

THE

Oct/Nov 09

piste



The magazine of Snowsport England

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INTERVIEWS

Chemmy Alcott p11

Ed Drake p14

RESORT FEATURE

Morzine & Les Gets, France

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PLUS - News from Snowboarding - Freestyle - Nordic

It's all happening!

I cannot believe where the summer has gone, although at the time of writing warm sunshine still pervades the office window.

No doubt like me you are looking forward to another ski/snowboard season particularly if the snow continues in the same

vein as the previous couple of years. I know there are economic problems out there, not just for individuals but companies trading in the huge ski market that exists. Talking to a couple of retailers recently they tell me that business has been pretty good for this early in the season, particularly on boots with customers also looking at ski's and boards.

With the major ski shows coming around rapidly, in London and Birmingham, this will no doubt heighten interest in the forthcoming season, add to that the Winter Olympics in Vancouver next February and we should have a feast of activity to feed off.

Talking of ski shows, Snowsport England are very involved with the Daily Telegraph Ski & Board Show at the NEC in Birmingham, a special Club Lounge has been installed within the shows main hall for member's of ski clubs throughout England. All ski clubs were invited to provide FREE ADMISSION tickets for their club members by responding to a mailing regarding the event, I know some clubs have provided large numbers of members with tickets. If you have missed out on this go to page 5 of this issue where it will give you details of where to get your free ticket from, it promises to be a great show and the Club Lounge will provide you with coffee etc and a place to relax with events taking place during the show. It will give you an opportunity to meet Snowsport England's latest recruits, our two new Development Officers (see page 21) who will be available during the show. This, the first of the countries ski shows will have a huge number of stands including tour operators, worldwide resorts, ski/board manufacturers, retailers etc plus show stopping events. So don't miss out make sure you get your Free ticket, even if you are not a ski club member you can still get a 2 for 1 price ticket (see the advert on page 5), see you there!

So what else is inside this issue – well we start our countdown to the Olympics with interviews from Chemmy Alcott and Britain's new speed star, Ed Drake. Both talk to us about their dreams and aspirations for the coming World Cup season and the Vancouver Olympics.

We feature Morzine/Les Gets/Avoriaz in France, as our resort review, competitions with prizes from Atomic and the new 2010 edition of 'Where to Ski & Snowboard'.

So there you have it, just a flavour of some of the contents of this issue, whether you are a boarder, skier or just interested in taking up snowsports, read on.

Here's to a snowier outlook in the months ahead.



Happy skiing... Barry Spouge

GBR wins bid to run first World Cup event for the 2009/10

Andrew Clarke reports

As someone who has been involved in the British Telemark team in one way or another since its rebirth in 2006 I thought it would be appropriate to give you an update regarding preparations and events for British Telemark for 2009/10 season.

Firstly, massive thanks to those who have showed their continued support to the team and organisation since our initial foray onto the World Cup scene 3 years ago; lots has changed since then. Your contribution, whether financial or in-kind, is not insignificant as we continue to find our feet and you can rest assured that your support is harnessed and used to develop the team so that British Telemark team skiers can be the best they can be.

As the World Cup season draws ever closer the team are training hard to better last year's results. We have just returned from Bangor University where the men and women in white lab coats have extracted their pound of flesh! Bangor's School of Sport, Health and Exercise Science has recently gained the prestigious title of Institute for the Psychology of Elite Performance and are working voluntarily with the team focussing on monitoring VO2 Max, Lactic Acid Thresholds and general physical health as well as considering the psychological aspects of competition. The team are in better physical and mental shape than ever before ready to tackle the demanding season ahead. We have some new talented athletes giving great promise for the future of the sport in the UK. The 2009/10 World Cup team is 12 strong this year of whom 2 are female - a first for British Telemark and fantastic news. We now

have the job of maintaining our fitness levels so that we may peak at the beginning of the season; not easy when most of the team try to juggle commitment to busy and demanding jobs as well, in some cases, as young families.

On a separate and more global note GBR have won the bid to run the first World Cup event for the 2009/10 calendar. This will be the first ever British-hosted World Cup (WC) which is very exciting indeed; the Organising Committee (OC) have been hard at work trying to secure venue sponsorship and we are in contact with some interested production companies who are keen to broadcast the event. The event to be held in Rauris, Austria between 10 – 12 January 2010 will see in excess of 100 world-class telemarkers from over 16 nations aiming to get top points to give them an early lead. Additionally there will be significant numbers of British supporters as the National Championships take place immediately after the WC in the same venue.

Our networking continues to be a main effort and we are making fantastic contacts across the industry and elsewhere.

There are marketing and advertising opportunities at the World Cup and National Championships (14 – 17 Jan) event to a captive and specific audience. So if you would like to know more about how you can get involved please get in touch with me soon – contact details below.

Take a look at the newly launched website at: www.gbtelemark.co.uk

Andrew Clarke, GBR Telemark team captain, can be contacted at telemarkclarke@btinternet.com or +44 (0)1752 768345 or mobile +44(0)7855415267



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Cover Picture: Skiing at Morzine, France. courtesy of V.Poret/OT Morzine.

Try skiing for free

Following on from its success last year, the 'Fresher's Ski Week' is back again to entice more first time skiers onto the slopes, so if you have ever wanted to try your hand at skiing but never got round to it 2010 is the year for you to take the leap and hit the slopes for Free! The Association of Snow Sports Countries (ASC), in conjunction with the UK's leading tour operators will be offering free skiing to 30 resorts across Andorra, Austria, France, Finland, Norway and Switzerland.

This amazing offer is open to over 650 genuine first timers, for a period of one week, which can be taken on either the 16th – 23rd January or on the 20th – 27th March 2010. Participants only have to pay for the standard cost of their package holiday, which can be booked with Crystal Ski, First Choice Snow, Inghams, Neilson and Thomson Ski and will be given free tuition, free lift passes and free equipment hire in a bid to attract them to the sport.

If you have ever felt left out when your friends or work colleagues have returned from the slopes brimming with action packed stories of their fun in the mountains, and secretly wished you had learnt earlier, now's your chance to get started.



Simply go to www.freshersskiweek.com and click through to the web links that lead to the participating resorts in the six countries taking part, then decide which of the 30 great resorts appeal to you and suits you best, choose a tour operator and pick up the phone. Remember that there are over 650 holidays on offer, so even if your first choice is not available, staff at the tour operator's offices will be able to advise you on an alternative destination. Every holiday offers amazing value and will be a great place to learn and to start your own love affair with the mountains.

We have teamed up with TK Maxx which means that once you've booked your Fresher's ski week, there's more great savings to be made on top brand ski wear. Look stylish on the slopes in the UK's largest selection of ski and snowboarding clothing and accessories in a huge choice of colours, patterns and designs at up to 60% off the recommended retail price. With ski jackets from just £29.99 (RRP £70) and ski pants from £24.99 (RRP £65) go to www.tkmaxx.com For more information on this unique initiative go to: www.freshersskiweek.com

List of participating resorts

Countries	Resorts	Websites
Andorra	Vallnord (Pal, Arinsal, Arcalis)	www.vallnord.com
	Grandvalira (Pas de la Casa, Grau Roig, Soldeu el Tarter)	www.grandvalira.com
Austria	Alpbachtal Seenland	www.alpbachtal.at
	Obergurgl/Hochgurgl	www.obergurgl.com
	Seefeld	www.seefeld.com
	Wilder Kaiser/Brixental (Soll, Ellmau, Scheffau, Going)	www.wilderkaiser.info
Finland	Zell am See/Kaprun	www.zellamsee-kaprun.com
	Ruka	www.ruka.fi
France	Saariselka	www.saariselka.fi
	Courchevel	www.courchevel.com
	La Plagne	www.la-plagne.com
	Morzine	www.morzine-avoriaz.com
	Tignes	www.tignes.net
	Val Thorens	www.valthorens.com
Norway	Valmeinier	www.valmeinier.com
	Geilo	www.geilo.no
Switzerland	Beitostolen	www.gb.beitostolen.com
	Klosters Davos	www.davos.ch
	Leukerbad	www.leukerbad.ch
	Saas Fee	www.saas-fee.ch
	Engadin St. Moritz	www.engadin.stmoritz.ch
	Veysonnaz	www.veysonnaz.ch
	Zermatt	www.zermatt.ch



UK sports to receive more funding

Many UK sports are suffering the effects of the credit crunch, with a recent survey revealing that up to 6,000 community sports clubs could close during the recession due to falling revenues. But help is now on its way from a brand new TV Game - BingoLotto - which will bring much needed funding to sports clubs across the UK.

