

# MIDLAND SKI CLUB NEWS

MARCH 2017

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 26th April 7.30pm

The Annual General Meeting of Midland Ski Club will be held at Hollyfields Sports & Conference Centre, Woodacre Road, Erdington, Birmingham on Wednesday 8th June commencing at 7.30pm.

**We are seeking nominations** for our three official posts as officers, that is chair, secretary and treasurer. After 7 years as chair, Bryan Thomas will not be standing again as he is moving house and it will not be practical to continue.

Diana Horth and Bryan Arnott our current secretary and treasurer respectively are prepared to continue but will stand aside if some else wishes to offer their services.

Our club relies heavily on all its volunteers to prosper and survive so please give these nominations your serious consideration and if willing to be nominated please inform me together with the names of a proposer and seconder who need to be members of our club.

A free buffet and drink is available to all attendees.

## Editorial

If you think you've missed a newsletter over the winter, then you have not. It's been quite a while since the last one, over five months.

This really is for two reasons:

There is generally less urgency to get a newsletter out. Much more of the club's communication is now via electronic media, i.e. via the googlegroup or via facebook. Unless there is something pushing for a newsletter, then there really isn't much point putting out only a page or two.

Reports also seem to be lacking - please tell us what you've been doing (skiing-wise that is), if you think other members may be interested. Generally

## Diary

**Tuesdays @ 6.00pm:** Young Racer Development Coaching

**Tuesdays @ 6.00pm:** Recreational 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

*Coaching contact:*

Roger Crombleholme 07736 821147

**26th Apr: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
Hollyfields, Erdington**

Diana Horth 01889 800706

**11th May: Elvis Meal**

College of Food, Birmingham

Catherine Frankenburg 0121 681 3611

**17th May: Birds in India**

Hollyfields, Erdington

Catherine Frankenburg 0121 681 3611

**16th June: Middleton Hall Walk**

Catherine Frankenburg 0121 681 3611

**20th May: Summer Race League**

Gloucester (also 3rd Jun, 15th Jul, 19th Aug, 16th Sep, 14th Oct)

Stuart James [swjames@live.co.uk](mailto:swjames@live.co.uk)

trip organisers seem quite good at this - generates publicity for their next trip - but other events are rarely reported. As you can tell from the size of this newsletter, there is actually plenty of contents for one, but you need to get into the habit of sending it in, not waiting until I put out a "last call" email, which results in an avalanche of things which have been sat on.

So next time you go skiing, write about it, photograph it, and send it in.

Happy skiing!

*The editor*

# Landgraaf - Summer 2017

Roger Crombleholme

Many members have expressed interest in training in Landgraaf this summer. Now I need you to pay and book on to your course as soon as possible so that we can pay the 75% deposit required to confirm rooms and race lanes that are currently only provisionally booked.

To confirm your booking please let Gerry [gerry@elgy.org.uk](mailto:gerry@elgy.org.uk) and myself [roger@wiredforideas.com](mailto:roger@wiredforideas.com) know together with details of which package(s) you are selecting, who is going, who is doing what, what type of room you want and how you have paid.

Direct transfer to MSC's bank is preferred: Account name: Midland Ski Club, Bank: Co-operative, Sort code: 08-92-99, A/c no: 65362479 or send a cheque payable to **Midland Ski Club**.

This year we are offering two packages that can either be taken separately or added together. Places will be limited to 15 racers only to ensure the highest quality of coaching and feedback. Booking is strictly on a first come first served basis.

## Package 1 – 24th to 28th July 2017

Monday (late PM), Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday (All Day) and Friday (AM).

### Options:

1. Race Training (Gates Only): Estimated cost £565.
2. Recreational Skiing: Estimated cost £410. Optional coaching available: let me know if you are interested.

## Package 2 – 28th -31st July 2017

Friday (late PM), Saturday & Sunday (All Day), and Monday (AM)

We will team up again with Western Counties and Avon over the weekend so that all clubs benefit from increased numbers, better group management and flexibility and working adults only need to have 2 days annual leave.

### Options

1. Race Training (Gates & Stubbies): Estimated cost £430 per person.
2. Recreational Skiing: Estimated cost £310. Optional coaching available: let me know if you are interested..

