

MIDLAND SKI CLUB NEWS

APRIL 2015

Franz Xaver Neumayr

24th August 1925 - 3rd April 2015

Franz Neumayr, MSC President from 1990 to 2003, died Friday 3rd April 2015 at his home in Bromsgrove, aged 89.

He was born in Beckstetten, nr Buchloe, Bavaria, the son of a stationmaster. He learned to ski as a youth, earning his downhill runs the hard way by hiking up the mountains. He even tried his hand at the ski-jump.

Franz applied to join the U-boats in 1942. Trained as a radio operator, his first combat patrol met disaster when his U-boat, U-1063, was sunk by allied forces near Plymouth in April 1945. He and 16 other survivors were taken prisoner of war.

Released in 1948 and choosing to stay in the UK, Franz worked in the Ledbury area where he met and married Franziska. After 5 years agricultural work he became a steel erector for West's Gas Improvement Company in Coventry.

In 1955 he joined Down & Francis as a Fitter-Erector and worked his way up the management ladder, becoming Managing Director in 1972. He retired in 1992.

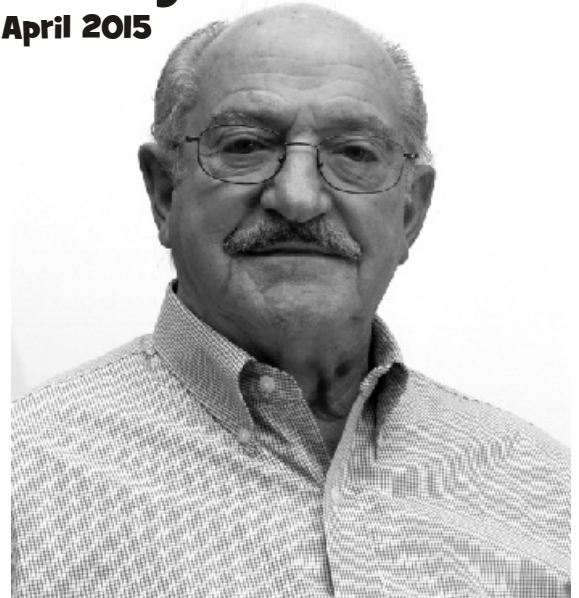
Franz rekindled his love of skiing through the 1960's and joined the Midland Ski Club c.1971. He was a regular instructor at the artificial slopes of Dudley Zoo and Haden Hill.

Working with Telford Ski slope, Franz managed the mid-region junior racers, taking several training groups to Bardonecchia.

Many members benefited from the weekends he organised to Plas y Brenin and Trawsfynydd. He continued to join his ski friends at the Bank Holiday Bala camp and the ex-Telford Saturday "après-ski".

Franz organised a number of memorable holidays, encouraging the best from everyone whatever their ski ability. Sadly he had to give up skiing in the mid 1990's, but continued to enjoy winter holidays with some of the many people who were honoured to count themselves amongst his friends.

Franz' 60 year marriage to Franziska ended with the passing of his 'herzigen' in 2011. He is survived by his brother and sister, both living in Germany.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This year's Annual General Meeting will be held at Hollyfields, Woodacre Road, Erdington on Wednesday 3rd June starting at 8pm.

Nominations for the roles of Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer as well as membership of the committee are welcome and should be made to the current secretary, Diana Horth (01889 800706, diana.horth@ntlworld.com).

MSC 50th



There are a small number of tickets remaining for the MSC 50th Anniversary dinner on 9th May at St John's Hotel in Solihull. Please book using the form overleaf as soon as you can.



CLUB HOLIDAY 2016: Courchevel - 27th Feb to 5th Mar 2016

The 2016 Club holiday s to the chic French resort of Courchevel 1850, staying at the Chalet Hotel Les Anemones. In response to several requests we are going a week earlier than usual. This Inghams chalet hotel is a short walk to the centre of the resort and just 30 metres from La Croisette with a good range of lifts up above 1850. You can ski back to the hotel. You can find details in the Inghams brochure or on their website.

Courchevel gives access to the three valleys ski area including Meribel, Val Thorens, and Les Menuires

We are flying from Birmingham to Chambéry. Flight times are provisionally:
27 February ST3994 depart Birmingham at 1320 to arrive Chambéry at 16.15

05 March ST3995 depart Chambéry 11.30 to arrive Birmingham at 12.30

If you would like to fly from **another regional airport** please let me know as soon as you can. Belfast supplement is £59. Newcastle, Stanstead and Bristol supplements are the same as Birmingham £39.

If you would like to take the **train** please get in touch. There is no supplement for a standard seat without meals but standard premier including meals is an extra £100 upwards depending on when we book.