BingoLotto is a live TV game that airs weekly on Virgin 1 (Freeview channel 20). Participants will be able to buy a Gamecard for £2 from any Tesco till point in Britain allowing them to play alongside the TV game that offers multiple chances to play and win throughout the hour long TV game.

For every Gamecard sold, a fantastic 20% will be donated to UK good causes. More than 130 governing bodies of sport and recreation will receive funding through BingoLotto and, with many grassroots sports clubs already feeling the pinch, this new initiative is likely to be a saviour for many clubs.

A pilot series of BingoLotto in 2008 raised over £100,000 which has already been distributed to governing bodies through CCPR, the alliance of sport and recreation bodies, allowing clubs to support their members despite the economic crisis.

Dave Luscombe from the Auto Cycle Union explains the difference BingoLotto has already made and will continue to make: "As a sport we are overlooked by all sporting funding bodies and don't receive funding from anyone, The Auto Cycle Union only receives funding from BingoLotto and this support has the potential to make a massive difference to the sport and help and increase participation across all motor cycle sports."

Charles Bartholomew from UK Athletics adds: "Funding from BingoLotto provides an additional funding stream that can support projects (or aspects of them) that might otherwise get overlooked by the World Class Performance Programme."

BingoLotto are planning a huge nationwide advertising campaign to promote the launch, and with Tesco's involvement, anticipate that sales will exceed and eclipse those of Series 1 in 2008. With Gamecards available to buy from every Tesco store across the UK, this means more opportunities to buy, play and win and of course, more potential funds available for clubs.

In addition to this national advertising and promotion, sporting organisations that have signed up to be one of the beneficiaries of the scheme, will be encouraged to promote BingoLotto as much as possible within their own networks and in their clubs. Word of mouth is a powerful tool - and the more Gamecards that are sold, the more funds will become available to be shared between the participating organisations. To raise awareness, BingoLotto will be sending out emails to the beneficiary organisations prior to the launch and promotional posters will also be available at www.bingolotto.tv for members to download and display in clubs and offices.



The British Ski and Board Show comes of age

BRITISH **SKI+09**
BOARD SHOW

The British Ski and Board Show, one of the best winter sports shows in the country, will come of age when it returns from Friday 30th October to Sunday 1st November as it celebrates 21 years at Birmingham's NEC with breathtaking features for enthusiasts and novices to enjoy.

Amazing features include the return of the gravity defying Aosta Valley Big Air Freestyle display team, featuring Olympic and World Champions on Europe's largest indoor ski ramp. On the Skills Slope, Ackers Adventure's instructors will be giving free skiing and snowboarding lessons as well as organising toboggan runs while International instructors will demonstrate all aspects of skiing from the basics to making those tight turns on the new style indoor ski slope.

There will also be demonstrations from the British Telemark Ski Team, lead by Andrew Clarke, who compete in Telemark competitions all over the World. Telemark or 'free heel skiing' involves a combination of Alpine skiing through gates, cross-country skiing over flats and ski jumping off 1.5 metre jumps with a requirement to land over 20 metres from the take-off point.

Learn how to ice climb courtesy of Pinnacle Challenge on our specially designed eight-metre high ice wall made from a special 'foamex' which you can climb using specially modified equipment.

New features for 2009 include testing your limits on the Nordic challenge course which includes an assault course, cross country skiing and shooting against the clock. Take the Challenge and the fastest time will be crowned 'Top Skier' on our leader board!

And if what you really want is to enjoy the *Après Ski*, visit the Valle d'Aosta Mountain Gastronomy Experience and enjoy authentic Italian cuisine and fine wines from the region's best.

Head to the Fall-Line Skiing Magazine Talk Theatre where you can visit the Boot Doctor, listen to Henry's Avalanche Talk, and find out how to get the best from your own gear and save you money with tips from Jon's Ski Tuning. You can also meet Ski Sunday presenter Graham Bell and Britain's best ever winter Olympic contender, Zoe Gillings as she explains what it has taken to get to the pinnacle of international snowboarding and how she's getting ready to take on the world in Canada next February.

Find everything you need for the coming season in the extensive retail village with leading names offering exclusive show bargains. Over 150 exhibitors will offer the latest fashions, equipment, ideas and innovations, new product launches, international resorts, tourist boards and holiday companies from all over Europe and North America.

The British Ski and Board Show, sponsored by the Daily Telegraph, is open from 12 noon until 8pm on Friday and 10am until 6pm on Saturday and Sunday. Tickets are now on sale and prices range from as little as £4 for adults when purchased in advance while children's tickets are just £2.50 each.

For more information, the latest updates or to book tickets, visit www.britishskiandboardshow.co.uk or telephone the booking line on 0844 581 0734

The Daily Telegraph
BRITISH SKI+09 BOARD SHOW
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AS A SKI CLUB MEMBER
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For more show information visit www.britishskiandboardshow.co.uk
*Terms & conditions: These vouchers are not for re-sale and have to be used on each visit. This voucher must be presented at the ticket office. 12.00 per day



Zoe makes good start to season

Britain's number one snowboarder, Zoë Gillings, clinched second place in the first Parallel Giant Slalom competition of the 2009/10 winter season in Chapelco, Argentina in the early hours of Sunday (6 September) morning (BST). Gillings, who normally competes in Snowboardcross in which she is ranked fifth in the world, entered the competition ahead of this weeks opening LG Snowboard FIS World Cup Snowboardcross competition.

Despite heavy snow fall and poor visibility Gillings started the competition as she meant to go on, qualifying in second place in a field of eighteen women which included some of the world's best parallel riders. She then progressed into the heats where she went head to head against her fellow competitors, dominating the field and qualifying convincingly for the final.

Gillings got a great start in the final taking the lead into the first three gates but then lost her balance, swung out of control and, just before regaining her composure, was overtaken by eventual winner Alexandra Jekova (BUL). Zoe attempted to chase Jekova down in the race to the finish line but Jekova just clinched the gold medal ahead of Gillings who took silver.

Zoë commented after the race, "I'm really happy with my performance today, considering the serious lack of training over the summer and I've now got a little more confidence going into this Olympic season."

Due to funding problems in this Olympic season, Zoë has only managed to train on snow for four days this summer instead of the seven weeks she had planned, and has only just managed to secure the services of a coach

within the last two weeks. "The British Olympic Association and UK Sport have helped tremendously since the funding problems began but I couldn't have competed in this competition if it were not for my personal sponsors, they continue to allow me to train and compete at the highest level in my sport which I couldn't do otherwise," continued Zoë.

When asked if she was testing a second discipline for Vancouver she responded laughing "it was pretty fun but one discipline in Vancouver is enough I think".

Gillings followed this up with a 10th place finish in the opening LG Snowboard FIS World Cup Snowboardcross competition of the 2009/2010 Olympic season yesterday in Chapelco, Argentina. This is a credible placing after Zoe was forced to take evasive action when World No. 1 Lindsey Jacobellis (USA) crashed just after the race start.

Zoe commented after the race, "There wasn't much I could do, Lindsey fell in front of me and I had all my work cut out on just trying to avoid her, I tried to catch the other two up but I had lost all my speed. Overall I'm happy though, the focus this season is on the Olympics so I'm using each competition as preparation for this and I'm taking away some valuable experience from today."

Zoë is widely considered as one of Great Britain's best medal prospects at the Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver, February 2010.

The next World Cup Snowboard Cross competition will now take place in Telluride, USA on the 20 December.

Atomic develops ski boot from renewable raw materials

Atomic's Renu is the first regenerative ski boot. Made from biopolymers, cotton and bamboo fibre, it reduces our ecological footprint while still delivering the same performance as a conventional ski boot.

The shell, made of PEBAX-Renew, a thermoplastic elastomer manufactured from the African miracle tree, *Ricinus communis* (castor oil plant), the liner, recycled padding, the lining, made of bamboo fibre, the insole, made of cork and the power strap, made of cotton. The entire boot comprises of 80% renewable raw materials which can be recycled. The Renu represents a small ecological revolution.

Whereas conventional ski boots are made entirely of man-made, oil-based fibres, the Renu is easy on fossil fuel resources. Thereby reducing our "ecological footprint". (Which refers to the amount of greenhouse gases for which each and every one of us is responsible, be it as a result of our lifestyle, our choice of transport or the products we buy.) Less CO2 is also produced during the manufacture of the Renu. The Renu is thus one of several ATOMIC initiatives geared towards combating global warming because winter should stay just the way millions of skiers like it.