### In general

Costs are based on comfort room for two. There is a possibility to upgrade your accommodation please speak to Gerry about this. Our full package includes:

- Room bookings in the SnowWorld Hotel (which is an integral part of the whole complex including the snow slopes)
- Full board meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner – good variety and quality)
- Full day ski passes for the period
- 8 or 6 x 2 hour sessions of slalom pole training / fitness work (including gate hire costs)
- Technique training sessions on the main public snow slope
- Video feedback
- Timed runs (only available on Extended Weekend Package) using Avon's electronic timing equipment
- usually about 3 runs in 3 of our pole sessions
- Access to the SnowWorld HealthClub
- Coaching costs

The only extras should be transport costs from UK to Landgraaf and return (estimated at £75-85

per person via Dover-Calais car ferry) and any personal expenditure such as beer or buying new ski kit bargains from the SnowWorld shop.

The typical itinerary is as follows (may be subject to change):

### Day 1:

Travel out to Landgraaf by car, Arrive late afternoon have check-in, meet up, have meal and general briefing. Evening warm up, recreational session followed by 2 hour gate session using stubbies in private lanes. Sleep.

### Mid course days:

Breakfast, meet up and briefing, warm up. 2 hour gate session using stubbies / gates in private lanes  
Rest, food, drink break video feedback & session on recreational area, Fitness work, 2 hour gate session using stubbies / gates in private lanes  
Evening meal and general briefing, recreational session. Sleep

### Last day:

Breakfast, meet up and briefing, 2 hour gate session using stubbies / gates in private lanes  
Rest, food, drink break video feedback & recreational session  
Final debriefing and any course feedback then travel back to UK

It is proposed take at least two coaches, take our own radios, hire the gates and drill, bits

You will need to have travel insurance that covers race training and timed runs, and a EHIC is highly recommended.

Please book as soon as you can. Any questions to Gerry or Roger.



# Training Week 2017 and 2018 - Pila, Italy

**2017:** We had another very successful week in Pila this year.

Our party of 48 skiers, of whom 12 were newbies to this week, were coaxed and cajoled to improve our techniques by our 5 coaches Roger, Clem, Norman, Bruce and Terry to whom we are extremely thankful.

Everyone was so enthusiastic and supportive within their groups contributing to what must have been one of the best weeks we have enjoyed over the 35 years that the training week has been running.

Regretably we had one injury in the party and wish Fran Mercer a speedy recovery from a fractured ankle.

Pila continues to prove to be a great choice for the week with the greatest depth of snow in the Alps region and the chilly weather kept the slopes in good condition and topped up with 35 cms of snow overnight on Wednesday.

Our hotel Chalet des Alpes was excellent and kept us warm, fed and well watered!! We hope to see all of you with us in 2018.

**2018:** We will be travelling with Crystal Ski and staying once again in the Hotel Chalet Des Alpes - 20 rooms available for the first 35 places thereafter places will be booked in the Hotel Lion Noir.

This ski in / ski out family owned hotel offers simple accommodation, buffet breakfast and 3 course evening meal with wine (1/4 litre 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 level 2 + coach.

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 with ample time for your coach to give you personal help.

The cost of the holiday is £895. It includes flights from Birmingham or Manchester or Gatwick or Bristol, transfers, half board in the hotel, all the coaching and your lift pass. You will need to buy your own lunches each day. The only other costs are ski carriage at £35 for your own skis, or Ski hire £65 basic, £80 intermediate, or £90 advanced.

This does not include insurance - you must arrange your own insurance and furnish the group leader with a copy of the document + next of kin. To join us please complete the booking form below and return it with a non refundable deposit of £175 - 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 on 07578428864 or email [bryanarnott@gmail.com](mailto:bryanarnott@gmail.com).

## TRAINING WEEK - PILA - 7th-14th January 2018

**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 **7<sup>th</sup> October 2017**.

I understand that the cost includes £140 for the coaching and this may not be covered by insurance. 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?: Basic £65 Intermediate £80 Advanced £90

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 \_\_\_\_\_

# NORTH WALES WEEKEND 13-15th OCTOBER 2017

We have booked a North Wales venue for the weekend 13-15th October at the Swallow Falls Hotel in Betws y Coed. As well as hill walking and climbing in the Snowdonia range, Betws y Coed is a great location for exploring this area of North Wales. There are numerous activities and tourist attractions to explore.

Mountain walks of varying lengths will be arranged on both days.

