadow to work with Carron, watch what she does and help. Attendance at a race secretary's course will be needed, this may be run locally just for us.

Chief of Race – Jane Lee – a shadow to work with Jane and watch and help. It's important to learn the jobs on race day so a shadow would need to become an official and work at National races. Loads of support is available from officials both within MSC and at all races.

Child Welfare Officer – Ruth Fisher - a second CWO is needed for 2013 to work alongside Ruth. Ideally this would be someone who already works in this area as part of their job or in another volunteer role, but it's not necessary. Support will be offered, all necessary courses can be arranged.

The cost of all courses needed for these roles will be borne by MSC. Please talk to me, Carron, Ruth or Bryan Thomas if you want to learn more.

We will, of course, need many volunteers outside of these roles to run the race. Please put this date in your diary to keep the day free to come, as racer, volunteer, parent or spectator.

7. 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.

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 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.

Great value Timeshare Ski Apartments For Sale

A wonderful opportunity for an early season pre-Christmas high level ski club base

Where? Tignes Val Claret, Haute Savoie. Fly into Geneva from Luton or Gatwick with Easyjet for convenient transfers to the resort. Snow conditions are generally very good, even this early in the season, not surprising given the height of the resort. Val Claret itself is at 7,000 ft; the middle station on the Grande Motte is 10,500ft; and the top of the Grande Motte glacier is well over 13,000 ft!

What? A group of self-catering time share apartments for sale for early December. The apartments are at Interresidences, a first class apartment block on the main road on the lower level of the village. Some cover the first week of December (periode 39), others in second week of December (periode 40).

There are 5 studio apartments for both weeks, all close together; 4 sleeping up to 4 with balconies facing out onto the slopes, with just one sleeping up to 2/3 on the opposite side of the corridor. All apartments are Saturday changeover. Each apartment may be purchased for two weeks or either of the two weeks.

For the second week in December periode 40, I can also deliver a further 3 x sleep 4, all at the same price, all on the same floor adjacent to the others. If demand requires, I can potentially deliver more apartments elsewhere in the same block in periode 40 if required, and perhaps in periode 39 too.

We in SkiMad (see <http://skimadclub.co.uk/>) have enjoyed them for over 25 years. Now there is the chance for another group of individuals to enjoy the same. **The price is set deliberately at a minimum covering only the legal costs of transfer - approx. £600 per apartment per week.** We have had full value over the years, and have no need or desire to profit from the sale. (This price is £200 below the lowest price quoted on the management company website of €1,000 / £800 - see at the end*). **I will personally organise the transfers of ownership with the management company; I have done it before and it is a straightforward process.**

The ownership of each apartment needs to be in the name of individuals. However, there is maximum flexibility of use. All that is needed is a letter from the 'owner' and any other club members / friends (or anyone authorised by the owner) could use them for any given year. This year - 2013 - periode 39 is from Sat 30th Nov, and periode 40 from Sat 7th Dec.

The apartments have been maintained very well by the management company, probably the biggest in Europe: Pierre Vacances Center Parcs. Each apartment has all the main items you will need, including bedding, towels, crockery/cutlery, cooking utensils etc. Recently refurbished, there are excellent facilities with heated indoor swimming pool, separate saunas for males / females, pool room, lounge. The facilities are continually being upgraded; in 2012 we found that the ski and boot room had been completely renewed with better and more secure lockers. This is easily accessible, on the ground floor.

Modest charges for high quality accommodation with such facilities. The apartments have a service charge which varies a little from year to year but in 2012 was €217 / £174 and €159 / £127 for the larger and smaller apartments respectively. There is nothing further to pay for power, heating, pool, free wi-fi for owners in the lounge area etc.

So close to the lifts, a genuine 5 minute walk to the bottom of the Grande Motte system with alternatives of 3 high speed ski lifts in 3 directions (including up to Toviè and into the Val d'Isère area) and the funicular (train) through the mountain to the middle station, connecting to the telepherique (cable car) to the top of the Grande Motte.

In the other direction, at 100m there is a very frequent free bus service into Tignes Le Lac with a wide range of high speed lifts and runs there, and a 'bubble' up to Toviè and over into the Val area, giving full coverage of L'Espace Killy Tignes and Val together.

For more information on Tignes as a whole go to <http://www.tignes.co.uk/>

For the current webcam of conditions around Val Claret, follow the instructions below**

For more information, contact me by phone or text Ian Davies, the founder of SkiMad on 07624 331853. There is an answer phone on 01624 882332. My e-mail is ilandavies@manx.net.

Please note SkiMad will continue with our annual holiday in periode 40 for years to come and all our experience will be available to any new owners - if they want to take advantage of it of course! Typically we have a group of around 25-30 in the group. For example, we can send details of flights etc so that new owners can take advantage of our economical door-to-door transfers from and to Geneva airport. Also if you pay up front on the transfer coach, we can also have your ski passes available first thing on the Sunday morning. Just two of the benefits you can share in association with SkiMad.

*<https://multivacances.groupepvcp.com/fr-fr/search/index/page/3/> Stay in the French version! (They are having problems with the English version and none of the Interresidences apartments are showing there). Scroll down to the bottom of that page to see their lowest offers - €1000 for these dates Pde 39 (30/11) and Pde 40 (7/12)

** <http://www.tignes.co.uk/webcam.htm#ValClaret> then 'historique' (clock bottom); then 'afficher les images' and scroll down to what time of day you want say 1000 or 1200 then 'plein ecran' (top right) for the best view in full screen.