Planet Positive accreditation for the Renu

The CO2-negative effect of the Renu has been recognised by a leading carbon and sustainability consultancy: dcarbon8, one of the world's biggest and most renowned organisations at the forefront of carbon footprint measurement and reduction. dcarbon8 was so impressed by the Renu that it awarded it the "Planet Positive" mark of environmental achievement. (For more information visit www.planet-positive.org and dcarbon8.com)

Designed to be recycled

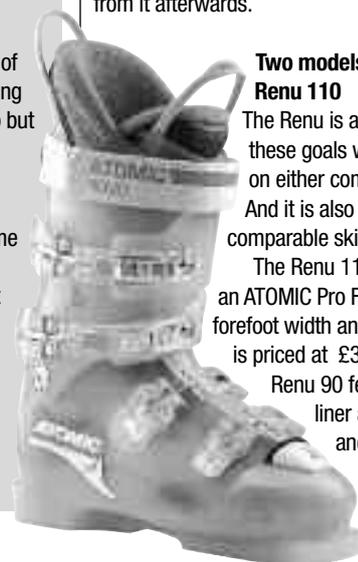
Atomic placed a premium on outstanding sustainability not only during the manufacture of the Renu. It was also designed to be as environmentally friendly as possible, allowing it to be recycled when it reaches the end of its product life. Natural colours have been retained so that another ski boot or another synthetic product can be made from it afterwards.

Two models: Renu 90 and Renu 110

The Renu is able to achieve all of these goals without compromising on either comfort or performance. And it is also 13% lighter than comparable ski boots.

The Renu 110 is available as an ATOMIC Pro Fit with a 98mm forefoot width and ASY Renu liner and is priced at £350.00, while the

Renu 90 features an ASY Renu liner and Flex 80 Low Cuff and comes in at £320.00. Contact your Atomic dealer.



New edition is better than ever

Where to Ski and Snowboard 2010 The 1,000 Best Winter Sports Resorts in the World

Where to Ski and Snowboard is Britain's only annual guidebook to winter sports resorts; its brand new, completely revised 2010 edition is now available.

At the heart of Where to Ski and Snowboard are over 600 pages devoted to detailed description and evaluation of over 430 resorts (in around 150 areas) in the Alps, North America, Pyrenees, eastern Europe, Scandinavia, Australia, New Zealand, South America, Japan and Scotland. This year the book covers Germany for the first time (including Garmisch-Partenkirchen, where the 2011 World Championships will be held), and there are new chapters on resorts in Austria, Italy, Switzerland and Canada. The number of star ratings for major resorts has been increased by 50% to include ratings, for example, on terrain parks, ski schools, après-ski and family-friendliness as well the usual snow reliability, lift queues, suitability for different abilities etc ratings. There are new sections in all major chapters, and a huge survey of the cost of eating and drinking throughout the Alps and North America has enabled the editors to introduce a unique Resort Price Index (RPI) for each major resort.

The editors manage to combine comprehensive and detailed information with unrivalled ease of use. A key feature for the 30-plus most important resorts is the book's revolutionary piste maps, each printed over a double-page spread with key aspects of the mountains clearly highlighted. These highlights might include, for example, the editors' favourite runs, the best areas for easy cruising or tough mogul runs, where to find the best snow, the top mountain restaurants or crucial new lifts that make a big difference.

Each major resort chapter features photos carefully chosen to convey the character of the place and a clear, accessible layout, with the merits of each resort summarised in various ways – star ratings, overall summaries, plus and minus points and hard-hitting verdicts on the slopes and the village from many different points of view. Whether you are a beginner mainly interested in the nursery slopes and the ski school, a powder-snow expert looking for guidance to the best off-piste terrain, a jibber searching for the top terrain parks or a night-owl looking for lively après-ski, you'll find a clear assessment of each resort to help you. And if the choice seems bewildering, you can start with the book's 21 ready-made shortlists of resorts, or a comprehensive comparative chart containing 10 star ratings for 120 major resorts.

The book starts with feature chapters on a wide range of subjects. New for 2010 is a chapter on the resort price survey mentioned above. Other chapters include features on family holidays, weekend breaks, a guide to picking the right lift pass, corporate trips, gap year courses, jobs in the mountains, property in ski resorts, new ski and board equipment, and overviews of upmarket apartments, chalets and hotels.



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3rd Prize – One pair Atomic 125 Ski Poles Suitable for male, valued at over £35

All you have to do is answer the following question:

Which well known British Downhill skier recently announced his retirement?

1. Alain Baxter 2. Finlay Mickel 3. Chemmy Alcott

Circle the name you believe is the correct answer, cut out and complete the entry form and send it to:

Atomic Competition, Piste magazine, Countrywide Publications, 27 Norwich Road, Halesworth, Suffolk. IP19 8BX.

To be received no later than 30 October 2009.

Name.....

Address.....

.....

..... Postcode.....

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

Something for everyone

France has long been a favourite with British skiers, **Barry Spouge** visits Morzine, Les Gets and Avoriaz to find out why.

Firstly it was a very good season for snow, and in the Portes du Soleil ski area, where these resorts are set, that was very true. From the day we arrived the snow fell in bucket loads.

The Portes du Soleil region sits virtually astride France and Switzerland, from Morzine you can ski down towards Lake Geneva. With around 650kms of high altitude slopes it is a skier's paradise and one of the most popular resorts for the British. Getting there is equally easy, if you fly to Geneva, as we did, you are only about a 1 ½ hour transfer into Morzine, a pretty, traditional Savoyarde market town that is a perfect location for a fantastic ski holiday.

We stayed at the Chalet ste Marie in Montriond, fantastically looked after by the team, Marshall and Sandie, who managed the chalet for English operators, Morzine Holidays, transfers to and from the slopes (courtesy of Toby), a hot tub, afternoon cakes, fabulous food and learning word for word Dolly Parton's version of 'Drives me Crazy' on our daily trips to and from the slope (Toby's favourite song that week) by the end of the week it 'Drove us

Crazy', made the stay nearly as fabulous as the snow outside.

We were shown around the region on our second day by Luke and Jenna, from the Atomic snowboard test centre and chalet in Morzine (see advertisement on page 7), and what a hard day it was. We went everywhere there is to go in one day, but what a great way to get exhausted, slopes to suit all standards - approx 140 easy, 100 intermediate and for the adrenalin junkies around 25 difficult slopes – more than enough for a week's adventure.

The slopes are very well looked after, with grooming taking place after the lifts close, so in the morning you have crisp corduroy slopes to go at. The only problem I felt was that if you had a good snowfall overnight, then the slopes could be pretty heavy going first thing, a bit extra piste bashing after lunch would not go amiss just to 'level the playing field' for those afternoon runs.

For boarders and freestylers there are fabulous areas where you can take some air, ride the pipes and learn to make the most of your talents. The moguls are some of the best in the world on the

world famous 'Wall' a very steep black run guarding the French/Swiss border, plus the off piste area at Chamossiere offers some of the best off-piste, with superb steep runs in the Linga and Pre-la-joux area.

If skier's want to stretch themselves and take a 'World Cup' run, then go for the hair raising downhill run at the top of Les Hauts Forts, something that will stay in your memory for many years after. If its some more gentle runs you want then head for the excellent reds on Mont Chery.

All in all you will find something for everyone, Les Gets, great for beginners, is a very family friendly resort with plenty of activities, kindergartens and children's clubs, plus access to Morzine and Avoriaz on the circuit. Both Morzine and Les Gets have plenty to offer when the skiing has finished, a fantastic selection of restaurants and bars, one worth a visit is 'Robinson's' with its own real ale range situated, in the centre of Morzine, some of the strongest beer in resort is on sale here, but get there early as it is both popular and very busy.

All in all a very memorable experience, and not my last to the region I am sure. Crystal and Inghams offer holidays to Morzine, Les Gets and the Portes du Soleil region, but you will also find many independents and chalet owners offering great holidays of all types, give it a Google. You can fly or drive, if driving make sure you are equipped for winter weather.





SO LET'S GIVE YOU A FEW FACTS

Resort height

Morzine: 1,000m
 Les Gets: 1,170m
 Avoriaz: 1,800m

Highest lift 2,350m

Approx transfer times (from Geneva)

Morzine and Les Gets 1½ hours
 Avoriaz 2 hours

No. of lifts: 206 (Portes du Soleil)

Longest run: 6kms

Cross Country Trails

Morzine: 48kms,
 Avoriaz: 48kms,
 Les Gets: 66kms,
 Portes du Soleil region: 243kms

Mountain restaurants: 89



Websites to visit

- www.lesgets.com
- www.morzine-avoriaz.com
- www.morzineholidays.com
- www.crystalski.co.uk
- www.inghams.co.uk/ski
- www.firstchoice-ski.co.uk
- www.skifamille.co.uk

Photo credits: Copyright (c) V.Poret/OT Morzine



GP Series Success

Congratulations to the following athletes on their success in the overall GP series 2009. This is based on the best 5 results out of the 7 races

Children 1 - Female

1st Place Megan Jenkins
2nd Place Yasmin Cooper
3rd Place Emma Petters

Children 2 - Female

1st Place Bethany Widdcup
2nd Place Nia Jenkins
3rd Place Stephanie Davis/Sarah Lamben

Junior 1 - Female

1st Place Caroline Powel
2nd Place Charlotte Shrimpton
3rd Place Claire Brown

Junior 2 - Female

1st Place Charlotte Davis
2nd Place Charlotte Gould
3rd Place Abby Clifford

Senior - Female

1st Place Emily Goddard
2nd Place Lesley Mearns
3rd Place Joanna Ryding

Master - Female

1st Place Janet Earnshaw-Hamilton
2nd Place Kerry Turnock
3rd Place Carrie Walsh

Children 1 - Male

1st Place Jordan Fellows
2nd Place William Wheeler
3rd Place Mathew Davis

Children 2 - Male

1st Place Ashley Breese
2nd Place Shaun Blyth
3rd Place Barney Lewis

Junior 1 - Male

1st Place Daniel Evans
2nd Place James Grant
3rd Place Samuel Stephens

Junior 2 - Male

1st Place Andrew Watson
2nd Place Gerard Flahive
3rd Place Samuel Stephens

Senior - Male

1st Place Andrew Crawford
2nd Place Stuart Riches
3rd Place Timothy Nichol

Master - Male

1st Place Andrew Hjort
2nd Place Claude Farren
3rd Place Rabert Hales

British stars turn out for Atomic race camp

Atomic held its first sponsored race camp in the UK during August, based for the week at the Suffolk Ski Centre, on the outskirts of Ipswich, and was attended by children of all age groups. The camp was a week intending to enhance skiing skills.

On one occasion during the week, British skiing stars Finlay Mickel and Ed Drake attended a special session, which followed an introduction to Atomic, and in particular new innovations in the pipeline, to introduce the role of communications to those on the camp, this included a media interview session with Neil McQuoid of Racer Ready magazine. Neil asked questions of the panel which also included a special guest, Heinz Schilchegger, a former Austrian team World Cup slalom skier, who at one point in his career finished 2nd in the WC slalom standings. Heinz is currently the Product Manager with Atomic based in Altenmarkt, Austria.

Children and parents attending the session were also invited to ask questions of the panel, which brought up some interesting ones, including what was your best crash! Heinz took this one on board saying

"It happened at a WC race in Austria, the first run was completed and I was in 2nd place going into the 2nd run. I was ½ a second up on my way down and at one point the race piste was very close to the crowd, the home crowd at this point cheered so loud I caught an edge and went out of the race". Another question aimed at Finlay asked, what was his best memory of skiing downhill? His answer was "Standing in the start gate on a blue sky sunny day, with the crowd calling your name".

The week was a great one, not always good skiing weather – very hot on the Tuesday and very wet on the Wednesday. A team of coaches, including Marc and Paul Telling along with the British No. 1 Ed Drake, and special mid week sessions with Finlay Mickel and Heinz Schilchegger. Terry Bartlett, from Ski Bartlett of Hillingdon, was also in attendance during the week offering service and products. The Atomic team of Jason Summerfield, Atomic UK & Ireland, Manager along with Russell O'Neill also from Atomic organised the camp which proved a huge success.

A moguls first

After two weeks of training and Continental Cup Competitions on Toppa's Dream at Perisher Blue Cow, NSW, Australia, Andrew and Jeff travelled to Mt. Buller, Victoria. The weather was poor, skies threatening but training went really well. The following day the rain arrived. Sitting in the cafe, drinking a cappuccino, enthusiasm began to wane but true English spirit took over and athlete and coach braved the rain and headed to the Chamois course beside the Alisa Camplin Freestyle Centre. Team Buller Race Club had prepared a superb short course and despite the weather the ABOM race was on, then off and then on.

Tactics were simple, hit the kicker, go big and pump those legs. So bet it; a huge back flip with cross had the crowd excited, followed by the second fastest time – could it be? After an eternity, the presentation and results were ready. Andrew Longley, second place! Yes second place! Wow, fantastic, what a way to conclude our training in Oz!

Back home and another title achieved at Castleford. The focus is set for more podiums and more World Cup scalps. It's back to the drawing board and the gym as well as finding the money to finance a long and arduous World Cup Tour.



INTERVIEWS

This month The Piste catches up with **Chemmy Alcott** and **Ed Drake**



Chemmy Alcott

Team Chemmy aims for Olympic Gold

For us it's sunny, warm with school holidays at an end. Not so for British team athlete **Chemmy Alcott**, who has spent the summer training hard in the gym, outdoors and currently on snow in New Zealand and Chile.

Traditionally the break from one world cup season to another is just after the seasons races have been completed and after a short holiday the hard work to prepare for the new season starts in earnest. I caught up with Chemmy following her daily visit to the gym on the outskirts of London, where she is based and lives. I asked Chemmy how things were going in the preparations for the coming world cup season and the Olympics, still some months away, "I think skiing is one of those sports where you cannot look to peak for the Olympics because we have World Cups week in, week out and you consistently have to perform otherwise your world ranking goes up and you don't give yourself any chance in the Olympics, said Chemmy. The Olympics is the big one so that's when you want your best skiing to be, but you have to ski well from October onwards. She went on to say that she is feeling pretty confident right now, physically I'm really strong and having that second run in Sölden last year I know exactly what to do to be the best in the world".

Chemmy is following the same programme as last year, which proved so successful, apart from the training accident where she ended up with a broken ankle. Having a great team around is one thing that really matters to Chemmy, "I have the same team with me as last year" she said. Following the same programme as last year she feels stronger, physically but has been

spending more time on the mental side this summer, with a massive amount on psychology, "I started that because the last time I saw my mum was at the 2006 Olympics and I did not want to get to the 2010 games and suddenly break down, they say it's really easy when you go through a traumatic experience to push everything under the carpet, then when you least expect it when you have heightened pressure it all comes out again, I don't want to tick every single box going to the Olympics and then when I am there breakdown when the pressure is really on. So I have done some work with that and we have completed some technical skiing things, having that great run in Sölden is one thing but you need to replicate that day in day out and that feeling, so what we have been working on is having that same feeling away from skiing". As part of this Chemmy has found herself much calmer, having moved house and having more foundations in her life has all helped immensely.

Having just had 9 weeks of physical training when the bulk of those conditioning improvements are

done Chemmy is now looking forward to getting back on her skis, flying off to Chile and New Zealand for 2 months on snow training, "For someone who has been in this game for a long time I know what to do in terms of skiing, so I am not really panicking too much, you can do too much skiing in the summer and easily find you lose the hunger, but I am really looking forward to going to New Zealand."

For Chemmy from now on it is all about confidence building so that you peak at the right time, "you have a game plan and you stick to it", she said. We talked about the retirement of Alain Baxter and Finlay Mickel and I asked if that increased any pressure on her for this season. "For the last few years I have felt it anyway, so no, it is more sad to lose my friends but they have quit in a really self satisfied way, I think a lot of people in British skiing have quit before and been really bitter towards the sport and I think that is really sad, either they thought the politics meant they did not make it or they were not big enough to admit that their talent was not enough to make it and both Finlay and Alain have been in it for a long time, both being really content where their lives are now. They have gone on to exciting things and I think that's when you know you have had enough of skiing. There is a life beyond skiing, right now my life is still skiing, I am not ready to finish yet and still have untapped potential" she said.

I asked if now the younger team >



Chemmy Alcott *continued...*

> members look to her, is she a 'mother' figure to them, "No because I am like a big kid, they came down a couple of weeks ago as we had a fitness camp in Brighton, they see me as experienced, they ask me questions about experiences, definitely not an age related thing. A couple of the guys called me 'dear', in an affectionate way which I hate and I'm like don't call me dear, it sounds so old. So I don't think I am at that stage yet – I should be but luckily I still look quite young and I act like a kid sometimes".

Chemmy is looking forward now to training in Chile and New Zealand, perhaps entering a few slalom races, "I want to do some slalom races to get my slalom back, I'll actually be training with the German girls, that's the difference with me, I am on my own, the other teams invite me to train with them as I have got a good reputation for going very fast in training. It's all quite friendly even with the boy's teams. Mark, my coach, says I'm flirty, but whatever, if we get the best training in the world that's good.

After this it is straight into Sölden at the end of October, where Chemmy performed so well in 2008. "I really want to do well there because that really gets your mind set for the season, she said I like the hills, a tough good hill for me".

So looking forward to the new season, Chemmy is naturally confident, I can't remember a time when her confidence has ever dipped. What makes her so confident, "I guess it is knowing that we are doing all we can to make this team we are in as good and as competitive as possible. We are not cutting any corners, Mark, Tristan and myself are going out there and trying everything we can, I am living the life of someone who is aiming for the Olympic gold" she said.

How does she think people in the UK look on skiing, particularly with the current economic situation? "Well we now have a new snowdome at Hemel which makes it more accessible for people to go skiing in this country, I know we can't wake up in the morning and think we will go skiing, like the Austrians with mountains on their doorstep, but there is such an intricate network of skiers who love it and one way or another they will always find a way" Chemmy said.

TV coverage is not great since Channel 4 skiing ceased last year, we now have a few weeks of Ski Sunday, do you think it gets reasonable coverage as a sport. "Well no, we have Sky and Euro sport but probably not, but before we complain we have to win something, to get primetime coverage of something as exciting as skiing will only happen when we start winning".

We now have a number of good youngsters coming through, Dave Ryding, Ed Drake and Dougie Crawford did extremely well last year, particularly in the World Championship when some of the established stars never made it down the difficult slopes, do you think we have good prospects for the future. "Yes, both male and female, the guys have a great set up and a great relationship with each other, they fight and battle with each other with a yearning for it which is awesome. Now they have had a taste of what it's like they have got to keep working at it and not get complacent" said Chemmy.

With the current economic climate and uncertainty it has been difficult for winter athletes to know exactly what training is happening and where, has it had any effect on you? "Everyone thinks my programme is all covered, but I am my biggest self investor, through my Witan money. I have a management company, Stockford Staunton, they go to independent sponsors and find me funds and these people give me the money but they don't get any branding for it and then I put that back into my set up, I massively self invest and I think it was difficult because for years I did not want to make it look as though the federation was struggling and I did not really tell people that. People see me with my entourage, per se, and think 'wow look', she's doing well, she's getting a lot of the funding, even though I am actually paying for it, and now I tell them that, and they are just like 'oh wow'. Chemmy went on to say, people now realise that you can self invest, which is a bit like betting on yourself". Chemmy is very focused, and you have to take that kind of attitude otherwise it can be self defeating, she stated very clearly "If you are at the stage where you think 'I would not put my money into me' then that's when you know you have not got what it takes to win, because if you have not got what it takes to put money into yourself, then you can't expect others too".

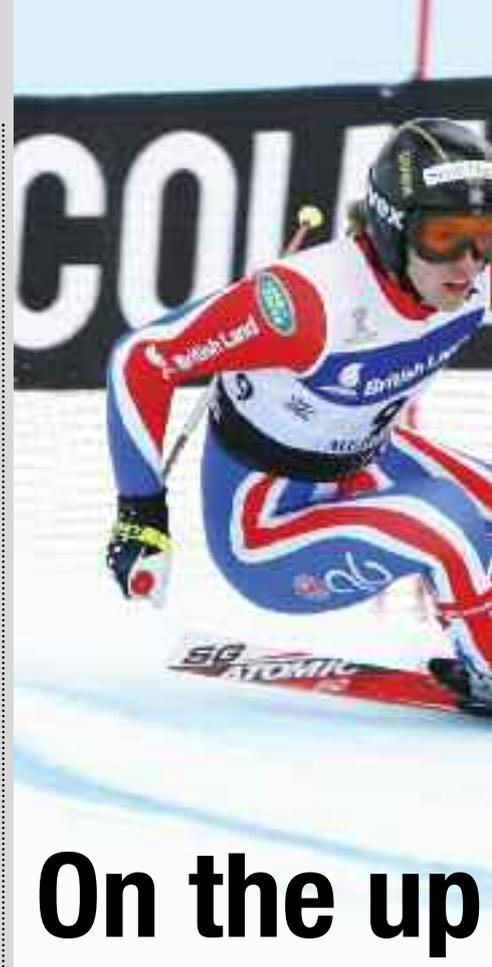
Being focused is a very serious viewpoint for Chemmy, a few years ago she told me how excited she gets the day before skiing, particularly for the first time. Nothing has changed "I said to my coach the other day when we had our first camp cancelled, I said you realise that this means I will be 'stupidly excited' to go to New Zealand, he said I think stupidly excited sounds good! I still get excited and can't get to sleep the night before, like a kid going to Disneyland and it's still like that. For me when it stops being like that, then I will stop, but I can't see that for a while", I said she was still too young for those thoughts, "Well I am 27" she said, very young I said.

Chemmy is very much looking forward to Sölden, what a start to last season that was, 10th place and the joint fastest second run. "Had I not made the mistake in the first run, who knows where I would have been" she said.

It was following Sölden, the ankle break which kept her out of action for several weeks, to ensure she skied earlier than most people would have with a break, her ankle was strapped up into a ski boot "You can't really feel it, and although I lost some of my touch, my feeling, I still came top 15 in the World Champs".

Life is good for Chemmy at present, when she is not skiing or training, she is working on her new home by the river. "I have a go button, she said, and I do not switch it off until I go to bed, I am constantly on the go, setting myself new challenges, a friend once said to me, it's your day off – chill out – I replied this is me chilling out", with paintbrush in hand working on the house. Whilst I spent time with her she had the same paintbrush in hand painting the kitchen.

Having conquered Kilimanjaro last year I am sure Chemmy, a 'Right to Play' ambassador will meet the challenges of a World Cup and Olympic season head on, with her strong focus, one day she will win and what a year this would be to do it.



On the up

Ed Drake

One of England's, and Britain's, finest young skiers **Ed Drake**, steps up a gear this year and competes on the World stage in Europa Cup/FIS/Audi World Cup series and in the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics being held in Whistler in Vancouver, Canada.

Ed Drake, at 23, is Britain's number one male Alpine skier, having already qualified for the 2010 Winter Olympics, is currently ranked sixth in the World for his age. His season ended on another high note when he retained his British Overall title and won both the GS and Super G titles.

I met up with Ed following a visit to the Gym, (Ed not me), and sitting down we talked about the current funding situation and the hopes that things would soon be sorted and the training programmes would start in earnest. So I asked how things were progressing, being a positive person Ed said "Summer training has been going well despite the shoulder injury I received at the Europa Cup finals, which has put me back a bit, but as I always say its part and parcel of the sport. Last season was an absolutely amazing season for me, it has kicked me on and focussed me having been at the World Cups. Just being across the piste from the



– downhill

top guys inspecting the same courses just focuses you and makes you train harder and work harder” he said.

Ed is part of Britain’s new generation of ski racers since the retirement of Finlay Mickel and Alain Baxter. First skiing at the age of three and endured a number of early falls, it became more serious when he was around seven when he started at the Hillingdon dry slope having been invited to join the race training evening. Dry slope racing followed, together with family holidays, racing in Morzine, France and finally joining the Kandahar Ski Club. From there Ed joined the British Children’s team and progressed through the England Alpine Team to the British team.

Competing in the Europa Cup in 2008/09 Ed showed his true commitment finishing his first Europa Cup Super G in eleventh place, top ten finishes in North American races followed and an encouraging finish in a Europa Cup race in Wengen led to his first daunting World Cup race on the infamous Lauberhorn downhill run in Switzerland where he finished in a commendable 55th place.

A World Championships debut at Val d’Isere saw him completing runs that some of the best in the world could not finish, where he again showed his spirit by finishing in the top thirty in both downhill and Super G. Ed commented “By far the toughest and hardest pistes I have ever had to ski on even though I did not ski as well as I had hoped which was a little frustrating, but I tell you what, getting down those pistes and being respectable was pretty pleasing.” I asked when you are looking down those pistes during inspection do you think my god, have I got to come down there? “In Val d’Isere was the first time I had ever looked down something and gone

phew, right this is going to be seriously tough, Races at Wengen, Kitzbuhel were really tough but you are looking in a different way, like where can I make time here and Val d’Isere was definitely something I was a bit more taken aback by like - this is kind of daunting really and with the speeds coming into some of the sections and the jumps and the bits through the Rock and the sections that were like glass which I have not experienced anything quite like it before.

Just trying to stop on the line, sometimes off the line and trying to eek back on, edges dug in and fly off down the hill. Even during inspection some of ours and the American coaches were getting to that section, trying to stop and just carrying on with a little hike back up to look at the section. But for me what an absolutely amazing experience” he said. I asked what goes through his head at the point of standing in the start gate on a slope like that, with the race ahead of you. “I sat with Dougie Crawford in the

cafe before, and we sat there thinking and watching the TV

seeing that only one out of the first six actually made it down, Dougie and I were looking at each other going what have we got ourselves into, what are we doing here, these guys are having trouble making it and we are going down in around 40 peoples time. We then talked about it and joked about it trying to help each other out. Once you get into the start gate area with two/three people to go, then race instinct takes over and you try to make it feel like just any other race, concentrating on your technique.”

Next stop the Winter Olympics, as Ed described it “The top of the top”, how was he looking forward to it? “I can’t wait, he said, I wish February was tomorrow, I wish the Olympics were just around the corner, it’s been a frustrating time, with funding and the Snowsport GB situation, which has geared me around to doing my own fundraising. It is a jam that skiing has got into but it’s so nice to see everybody working together, whether it is athletes or organisations or clubs. He said, Even people with a tiny affiliation to skiing are grouping around showing such camaraderie with the build up to the Olympics, everybody is pushing in the same direction to give the athletes the best possible chance they can to get out on snow and get to where we need to be with the levels of snow time we need to have.”

Back to the Olympics we then talked about how he felt about the build up to these and the pressure? “Yes there is a little bit of pressure, but I am trying not to put too much on myself, I am in a better position than I thought I would be, in terms of my ranking etc, going into 2010, this is more about the experience for me, taking me through to the 2014 Sochi winter games which is coming into my peak. Realistically, on a good day there is no reason why I should not get a top 15, but I don’t want to put big goals on it because I think anything on these Olympics is all gearing towards Sochi to be honest, we are not going out looking for amazing results in Vancouver, its more for the experience which we can carry through to >

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Plea for funds from Olympic skier

As many of you know there are several racers who have qualified for the Vancouver Winter Olympics and are competing in the World Cup races this coming winter, Dave Ryding is one of those "I am lucky enough to be one of them. This is a fantastically exciting time for all of us and is the pinnacle of many years of training on cold wet nights and racing up and down the country and wherever we can find a slope long enough to ski down," he said.

Dave went on to make a plea, "I have recently travelled down to the southern hemisphere to make sure I have enough training to mount a challenging enough bid to compete with a real opportunity in the Olympics next February. Like my fellow racers much of this is funded by family, friends and a few small sponsors. There is much talk about funding, but right now all I am focussed on is making sure I get the right training and race practice in order to compete at the highest level. It is a huge privilege to represent your country and this is the dream we all start out aiming for. Sadly there simply isn't enough funding in the sport and we just have to make it happen for ourselves.

I would like to ask a huge favour, not just for myself, but also for the future of every potential World Cup and Olympic skier you may have in your club. The quality of skiers improves every year with more and more races and an increasing number of facilities opening, this funding challenge is not one which will go away in a hurry.

In an ideal world I would love to host a race and take part, however I am very aware of the very busy race schedule which already exists and the costs that many of you already face every week, so the favour I am asking I hope isn't going to put on you or your club members too much.

Many of the clubs up and down the country hold monthly timed race nights as part of their training. I would like to ask you if you would kindly create one of these evenings before February as a Dave Ryding Olympic Fundraiser.

The idea being that each skier who participates

would make a contribution from £3 to £5 (or as much as they would like to give!) to participate. In return I will provide certificates for everyone that enters, so the skiers know that they are genuinely supporting an Olympic ambition. Each certificate would have to be authenticated by the Head Coach/Chair of each club, if you let us know when these are we will send them to you before the event. Hopefully the only extra work you will experience is signing some certificates and paying some money into a bank account.

Any funds raised will be used exclusively for my training and preparation for this winter, hopefully in return I will be able to share valuable knowledge and experience to the younger racers when I return in the Spring when I also hope to be able to announce other news to help young racers.

How you run the event is entirely down to you, if you wanted to have a named winner we could provide a certificate for that too, and also one for the club if you have somewhere to display it. In terms of the transactional stuff like paying money in, there is a bank account number and sort code to pay into, hopefully making as little fuss for you as possible."

Dave has asked a few friends to help him organise this as he is currently away. He said "These people and only these people can help with any queries whilst I am away and will arrange for certificates or any other help you may need.

Gill Hall – gillianmhall@hotmail.com

Tina Davies - charlottedd@partydiva.wanadoo.co.uk

Jeremy Eaton – jeremy@getvital.co.uk

If you will be happy to help please contact any of the above and they will forward you by return a very simple form of intent, get details from you and supply certificates.

Dave's final words were, "For those of you who know me, you will know how grateful I will be for this support. Thanks in anticipation."

Dave can be contacted through email - dave@daverydingski.co.uk and via his website www.daverydingski.co.uk

> Sochi. The key to it all is funding to get us the time on the snow, to allow us to improve to the point where we can become winners."

What was his programme for the coming season, it is World Cup, Europa Cup? "It will be a mix of both, we will pick races, it will be a bit difficult because at the same time as trying to break onto the World Cup scene, you still need points – you won't make FIS points on the World Cup - so you have keep building your points through the Europa Cup, so I need to start winning Super G races to make points on the Europa Cup scene". So what are you concentrating on this season? "The Speed stuff, Super G and Downhill, GS has been going so well for me as well with quite a big crossover between that and downhill, but the speed events are what I will be concentrating on."

Ed is very keen on giving something back, even at his young age. He spends time coaching youngsters at the new Snow Centre and with the Kandahar club, all this helps to raise the profile of skiing, particularly to the youngsters of today, hopefully this will also increase awareness of the sport.

Fundraising has become a major task for Ed and he has been making huge efforts to gain sponsorship to help take him through to the Olympics plus raising and promoting his own profile for the future. He has spent some time working on himself and communicating to a wider audience. His sponsors, such as Scott Dunn, Ski Bartlett, Atomic, Ski Club of GB etc are supporting him to the hilt in the knowledge that he is so totally committed to the sport.

So from starting to ski on family holidays some 20 years ago, to next year the Olympics Ed is certainly committed to succeed and it won't be through lack of effort. He says "If you don't think you can succeed, then you simply won't do it. There's too much effort required just to be a ski racer, I want to be an Olympian and ultimately my main goal is to win it. You've got to shoot high."

He is definitely 'one to watch'.



Olympic fever hits London as World Cup Winter Sports and Music Event returns

The UK's biggest ever winter sports and music festival, Freesports on 4 FREEZE sponsored by LG, is returning to London following the phenomenal success of last year's event. Tickets are now available so you can get your winter of sports started early as Freesports on 4 Freeze comes back to Battersea Power Station. Tickets will enable winter sports fans to head to a real life ski resort on the banks of the Thames to sample big airs, speedy descents, huge tricks and some of the best music and entertainment known to man. All on the London Freeze slopes in front of Battersea power station. The event takes place at 11am from Friday 30th October – Sunday 1st November 2009 at Battersea Power Station, London.

To purchase Freesports on 4 Freeze tickets go to:
www.viewlondon.co.uk/fso4-freeze-tickets prices from £15 to £85

Real snow

Those lucky enough to get their gloves on some Freesport on 4 Freeze tickets will be able to indulge their eyes and ears in the biggest snowsport and music event ever seen in London. The Freesports event will take over Battersea Power Station, bringing the biggest real snow jump ever made in the UK with it. So if winter sports are your thing prepare yourselves for a four day hit of snowboarding, skiing, live music and much, much more.

Big air and big prizes

The festival will feature a veritable feast of quality events, featuring some of the top names in winter sports and music. This year's event will see the London leg of the LG FIS World Cup welcome the very finest snowboarders to town, busting out the big airs to compete for a \$25,000 prize, vital rating points for the World Cup itself and of course, the prestige of winning the LG London Big Air competition hits the slopes

International competitions at FSO4

The 2009 event will also see the Freesports event feature The International Freestyle Ski Event which will see riders of the calibre of Tanner Hall and TJ Schiller taking to the real snow slopes and showing London ski and snowboard fans just how good they are. The friendly rivalry between the snowboarders and the skiers means that both camps will bring their very, very best tricks to the Battersea Power Station slopes to show Londoners which sport's best. Freesports on 4 Freeze tickets will also enable you to see some of the budding British stars on the slopes. Freeze will be holding a British Championships snowboarding competition, allowing UK riders to gain FSI points so they can compete in the main event, the LG London Big Air. There will also be the return of the Freeze Big Air Bag, where riders can do some huge tricks, safe in the knowledge the huge bag will catch them and make sure all their bones stay nice and intact.

Great music

In addition to all the corking ski and snowboard action, the Freesports on 4 Freeze event will play host to huge ten thousand capacity tent hosting some of the finest live music in the world. This year's line up looks set to be every bit as impressive as last year, with Orbital, Pendulum, Friendly Fires and Chase and Status all confirmed to play. And when you throw in some great apres-ski bars with stein beers, vin chaud, conga lines and party DJs and FSO4 at Battersea Power Station looks like the perfect place to start your winter of sporting contentment.



Telford Ski Club calls for support for Olympic hopefuls

Following the release of information regarding the Dave Ryding Olympic Fundraiser, Telford Ski Club pledges its full support to this campaign and invites all members of the British Ski racing family to join us in supporting our Olympic hopefuls.

Club chairman Richard Breese commented "Telford Ski Club fully endorses the proposals just received in the e-mail from David Ryding and we will most certainly be asking our racers to engage in the Dave Ryding Olympic Fundraiser.

However we are also aware that this proposal does not require any direct commitment from our club finances. Given this, and the fact that as a member of the British ski racing family we feel a responsibility to support the outstanding athletes who will represent us all at the Olympic Games, Telford Ski Club will also be making an individual donation directly to David's fund. In addition we are asking every Club and every region within the British ski family to consider what they can do for the Olympic hopeful they feel most appropriate and join us in supporting them in a similar manner.

The funding issues encountered by our aspiring athletes will not simply go away, nor should it simply be the responsibility of individual athletes, parents and clubs to get our finest talents all the way on their own. When Dave, Ed, Dougie, Chemmy or whoever stand in the Vancouver start gate next February they will not be wearing club or regional colours, they wear the colours that represent all of us. And we, at Telford Ski Club, feel that it is the responsibility of all clubs, regions and national bodies to assist the process of ensuring that they make it there in a suitably prepared manner. In addition, come 2014, 2018 or beyond it may be an athlete from your club or region who needs help. Our athletes urgently need our assistance, please join us in supporting them"

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The 2010 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. 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. New for 2010 is a chapter entitled 'Resort Price Survey' which highlights 'affordable' and 'not so affordable' resorts.

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- 2 Over 490
- 3 Over 750

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

Peaks of the job

Liza Brooks, 25, is a mechanical engineer and co-founder of True Snowboards in Wiltshire.



Thanks to Andrew Backwell for the photo of Liza.

Liza Brooks is in the third year of her engineering doctorate at Cranfield University - one of the world's leading centres of expertise in composites technology. She is also Technical Director for True Snowboards and works to make sure its boards perform to the highest standard. Liza uses her engineering skills to analyse the performance characteristics of different boards and develops new materials for them - she then has the fun of testing them out on the slopes at Morzine in the French Alps.

True Snowboards sponsored a team at the British Snowboarding Championships in 2008 which had a 74% medal win rate. The 16-year-old winner of the women's event was also using one of Liza's boards. "I love my job", says Liza, "because of the variety. One day I can be in the laboratory testing materials for a new board and the next day I'll be out testing it on the slopes to see if all my work has paid off."

Tom Allen caught up with Liza to chat about British snowboard companies, studying snowboarding at University and whether park is better than powder.

You are the technical director of True snowboards, how did this first come about?

As one of the co-founders we all took on roles as directors of the company within our core competence skill sets. For me as I am doing the doctorate in snowboard design being technical director was the obvious title.

Do you truly believe that a British snowboard company can succeed and what makes True snowboards different from the rest?

A British snowboard company can succeed in the same way any other company can. There is not really any difference now with the invention of ecommerce the world is becoming a much smaller place and keeping in touch with customers has never been easier. What makes True snowboards different is we are an entirely virtual company so the customer doesn't have to pay for any of the huge overheads they would from other companies out there. Typically our boards are 33% cheaper than the competition for a board made from the same high spec materials.

Describe a typical day at the True snowboards headquarters?

We don't have a HQ as such since we are virtual. Each day we will all be doing different roles in our home bases. For me I work from the university as technically I am still a student so I get into work at some point between 8:30 and 9:30am and then start work on some testing, programming of a snowboard simulation or research and reading of relevant texts. I normally work till around 4pm in the afternoon and use my evenings for responding to customer questions if there are any and keeping in touch with the riders we support if they have any issues or feedback.

How many years have you been riding and do you get much chance to go away now? If so, where did you head to this season?
I started riding when I was 20. So I have been doing it 5 years now. In our first season I got so much time on snow I think I made 30 days which was awesome. Since then though I have not been so fortunate, as getting time off has proved harder since the work pressures change. I have got 4 days on snow this season which sucks a bit really but with the pound so low maybe it was a blessing. I always try to head for Morzine as it is my favourite resort and my friends at Oopalley cut me a great deal as they are our alpine test centre. I could have gone away at Easter but went to India instead - somewhere sunny for a change.

Would we normally find you hanging out in the park or shredding the powder?

Well I used to like hanging around in the park a lot but I had a nasty car accident last year and injured my spine a bit so its knocked my confidence so this time round I wasn't doing much of either. I am hoping to get back into park a bit more again though. I would never go in the park though if there was an Epic powder day to be had :D

Do you ride for Cranfield University at student competitions, like the BUSC events, for example?

Cranfield University doesn't have a snowboard club so far as I am aware. I go to the military campus in Shrivenham so not the main Cranfield site and we are kinda isolated from all the goings on there. I did enquire once about starting a club here but it was so complicated and potentially for so few members I was advised to join the club at one of the other local uni e.g Bath or Bristol. If we did have one though then I would certainly fly the flag for them. I have entered a couple of freestyle competitions in the past but not really got anywhere. Last time I was doing freestyle I'd just got my grab 180s down and FS boardslides on rails and BS boardslides on flat down rails which isn't that impressive compared to some of the great talents out there. For more information: www.truesnowboards.com & www.doctorsnowboard.co.uk

BELOW: Liza is pictured testing one of her True Deviant snowboards.



Creating value holidays underpins hopes of ski recovery

Crystal Ski Industry Report 2009

The ski market fell by 13.3% across all sectors last season despite good early sales and excellent snow conditions. The fall follows seven successive years of growth and reduces the number of skiers travelling abroad from more than 1.22m in 2007/8 to just over 1m in 2008/9.

The decline in numbers is due to some skiers giving the season a miss and others taking just one trip instead of two or more. However, the encouraging sign was the schools market which remained stable with more than 140,000 young skiers taking to the slopes and memories of last season's great snow will have wet their. The independent travel sector was down by 15% with some low cost carriers reducing their flight capacity to ski destinations. The tour operator sector also saw their number decreasing by 15%.

France continues to be the most popular country

taking a 37% share of holidaymakers last season. Switzerland, which benefits from higher resorts than its neighbour France, shows a steady share of 6%.

Austria and Italy increased market share by 1.8% and 1.1% respectively. Bulgaria also saw a small increase to 3.2% and the small countries sector grew by 0.5% reflecting the rise in popularity of Slovenia.

Despite good snowfalls, North America's share dropped by 1.4% due to Zoom's demise, other airlines reducing seat capacity and many skiers opting for better value European resorts. The Andorran ski resorts saw a further decline in visitors from a 2% fall last season to 5% which is attributed to its continuing attempt to reposition itself from a budget to quality destination.

The 2009/10 season undoubtedly poses

serious challenges for an industry that is impacted by the effects of the recession, exchange rate pressures, high fuel costs and high fixed costs for ski holiday companies.

There is also an expectation that many large operators will cut capacity and consumers will see fewer 'last minute bargains' than in previous years. Some low cost airlines are expected to reduce their flights to ski relevant destinations, which could have an impact on the independent sector. Crystal's MD Mathew Prior said: "Winter 08/09 was a difficult year for the ski industry and 09/10 poses challenges for us all. Our research shows that the key is to inspire customers, remind them how fantastic a ski holiday is and create good value and compelling holidays."

The ski and snowboard overview amalgamates information from tour operators' own statistics, CAA published statistics, tourist office figures and travel agency feedback.

SSGB Olympic athletes programme secured

By Robin Kellen

It has been well documented that SSGB has faced some considerable challenges over the past six months. Having reported a budgetary profit in February 2009, it became clear to the board that this was not going to be achieved in April 2009. At this stage it was clear that action needed to be taken to address the situation of lack of budgetary control to ensure the national governing body was able to look to the following winter season with confidence that SSGB could deliver a programme preparing its Olympic aspirant athletes for Vancouver.

Robin Kellen, interim CEO, Snowsport GB said "We are now at a stage where we are able to look forward to what we can do and what we can deliver both in the forthcoming Olympic season and beyond. Through the support of a number of individuals and UK snowsport organisations we now have the financial packages in place to ensure that we can settle outstanding debts and deliver

programmes for our elite athletes.

Our programmes across the disciplines have now commenced and our focus is upon preparing our athletes for Vancouver as well as looking at the longer term development of our athletes through to Sochi 2014. It is vital that we all get behind our athletes to ensure they are supported by whatever means available to us. We have a number of hugely talented and committed athletes who are performing at the highest levels on the world stage, as well as a significant number of developing athletes who are ranked in the top ten for their age showing fantastic potential for the years to come.

Robin went on to say, Communications to our members has certainly been one of our weaknesses over the past few years, and with the focus upon restructuring the organisation over recent months we have neglected to resolve this

issue. Therefore it is my intention to keep you up-to-date with progress over the next few months by maintaining this communication pathway on a regular basis while I am acting CEO.

I now look forward to a successful season for our athletes, and especially look forward to being able to report plenty of good news stories through the following years."



Contact Robin at: robin.snowsportwales@virgin.net

Youth Charity Snow-Camp launches The Snowball Rally 2009!

Youth charity Snow-Camp recently launched a brand new fundraising event to support its work with inner-city young people. Snow-Camp hope that The Snowball Rally will capture the imagination of skiers and snowboarders across the country who will enter teams to compete against each other to win masses of snowsports prizes and the Snowball Rally Cup!

The Rally challenges teams to plan their route around each of the countries 43 dry and artificial slopes over a 3-day period between 18th and 21st November 2009. Setting off from the Milton Keynes SNO!zone, teams collect points for every slope they ride, with the points available increasing for slopes further from the starting point. At the finish on the 21st November, the team with the most points wins!

Snow-Camp Director Dan Charlish said, 'It's like a cross between the Cannonball Run and the

Gumball Rally only with skiing and boarding! Nobody has ever skied or boarded every slope in the country before...it's going to be a fantastic challenge accessible to anyone with a vehicle, some skis and a sense of adventure!'

The idea for the Snowball Rally was dreamt up by two Snow-Camp volunteers, Rich Brown and Steve Marsh, who worked as volunteers on Snow-Camp's programmes in the French Alps this winter. After their experience in the Alps they wanted to launch a competitive event that would bring together teams of snowsports enthusiasts to raise funds for Snow-Camp's ongoing work, and have a great time in the process!

Rich Brown said, 'After seeing first hand the positive effect Snow-Camp had on all the young people involved, I wanted to help raise money so

more young people can benefit from this unique charity. I hope that through the Snowball Rally this will be achieved while simultaneously providing a fun and challenging experience. I'll be doing my best to do all 43 slopes!'

The charity hopes up to 20 teams will enter this first Snowball Rally, with all the information required to register and plan your route on the web

www.snow-camp.co.uk/snowballrally. Team members pledge to raise a minimum of £250 for Snow-Camp's work by participating, with Just Giving sites set up to support each team's sponsorship efforts.



British Universities Indoor Snowsports Championships

Students from a whole host of northern universities, such as Newcastle, York, Sheffield and Manchester, flocked together at Castleford Snowzone, near Leeds. They were all there for the Northern round of the British University Indoor Snowsports Championships (BUISC), to compete for an all-important place at the finals.

The boarding competitions kicked off at about 2 o'clock with individual slalom. Despite some impressive performances and lightning fast speeds, the largest cheer by far went to the male boarder who spectacularly crashed through the crash barriers, just short of the finish line, wiping out a line of kids, who were queuing for the toboggan run; pesky students hey? The local Universities proved that time in the fridge certainly pays off, with Sarah Kolb from Leeds taking 1st place in the women's slalom and Eugene Dodd from York taking 1st place in the men's slalom. After a short break to re-set the course, and have a few cheeky drinks in the bar, the boarders reassembled on the slope for the team dual slalom, which is always one of the highlights of student snowsport competitions. Again, local teams dominated the fridge, with Leeds emerging as the overall winners followed closely by York. Yet another break followed, giving the organisers precious time to set-up the slopestyle course, give out the racing prizes and, of course, sink a few more pints.

Fully refreshed, the students headed back out into the fridge for the much-anticipated slopestyle jam session. The course began with a choice of a large flat-down rail or a low box rail, followed by a down rail, a kicker, a medium sized box and finally a tricky c-box, which got the better of a few contestants. The flat-down rail witnessed some impressive boardslides, while most of the riders skipped the down rail to gain extra speed into the kicker, where the majority of the lively crowd

were gathered. Sheffield University dominated the women's final, taking 3 of the 4 highly sought after places. Congratulations to Katie Young from Sheffield whose super smooth style on the rails gained her a well deserved 1st place. Following an impressive 2nd in the individual slalom she would definitely be one to watch out for at the BUISC finals, back in Castleford on 4th March. The men's final was more of a mixed bag with representatives from Leeds, Leeds Met, Teesside, Manchester and Nottingham Trent. Tom Honey from Leeds Met laid down a flawless run to take 1st place, another one to watch out for at the BUISC finals. Following the slopestyle finals the contestants and competitors retired to the bar for prize giving and celebrations. Overall, it was a brilliant day away from the books; however, the one let-down was that Snowzone! only provided half the slope for the comp, choosing to open the remaining half to the public. This left no allowance for riding between the competitions, a perk that is often taken full advantage of at other student competitions, such as BUDS at Hillend dryslope in Edinburgh. It was a brief farewell and a massive well done to all the finalists, from Castleford as they will all be back on 4th March for more of the same at the BUISC finals.

Indeed, two weeks later the student hordes were re-gathered and raring to go, at Castleford Snowzone! for the BUISC finals. However, this was not all that was going on at the slope, as Sumo wrestlers, snooker tables and brides-to-be could all be seen careering down the slope at the student charity event, Ski2Help, that has raised over £50,000 during its 4-year lifetime. The highlight of the day, besides face-planting Sumos, was the slopestyle competition.

The course, which had been supersized since the Northern round, consisted of a choice of 3 rails to start, followed by a speed hump



BUISC
N · O · R · T · H

leading into a large kicker and, finally, a choice of a long box or a big rainbow box.

Quicksilver's James Thorne spurred on the riders over the microphone during the 2-hour jam session, with 6 males and 4 females going through to the superfinal. Again, Sheffield University demonstrated that they are a freestyle force to be reckoned with in the girl's competition with their captain Polly Baker and Robyn Grant taking 2 of the 4 superfinal places. Glasgow's Emilia Vanni laid down a silky smooth run to take 1st place, which include a nice cab frontside 180 over the speed bump followed by a big frontside 180 over the kicker. Combined with a gold in the slopestyle at the British Universities Dryslope Championships, she is clearly on top of her game and a prime contender for the top spot at the 2009 Main Event in Alp H'Duex. The men's final was breathtaking, with 1st place going to Simon Cudlip from Teesside University, who landed a very impressive 900 over the kicker. BUISC this year really was a brilliant series that served as the perfect precursor for the much-anticipated Main Event.

For further info: www.busevents.com

Snowboard-review

Whenever you enter any decent snowboard shop, you will be confronted by racks and racks of boards in varying shapes, sizes, specialities, colours and prices. This is all very well, but how on earth do you decide which one is the perfect snowboard for you before parting with your hard earned cash? This is where the comprehensive website www.snowboard-review.com steps up to the challenge. On the site you will find a detailed review of virtually every snowboard on the market, written by the dedicated snowboard-review crew and also other public users, so you really can get an idea of what a board is like before you go out and buy it. If you are still unsure you can always post a more detailed question that the guys will be only too happy to answer. There is even a section of the science of snowboards as well as regular news updates. So, next time you are looking to buy a snowboard, whether an all-mountain plank or a more-specialist jib stick, make sure you check out the site before making a purchase. Then, afterwards, why not repay the favour by posting up your equipment experiences in order to help another undecided shopper. Happy spending! Further information:

Photo competition

Ever dreamed of featuring in a snowboard magazine? Well now is your big chance!

Send in photos of your snowboard experiences, whether park, piste, backcountry or your local dry slope, and we will feature the best picture in the next issue of The Piste. Deadline for receipt of photographs for the December/January issue will be 10 November 2009. Check out these websites to get some inspiration from the professionals.

www.andrewmillerphotos.com www.danmilner.com www.dopeshots.com

Send your photos to lownshoes@hotmail.co.uk including a brief description and the names of the rider/riders and photographer. Good luck!

Snowboard events calendar 2009/10

Here is the definitive guide to a successful season of snowboarding. Don't forget to cheer on the British team at the Olympics.

October 2009

Event: For Boarders By Boarders Tour '09 Final **Date:** 10th October
Location: SNO!zone, