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## Snow, snow and more snow...

Well as we approach the end of another Winter season (I know it's only February, but it's our last issue this season) the highlight this year has been the snow. For once we have had a bumper year, last season was excellent but this year has been fantastic, and it all started so suddenly, and early. Many resorts had



bumper falls in late November and certainly Christmas and New Year skiers and boarders has plenty to go at. A trip to Val Gardena the week before Christmas provided too much snow, roads were blocked, ski areas closed off due to avalanche risks and more snow during the week as well. But for me it proved to be a great week of skiing.

Another highlight has been the successful application for funding from Sport England, over the past year or so SSE have been working to gain funding for our sport and last October we were invited, along with most sports to apply for four year funding from 2009 through to 2013. Following various meetings and a full application showing how we were going to grow and sustain our sport we were successful in gaining just under £1m of funding from Sport England. Most of the actual work on this application was completed by our Chief Exec Tim Fawke, who worked with the Board and Liz Behnke of Syzgy Leisure to ensure that we achieved the best possible opportunity for success. See opposite for up to date details of the planned funding.

Through all the economic gloom currently affecting the country (and the Euro rate) it is good to know that many are still taking ski holidays. Plenty of fantastic bargains are on offer if you shop around, and people like lastminute.com are reporting that bookings are still going well. Many have decided to do the legwork themselves and book flights, accommodation, transfers etc, therefore making savings to ensure they can still enjoy their annual trip to the slopes.

If the snow lasts well into March/April many will take a trip to enjoy spring conditions and hopefully spring snow, we live in hope of this season inspiring people to take to the slopes and enjoy what for many is 'the great outdoors' - fantastic scenery, fresh mountain air, fabulous food/drink - and a sport that allows you to travel around an area of natural beauty in whichever country you choose.

We look forward to being back next season when we will bring you more interviews, more competitions and more news and information. I'm off to get my skis serviced for the next foray into the white stuff. Wherever you go this winter, enjoy.

Happy skiing... Barry Spouge

## Sport England Funding - Update

Snowsport England has made a successful bid for funding as part of a Sport England initiative. A total of £985,000 will be invested in Snow Sports over the next 4 years.

Tim Fawke, Chief Executive of Snowsport England stated "This is a fantastic opportunity for Snowsports, this new funding will allow us to develop the sport in England as there is a huge amount of potential. This is going to be an exciting time for snowsports and I am looking forward to working with all the clubs, facilities, schools and members to develop the sport in the next 4 years."

The Funding was won on the basis of our ability to "increase the number of people participating and enjoying snowsports", and to create development pathways for those with talent. Accordingly the funds will be directed at "increasing participation", or "widening access to Snowsports", which meets the goals of "growing" numbers, "sustaining" the participation levels within the sport and providing a larger pool of talent from which future sporting "excellence" will emerge. This will all contribute to Sport England's aim of creating a world leading community sport system and ready to take the next step in the growth of our sport."

Snowsport England Chairman, Barry Spouge, said "It is a great boost for snowsports and gives us the opportunity to increase awareness and participation at Dry Ski and Indoor Snow slopes throughout England for people of all ages. This will also benefit the wider snowsports industry, particularly with two new Indoor snow complexes coming on stream, the Snow Centre at Hemel Hempstead in April 2009 and the SnOasis Winter Sports resort near Ipswich in 2012."

The following is a brief outline of where the Sport England Funding will be invested over the next 4 years. SSE would like to invest everywhere but this is not possible and the funding is to be targeted at certain areas to help develop Snowsports within England. This is only a short summary and there will be a presentation at the AGM later this year which will go into more details about where the investment will go.

The funding is not equally split over 4 years. There is an increased weighting to

years 3 and 4. The funding is weighted like this so it gives the chance for the organisation to grow slowly and get the right information and people in place to be able to deliver on the Sport England outcomes in year 3 and 4.

Year 1	£207, 415
Year 2	£212, 248
Year 3	£284, 248
Year 4	£281,249

The funding from Sport England is split into 3 areas, Grow, Sustain and Excel. For the next 4 year funding cycle Sport England has focused our funding on the Grow and Sustain areas with a limited amount into Excel.

I have gone into the areas below which we will be working in. I hope it will make a dramatic difference to Snowsports over the next 4 years but SSE needs everyone's help for there to be a lasting change.

### Communication

We will recruit a communication officer. They will have a broad range of roles. Which will include, website, e-newsletters, course /event promotion, members benefits, links with facilities, promotion of SSE to schools, tour operators and the wider Snowsports participants

### Club Development

We want to be able to support and help Snowsport Clubs to develop. So we are recruiting a development officer and will be targeting clubs to broaden what they offer and encourage more people into the sport. This will be backed up with regional events and an annual club forum.

### Coaching

Our aim is to deliver well trained, quality coaches to work within the club environment. We will be continuing to develop the UK Snowsports courses and help clubs to develop the coaches. It is not just

*continued on page 5...*

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Cover Picture: Skiing at St Anton © TVB St Anton am Arlberg

# Tribute to Roger and Beryl Turner

By Nigel Matthews

When you look back over your life most people can pick out people, situations, events that have had a profound effect upon them and perhaps made them go off in a direction they had not expected. I moved to Leicestershire in 1975 from North Wales where I had been an instructor in a mountain centre. Leicestershire is only marginally more mountainous than Norfolk and the River Soar at its wildest compares with the Serpentine. Why I moved is a long tale but what I did find was a mountain shop in London Road, Leicester - Roger Turner Mountain Sports. I also discovered that Leicester and county had a number of very active mountaineering clubs and a surprising number of skiers. In those days the nearest skiing was on a very short length of Dendex at Carlton near Nottingham.

In a very short length of time I found that I had been taken under the wing of Roger and his wife, the ever smiling, ever enthusiastic, Beryl. No sooner than work was finished or on Sundays it would be into cars and off climbing on local crags or Derbyshire. Many the painful, sweaty evening was spent trying to follow Beryl up some unlikely looking grit stone route. Better were the days spent in Cornwall, North Wales or the Lakes when the days and routes were longer.

Roger and Beryl, both BASI instructors, were two of the first Snowsport England, or what was then ESC, coaches. When they were not climbing they gave their time on the plastic at Carlton and later at Leicester encouraging thousands to learn to ski and move into the coaching scheme. I was no exception and spent many hours with Roger's dry wit and Beryl's encouragement unravelling the mysteries of pressure and leg extension. The experience and experiences that they passed on stood us all in good stead and many of those early students went on to become instructors and coaches with both SSE and BASI.

In those early days Beryl was particularly enthusiastic about Ski Ballet, (a contradiction of terms if ever I heard one) and so we skied on one leg, no legs, feet on the ground, feet in the air, feet crossed intentionally and unintentionally. We all survived intact, well pretty much, and moved on to other things.

On a few occasions I was able to ski with Roger and Beryl on snow and while the former was neat and precise Beryl would always get to the top of a lift, look to the top of the mountain and say, "Let's just walk up there." For some years the three of us ran summer skiing courses in Hintertux and Stelvio. With the Turner's many contacts we were able to gain sponsorship from Salomon and Rossignol and gain the services of the ski technician from the Italian national ski team - heady days!

Roger Turner Mountain Sports was in fact two shops, one in Leicester on London Road and the other on Derby Road, Nottingham. Not only did

they supply the best in outdoor gear they were also the Saturday morning meeting place for outdoor enthusiasts from all walks of life. Amongst Roger's many strengths was and still is his willingness to give help and advice on matters technical. No question was too simple or naïve, he is always willing to give his time to explain why and how to both beginner and expert alike.

Sadly in July 2008 Beryl passed away after a long battle with cancer and many of us owe a great debt of gratitude to her. She was always smiling, she always had boundless enthusiasm, she constantly encouraged and inspired us to better things and not even diving into an outdoor swimming pool in Hintertux filled with water from the glacier could stop her shouting, "Come on in, it's lovely!" So many memories.

Roger, now in his late 70's and not in the best of health, is still skiing with regular sessions at the Snowdome. He still encourages, his knowledge and advice is as up to date as ever, he is still a good friend

As we all get older people come and go and some get forgotten. As members of SSE and the coaching scheme to, it is important, no essential, that we recognise the contribution that people like Roger and Beryl have made and Roger is still making to the sport we all love. They were at the grass roots, the foundations of the coaching scheme, they were the pillars of skiing in the East Midlands.

From me, thank you for all of the help and encouragement. Without you I would probably still be trying to overcome gravity dragging myself up rocks but with guidance from you it's much easier to use it sliding down snow slopes.

## World Champion's catch up with the latest news in the piste... Do you?!

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Michael Walchhofer, currently leader of the Audi/FIS World Cup Downhill, catches up on the latest news in the piste

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# Snowsport England News



## Important information from Head Office...

**The girls in the office wish you all a Happy New Year and hope that you had a good Christmas too.**

We would like to draw your attention to the fact that there is an incredibly large workload here at present and waiting times for renewals, CRB's and first time registrations are taking a lot longer than normal.

### Renewals 2009

Renewals are taking up to 8 weeks to process, therefore if you have sent in your renewal or paid for it online then it is more than likely we have it here in the office. If you do not receive anything within the 8 week period of doing your renewal then please telephone to see where you are in the queue. Please do not telephone just to see if we have received it as this slows the process down.

For all instructors who have not done so, if you have completed your renewal then please remember that we have new style licences for 2009 and we need a photo of yourself. If you can email a photo to [jenny@snowsportengland.org.uk](mailto:jenny@snowsportengland.org.uk) then we can get your licence to you.

Photos must be at least 4x4 inches and head and shoulders with no sunglasses or hats please!!

As you all know the renewal year is changing from 2010 and therefore all those who are paying by Direct Debit will receive a letter regarding their 2010 payment. For all 2010 Direct Debits the payment date will be 16th October 2009. If you wish to change this to an earlier date then you must telephone Sara at head office otherwise you need do nothing.

### CRB Checks

CRB forms are being processed as quickly as possible but due to the fact that the actual CRB offices are on a work to rule at present these will take a lot longer than normal.

If you are an instructor who holds a licence and have not sent in a CRB form then you will not be able to hold your licence for 2009 until this has been completed. If you are being paid for your instructor status there is also a fee of £41 to be paid (cheques payable to Snowsport England).

### First time registrations

Due to the large amount received over the Christmas period these are taking up to 6 weeks to process. As for renewals it would be appreciated if you could be patient while we try to catch up.

As for other work such as Club Affiliations, course dates and information, results for courses and Level 1 Awards to be sent out, again these are taking up to 8 weeks to process.

Thank you for your understanding and patience in these matters. We are doing our very best to try to get everything out to you.

**Jenny, Sara, Julie and Marie**

## Sport England commissions 'first of its kind' survey for Sport

### What

Sport England's 'Satisfaction with the Quality of Sporting Experience' Survey (S.Q.S.E.)

Sport England has commissioned Ipsos MORI to conduct this important study, which is the first of its kind in the UK. The survey will establish what is important to people when they take part in sport and how satisfied they are with the quality of their sporting

experience.

The survey will be repeated on an annual basis so that progress can be tracked over time.

### How

In excess of 40 sports, including (SNOWSPORTS), will be covered within the survey. If you choose to participate you will be emailed a link to the online questionnaire, which will take no more than 15 minutes to complete.

Clubs will be sending out a registration form for the survey shortly (some may have done this already) and we're really keen to hear from as many of you as possible **so please sign up to take part.**

Ipsos MORI is a leading market research company and guarantee your anonymity - no one is identified in the reporting of results and you will not be contacted for sales or marketing purposes as a result of completing the survey.

### When

Ipsos MORI will be contacting sport participants early in 2009 to take part.

### Why

The results will help shape the future of your sport as they will support improved planning and investment decisions. We very much hope that you will take this opportunity to make sure your views are heard.

If you do take part, Ipsos MORI will send you an exclusive preview of the headline results, so you will be able to see what people really think about Snowsports.

**Find out more about this study via Sport England's website:**  
[http://www.sportengland.org/index/get\\_resources/research/satisfaction\\_quality\\_of\\_sporting\\_experience.htm](http://www.sportengland.org/index/get_resources/research/satisfaction_quality_of_sporting_experience.htm)

...continued from page 3

about getting people through qualifications but about coaches working with clubs on an ongoing basis.

### SnowCamp

Working in partnership with Snow Camp to engage with disadvantaged young people from inner cities. Starting with London and then developing in a second city in years 3/4.

### Excel

Support current Head Coach. Regional training days to help clubs and inspire the young next generation of racers. Help develop a clear pathway in all

disciplines. The excel funding is all geared up to help increase the size of the talent pool and is not for funding individual athletes.

### Summary

There is a lot of work to be done to develop the sport further and this needs support from everyone. This investment is a well needed boost for the sport but it is essential that all the fantastic volunteers out there keep up the good work and help to develop the sport.

# Winter into Spring in St am Arlberg

St. Anton am Arlberg is a snowy paradise of the highest calibre in winter. But there's more - St. Anton am Arlberg is a modern holiday resort that has retained its traditional appeal. Hospitality and Tyrolean customs are as much a trademark of the village as its international, cosmopolitan character. And not only does it offer a colossal backdrop of peaks and popular (skiing) mountains, it also has all the comforts you would expect from an international holiday resort.

**S**t. Anton am Arlberg is the first port of call for winter sports enthusiasts, and has enjoyed a world-famous reputation for decades.

There are 85 mountain railways and lifts, 280 kilometres of prepared pistes and 180 kilometres of fantastic powder and granular snow slopes throughout the region, offering unlimited possibilities.

One extremely important point - this Tyrolean resort is in an area of the Alps where snow is virtually guaranteed. For those who want fun and relaxation off the slopes, facilities include a network of cross-country ski trails covering almost 40 km, a fun park, an illuminated toboggan run, ice rinks for skating and curling, as well as the ARLBERG-well.com centre with its indoor pool, sauna and steam baths. A wide range of sporting opportunities jostle for position with fantastic wellness packages and homely Tyrolean dishes made with local produce.

Spring in St Anton am Arlberg is well-known amongst skiers and snowboarders from all over

the world for the outstanding snow conditions and piste quality. Moreover, a holiday during this season is a unique experience and a great celebration in the snow. Whether it's the "Spring Snow Weeks", "The White Thrill" or the "Spring Festival Week" - St Anton am Arlberg enjoys winter sport until well into the year.

From March onwards, when the days become longer, St Anton am Arlberg rings in the sunshine skiing with the "Spring Snow Weeks". From 21st March to the 4th April skiers and snowboarders from all over the world come together and glide almost weightlessly over the gripping, easy to handle snow - on which even the inexperienced can feel at ease. What could be more beautiful, than to draw feather light turns in the morning and in the afternoon stretch out the limbs under a radiant blue sky and enjoy the view of the surrounding mountain panorama from a deckchair on one of the numerous sunterraces? With a choice of 18 ski huts and mountain restaurants everyone is sure to find their own favourite place.

With the new sport and climbing centre, arl.rock, as well as the wellness centre ARLBERG-well.com, St Anton am Arlberg offers many well-being and sporting alternatives. Just like on the ski pistes, the possibilities in arl.rock are unlimited. A modern via ferrata climbing route leads up to the roof of the new activity centre and there are more than 100 routes for climbing, bouldering or even ice climbing with varying degrees of difficulty. Also available in arl.rock are tennis, squash and bowling as well as the possibility to play indoor football and volleyball. Relaxation can be found in the ARLBERG-well.com centre. This luxuriously designed leisure and wellness area includes an indoor swimming pool, a heated outdoor swimming pool, movement channel and waterfall as well as a fitness centre and a large sauna suite.

During the "Spring Snow Weeks" from the 21st March to the 4th April, 2009 St Anton am Arlberg offers economical package deals. Seven days accommodation with breakfast and six days ski pass can be found from 380 Euro per person.

# Anton



## Important Sunshine Skiing Dates in 2009:

- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| 21.03.2009 - 04.04.2009 | Spring Snow Weeks  |
| 18.04.2009 - 25.04.2009 | Spring Festival Week   |
| 21.04.2009 - 25.04.2009 | Intersport Spring Festival with the Austrian Ski Instructor and Demo Championships |
| 25.04.2009              | „The White Thrill“   |
| 25.04.2009 - 02.05.2009 | Schneekristall Week in St Christoph  |

### Further information:

Information bureau  
 A-6580 St Anton am Arlberg  
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PHOTO CREDIT: COURTESY OF TVB St Anton am Arlberg

## WIN A COPY OF WHERE TO SKI & SNOWBOARD 2009

The 2009 13th edition of one of Britain's leading annual guides to winter sports resorts is now available, and we have a copy for you to win. The latest edition has more pages, more resorts, in more countries and with more detail, including a selection of revolutionary piste maps.