I have tried to keep costs down and this is one of the lower cost options for 2016. The base cost of the holiday is £775. A deposit of £150 per person is payable on booking, with the final balance will be due at the end of November

The cost of area lift passes is Adult £209 and Senior £199

But it looks as though those over 75 will get a free lift pass. These will be arranged in resort.

If you have not joined a club holiday before now please be reassured that we do all we can to make sure you are included, that you have a group to ski with and that you're not left alone wondering who to talk to. There's sometimes a drinks party before the evening meal, and generally as much après ski as you can cope with.

Please contact me for more information at diana.horth@ntlworld.com or 01889 800706 or 07806 777049.



The holiday is sold under the terms and conditions of Hotelplan Ltd (Inghams) and full details can be found in their ski brochure 2015/16

CLUB HOLIDAY 2016 - BOOKING FORM

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

Please book me ___ place(s) on the club holiday to Courchevel from 27th Feb - 5th Mar 2016. I enclose a cheque payable to Midland Ski Club for £150 per person as a NON-REFUNDABLE deposit and I undertake to pay the balance at the end of November 2015.

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 _____

Passport date of issue & date of expiry _____

Issuing office _____

Country of residence _____

Date of birth _____

Contact Address: _____

Phone & email: _____

Ski carriage? £35 yes/no _____ number of ski bags _____

Lift Pass Adult (£209) _____ Senior (£199) _____

Ski Hire Excellence (£79) _____ Performance (£68) _____ Evolution (£57) _____ Economy (£44) _____

Helmet hire (£19) _____ Boots? *Please contact me for details*

Special Dietary needs _____

I would like to share with _____

BIRMINGHAM & S.MIDLANDS SCHOOLS RACE MARCH 2015

Eleven schools and 80 racers took part in this years event at Ackers and with the weather being kind a good days sport was had by all.

The feedback on the event has once again been very positive from racers, parents and teachers alike.

With the age of the competitors ranging from 6 to 18 there was a great cross-section of ability but the enthusiasm from all the participants was evident.

MSC was well represented on the day providing the top 3 overall racers with **Sam Dewison** of Heart of England school coming first, **Tom Lawrence** of Solihull School second and **Jake Heard** of Heart of England third.

Ella Giles of Solihull School and **Anya Hemming**, both of MSC finishing second and third respectively behind **Freya Eaton** of Kingsley School in the female competition.

The fastest overall school team on the day was the Solihull School Under 16 team of **Tom Lawrence, Patrick Kelly and Ella Giles**, all MSC members.

A full list of results can be found on the MSC website.

The day was again well run by the MSC volunteers with Gill and the catering support team of Rachel, Andy, Juliette and a seeming host of others at times, providing sustenance for competitors and spectators alike, energy levels and enthusiasm were maintained throughout the course of the day!



In addition to the MSC volunteers and helpers on the day without whom these events would not take place, a big thank you to our sponsors, **Ski Bartlett, Ski Racing Supplies, Ye Olde Saracens Head, Balsall Common, Salomon, Two Seasons** for some fantastic donations and prizes.

SUMMER EVENING WALK KINGSBURY WATER PARK

I've a lovely walk along the Fazeley Canal and into the heart of Kingsbury Water Park where the water lilies should be at their best, and lots of bird life to be admired. This easy 4 mile walk starts at the Dog and Doublet pub car park at 6.30pm on Wednesday 15th July . The pub is in Bodymoor Heath; to get there from the A4097, pass the main entrance to the Country Park, cross the M42, and the pub is tucked away along the first turning on the left. See http://websites.uk-plc.net/The_Dog_and_Doublet_Inn/. We will be back to the pub in time for a well earned pint, and the pub food there is excellent.

Mike Thomas - 02476 692792

MSC 50th Anniversary Club Championship

The 50th Anniversary Club Champs got underway on the evening of Friday 20th March, a fine and clear evening and probably the first time the race has been held under lights. Due to unforeseen clashes with other events, numbers were down on prior years but the quality more than made up for the reduced numbers and some excellent racing was enjoyed by all.

With the lower number of racers almost everyone got prizes with, of the Club members Harry was overall fastest male with Ami being fastest female. In a closely fought contest, the honours for the fastest combined to be taken by James Sieber who put in a guest appearance and narrowly pipped Harry to the post with a storming last run this was his James first time at the

Ackers and he had previously thought that the Club trained out of Stoke or Gloucester!.

A full list of results can be found on the MSC website.

The day was again well run by the MSC volunteers with Gill and the catering support team of Anna and Alex, timing by Dave and Jo and on slope duties (top, bottom and in middle) by the normal army of supporters very many thanks to you all, we couldn't have done it without you.

In addition to the MSC volunteers and helpers on the day without whom these events would not take place, a big thank you to our sponsors, **Ski Bartlett, Ski Racing Supplies, Ye Olde Saracens Head, Balsall Common, Salomon, Two Seasons** for some fantastic donations and prizes.

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.

Club holiday Alpe D'Huez 7 14 March 2015

Diana Horth

We arrived at Chalet Hotel les Cimes to be met by a good number of Inghams staff who helped unload and carry baggage to rooms. Checking in was relatively painless because the hotel had our rooming arrangements to hand. All rooms were open so it was just a case of finding the right room.

The first couple of days we almost had the slopes to ourselves. The place was deserted. It began to get more populated as the week went on though. We enjoyed some really good weather, only beginning to change on the Friday afternoon. It was a bit too warm really and made for tricky ski conditions with some very hard pack in the morning turning to heavy stuff at the end of the day.

Alpe D'Huez is a really good area for travelling to other areas and enjoying some good skiing on the way. With the right conditions it is possible to cover huge amounts of the area off piste. But conditions in the Alps this year had not been at their best when we arrived and most of the group tended to stay on piste. Towards the middle of the week we noticed the black runs were closed in the mornings due to their sorry condition and only opened after lunch.

Our hotel was about 100m from a short stretch of snow to enable us to ski to chairlift Les Sure, and with care not to overshoot on day one it was possible to get back to the same place for the short walk back to hotel.

There were of course the odd room parties now and then. Declan, the bar manager, managed to make some of us feel guilty enough to buy the occasional drink at the bar. But with so much wine at the dinner table it was quite hard going.

For Red Nose Day on Friday 13th the hotel bar manager managed to persuade the bulk of us to meet up at the top of Signal for a picnic lunch including bucks fizz all of which was carried up by staff. The staff then had to show off their fancy dress for the photo shoots. I reckon Laura won that one with her Wonder Woman outfit.

We did sustain one injury. Coming off the hill one afternoon we tangled with a snowboard school group, one of whom managed to wedge herself in Paul Smith's skis resulting in a ligament injury to Paul's knee. We hope he recovers soon and that he's back on the slopes asap.

It was really good to welcome Fiona, Ted and Jason on the club holiday and we hope they will join us again.

The catering overall was excellent with good breakfasts and wonderful evening meals. Ana as with all their chalet hotels, Inghams provided a substantial afternoon tea.

Nowadays Alpe D'Huez is quite a large resort and it has plenty of amenities. It boasts two swimming pools. There are plenty of restaurants in the town and in the mountain area and most seemed to be pretty good value. It is certainly worth a trip if you haven't been before.



HIGH ALTITUDE WEEKEND 2-4 OCTOBER 2015

This year we have booked Hartington Hall YHA for our weekend of walking and dining. Log fires and oak panelling all make this 17th century manor house perfect for weekend breaks in Derbyshire. The hostel is in a lovely, unspoilt area.

There will be arranged and led walks on Saturday and Sunday for those that wish but this is a fantastic area for cycling, walking and sightseeing if you want to do your own thing. So don't feel you have to join the walks.

<http://www.yha.org.uk/hostel/hartington-hall>

Address: Hall Bank, Hartington, Buxton Derbyshire SK17 0AT

This year rather than self cater the communal meal on Saturday we propose to dine in at the YHA.

If this does not appeal you will be able to use the self catering kitchen but you would eat apart from the group.

On Friday members can either self cater, eat in the YHA restaurant (counted as half board) or at a local pub.

There are a few options for you to consider when booking your place but we have to give approximately 3 months notice if we wish to go half board and dine in. This means a cut off date of end June. Deposits of £25 per person on booking with the final balance due 1 August.

Book using the form below or online at midlandski.uk/ebooking

Rolly's Waterway Ways

If you've seen "Barging around Britain" with John Sargent on the telly, find out what life's really like on a narrowboat, and a little of what has inspired MSC member Rolly Winzer's Watery Ways .

Rolly has been cruising the waterways for the last 5 years and has finally been persuaded that others might find some of his exploits of interest. So if you want to hear his experiences of taking a narrowboat over a 200 year old World Heritage site structure, carriage down a giant piece of Victorian meccano, or taking to the ocean, (or even if you just want to get out and talk to fellow skiers) join us on the evening of Wednesday 22nd April.

Meeting is held at Hollyfields Social Club, Woodacre Road Erdington Birmingham B24 0JT. Light buffet at 7.30pm

Contact Catherine Frankenburg for further details (0121 681 3611)

YE OLDE
**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!

vision express
Harborne

Specialist Sports Eyewear Store
Glasses and goggles for many sports
Special offers for MSC Members

144 High Street Harborne, B17 9NP
0121 428 4835 Private car park at rear

Colour or Black&White?

Are you reading this in colour? Or is it in boring Black & White?

If you got this newsletter by post, then you'll only be seeing B&W. Do you know you can get it in colour too via the MSC website? Go to www.midlandski.uk/news to download this and previous newsletters in glorious colour.

If you'd like to receive an email notification when newsletters are published, then send a short email to the address on the front of this newsletter.

HIGH ALTITUDE WEEKEND 2nd-4th October

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

Please reserve places as below for the High Altitude Training Weekend.

	Fri 2nd	Sat 3rd	Total
Bed only - £23			
Bed & Breakfast - £24.50			
Half Board - £32.50			
		Total Due	

I enclose a deposit cheque for £25 per person payable to *Midland Ski Club*

Name(s) _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Or book online at midlandski.uk/ebooking

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 HATW2015 and advise me that you have made the transfer.

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/ski resort/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 _____

Family Week 2016

MSC club has run a large succession of Family Training Weeks over the years, however these have not run for a few years. We think it is time to get these up and running again! Although called the Family Training Week it was not exclusively for families and has attracted adults without children as well.

Past Family Training trained both children and parents alongside each other based on ability with approximately 70% of time focussing on children/juniors training. Parents would maybe not ski with their own children but possibly with other children from other families. Thus adults acted as temporary guardians if there was a problem on the mountain - this may have meant staying with a child/junior from their group in a restaurant until their parents caught up with them or escorting them to another location where they could meet up and so on.

This worked really well in the past and helped form a very close-knit community in the club whilst providing an excellent uninterrupted training environment for all children/juniors.

There was no fixed ratio between children/juniors and adults, sometimes we even ran all adult groups.

The numbers of people attending these weeks at one time equalled those of the January Training Week about 50 but more typically 20 to 30.

Over the years, the organisation of the week varied:

- The traditional route based on the Early Winter Training Week using a package operator, flying with coach transfer going to resorts such as: Folgarida near Madonna Di Campiglio.

- Packages based at Youth Hotels, travelling all the way by coach from Birmingham to resorts such as: Mayrhofen and Davos-

Hotel or hostel only arrangements, with skiers left to arrange their own travel by car, plane, train etc. We went to resorts such as: Saalbach Hinterglemm and Altenmarkt Zauchensee. This was easier and more attractive option as transport methods, times and costs could be controlled by the individual family groups etc.

Incidentally the January Training Week has never been the exclusive reserve of adults but because of the time of year in school term adults are the main attendees. It has in the past attracted juniors like Niki Millington, Dan Yeomans, Segal Fairweather, Adam and Sam Lee etc.

We currently have a great opportunity to run a Family Training Week involving coaches from the club in Pila. The advantage is that our coaches have been ratified to coach in the resort as a result of negotiations last year. This means MSC could provide coaching for three weeks starting with possibly the Family Training Week 27 Dec- 2 Jan 2016, Option for alternative coaching week 3rd-9th Jan 2016 and culminating with the normal January Training Week 10th-17th Jan 2016. Pila is in the Aosta Valley above the town of Aosta down the valley from the Mont Blanc Tunnel linking Chamonix France to Courmayeur Italy. There is a direct ski gondola from Aosta to the resort of Pila extending accommodation options from Pila down in to the town.

Or would you be more interested at other times of the year? October or February half term? Easter? Summer?

Please let Roger Crombleholme know your thoughts,

preferably by email to coach@midlandski.org.uk.

What sort of Children's training? E.g. general instruction, coaching, race training, personal performance, snowlife awards.

How about parents training?

How to get there? Self drive, coach, fly. DIY or organised?

Preferred accommodation? E.g. hostel, hotel, apartment, catered (B&B, full/half board) or self-catered?

When? Christmas/New Year, February half term, Easter, Summer, October. Note that Easter 2016 is early. Please make your opinions known!

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

22nd Apr: Social Evening - Watery Ways 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

Gerry Elgy - 07476 078895

3rd June: Annual General Meeting

Hollyfields, Woodacre Road, Erdington.

Diana Horth - 01889 800706

15th July: Summer Walk, Kingsbury

Meet at Dog & Doublet, Bodymoor Heath

Mike Thomas - 024 692 792.

2nd-4th Oct: High Altitude Training Weekend

Hartington, Peak District

Diana Horth - 01889 800706