

MIDLAND SKI CLUB NEWS

JANUARY 2015

50  **years 1965-2015**

In 2015, MSC celebrates our 50th Anniversary.

We were planning on having a big celebratory dinner at St John's Hotel in Solihull on 9th May 2015, but provisional bookings have been (to put it mildly) disappointing.

We had quite a bit of interest from the older members of the club and from a number of former members, but not sufficient to make the evening viable at the moment - the younger, active half of the club is noticeable by its absence.

If you have not yet made your interest known, then please contact our Chairman, Bryan Thomas, on 07768 954544, bryanpthomas@btinternet.com, as soon as you can.

A final decision on whether the evening will go ahead will be made on 14th January. Alternatively, if a formal dinner doesn't sound like your thing, make another suggestion!

Diary

Tuesdays @ 6.00pm
Young Racer Development Coaching
Tuesdays @ 7.30pm
Race Development Coaching
Thursdays @ 6.00pm
Young Racer Performance Coaching
Thursdays @ 7.30pm
Race Performance Training
Fridays @ 6/6.30/7.30pm
Skier Improvement Coaching
Fridays @ 7.30pm
Adult Recreational Coaching
For all coaching contact:
Roger Crombleholme 07736 821147
Guy Hornsby 07768 253515

Social:

21st Jan: Off piste developments
Hollyfields, Woodacre Road,
Erdington. Catherine Frankenburg -
0121 681 3611

Winter Race Series, Ackers:
9th Jan, 6th Feb
Shaun Hemming.
S.hemming494@btinternet.com

Holidays:

11th-18th Jan: Training Week, Pila
7th-14th Mar: Social Holiday, Alpe d'Huez

MSC Racers Jess and Carys showing off the new race bibs - kindly sponsored by Vision Express Harborne.



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Lange ski boots, size 5 £15
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Unisex jacket blak size S/M £15
Claire@capitus.co.uk

Winter Race Series

The first two race of the new MSC Winter Series have been held at the Ackers. Over 50 skiers raced on the nights and you'll find the results on the MSC website. Many thanks to everyone who helped - too many to mention.

The remaining races are on 9th January and 6th February: it's not too late to enter, entry form at www.midandski.uk/racefiles/WinterSeries.pdf

2014 Race Report

Jane Lee

The end of the summer artificial race season has finally happened, results have been published and we now know how everyone has done. It's been a year with some excellent results.

Overall

In artificial slope registered races 39 skiers have made 331 starts between them in 38 races. They have won 151 age group podiums and 11 overall podiums. Top of the age groups were Ollie with 27, Mark and Jess with 9, Harry with 7 and in the minis Kieran with 22, Jack 20, Anya 12 and Tilley 10. Overall podiums in main races won by Harry (6), Adam L (3), Jess and Libby. Our skiers have raced in England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland and Belgium. On snow our skiers have raced in Scotland, France and Italy and brought back a clutch of age group medals.

Snow

In Les Arcs last Christmas Ollie won 4 age group medals, including two first places, Seamus achieved two firsts, Tilley a first and a second. Racers gained great experience at Les Crosets for the Welsh championships, Bormio for the English champs and Meribel for the British. Skiers also raced in the Universities and schools championships on snow.

Club Nationals and other races

A great start to the season with the Chambery race at Gloucester with Midland skiers 1st (Harry) and 3rd (Adam) overall. Harry followed this up with 2 further overall 1st places, a second and 3rd in Club Nationals. Adam won his first race ever at the Pendle Club National, and Libby finished 3rd overall at Gloucester. There were plenty of age group podiums in CNs, a really good showing.

An important race was our own Midland Ski Club CN at Gloucester. A huge entry of 185 skiers including many newcomers – Noah, Dan and Ella, Patrick, Rose and Rebecca. Seven age group podiums including a superb personal best for Thomas U – 3rd of 26 U14 boys and 2nd for Ella in her first race. The following day saw 2 overall and 10 age group podiums, including Gareth on his first weekend for Midland, and a first race for Agathe.

In the BARSC championships at Manchester, Jack U 1st U12, Maxine 1st U18, Ollie 1st U14, Kieran 2nd U10.

GBR Series

This is the very top level, 6 races indoor and 6 outdoor,

Socials

On 21st January, again at Hollyfields Sport and Conference Centre after their successful and interesting talk on fitting boots to the enormous varieties of skiers' feet, Andy and James from Snow & Rock will be talking about the Developments in Off-Piste equipment - from bindings via transcievers to survival kit.

And many thanks to Mike Thomas for last month sharing the highs and lows of his cycle trip through the mountains and valleys of British Colombia - fantastic photos giving us all someplace to think about when we are next not seeking the snow.

You'll find Hollyfields on Woodacre Road, Erdington - this is just off the Tyburn Road leading out of Birmingham, accessible from either J5 or J6 of the M6. For sat-nav users the postcode is B24 OJT.

each with series points. Racers must qualify to ski in this series. There were overall podiums for Jess (2nd GBR 2 at Pontypool) and Harry (3rd GBR 6 at Gloucester).

Outdoor series top 10 overall for Adam (6th), Mark (7th), Jess (7th). Top 3 in age group for Mark (1st MAS), Adam (1st U21), Kieran (1st U10), Jack (1st U12), Anya (2nd U10), Ollie (2nd U14), Jess (2nd U16).

Indoor series top 3 in age group for Ollie (1st U14), Kieran (2nd U10), Jack (3rd U12) and Maxine (3rd U18).

Championships

There are indoor and outdoor championships – Welsh, English, Anglo Welsh, Scottish, Irish, British and European.

Podiums for Mark (1st MAS All England, 1st British MAS), Ollie (1st U14 Welsh, 1st U14 British, 2nd U14 All England, 2nd U14 Anglo Welsh), Adam (2nd U21 Scottish), Maxine (3rd U18 Anglo Welsh, 3rd U18 British Indoor)

Schools

This year has been a good year for new schools, not so much winning but taking part, with great numbers of new schools and new racers. There's so much demand for racing that a winter league has started at Ackers, with a full evening of racing once a month on a Friday night. It's looking good for future years. The next schools race is the Birmingham area race at Ackers in March, then the ESSKIA qualifying races in September at Gloucester.

Success for Solihull school with a visit to Les Houches in March and qualification for both girls and boys teams for the British schools championships in Edinburgh. Well done.

Universities

Many of the Midland racers have continued to race as students, and new racers come to the club from Universities. Midland skiers take part in the Midland, South West and Northern leagues of Kings, a duals racing event on Saturday evenings over the winter. Some raced in the seeded BUISC indoor championships in March with Harry coming a very creditable 5th in a supremely strong entry of snow racers and at Hillend in November a very difficult first course saw Adam hanging on to take 2nd overall and Ed 6th in the seeded BUDS championship.

Team races

The inter regional took place at Gloucester in June. This is a duals race, teams of 7, like a relay race between two teams, each racer starts when the previous has

finished, racing on courses side by side. A very, very exciting event to watch. It was great to see Midland racers in all the top 3 teams on the podium. CESA (central region) teams finished 2nd and 3rd.

GSRL and Fun races

It doesn't finish yet. There's the ever popular summer race league at Gloucester, team events, 10 racers per team where each racer completes 2 slalom runs in the morning and then 3 individual duals races in the afternoon to win points for the team. There are Excel races, these are seeded races, but the best skiers are barred - congratulations to Ollie with 2nd overall at Pontypool. There's a fun race series at Stoke, again slalom and individual duals races. That's plenty of races to start your race career, and some good fun.

National and Representative Squads

I'm trying to put together these names, apologies if I have missed anyone, the squads are only just being published.

English Children's team: Ollie

English Artificial squad: Harry

Welsh Elite squad: Jack R

Welsh Ski squad: Adam

English schools Junior: Rachel M, Ella G

English schools Senior: Helena, Jess, Tom L, Sam D

Seed points and rankings

Seeded races award seed points to skiers – the rule here is the lower the better. Seed points are calculated comparing the racers time to the winner and then adding a penalty which shows how the race ranked against other similar races. The final 2014 seed lists have just been published, for the first time there are separate indoor and outdoor seed lists.

It's always an achievement to be in the top 50 nationally on the seed list – the following skiers achieved this in 2014

Outdoor – Harry (3), Jonny (33), Andy (37), Rachel (35), Lucy (38), Helena (39), Adam (42), Rowan (45), Amy (50)

Indoor – Harry (13), Rachel (28), Jonny (32), Lucy (32), Helena (36), Andy (37), Rowan (42)

Another great achievement is to be in the top few in your age group – the following who raced this year were in the top 25% by year of birth

Outdoor – Ollie (1%), Harry (3%), Adam (8%), Jess (10%), Thomas U (12%), Ethan (17%), Gareth (21%), Libby (21%), Ed (22%), Tom L (23%), Jonny (25%)

Indoor – Ollie (2%), Seamus (4%), Harry (9%), Adam (12%), Thomas U (14%), Jonny (21%)

The main improvers this year were Thomas U, both indoor and outdoor, and Tom L and Phil, outdoor. Well done, all of these skiers have put in a fantastic amount of work in training over the last 12 months, and it has shown in the results.

New club records for Ollie and Libby – lowest ever seed points for their age. Libby takes the record from Amy who only set this record in 2013.

Who skied where?

So who were the skiers who travelled most? Ollie must come at the top of the list with England, Wales, France, Scotland and Italy, Seamus with France, Belgium

and England, Adam with England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland.

Kieran, Thomas and Jack, Anya and Ethan, Sam L, Tom L and Harry were all pretty well travelled in the UK.

Who left their ski boots in the further away spot? Well surprisingly this year there seem to have been no major panics, at last our skiers and equipment are ending up in the same place.

Injuries

We've missed a few from injury. Lucy damaged her knee in Scotland training for the FIS race and is about to have it reconstructed. Helena damaged her knee on snow and is recovering. Libby came back after a serious injury to her knee and was beginning to get great results, but is out again with a damaged shoulder after a crash at Rossendale. Hannah has skied for the school, but still has limited mobility in her arm. Adam damaged his back somersaulting down Pontypool slope, taking months to recover. Jonny has been out since May, his back hasn't been up to skiing, we've all really missed him. And again Jake was injured, he tries to combine rugby and skiing, and for probably the 4th summer in a row he's been out of action with a rugby injury. Every time he starts to challenge his team mates somehow he's back in casualty with serious damage.

Coaches and Officials

This wouldn't work without coaches, officials and volunteers. Thanks to Guy and Roger for coaching, supported by others. Thanks to Dave L, Bryan, Jane and others for being officials. Thanks to Paul for schools race work. To Gill and Andy for running our Club National. To Rob for all the videos. To Dave L and Adam for the timing, to Gerry for running our team at Gloucester race league and to everyone who helps anywhere.

Everyone else

There are so many more racers and volunteers than mentioned above. Karl, Matthew and Lauren, Chloe and James, Jamie, Jordan, Nick, Roger all raced successfully in seeded races. Steve, Phil, Rob, Jane and Adam have all coached. So many people have volunteered. There are so many schools racers, loads who raced at Gloucester, more who are starting out in the winter league. It's looking brilliant for the future. There will be achievements I have missed and I apologise for that. Please let me know and I can add it to the list.

Dates for your diary 2015

We will send out another race bulletin looking forward to 2015 but here are some initial dates for your diary: -

22nd March 2015 – Birmingham area schools race at Ackers

2nd to 4th May – outdoor races at Gloucester – Chambery Welsh slalom and team duals on Saturday, Gloucester CN on Sunday – both entry level national races – GBR1 on Monday – this is a great weekend to get the season off to a great start, with something for everyone.

Sunday 21st June – Midland Club National at Gloucester

Well done for a great 2014, and here's to an even better 2015.