With over 600 pages detailing over 430 resorts this publication is a must for those skiers and boarders who checkout resorts throughout the world looking for something different each year. Each major resort chapter features photo's chosen to convey the character of the place and a clear layout.

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The winner will be the first correct entry picked from all entries received



## Snowboard cross star Gillings records first podium

“ I'm delighted with the result, its brilliant! I had a lot of confidence going into the race as I've had a great start to the season. The result also gives me a lot of confidence going into the World Snowboard Championships. ”

Zoe Gillings, Britain's best hope for gold on the snow at the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver, recorded her first World Cup podium finish of the season in this afternoon's (Sunday 11th January) snowboard cross event in Bad Gastein, Austria, ahead of this week's World Snowboarding Championships.

Putting a disappointing run in Saturday's night racing under floodlights behind her - she finished 13th overall after being pushed off course in the quarter-finals - Gillings improved dramatically to come home third in today's race, behind Lindsay Jacobellis of the USA and Canada's Dominique Maltais.

The Isle of Man athlete started the final as the fourth fastest qualifier, and made up ground in the closing stages to snatch third ahead of Alexandra Jekova of Bulgaria. The result means Gillings advances one place to sixth in the World Cup standings ahead of the World Snowboarding Championships which start in Gangwon, Korea, on Thursday. Already this season Gillings has finished fourth in Argentina, sixth in Arosa, Switzerland and she came first in the German National Championships on January 6.

Gillings said: "I'm delighted with the result, its brilliant! I had a lot of confidence going into the race as I've had a great start to the season. I'm pretty confident about the World Championship as it is on the same course I came fourth on last season."

Footnote: Gillings came 11th in the Snowboard Cross event at the World Snowboard Championship.

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the season workers' website

# Arrows Ski Racing Club - the end of an era

By Gillian Hall

With much sadness, but with a spirit of celebrating our fantastic successes, Arrows Ski Racing Club met for the last time on 22/10/08 to close down the club. EMSA met afterwards and the decision was taken for EMSA to also close and cease being an active region of Snowsport England, as Arrows has been the only club actively supporting and running EMSA for many years.

The club, originally called Sherwood Arrows Ski Club was first formed in Nottingham in the early 1980s mainly for recreational ski practice for ski holidays on snow. However some club members became interested in the early efforts to promote dry slope ski racing and so began the racing ethos, however, quality training was hampered by the very short slope available.

With the opening of a much longer slope at Swadlincote Derbyshire in 1988, the club decided to move their base and were renamed Arrows Ski Racing Club, the focus being on producing top quality racers... and they certainly did

In the early 90's the club became one of the top racing clubs in the country with members being selected for national squads and has continued to do so, right to the very end. The club members have always been very proficient in organising races and Swadlincote became one of the top race venues in the country, hosting club nationals, grand prix's and the All England Championships in 1993 and 2004.

In June 2005 Arrows hosted the last race at Swadlincote, as the slope owners decided to recover the surface with a matting (Permasnow) that was unsuitable for racing on, due to the inability to anchor poles to the surface.

Arrows continued to train on the new matting, but in May 2008 the decision was taken, on the grounds of safety, that due to the deterioration in the matting, it was no longer possible for our racers to train on the slope. The loss of a 'home slope' to train/run races on, plus the inability to recruit new members,

all contributed to the clubs demise.

Arrows has a long and illustrious history to be proud of, it has produced numerous 'champions' over the years, on snow as well as on the dry slope, with many going on to make outstanding Coaches, we can even boast that the current National Alpine Team Head Coach began his ski racing career at Arrows!

Everyone associated with Arrows is extremely proud of their attachment to the club and also with EMSA. We have achieved much by nurturing so many winning ski racers, developing good coaches and providing almost as many excellent officials and volunteers who have supported ESC and Snowsport England. It is a great legacy that families and racers associated with Arrows and EMSA, share in.

Arrows will live on in the hearts of all who have been involved with the club...and thankfully, nobody can ever close down the memories.

## Andreas Håtveit joins ATOMIC

Andreas Håtveit the 2008 X-Games gold medallist in slopestyle and top 5 XGames half pipe competitor has joined ATOMIC. Andreas will ride on the full range of ATOMIC ski equipment including bindings and boots. The ATOMIC Punx ski and the ATOMIC High Rolla boot are Andreas's choice.

### New Ski Partner

After spending 6 years with Rossignol Andreas Håtveit has switched to ATOMIC, one of the world's most established ski brands and the technology leader in ski hardgoods. He joins the 2008 X-Games silver medallist Jossi Wells in the ATOMIC International Team which is becoming one of the strongest freeski teams in snowsports led by the two top 2008 X-Games medallists.

Andreas says: 'I am absolutely stoked to join ATOMIC. Their skis are superbly made and ride excellent. They are one of the best ski brands around and from what I've seen with Jossi they have great rider support.'

Regarding his change of ski partner Andreas continued: 'I am always looking for long term partners and ATOMIC fits this role perfectly. They are a real ski company, with a long history, who have the expertise and size to invest in the technical development of their skis, which for me is one of the key benefits of joining them. I am a technical freeskiier and I think Atomic are one of only a few big

ski brands that can deliver on such long term excellence.'

Martin Steinbach of ATOMIC Skis says: 'We are very excited that Andreas will be joining our team. He has reached the highest level of freeskiing and his serious technical application which along with his friendly personality perfectly expresses what our brand represents.'

### Outlook

Andreas Håtveit who recently suffered a knee injury at the freestyle.ch event in Zurich has made a rapid recovery. He is expected to returning to skiing in the next week and will be at full competitive level by Christmas. This recovery is five weeks ahead of schedule.

Andreas says: 'I have been undergoing many hours of physiotherapy and following an examination last week by my knee surgeon in Oslo it appears that the therapy has paid off. I am recovering five weeks sooner than expected which has really boosted my morale!'

Andreas is expected to compete at X-Games at the end of January 2009 to defend his gold medal. He also looks forward to begin working with the ATOMIC R&D Centre in Altenmarkt in Austria from the end of November contributing his input into next years product range gained from years of performing the most complex and technical skiing within the freeski arena.



## Keep your batteries charged on the slopes

Ensure you never go off-piste without the Solio Classic, solar powered charger.

The Solio Classic charger from Better Energy Systems is a must have for ski and board enthusiasts. Using power from the sun the Solio Classic will ensure your mobile phone, mp3-player or camera isn't exhausted before you are.

The lightweight and compact design of the Solio Classic means that it can be easily attached to a backpack or slipped into a coat pocket. An integrated Lithium Ion battery which stores energy for up to a year enables you to pre-charge your Solio via a plug socket for those days when the sun is not shining. A fully charged Solio Classic will power a typical mobile phone twice or provide over 20 hours of MP3 music.

The multitude of interchangeable tips included with the Solio Classic transforms it into a one stop charging solution for all handheld devices such as game players (PSP and DS Lite) and GPS systems. Electronic devices are charged at the same rate as if they were plugged into a wall. Whether you are skiing cross country or sticking to the sunny slopes the Solio Classic is the ideal accessory for skiers and boarders this winter.

**The Solio Classic is available from John Lewis, PC World, Dixons and [www.solio.com](http://www.solio.com) with an RRP of £49.99**

# AlpenParks offers bank guaranteed 6% yield for property investors

Austria's largest ski resort developer, AlpenParks, is now offering Britishlifestyle investors the option of a guaranteed return of 6% per annum for three years on a mountainside chalet at the Hagan Lodge ski resort.

AlpenParks recently launched in the UK offering investors the rare opportunity to own an authentic chalet on the side of the Loser Mountain in one of Austria's premier ski locations. Hagan Lodge is a family-friendly ski resort offering beautifully crafted chalets and hours of skiing from your front door.

In addition to fabulous holidays, there are now two rental options available to investors. The original proposition whereby an owner can use their chalet for up to 12 weeks per year and rent the property out for the rest of the year is still available and offers up to 6.2% return, depending on the amount of personal use. A second option is now available whereby the owner can use their chalet for two weeks per year (one week in winter and one week in summer) and AlpenParks will offer a bank guaranteed yield of 6% for three years.

"With the recent changes in interest rates and

market conditions we are pleased to offer investors who only wish to use their property for two weeks per year the option of a guaranteed and fixed rate of return each year," said Jonathan Jennings, Director of AlpenParks UK.

"Austria is still one of the world's most stable economies and with UK interest rates dropping, 6% is a competitive return," explains Jonathan. The Loser Mountain region was recently voted the third best ski area in Austria, and boasts 29km of perfect-pistes and a host of cross-country trails, downhill descents and a freestyle fun park for boarders. In summer there is no end to the outdoor activities that can be enjoyed within only 15 minutes of the Lodge.

All chalets in phase one of Hagan Lodge sleep a maximum of 9 people, and come with the latest luxury fittings and furnishings, including an indoor Swedish sauna and optional outdoor hot tub. Prices range from €365,000 to 374,000, and the sale price includes all the costs of lawyers, notaries and taxes so there are no unexpected expenses.

The Loser Mountain, home of Hagan Lodge, is in Ausseerland, and is only 2.5km from the lakeside village of Altaussee and 1.5 hours east of Salzburg.

## Skiing Europe

### INSTRUCTORS NEEDED

We require BASI / CSIA / PSIA qualified ski and snowboard instructors for the 2007/08 winter season. You will work alongside our current team of instructors and local ski schools for one / two / three week periods teaching our school, youth and some adult groups in various alpine resorts during the peak school holiday times of New Year, Half Term (mid February) and Easter, plus some other weeks. Also required are competent, sociable, experienced skiers to act as representatives and / or ski friends.

A good fully inclusive package will be offered and you should contact Brian Snook sending a CV to:

Skiing Europe c/o 40 Meadow View, Putterspury, Trowcastre, Northants NN12 7PH.  
Email: [bsn@hgcconstruct.co.uk](mailto:bsn@hgcconstruct.co.uk) Tel: 07976 707041 evenings 01906 542 460

[www.skiing-europe.com](http://www.skiing-europe.com)

# Snow-sport facilities

By Alan Jones

Whilst some skiers in Ipswich and Hemel Hempstead may be rejoicing in the prospects of new indoor snow-sport facilities, there are many thousands of snow-sport enthusiasts who would be only too glad of the facilities they will replace. Just 1% of the £350M to be spent in Suffolk could provide for a snow-sport centre based on artificial surfaces which would be welcomed in many of the country's urban areas. Indeed, if artificial materials were used, such facilities could well be larger and more varied in piste profiles than are likely to be available in most indoor snow centres.

Most of Greater London and many of the metropolitan counties are without such a facility. It is unrealistic to expect the whole of London and the South to travel to Hemel Hempstead, indeed the centre would not be able to cope if they did. What a survey I conducted some years ago clearly showed was that most skiers want a local facility within half an hour's travel time of home. If they want to visit a ski resort for a holiday, they will go to the Alps where even a small resort will provide a far wider range of skiing than any indoor snow centre could offer, including one on the scale of SnOasis. Nobody is going to build a 3000m Alp in this country.

The cost of indoor snow centres is prohibitive for many enthusiasts on a regular basis. Going to such centres once or twice a year as a day out is not going to do much for their personal development. To achieve significant personal development for those unable to go abroad for more than a few weeks a year requires opportunity for regular (at least weekly) training. This is what Snowsport England should be focusing on as the governing body responsible for grass roots development.

I belong to a ski club which has had to make do with a 40m slope for the last 30 odd years run by the local authority. This was a great facility in the early years of artificial slopes when it was thought that all that was wanted was a brief introduction to the sport before the first ski holiday. But, despite vigorous campaigning by the NWSF and local clubs, the slope has not been developed further to cope with the developing needs of the sport. To add insult to injury, we have been denied access even to this facility for two seasons whilst an adjacent swimming pool and sports centre are refurbished to high standards. Snowsport England has done nothing to support us in our endeavours.

What we need is a rational strategy for facilities development not a regurgitation of marketing hype. A governing body of sport should be able to see through this and focus on the real needs of the sport. Some readers will be aware that I have been campaigning for a new strategy to replace the one published in 1988/89 for about fifteen years. The basic needs of the sport have not changed. It was based on the principle that "It is desirable that as many skiers as possible should have a ski facility of reasonable size sufficiently close to home to make regular weekly practice attainable at acceptable cost and without excessive travelling". It was also based on the principle that "Easy access by public transport is essential to serve young and disadvantaged persons". My survey showed that these principles are still widely supported, the only change being that we now have to take snowboarding into consideration.

Let's get the publication of a new facilities strategy, with regular updating back on the SSE agenda. SSE must be the only governing body of sport which does not see facilities as fundamental to sport development and put it high on the priorities in its development plans.

## Skier rendered tetraplegic by skiing accident succeeds in claim

A skier sustained injuries which left him tetraplegic as a result of a skiing accident. He alleged that his ski instructor should not have permitted or encouraged him to ski in the off-piste area where the accident occurred. Two days before the accident the skier had found a relatively easy off-piste run challenging. On the day of the accident the instructor proposed that they ski down a steep off-piste slope with trees. In the course of his descent he lost control and collided with one of the trees. The court found that at the time of the accident the skier [and other group members] had not mastered to a sufficient level the skills necessary to undertake the area of off-piste terrain in question in reasonable safety. It was reasonably foreseeable that any one of these skiers would have fallen or lost control of their skis when negotiating the terrain. In addition, there was a reasonably foreseeable risk of impacting with a tree and a foreseeable risk of this resulting in serious injury. On this basis the instructor was liable for the accident but there was contributory negligence on the part of Mr Anderson of one third to reflect his failure to protest or comment prior to the descent.

The Judge was keen to emphasise that this decision does not mean that anyone who suffers injury as a result of a skiing accident or when under the supervision of an instructor will win damages. He stated that "Everyone recognises that skiing is an inherently risky pastime and accidents causing injuries, sometimes very serious, will occur, more often than not without negligence being established on the part of anyone involved."

Though the injuries sustained and the damages awarded in this case are highly significant the issue at the heart of the case is very simple -coaches and instructors MUST be aware of their responsibility to assess skill levels before activities are undertaken.

## First POC Satellite - mini flag ship store

POC is a young Swedish company, with a strong mission, to do the best it can, to possibly save lives and to reduce consequences of accidents, for gravity sports athletes, by revolutionizing personal protection.

Despite its short history, with only three seasons behind it, POC is available in more than 30 countries and has set its marks by POC athletes piling up Olympic, X-Games and World Champion titles, together with POC humbly receiving numerous international Design, Conceptual and Strategic Business Awards.

The POC Chamonix store is a first mini flag ship store, located in the heart of European skiing. The ambition is to be able to visualise the whole assortment in a POC ish environment, together with highly skilled personnel. The store is located in the center of the village on 270 rue du Docteur Paccard, Chamonix's main street.

The POC store is a mono brand store, except for a limited Apple assortment, carrying iPods, iTouches and iPhones, with assorted spares and associated products.



# The World Cup

Barry Spoue reports from Val Gardena, Italy

## at Christmas

**W**ith all of the usual hype that comes with any World Cup event, Val Gardena again set out to create a superb series of World Cup weekend events - the 41st running of the Saslong Classics - Super G on Friday, Downhill on Saturday with the racers moving around the mountain to Alta Badia for Giant Slalom and Slalom races. Most teams had arrived during the early part of the week to enable them to train on fresh Italian snow, and there was plenty of it. For the previous 2/3 weeks the region received huge dumps of snow and on my journey in the previous weekend it was plain to see that we were in for a great week.

One of the highlights for me was meeting the Austrian team at their hotel in St. Christina, particularly my friend Michi Walchhofer, a text message invited me down for a beer on the Wednesday evening, the team were just finishing dinner then Michi passed by saying he was just going to give his wife Barbara a call. A few minutes later he returned and we ordered a beer and chatted about the races. He was pleased with his position in the Downhill, and his race results so far, having had good runs in the American and Canadian legs of the World Cup. When asked

about the Super G and Downhill races this week, he said he was confident but anything can happen. Michi won the Downhill last year and was looking forward to Saturday and maybe doing well again. We chatted about Christmas and traditions in Austria. Unlike us they do not have Father Christmas,

they have the 'Christ Child' and the opening of gifts happens on our Christmas Eve. He was looking forward to spending the day at the family's hotel in

Zauchensee, with a traditional lunch and the opening of the gifts. Michi commented that at this time of year they go through this twice, once with the family and then again with the hotel guests. Also on hand was Benni Raich, Herman Maier and other members of the team relaxing after all the training both on the slopes and in the gym.

Super G Race Day arrived, a clear but cold day dawned. My first visit was to the Press centre, situated as usual in the St. Christina Gym. Media from all around the world were based here during the race events, newspaper, radio and TV. More than 40 TV networks around the world broadcast the races to around 300 million people. Sadly the UK was not one of these since Channel 4 cut skiing from its schedule.

A bite to eat and some hot coffee was the next thing on the list then the press shuttle to the race. Arriving at the arena it was already packed with Fan Clubs and spectators. Lots of noise, horn blowing and the like greeted us as we walked through the crowds to the Press/TV studio area next to where the athletes end up after the race for interviews and recovery.

The atmosphere was building and the forerunners were arriving at the foot of the course having raced down the run. 12.15 arrived and the first racer left the start, it was still, no breeze and clear skies, the speed and times were very good so it appeared that it would be very close. First off was Austrian Stephan Goergl who set a time of 1m 35.65 seconds, followed by Sweden's Patrik Jaerbyn in a time of 1m 35.49. It looked as though times would get faster, particularly when the big guns start coming. Werner Heel, Italy's first runner set an even faster time of 1m 35.04 starting third. This proved to be a winning time as after the first 9/10 runners a breeze got up which affected times for the rest of the field, apart from the odd racer or two, adding roughly 1 sec to the top skiers times. Highest place of the big guns was Austria's Herman Maier in 9th in a time of 1m 35.87 with the likes of Bode Miller, Peter Fill, Benjamin Raich, Aksel Lund Svindal and Michael Walchhofer well down the order.

Saturday arrived for the main event, the Downhill. After the training runs the main athletes were in good positions to attack the Saslong course, Saturdays race always attracts huge crowds with many locals coming out to cheer on the Italian skiers. After Werner Heels win the day before, hopes were high for a repeat. The crowd



**Herman Maier watches events with interest**

were cheering loudly and 12.15 arrived with the race getting started by Austrian Georg Streitberger setting a time of 1m 52.83 followed by John Kucera from Canada in 1 min 52.84, so times seemed fast, that was until the main contenders entered the arena. Erik Guay of Canada set what was thought to be a potentially winning time, starting 9th, of 1m 51.33. This was finally eclipsed by Marco Sullivan and Manuel Osborne-Paradis with Bode Miller starting from 19th setting a time of 1m 50.95. Everyone thought Bode had finally come good this season, but no one accounted for the determination and sheer guts of Michi Walchhofer who charged down the course to win in a time of 1m 50.57, Walchhofer was visibly relieved when he reached the Finish. His first comment: "I was a little down after yesterday's race and put on a real show today. More than ever did I race for Austria today". This fantastic win ended a year long drought for Austria's downhill



**Italy's Peter Fill**



Switzerland's Didier Cuche



Norway's Aksel Lund Svindal



The podium: Bode Miller, Michael Walchhofer and Manuel Osborne-Paradis

team, but a second win in two years for Michi Walchhofer which put him at the top of the Downhill standings. It was certainly Michi's day, following the celebrations he was off home to Austria, no doubt for an extra special Christmas celebration. For me another great week in Val Gardena was over, great snow, great racing and above all great skiing. I'll be back again in 2009.



Austria's Michael Walchhofer the eventual winner of the downhill

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## World Cup debut for Ed Drake

British Ski Team's rising star, Ed Drake, made his FIS World Cup debut on Friday, January 16, at Wengen in Switzerland.

Ed of Kingston-upon-Thames competed in the Super Combined and Downhill events respectively at the FIS World Cup event on Wengen's infamous slope - The Lauberhorn.

Drake, 23, the reigning overall British Men's skiing champion, improved his world ranking last year by 457 places to 147th and his Super G ranking by 510 places to 96th. He has started the current season strongly, finishing 11th in a tough Europa Cup competition at Reiteral in Austria last month, before heading over to North America and producing a string of top ten results.

He has been competing in the Europa Cup competition in Wengen. Competition has been fierce but he had put in solid performances, convincing the coaches that he was ready to take the next step and compete in a World Cup event.

Ed finished 55th in his first Downhill.

## Innsbruck to host first Winter Youth Olympic Games in 2012

The eagerly awaited result regarding who is going to host the 1st Winter Youth Olympic Games in 2012 was announced by IOC President Jacques Rogge in December. Innsbruck won the bid and is selected as Host City for 2012. Immediately, Innsbruck 2012 extended congratulations to fellow finalist Kuopio as well as to the other Candidate Cities Harbin and Lillehammer thanking them for the fair competition.

"We feel very proud and fortunate about the IOC member's decision. The Winter Youth Olympic Games in Innsbruck will be a memorable and a unique experience for all parties involved," said the Bid President for Innsbruck 2012, Christoph Platzgummer, after the announcement.

Following the Olympic Winter Games of 1964 and 1976 this will be the third time Olympic competitions will have been held in the Tyrolean capital.

The Organising Committee is now looking forward to 1,127 days of hard work in preparing the Youth Olympic Games until the Olympic Movement will gather for the opening ceremony on January 13, 2012, in Innsbruck.

## Halfpipe world Cup Season kicks off

The weekend of the 10/11th of Jan heralded the first event of the Halfpipe World Cup Season in Les Contamines, France. Britain was there in force with four six halfpipe athletes and a support team of four.

The squad included Murray Buchan (British Champion), Becky Hammond, James Webb, James Machon and rookies Robert Machon and Josh Fawcett. All of our male athletes are under 20 and looking with beady eyes at the potential for halfpipe to be included as an Olympic event in 2014. Becky was looking to break into the women's top ten at this event whilst the men have been training hard over recent weeks with the expectation of a clutch of top 20 results and for a British male to break into the top ten for the first time.

In the highest standard Women's competition seen in Les Contamines Virginie Favre (SUI) took the first HP World Cup victory for a Swiss skier.

Becky Hammond became the first British skier to qualify for finals in a WC Halfpipe Event. In the night time showcase event and in front of a crowd lining the pipe five deep she put down a smooth run of truck driver, mute grab, alley oop mute, Japan and ally oop 540. Finishing 10th Becky stated "I'm super stoked to have made a world Cup Final and the first Brit to do so. The lots of work I have put into training have paid off however I'm still looking to make top 5 which will take a lot more but I'm still really happy with my progress".

Xavier Bertoni of France took his first win at this level and Swiss celebrations continued as Nils Lauper took second ahead of Kevin Rolland of France.

Murray Buchan came extremely close to making top ten only missing out by 1.4 points. He was the top ranked GB male taking 15th spot and equalling the highest place achieved by a British male. His run consisted of a 540 Japan, alley oop 540 opp mute, 900 tail, straight tail and finished with a 1080.

Murray stated "I'm really happy I put my run down but am gutted that I was so close to finals but just missed out. I

was really happy to compete against such great athletes. It made me push myself and I think I've taken a real step forward in my riding".

James Machon was close on Murray's tail only taking 18th place after falling in the first of two qualifiers, with Josh Fawcett in 23rd, Robert Machon in 32nd and James Webb in 37th.

GB Team Manager/Coach Simon Ashton stated "It was a great performance by the British riders and I'm especially pleased for Becky making finals. She's put in a lot of lonely work to raise her game which is beginning to pay off. The male riders put in some great performances in a seriously tough field. Both Murray and James (Machon) were within a hairs breadth of making finals, on another day they'll both make it and I believe they learned a lot today about this level of competition and themselves. The other guys put in some great performances with Josh Fawcett showing some real steel at 16 to take 23rd. One final big bonus was Katie Summerhayes, at 13 too young to compete, she trained with the senior and fore ran the World Cup event. She looked comfortable at this level and will certainly be ready to join Becky next year at the senior level and in the finals.

Finally I have to pay a huge amount of credit to the rest of the coaching team of Pat Sharples, Andy Bennett and Paul Webb. Who were all here on a voluntary basis and have been working with many of these guys over the last few years. Its there hard work which has enabled most of these athletes to make it here"

Matt Hayward (Canada) World No 1 ranked skier injured his shoulder in the finals dropping him out of contention. Matt stated - "I'm definitely bummed about it, I hope and don't think it's a season ending injury. Hopefully I'll be back for World Champs in Japan. I chose the WC over the Dew Tour in the US because I wanted to retain my title, I really like the WC - it's always great fun though the pipe wasn't super great. Don't worry I'll be back."



## Gatwick Express launches savings for skiers

From January until April 2009, Gatwick Express, the non-stop rail-air link from Victoria station, central London to Gatwick Airport will offer a 'Four for Two' fare which is perfect for skiers. Unlike many of its competitors Gatwick Express offers an onboard facility to carry skis and snowboards.

Ski conditions around the world have been reported as better than last year, so if you and three of your friends or family are planning a skiing trip, the 'Four for Two' fare offers a saving of up to £96 for four adults travelling together (based on First Class return).

The journey time on Gatwick Express between London Victoria and Gatwick Airport is 30 minutes and trains run every 15 minutes from Monday to Sunday. The first trains depart London Victoria at 03h30, 04h30 and Gatwick at 04h35, 05h20 and the last trains leave at 00h01, 00h30 and 00h50, 01h35 respectively

**Tickets are available for adult Express Class and First Class tickets and can be purchased at Gatwick Express ticket offices on the day of travel or up to 3 months before travel.**

	<b>Blenshoe Ski Centre Braemar Golf Club</b>	18th April 19th April	
	<b>Chill Factor Antrobus Golf Club</b>	13th May 13th May	
	<b>The Snow Centre Chesfield Downs Golf Club</b>	10th June 10th June	

Entry form and information available from the website:  
[www.blenshoeski.com](http://www.blenshoeski.com)

SUUNTO SALOMON FALKE

## THE *piste* Competition Winners

Having received thousands of entries for our fantastic 5 competitions, the winners were as follows:

- Atomic Skis winner - **Paul Catling**,  
Bicester, Oxfordshire
- Claim DVD winner - **Karen Johnson**  
Christchurch, Gloucester
- Where to Ski & Snow board book winner - **Mrs E Sampson**  
Stoney Stanton, Leicester
- Motorola Walkie Talkie winner - **Ian Acey**  
Woodville, Derbyshire
- Belvilla Holiday Voucher winner - **Maureen Flynn**  
Birmingham

Our congratulations go to all of them and we hope they enjoy their prizes. Look out for more great competitions next season.

# Sweden's top ski

THE *piste* finds out what makes the northern Swedish resort of Åre so special.

## Åre - an international resort

Åre in northern Sweden has long been the top ski resort for Swedes but since its injection of £23 million into the World Championships in 2007, it has raised its profile amongst international skiers, with visitor numbers up by 20% in the 2007-8 winter season year on year. Skistar Åre has adapted the resort's facilities to cater for the international market by ensuring all signage in the ski area is in English and introducing pictograms to avoid any misunderstandings. What's more, Åre hopes to become more accessible with the frequency of chartered flights direct to Östersund from the UK expected to grow.

## Technical advances

The snow-guns at Störtloppet (the downhill run) have been made more efficient for this season to enable the production of more snow in a shorter time in the Åre Björnen, Åre By and Duved areas. The Skistar snow guarantee ensures that if fewer than ten pistes are open between 12 December 2008 and 1 May 2009 visitors can be refunded.

Skistar Åre has introduced an innovative map system on its website for the 2008-9 season so that visitors can see where the various accommodation is located in relation to the slopes, bars and restaurants to make it easier to pick the perfect place to stay ([www.skistar.com](http://www.skistar.com)).

## More facilities for families

Skistar Åre has launched Snowflake Club (snöflingeklubben) for the 2008-9 season which offers child-minding for young ones when their parents want to take to the pistes alone, making the resort more family-friendly than ever before ([www.skistar.com](http://www.skistar.com)). Activities range from storytelling and drawing to tobogganing and snowman making as well as ski lessons.

The children's ski area in Åre Björnen is being expanded in time for the winter season and the Björnlandet and Vildmarksstigen theme parks are adding more attractions for younger guests. Other attractions for families off the slope include the Moose Garden

# resort



**“Skistar Åre has introduced an innovative map system on its website for the 2008-9 season so that visitors can see where the various accommodation is located in relation to the slopes, bars and restaurants to make it easier to pick the perfect place to stay.”**

([www.moosegarden.com](http://www.moosegarden.com)) where children have the chance to 'kiss a moose' or the chocolate factory ([www.fjallkonfekt.se](http://www.fjallkonfekt.se)), which makes hand-made chocolates using local flavours such as blueberries and cloudberry as well as more exotic flavours such as saffron or chilli.

## Summer ski race calendar 2009

The summer Calendar for 2009 is now published. There are some exciting new races on the 2009 calendar as well as all the normal races.

- The British Indoor Championships, Chill Factore 26th April 09
  - The English Indoor Championships, Hemel 23rd August 09
- Plus the GP series goes indoor for the first time with

races at MK and Hemel. There is also 2 indoor CN races as well. So opportunities for everyone. Entries will be open from mid Feb for all the dryslope and indoor races. It's going to be a fantastic summer of racing, so get the dates in your diary!!

For the full calendar: [www.snowsportengland.org.uk](http://www.snowsportengland.org.uk) or [www.Britski.org](http://www.Britski.org)

### DVD REVIEW

## STEEP

SPECIAL EDITION INCLUDING LEGENDARY SKI MOVIE 'BLIZZARD OF AAHHH'S'

Fresh from its successful theatrical release at the BFI IMAX, prepare to experience the most breathtaking, exhilarating and inspirational ride of your life. The world's best skiers go beyond their dreams to conquer the steepest runs ever faced. From the sheer cliffs of Grand Teton to the treachery of Chamonix France to the untouched Alaskan peaks of Valdez; these extremers sacrifice their lives for a thrill but what a thrill it is.

Fantastically beautiful images of the most magnificent peaks on the globe along with devastating avalanches and fatal spills only serve to push them harder. But prepare to discover – not everyone who goes up the mountain returns.

### Blizzard of AAHHH'S

The Blizzard of Aahhh's is the ski masterpiece that opened up people's eyes to the fearless heroes of the ski world and one of the core inspirations for Steep. Featuring cliff-jumper Scott Schmidt, extreme skier bad boy Glen Plake and precision skier Matt Hattrup, this movie contains some of the best ski action ever filmed from the premier extreme/steep skiing destinations in the world; from France's Chamonix Valley to the awe inspiring Squaw Valley in California.



### Special features

DVD commentary with director Mark Obenaus and skiers Ingrid Backstrom & Andrew McClean  
5.1 Audio

**Combined running time:** 162 minutes

**DVD RRP:** £19.99

**Cert:** PG

## Swoop to the slopes with Swiss's winter specials

This winter Swiss International Air Lines is giving holidaymakers the chance to hit the slopes without feeling the pinch. With return flights from London City to Basel, starting from £67, including all taxes and surcharges, plus free transport for ski and snowboard equipment, time in the snow has never been more accessible or affordable.

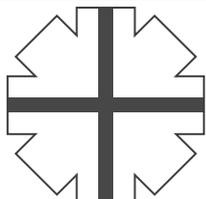
From just £89 avid skiers and snowboarders can head to Geneva, the gateway to countless Swiss and French ski resorts, including the snow nirvanas of Les Trois Vallées, Le Grand Massif and Saas Fee.

Snow lovers, looking for a hip experience, can fly to Zurich from £116, and head to the prestigious resorts of Davos-Klosters and St. Moritz. In these

resorts chic chalets and hotels line the streets alongside a myriad of bars and restaurants for the ultimate après ski experience.

From the UK and Ireland alone Swiss International Air Lines, the national airline of Switzerland, offers 32 daily flights, serving Basel, Geneva and Zurich from London City and Manchester, and Zurich from London Heathrow, Birmingham and Dublin. For flights from the UK and Ireland SWISS offers two classes, Economy and Swiss Business, and the flexibility to book a different class in each direction.

For further information and bookings please visit [SWISS.COM/UK](http://SWISS.COM/UK) call SWISS on 0845 601 0956 or contact your travel agent.



**SNOWSPORT  
ENGLAND**

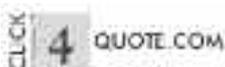
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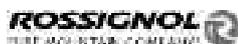
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## For Sponsorship Opportunities

contact Snowsport England on

**0121 501 2314**



## Riding The Stash

If you are cool, hip and 'down with the kids', then you would have definitely spent last season riding The Stash. Developed in the Californian resort of Northstar, by the Godfather of snowboarding himself, Jake Burton; The Stash is an entirely new snowpark concept; with the first European version located in the popular resort of Avoriaz. Entirely ungroomed and built from natural features found on the mountainside, The Stash is more environmentally friendly than your regular park, and of course massively fun to ride! Features, such as old picnic benches, cliff drops, wooden rails and wall rides, can be found hidden in and around the forest. This really allows freestylers and freeriders alike, to shred through the trees, stomping awesome hits and searching for fresh lines. It seems the park team have managed to recreate the freeriding essence of snowboarding's early roots, whilst simultaneously leading the revolution of snowpark design. With access to the huge areas of pistes and the vast number of awesome, well-maintained snow parks in the Portes du Soleil, Avoriaz really does maintain its claim as one of the best snowboarding destinations in Europe.

For more information on The Stash visit [www.thestash.com](http://www.thestash.com)

## Eurotunnel gives skiers a lift

In the current economic climate, skiers may be concerned about the cost of hitting the slopes abroad. Eurotunnel, the cross-Channel operator that runs vehicle shuttles between Folkestone and Calais, offers the perfect travel solution.

Driving across to France means that you can pack the car with all your equipment, even take your own provisions, and stick the skis on the roof at no extra charge. And with prices per vehicle, you can share the cost with fellow skiers.

Operating 24-hours a day, 365 days a year, Eurotunnel is a convenient way to travel across to Continental ski resorts. With direct access to the M20 in the UK and connected to the A26 in France, Eurotunnel makes your journey easy and allows you longer on the pistes!

Eurotunnel has teamed up with a leading specialist in self-drive ski holidays to offer a choice of chalet-style apartments in top French resorts. Customers can hire ski equipment and buy lift passes when booking their travel, saving time. There are even discounts of 20% on some accommodation in 2009, leaving you more for your après-ski!\*

What's more, if you purchase a package including Eurotunnel travel through [eurotunnelski.com](http://eurotunnelski.com), you will be offered a free upgrade to Eurotunnel's premium Flexiplus service! This provides many additional benefits including fully flexible travel, a dedicated check-in booth and use of the exclusive lounge.

For anyone concerned about their carbon footprint, Eurotunnel provides an excellent solution. With intrinsic environmental advantages and ongoing commitments to further cut carbon emissions, Eurotunnel is the most environmentally friendly way to cross the Channel with a vehicle.

For more information and to book, visit: [www.eurotunnelski.com](http://www.eurotunnelski.com)



# Andy Longley World Cup mogul skier



Here's the latest update on the story of Sheffield Shark, Andy Longley, World Cup Mogul skier. Andy was joined by Great Britain Mogul skier, Ellie Koyander, at the first mogul World Cup competition of the 2008/09 season in Meribel, France.

The organisation of the race was spot on, accommodation was superb and the snow came in abundance. Lots of Brits turned up to cheer on the two competitors. Andy, despite his first World Cup nerves did us proud. Nerves were compounded by him being interviewed live by Eurosport, immediately prior to his qualification run. He did not make it to the finals but finished 46th out of 56. He felt he ought to have done better (like the attitude) but overall this was a good first result.

After a relaxing Christmas and New Year it was back to the hard work. Europa Cups in Slovenia and Chatel are coming up and will provide good training, as well as get rid of the turkey and Christmas pudding, as well as a chance to measure current performance. Also enable him to try out some new jumps/tricks before the World Cups in Sweden and Norway.

Alex Houston, England team will be joining us in Slovenia to compete in her first 'C' level FIS Mogul competition. I am looking for a good performance as well as her gaining invaluable competition experience.

I'd like to wish a Happy New Year to our continued supporters, Head skis, Snozone, Anything Technical, Paul and Janette Longley, BACEland, Andy Ellis and special thanks to a new sponsor, Lamcom Communications, for providing radios.

## PRODUCT RECALL

### Voluntary recall of the heel components of certain ski bindings produced between 1998 and 2002

Atomic Austria GmbH and its distributors are carrying out a precautionary recall for the heel components of 310, 311, 412 models of ATOMIC Race, Xentrix, Device, Centro and ADX, RD10 and 412 models of DYNAMIC bindings produced between 1998 and 2002.

Owners of the listed binding models can bring their bindings to an authorised sports dealership and have the heel components exchanged at no charge, effective immediately.

The heel housing component of these bindings could crack, possibly causing the binding to release early, posing a falling risk to the skier. Therefore, these binding models must no longer be used.

Atomic is asking owners of the listed binding models to contact an authorised sports dealership. A dealer can confirm whether the binding is one of the affected types. If the binding is one of those subject to the recall, the heel components will be replaced by new ones at no charge. Please be aware that the exchange process cannot be carried out immediately. In most cases, we expect that the exchange process will be completed within 48 hours.

For more information, please visit [www.atomicsnow.com](http://www.atomicsnow.com). You may also call the toll-free telephone number +800 64 52 39 00 or send email to [consumerservice@atomicsnow.com](mailto:consumerservice@atomicsnow.com).



## Chief executive update

### New year brings new cheer

Well I hope everyone had a great Christmas and New Year. I enjoyed my first Christmas at home for 10 years which was great but missed being on the snow. Hopefully everyone has got through the January blues looking forward to a ski or snowboarding trip. Snowsports was delivered a fantastic Christmas present with the announcement of the Sport England funding. This will start in April, please see the separate report for more information but it looks like a busy year ahead for me.

Some other important news for the coming year. There are more indoor races planned for the summer which is an exciting development. The Coaching conference is going to be completely new and I hope will be very informative and motivational for all the current and future coaching scheme members. (Keep 19th & 20th September free) More information will be out soon.

I know there has been a few issues with renewals this year but we have sorted out most of the bugs for the online system. This has meant it has taken longer to process all the renewals and the office is working its hardest to process everyone so please be patient.

If you want to keep up to date with all the Snowsports News then sign up to the E – Newsletter. Just go to the SSE website and click on the Newsletter button halfway down the left hand sided and fill in your email.

See you on the slopes!

*Tim Fawke, CEO of Snowsport England.*

## Inntravel sponsors cross country ski GB team

Inntravel, an award winning tour operator that has been offering cross country ski holidays to Europe for 23 years, has confirmed its sponsorship of the British Nordic Ski Team, the international competitive team for cross country skiing in Great Britain, which is run on a voluntary basis. The sponsorship is particularly welcome as the Team currently receives no government or lottery monies, being funded directly by the athletes themselves.

Inntravel's sponsorship contribution will buy much needed two way radios that will aid the training of the Team. From their Norwegian autumn base in Sjusjoen, Norway, where Inntravel already offers holidays, the Team currently runs the World Championship, World Cup, World Junior Championship, Junior Team and Youth Olympic Team on behalf of Snowsport GB, the British National Governing Body of snowsports.

Welcoming the contribution made by Inntravel to assist in the purchase of essential radio communication equipment for coaches and athletes, George Gabriel, Nordic Director, SSGB, said, "Inntravel's involvement in cross county skiing holidays and their support to the team makes for a natural alliance between popular and competitive Nordic skiing. Many squad and team athletes began their skiing careers with parents and families on winter snow holidays in resorts around Europe. Inntravel's continuing commitment to arranging winter holidays on an independent basis should provide young skiers with the opportunity to get a taster of the enjoyment to be gained from winter sports."

As a tour operator specialising in walking and cycling holidays as well as skiing, their sponsorship initiative is a particularly neat fit. Inntravel's holidays not only provide plenty of choice for first time cross country skiers to get started and gain in confidence, whatever their age, but also much for experienced skiers who seek out more challenging conditions.

Marketing manager, Inntravel, Steve Jack, said, "We are delighted to be sponsoring the team. It's a particularly exciting time in the run up to the 2010 Olympics and it will be great to have a combined presence at various events, among them the British Championships, some events within the GB Roller Ski Race Series 2009 and the Huntly Ski Club in Aberdeenshire, where the squad have a base.

*For more information on Inntravel's Skiing and More programme Tel 01653 617906 or visit [www.inntravel.co.uk](http://www.inntravel.co.uk)*

NORDIC SKI NEWS

## Yahoo! Eurosport launches extreme sports section with MPORA.TV

MPORA.TV and Yahoo! Eurosport have announced a partnership that will see the launch of a new extreme sports section on Yahoo! Eurosport that has been designed as part of a strategy to deliver extreme action sports coverage to the Yahoo! Eurosport audience.

The MPORA.TV extreme sports section will form part of the broader Yahoo! Eurosport offering, with exclusive footage from the biggest events across the extreme sports calendar. Content will include exclusive video highlights packages, daily news articles and feature interviews written by some of the top names in the industry. Users will be able to watch highlights from world-renowned events, including the Billabong Air and Style in Innsbruck this January and the Vans Triple Crown of surfing in Hawaii this December.

The content will be delivered by MPORA.TV, Europe's largest extreme sports online channel, who broadcast action from the worlds of surfing, motocross, mountain biking, skateboarding and BMX. MPORA.TV forms part of Factory Media, Europe's most successful action sports media owner with 14 publications covering all major extreme sports and a current monthly readership of 500,000; they currently have 17 websites with monthly audiences exceeding 800,000. As well as working with the leading names in action sports, Factory Media also work with the people who live and breathe action sports in Europe. Together, these riders and producers help to produce some of the best action sport footage on the web.

MPORA.TV and Yahoo! Eurosport will be tapping into the recent growth of interest in action sports by a mainstream and youth audience, providing content that this audience wants to watch. There are one million regular extreme sports' participants in the UK, with a three-and-a-half million estimated total audience in the UK alone.

*Visit <http://uk.eurosport.yahoo.com/extreme-sports/>*

# The Norwegians are impressed!



**Andrew Young:** Winner of the M17 category race.

The GB Nordic Ski Team were recently in Sjusjoen, Norway, for a Christmas & New Year training camp

At the end of December some of the team took part in the "Gåsburennet" races, where they competed against some of the best skiers in Norway (and therefore the world). Andrew Young won the M17 category and Andrew Musgrave was second in the M19-20 age group.

This success has not gone unnoticed by the locals, as the following article from the website of one of Norway's best ski clubs shows:

### Who won the M17 category race...

Av Gro Ellegaard ... Gjøvik? NO! Veldre? NO! Kjelsås? NO! Nybygda? NO! Andrew Young from Great Britain...

He represented the British XC Nordic ski team.

Who would guess this result before this year's "Gåsburennet"? The top 4 of M17:

- 1 **Young, Andrew,**  
British XC Nordic ski team, 28:01 + 00:00
- 2 **Nydal, Erlend Moian,**  
Njård / Team Kollen, 28:51 + 00:50
- 3 **Bakke, Henrik,**  
Driv IL / Team Synnfjell, 29:22 + 01:21
- 4 **Gjendahl, Tony,**  
Vang Skiløperforening, 29:39 + 01:38

We are impressed! And it did not stop with this. Look at top 3 in M19-20:

- 1 **Holund, Hans Christer,**  
Nittedal IL / Team Synnfjell, 40:44 + 00:00
- 2 **Musgrave, Andrew,**  
British XC Nordic ski team, 41:10 + 00:26
- 3 **Moe, Markus,**  
HSG/ Oseberg Skilag, 41:22 + 00:38

Here in Norway we like to think that we are born with skies on our feet's and are nearly unbeatable in Nordic skiing. And especially when we compete against skiers from Great Britain, a country more likely connected to sports as football, horse riding and rugby. But today the national ski team got attention with their

7 participants. A gang of serious competitors who are the best of the best in their country. The time they spent for preparing themselves is incredible, especially when we know that all sessions on snow has to be done in another country than their own. When we asked one of the managers Alastair Dargie why people from a place in Europe known for little (nearly nothing!) snow choose Nordic ski as their sport the answer is simple: "We are crazy and special". And after a small chat with Alastair I have to admit that this is serious athletes. Not only do they go to Norway some weeks to get snow under their skies, they spend a lot of time on roller skies and spend all together most of the time during the winter season in other countries.

Before the stay in Norway they have already been to Torsby where they did the same as "the proffs from Scandinavia": Skiing inside a tunnel to increase the season on snow. After the training week in Sjusjøen they will go to Trondheim for more training and competition. At Sjusjøen the team has common training sessions with "Team Sjusjøen", a nice and social experience. After Norway the Middle Europe follows with more training sessions and participation in several big international events.

Here is the main aims for this season:

- To build on results at last years Junior World Championships
- To be in the medal zone at the European Youth Olympics
- To compete in as many World Cup competitions as is financially viable
- To have a full team at the World Championships
- To gain Olympic qualifying performances

Thanks to the British XC Nordic ski team that put VSF and "Gåsburennet" on the international map. We hope you will join us next year too! And good luck to you all, both in Norway and in elsewhere you'll find snow.

For more information on the team:  
<http://www.britnordicteam.co.uk/>



**British nordic ski team**

## Snowsport England On-snow Training

*Kvitavtn, Norway, 28th March - 4th April 2009*

The ninth SSE on snow course is aimed at cross country skiers who wish to improve their skills, alpine skiers wishing to improve their downhill skills by converting to freeheel, freeheel skiers wishing to develop their on and off-piste techniques and SSE members wishing to re-validate an award. Days will include skills training in xc and telemark disciplines, snow related skills, talks, slide shows and quizzes.

- Coaching Costs:** £295  
**Equipment:** bring your own although telemark equipment can be hired in the ski centre - from £100  
**Accommodation:** staying in the Kvitavtn Fjellstoge (1000m) situated below Gausta (1800m) - bunkbed accommodation with self service meal arrangements - £286 for a bed bunk room.  
**Travel:** book your own flights to Oslo Gardemoen and then share a return bus - £80  
**Lift passes:** these are available at approx £110 where required.

For further details please ring Wendy McRae 01274-670071



## Skiers and boarders on their way to Formigal arrive on historic first flight

December saw the arrival of the first flight from London to a new ski destination, Huesca, in the central Spanish Pyrenees. The passengers, who had all chosen Formigal for their Christmas skiing holiday, took the one hour 50 minute Monarch flight from London Gatwick to Huesca on the Airbus 320. They were met on their arrival at Huesca- Pirineos airport by a waiting bus for the 75 minute transfer to the Aramon resort of Formigal.

The flight will run for the next 17 weeks of the ski season and as a special introductory offer Aramon are

giving away two flights for the price of one as well as two lift passes for the price of one, on selected dates.

Formigal, which made its debut in the UK brochures this season, is Spain's largest winter resort with a total of 137km of slopes.

The resort has had a fantastic amount of early snow, with depths of between 70cm and 2 metres, and opened its pistes back in mid-November, the earliest for 15 years.

To book your holiday to Formigal visit the Neilson, Crystal, Thomson, Igluski or ifyouski.com websites.

Award winning leisure airline Monarch is the first UK carrier to launch flights to the Spanish town of Huesca in northern Spain, which provides easy access to the stunning ski resorts of the Aragon Pyrenees and Andorra.

Previously served by flights to Barcelona with three hour connection times to the main resorts, the new airport of Huesca-Pirineos which opened 12 months ago, boasts 60 minute transfer times to some of the region's top ski resorts such as Candanchu, Astun, Panticosa and Formigal. All offer fantastic skiing and ski packages for beginners and experts alike at prices a fraction of those charged in many French and Austrian resorts.

Flights, which depart on Sunday's are being operated between Gatwick and Huesca-Pirineos by Monarch on behalf of Pyrenair. For further details and to book flights or flight and ski packages see [www.pyrenair.uk.com](http://www.pyrenair.uk.com).

## Wise men visit the slopes

Children at the Spanish ski resort of Formigal received some very special visitors. . . the three kings.

And there were gifts for those little ones who had been good all year, while lumps of coal awaited those who had been naughty.

Their Majestys Melchior, Caspar and Balazar, enjoyed sunny blue skies and, rather than arriving on camels, as is their usual mode of transport, they chose skis. There was much excitement on the mountain as children queued up to collect their presents and, thankfully, the kings didn't have to give out any bags of coal at all.

Baltazar commented: "We have been very impressed with the behaviour of the children this year, especially in the areas of eating properly and going to bed early." The three then had to zip off to visit children at the other Pyrenean resorts of Cerler and Panticosa.

- Traditions in Spain are somewhat different from those in the UK and children typically receive their gifts from the Three Wise Men rather than Father Christmas, although the oriental trio are noticing an increase in competition from the rotund man from the North Pole.

For more information about holidays to Formigal contact Crystal, Neilson, Thomson, Igluski, ifyouski.com or J2ski.com.



# World Champion's catch up with the latest news in the piste..... **Do you?!**

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Michael Walchhofer, currently leader of the Audi/FIS World Cup Downhill, catches up on the latest news in the piste

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