

MIDLAND SKI CLUB NEWS

FEBRUARY 2015

Midland Ski Club is 50 years old and we are celebrating on 9th May with an evening at St John's Hotel in Solihull. We plan an informal dinner with a hot and cold buffet with tables where you can sit with friends to eat and chat. There will be music after the food for those that want and a quiet bar area for those who would rather continue to talk. There will be speakers.

The club was founded in 1965 by people who enjoyed skiing and the early days, the growing memberships and their exploits have been well documented in the celebratory 40th anniversary book "Going Downhill". Without the enthusiasm and work of those founder members it's doubtful the club would be as vibrant and diverse as it is today. Those early efforts have resulted in a club that is recognised for its many successes in the UK ski scene, as well as younger members going on to become names in the skiing world. The early days were all about recreational skiing and that is still very much a major strength of the club today. The standard of both the racing and recreational skiers is extremely high thanks to a very active coaching programme at Ackers.

We've enjoyed 33 years of the annual Alpine Training Weeks and numerous club holidays all helping members to consolidate their knowledge and hone their skills. We now also have a small but very active Nordic section - again competitive and recreational where members can learn and progress both on roller skis as well as cross country on snow.

The racers in the club have been extremely successful in recent years, both on outdoor artificial slopes and now on indoor snow and it is rare to find a



race at which we don't have podium finishers.

A club environment encourages friendships and the chance to meet like-minded people.

From those early days MSC members have forged friendships, some of which

go beyond skiing. Smaller groups have experienced ski holidays in Canada and USA, Chile and Argentina; some arranged through the club, some privately. There have been a number of summer trips to ski on glaciers in the morning with adventurous activities after lunch. There are members who are keen off-piste tourers.

The popularity of social events has always had its peaks and troughs, but the fantastic current series of skiing and adventure related talks at Hollyfields in Erdington are very popular - the next one is on 22nd April. Coming up towards the end of the year is the ever popular annual High Altitude Training Weekend. Nowhere near as daunting as it sounds it is simply about getting together with members, indulging in good walking and good food before the season starts. We have also recently organised post season weekends and they proved successful so may well be on offer again soon.

We have had a lot of interest in the dinner on 9th May, please book using the form below either by post or email. The cost is £35 per person to include cocktail reception and dinner. We have been able to pre-booked a number of bedrooms for the night at a discounted rate of £65.50 (single or double occupancy) - if you want one of these please ensure you book as soon as possible to ensure you get one as we may not be able to get more.

MSC 50th DINNER - St Johns, Solihull 9th May 2015

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

Please reserve _____ place(s) for the dinner at St Johns Hotel. Please also reserve _____ room(s) for the night.

I enclose a cheque for £35 per person and £65.50 per room (if required) made payable to *Midland Ski Club*

Name(s) _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Or Email to diana.horth@ntlworld.com stating number of places, names, phone number, and if a room is required.

You can pay by cheque as above or make a direct transfer to the Midland Ski Club account at sort code 08-92-99 a/c 65362479 reference 50th.



TRAINING WEEK 2015 - PILA

Once again the snow gods have looked kindly upon us and given us a great Training week in Pila.

Unfortunately Bruce Bennett our instructor who has clocked up 30 training weeks was unable to attend in person due to a very painful looking knee operation but managed to be omnipresent thanks to his drone which materialised above us on the last day.

Our 5 instructors included 2 newcomers Jake and Terry who with old hands Roger , Rob and Clem provided us with excellent tuition and feedback throughout the week . Many thanks to them all for their hard work .

We also welcomed several new skiers to the week: Sue Turner , Fiona Duncan , Natasha Atkinson , Maurice Miller and Ann Smith and thank them all for being great company on the week.

Unfortunately we did have one casualty: Linda sustained a painful fall and was ruled out of action for most of the holiday. We wish her a speedy recovery and an early return to the slopes.

We all had a great time and learnt a great deal here's to next year...



I learnt more in this training week than I've learnt in the numerous previous skiing holidays I've had. Still got a lot to work on but feel much more confident about my skiing now. The people were all very friendly, which was lovely.

A very successful week

A brilliant week. It might be a small resort but the terrain is fantastic for training weeks and luckily for us Pila had better conditions than elsewhere in Italy last week. Friendly informal coaching in groups of similar abilities ensures you have the means to improve and get the best out of your week. So with a good choice of restaurants on the hill, and a friendly hotel in the village next year's training week in Pila really has to be tried.

I would like to add my personal thanks to the members of our skiing group for making my week such a pleasant one. As I said, apart from immediate family, I can think of no group of people people I would prefer to spend it with!

Next year's dates are already in the diary!

Training Week 2016: Pila, Italy

For the 2016 Training Week we are returning to Pila in the Aosta Valley. We will be travelling with Crystal Ski, flying from Birmingham and staying once again in the Hotel Chalet des Alpes

<http://www.crystalski.co.uk/skiresort/s/italy-ski-holidays/pila/hotel-chalet-des-alpes/>

This ski in/ski out family owned hotel offers simple accommodation, buffet breakfast and 3 course evening meals with ¼ litre of wine per person. All rooms have TV, telephone, safe and hairdryer.

There is plenty of skiing with a good variety of pistes. You will ski in a group of about 8 friends with similar experience and a BASI or SSE Coach. And this isn't just for a few hours like ski school but for 6 full days from 9am until the lifts close. The coaching is done 'on the move' with a minimum of exercises and you will do an amazing number of miles. But there will be ample time for your coach to give you lots of personal help.

The cost for this holiday is £895 . It includes flights from Birmingham, transfers, half-board in the hotel, coaching, tourist tax and your lift-pass. You will need to buy your own lunches each day.

Outbound flight departs Birmingham 0720 with Thomson Airways to flying to Turin arriving 1020. Return departs at 1130am arriving Birmingham 1240.

This time we will purchase the lift passes in Pila on the Sunday afternoon of arrival to avail any possible discounts. If the pound improves much more against the Euro, then they may be a partial refund on the cost of the lift pass. The only other cost is either:

Ski carriage at £35 if you bring your own; or

Ski hire has not yet been confirmed but will be about which is £50 for basic, £70 for intermediate or £80 for advanced skis.

Also insurance is NOT included and you **must arrange your own insurance.**



To join us please complete the booking form below and return it with a NON-REFUNDABLE deposit of £175. We are sorry to be strict about this but the Club has invested a lot of money to reserve the holiday.

You must have a full passport and the name on the booking form must be the same as your passport.

You should hold a European Health Card. The week is not suitable for beginners

I hope I've given you all the information you need to persuade you to join us but if there is anything else you wish to know please ring me, Bryan Arnott on 07578 428864 or bryanarnott@gmail.com

TRAINING WEEK - PILA - 10th-17th January 2016

To: Bryan Arnott, 40 Woodland Way, Birchmoor, Tamworth, Staffs B78 1AY

Please reserve _____ places on the Training Week in Pila. I enclose a cheque payable to Midland Ski Club of £175 per person as a NON-REFUNDABLE deposit and I undertake to pay the balance of the cost by 8th **October 2015.** (this is early but tour operators are now expecting final balances a good 3 months before the holiday starts)

I have a current (or will obtain) European Health Insurance Card - do check the expiry date. I have a full passport valid for the dates concerned.

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? £35 yes/no number of ski bags _____

Do you wish to hire skis - costs have yet to be confirmed but are likely to be in the region of: Basic £50
Intermediate £70 Advanced £80

Skiing Experience: I have skied for ___ years and am happiest on blue/red/black runs (delete as appropriate).

Special Dietary needs _____

I would like to share with _____



YOUR SCHOOL NEEDS YOU!

**Midland Ski Club
Birmingham and South Midlands Schools**

Ski Race

Sunday 22nd March 2015

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

Teams must consist of 3 or 4 skiers from the same school. The minimum standard of skiing required is to be able to perform linked snowplough turns safely, to be able to control speed and to use the button lift. No previous racing experience is necessary. Helmets must be worn. Ski and boot hire is available and included in the school entry fee. The closing date for school entries is Monday 16th March 2015.



For full details see www.midlandski.uk/schoolsrace



English Schools Ski Association

www.midlandski.org.uk



Central England Snowsports Association

www.ackers-adventure.co.uk



Fern chosen for World Juniors

Great news from Fern Cates, ex Midland Ski Club member and now studying at university in Falun in Sweden. She's been chosen to represent GB in the FIS Nordic Junior World Ski Championships in Almaty, Khazakstan. In her own words ...

"Got some exciting news!! This seasons target was to qualify for the World Junior Champs in Kazakhstan 1st-8th Feb and after a great start to my training and studying in Falun I attended qualification races in Idre (North Sweden) and St.Ulrich (Austria) where I needed to achieve the required points to be considered by the BSS selection committee, after Austria I then flew home for Christmas where I spent most of my time anxiously checking my emails and tonight have now finally received confirmation that I have been selected to represent team GB in the World Jnr Nordic Championships!!!"

Well done Fern, now to find some TV coverage!



Alpine Racing Glory

Congratulations to MSC Racer Ollie Weeks racer at the BARSC races in Tignes, the Anglo-Scottish Races in Chamonix, France and the Welsh Championships in Champéry in Switzerland in January. He won three races overall, 4 U14M firsts, and a total of 7 podiums. Next stop is the English Alpine Championships in Bormio, Italy in the middle of February.

Full results on www.oliverweeks.com.



10% off at Straightline UK

I would like to give all the Midland Ski Club members 10% off ski & snowboard servicing. Recently Ski Warehouse shut in Tamworth where I was ski tech for many years and gave you guys 10 % off so would like to give you the same discount again.

STRAIGHTLINE-UK-SNOWSPORTS UK LTD, 306 Glascote Road, Tamworth, Staffordshire. B77 2AX

Website www.straightlineuk.co.uk Telephone 07880785068

Vacancy: Membership Secretary

After many years service as our esteemed Membership Secretary, Hilary Cox is wishing to stand down. We therefore need to find someone willing to take on the role.

Duties include: processing membership applications received by email or by post - banking money received - issuing membership cards - keeping the membership list up to date. A certain amount of familiarity with using computers is needed although training can be given.

In the first instance, either talk to Hilary on 0121 554 9745 about what currently happens or Rob on 07801 722451 (or at the Ackers) on the technical parts.

Timing Gear training

Dave Lee is planning on running a Timing Equipment training session. This will be split into:

- 1 Setting up the timing on the hill
- 2 Setting up Ski Pro
- 3 Running the timing at a race
- 4 Setting up the duals kit

Interested people should contact Dave on davedoneworking@yahoo.co.uk.

Skiability at Tamworth

The Skiability Disabled group at Tamworth are looking for new volunteers at their sessions run on the second Thursday in the month between 3pm and 6pm. We meet in the bar area from 2pm.

Contact Liz Smith at elizabethdsuk@virginmedia.com or Dave Lee at davedoneworking@yahoo.co.uk for more details.

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**SARACEN'S
HEAD**

PUB & DINING

Balsall Street, Balsall Common

MIDLAND SKI CLUB SPECIAL:

25% off all food on bill.

No limit to party size. Drinks excluded.

Offer redeemable upon proof of membership of MSC or show this newsletter!

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

6th Feb: Winter Race Series, Ackers

Shaun Hemming

S.hemming494@btinternet.com

7th-14th Mar: Social Holiday

Alpe d'Huez - *sold out*

20th March: Club Championship Race

Details to follow by email

22nd March: Schools Race

Shaun Hemming

S.hemming494@btinternet.com

22nd Apr: Social Evening - subject to be announced

Hollyfields, Woodacre Road, Erdington. Catherine

Frankenburg - 0121 681 3611

9th May:

MSC 50th Anniversary Dinner

- see front page for details.

16th May: Gloucester Summer Race League

Also 13th June, 18th July, 8th Aug, 19th Sep and 17th Oct

3rd June: Annual General Meeting

Hollyfields, Woodacre Road, Erdington.

15th July: Summer Walk, Kingsbury

Details in next newsletter

2nd-4th Oct: High Altitude Training Weekend

Hartington, Peak District

Details in next newsletter



Irena modelling an Avalanche Airbag at the recent talk by Snow & Rock.