The £83.00 price for the weekend includes bed and breakfast for two nights and a three course meal on the Saturday night. See <http://swallowfallshotel.co.uk>

We have booked 2 double and 6 twin rooms on a first come, first served basis room types permitting. Rooms are all en suite

The hotel bar and restaurant will be open on Friday night.

Please email [diana.horth@ntlworld.com](mailto:diana.horth@ntlworld.com) for any other information.

## DEPOSIT FOR THE WEEKEND IS £40 PER PERSON

Either do a direct transfer of £40 per person to the Midland Ski Club account at sort code 08-92-99 a/c 65362479; please reference it HATW 2017 and advise me that you have made the transfer at

[diana.horth@ntlworld.com](mailto:diana.horth@ntlworld.com). Or send a cheque for £40 deposit per person (payable to Midland Ski Club) to Diana Horth 23 Lockside View, Rugeley WS15 1NJ

The balance of £43 will be due on check out.

## Ye Olde Saracen's Head, Balsall Common

Following a meeting with the manager at Ye Old Saracens Head, Balsall Common, we are pleased to announce that they are continuing with their support of the club this year.

Details of the offer::

- MSC members are offered a club discount of 20% off food.
- The offer cannot be used in conjunction with a Marstons Privilege Card, promotion or any other offer that may be on at the time of use.
- Any member booking a table please advise at the time of booking that you are a member of the MSC and qualify for the discount.
- The discount may not apply in December.

Please remember to take your membership card or newsletter with you to confirm your status. (If asked to prove membership).

Ye Ode Saracen's head have again donated gift vouchers for use as prizes in our races and we thank them very much for their ongoing support of the club.

YE OLDE  
**SARACEN'S  
HEAD**

PUB & DINING

**Balsall Street, Balsall Common**

**MIDLAND SKI CLUB SPECIAL:**  
**20% off** all food on bill.

No limit to party size. Drinks excluded.  
Offer redeemable upon proof of  
membership of MSC or show this  
newsletter!

## Solihull@Aiglon.Ch

Solihull School and MSC sent more racers to the Aiglon College Cup in Switzerland early in March than we've ever had at an alpine snow race.

Well done to all the racers - for some this was the first time racing on snow:

Fraser Blackhurst  
George Daly  
John Gallagher  
Dan Giles  
Ella Giles 3rd U14 SL  
Lottie Giles  
Bella James  
Tom Jinks 3rd U16 SL  
Tom Lawrence 4th U18/21 SL  
Ben Lythe

All acquitting themselves very well and having a great time!



## Gloucester Summer Race League

The Gloucester Summer Race League is coming up fast. These are a series of fun races held once a month from May to October in which teams of 10 skiers compete to earn points. Teams are from various ski clubs across Wales, South West England and the Midlands.

The morning is a conventional timed slalom and if you arrive early enough you can practice the course beforehand. You get two runs and it is your fastest time that counts. The fastest racer in each age-group gets 20 points, 2nd gets 19 points and so on - every finisher gets at least 1 point.

Then in the afternoon it's head-to-head races where you get three races against other skiers who got similar times to you in the morning - 3 points for a win, 2 points for a draw, and 1 point for a finish.

The races are held at the Gloucester Ski Centre - one of the best and longest ski slopes in the country. Race days are on a Saturday and held monthly from May to October. Actual dates are for this year are shown in the Diary on the front page of this newsletter.

The slope is open for practice at 9:00, with the timed racing starting at 10:00 and finishing at approximately 12:30. The afternoon dual slalom starts at 1:30-2:00 and runs through to around 5:00.

The normal price to enter each day is £13, but to encourage members to race, MSC subsidise this by £6 per racer, meaning it only costs you £7 to race for the day - bargain!

Stuart James [swjames@live.co.uk](mailto:swjames@live.co.uk) is coordinating our entries this year. Expect to see an email from him in a few weeks via googlegroups asking who wants to race this year - or drop him a note now telling him you want to be there.

And no, you are not too young nor too old to race: we've had skiers as young as 3 and as old as 75 taking part. Good racing!

# National Representatives



SNOWSPORT  
ENGLAND



BRITISH  
SKI + SNOWBOARD

Many congratulations to those MSC members who have been selected to represent their nation in various capacities.

**Ellie Jackson** has been selected as an Ambassador for SnowSport England. **Adam Lee** has been selected to the Wales Race Squad. **Ollie Weeks** has been selected to the Wales Elite Squad and British Children's Team. And **Jack Upton** has also recently been selected to the British Children's team

Ellie's role will see her representing Snowsport England at artificial slopes around the country, talking to younger competitors about skiing and working hard to become a ski racer.

Ellie said of taking on the new role: "Being an ambassador is a great opportunity to encourage younger athletes across the country to take up racing. It's been recognized that ski racing is one of the hardest sports around, technically, physically and mentally, so promoting the sport and helping others through the obstacles that ski racing creates means a lot to me".



Oliver has skied for GB this winter in the FIS Youth Races in Kranjska Jora, Slovenia and will go to Abetone, Italy for two more FIS race at the end of this month.



Following his excellent results at national races earlier in the season, Jack was picked late to represent GB at Folgaria, Italy in another pair of the FIS youth races early in March.



## Pila Family Training Week, January 2017

MSC returned to Pila in the Aosta Valley for the Family Training Week with eight excited children eager to further improve their skills under the guidance of Roger. At a time when many resorts were struggling with a real lack of



snow we were blessed with excellent piste conditions, largely bluebird skies and modest lift queues allowing us to maximise time on the slopes each day.

With most of the collective staying in Aosta town, each day would typically start with meeting at the gondola station for the 20 minute trip up to Pila which was perfect for catching up with everyone and planning the day ahead.

Roger may have wondered how big a coaching task was ahead of him when on what was the very first run of the trip for a number of the children, 6 of the group managed to collide resulting in people, skis and poles being strewn down 25 metres of the slope! After a few minutes of matching up



people and equipment they were off again - of course, thanks to Roger their progress throughout the trip was quite amazing.

The parents enjoyed skiing together at a more leisurely pace and put much effort in to discovering which of the mountain bars served the best **vin brulé** or **bombardino**; towards the end of the day we often met up allowing children and parents to share the last few runs before heading back to the gondola.

Most evenings were spent together in one of Aosta's restaurants where great food and drink were enjoyed whilst getting to know each other better and generally putting the world to right.

There were also 'MSC families' in town for the Anglo Scottish Cup races as the event was moved to Pila from Crevacol due to the poor conditions there, providing more opportunities to chat and ski with other club members.

A fantastic week, thank you Roger.



## SSE Roller Ski Course Dates

The dates for the 2017 Roller Ski skills courses are:

- 24-25 June Hillingdon Cycle Circuit, Hayes, Middlesex
- 19-20 August Hetton Lyons Country Park, Hetton-le-Hole, Co Durham
- 30 September- 1 October. Salt Ayre Cycle Circuit, Lancaster

# Club Holiday La Plagne 5-12th March 2017

Diana Horth

We stayed in La Plagne Centre in Mark Warners' Chalet Hotel Christina which although tired and shabby with an odd mix of room sizes proved to be a good location for the holiday. The Mark Warner staff were excellent and the catering generally was very good with substantial breakfasts and evening meals. And as we have come to expect a generous afternoon tea. The wine with dinner left a lot to be desired and the bar was not well stocked but we managed to work around these factors.

The hotel was ski in/ski out as long as you like poling to your choice of morning lift.



It snowed heavily for the first two days but then started to dry up giving us 3 sunny days. Towards the end of the week that sunshine made for some slushy finishes but there was still plenty to ski on.

Most of the group kept below the tree line during the snowy period and there was a significant amount of skiing

to be found at the lower altitudes even if we couldn't actually see where we were going.

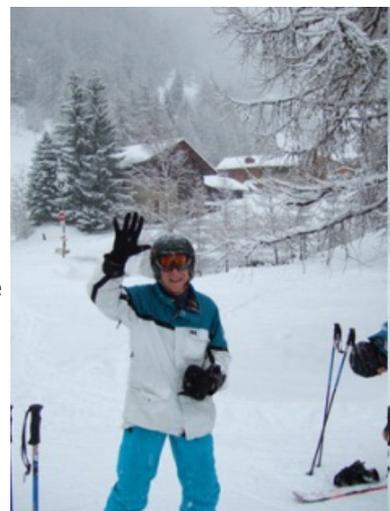
Lift queues in La Plagne as a whole sometimes got a bit busy but generally waiting times were acceptable. We also found some of the lower slopes to be very heavily populated with rather too many overconfident speeding numpties zooming through ski school areas.

The majority made it over to Les Arcs using the new Vanois cable car to enjoy the slopes on the other side.

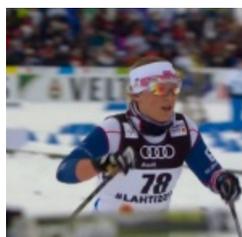
We had 36 members going to La Plagne but nearly came home with only 35. There were no injuries but unfortunately Peter White suffered a short bout of illness for the last day meaning he missed the day and it was uncertain whether he would be able to travel home. Luckily he felt well enough on departure day and we have heard from him since to say he was getting better by the day.

All in all a good week given the conditions but whether we use Mark Warner again is open to debate. They were, as far as we know, the only ski tour operator to impose a surcharge because of 'Brexit'. So despite their well trained and cheerful staff it probably did them no favours in terms of trusting them with our booking again.

The hunt is now on for something affordable in a resort most will find acceptable. Any ideas please let me know.



## Fern's Progress



Since entering for the British Senior team at the end of last season I have had an amazing year in terms of training opportunities and progress.

My target for this winter was to be compete at the world U23 champs in Utah (January) and so when I not only qualified for this but also the World Senior Champs, it was actually a bit overwhelming. To then also be selected to compete at Lahti was unbelievable, the selection committee agreed that it would be a valuable for me to experience the top level now (as the races held this year where not my strongest) to help gain confidence and preparation for future championships.

Personally, I was very proud to be there competing in a team with the athletes that I'd seen on TV at the Vancouver Olympics and inspired me to take up the sport, also because I am the only skier in the team that has learnt and developed through an English club! Big thanks to Midland Ski Club coach Anne Ford for all her support.

## Fern Cates

## Summer Socials

**Thursday May 11th:** Dinner at Birmingham College of Food Brasserie, Las Vegas style with an Elvis Presley tribute band £23 per person on a table for ten. A few places still available. Please contact me asap.

**Wednesday May 17th** Birds in India! A trip to India with bird watching included! From our very own Derek Walsh! At Hollyfields Conference centre from 7.15pm Woodacre Rd Erdington B24 0JT

**Fri 16th June:** A walk around Middleton Hall and the RSPB bird Sanctuary ending at The Green Man in Middleton.

**November** Date for your Diary! Due to the success of last year's meal! Friday 24 November pre Christmas get together Nepalese buffet meal at Jojolapa in central Birmingham. Full details to follow but format will be similar.

Any questions ask Catherine, 0121 681 3611

# Guiding Visually Impaired (VI) Cross Country Skiers

Edward Wilson

When looking for something fun, different and exciting to do on my gap year, guiding a visually impaired cross-country skier went to the top of my list. I was worried about meeting a group I had never met, daunted by the prospect of guiding someone with a visual impairment, excited for the possibility of meeting Father Christmas and honestly intrigued as to how a blind person went about skiing! Fortunately I can say this concoction of emotion was settled by the first day (minus meeting Santa, that happened on the fourth!).

The group was made up of 7 skiers, 10 guides and 4 non-guiding friends, all of who shared the same vitality for life and enthusiasm for winter sports. Despite halving the average age of the group, I was by no means joining a U3A/ Saga holiday as we often skied in excess of 20 kilometres a day at a strong pace. The spirit of the group was perhaps epitomised by Janet's suitcase carrier, which read "Adventure before Dementia", and what an adventure it was!



## Timing Help Needed

Interested in how race timing works? Come and have a chat.

Help is needed specifically for at the Midland Club National on the 8<sup>th</sup> July. You will have the grand title of Chief of Course. This will give you insurance cover to be on the hill, loan of a high vis vest and a free lunch with the officials.

The roll is to help put out the kit at the start of the day and test it and to ensure recovery of the kit after the race finishes. Recovering the kit is the more important job as I will be involved with the protocol, backup times (hopefully not needed) and producing results.

This job is equally suited to the Ladies (as you are better at persuading and supervising others to do the work.)

Please contact Time keeper Dave Lee 07999592584 or Chief of Race Jane Lee 07749 235579

talented instructor, Pam, the whole group progressed considerably. As the week went by the whole group jelled and became a formidable movement of fluorescent bibs, elegantly gliding around the challenging routes Ylläs offered. One felt very proud of their skier when someone passed and looked back to confirm what they were seeing, it drove home the achievement of the skier and reminded you of the responsibility of your role.

The skiers demonstrated how their 'disability', whilst being a hindrance, was by no means a debilitating factor in their lives. Their skiing was as good, and at times, outclassed the guides. Whether they would like to be thought of as inspiring or not, I am afraid they have no choice, as they were. Skiing can be dangerous and difficult at the best of times, and the courage to undertake it with limited or no sight is a feat that should not be undermined or overlooked.

I would encourage anyone to get involved, however they can, with this wonderful group. In 2018 there are plans to return to Akaslompolo

25<sup>th</sup> February to 4<sup>th</sup> March. No previous experience required (guide training will be given on the first day) just the ability to cross country ski.

For more information about joining the trip as a ski guide please contact [sheila\\_tucker@hotmail.com](mailto:sheila_tucker@hotmail.com).

## Don't forget your Ski Insurance

There was a timely reminder in Telegraph a few weeks ago to make sure you are adequately insured before you head off to the slopes. With escalating rescue and medical costs, combined with a grim Euro/Pound exchange rate, some frightening costs were quoted for winter sports accident rescue, medication, and repatriation. These can easily exceed £20,000 in Europe and more than three times that USA.

Some 3500 UK skiers require air ambulance to return to UK and 17,000 will return on crutches every year! So make sure you check the small print to ensure you comply with any conditions such as wearing a helmet; especially if this is a

legal requirement in the country you are visiting, for example for children in Italy. The cover should specifically include snow boarding if needed, and that you are covered (and conform to conditions) if you head off piste or are racing or race-training. For those going regularly or for longer periods check the number of days your policy allows.

Insurers are great at wriggling out of meeting claims, so make sure that any medical conditions are declared and covered if necessary. It's a good idea to carry basic insurance details with you on the slopes, and of course with your European Health Insurance Card.

# Whistler - February 2017

Diana Horth

Early in February six members sallied forth to Canada for a couple of weeks skiing at Whistler. The journey was long at 9 hours from Gatwick but no real hold ups unless you count the lost oversized baggage trolley at Vancouver Airport. They found it about an hour after we'd picked up normal luggage apparently not unusual I was told by a seasoned traveller waiting for his skis. It did mean that we hit Vancouver rush hour.

We had a private transfer to the resort and arrived early evening to an efficient check in process at Legends Ovations lodgings in Whistler Creekside. We had 2 apartments, 3 men in one and 3 ladies in the other. It was a shame they weren't closer together but they were very well appointed and spacious. Each apartment took it in turns to cater for the evening meal which worked out well.

Legends is just behind the Creekside gondola so it was a very easy walk to get on and if it looked too busy we'd could just turn round and try again later. Our first Saturday was an example of leaving it until the queue had gone down but really after that it was never much of a problem.

We arrived just in time for a winter storm, i.e. it snowed a lot.



Our first couple of days were spent not only finding our way Queues for lifts were generally not too bad. Obviously once people were aware that the top lifts were open they made a beeline for specific access lifts which meant there was a wait. But as in USA the Canadian system of waiting in line is one of politeness and filtering, making use of every seat on the chair and of course cheerful lift attendants. One such lift was Harmony where we were entertained around but negotiating fresh snow. And, although the resort had recorded an accumulative 7 metres of snow it was clear that under the fresh stuff there was some serious hard pack. However once the groomers got out again and bashed it down the skiing conditions were very good even if the weather continued to be a bit on the windy and claggy side. But as with all resorts once the winds abated and the top lifts

opened - and the sun came out - we could see what we were doing, and all was well with our world

The glacier bowl was delightful even with the hike up from the top of the drag lift



We found a couple of small restaurants on the slopes, unusual because the North Americans seem to prefer the large places where every taste is catered for and they can eat quickly and get on with the serious business of skiing. But the Raven's Nest and Chic Pea were definitely worth visiting. The former is strictly vegetarian but had a very good choice of food: Chic Pea also tended towards vegetarian but did cater for all.

Using the Peak 2 Peak gondola gave pretty fast access to Whistler Blackcomb so between the two sides we had some fantastic skiing. The conditions in the bowls were good except for our last day when everything seemed to go back to hard pack which along with flat light took the edge off somewhat.

That last evening it started to rain down in the resort and it was still pouring down the next morning as we took our leave. Perfect timing for our group of Gill Pickard, Miriam Nokes and Diana Horth; Rolly Winzer, Chris Edwards and Brian Meads.

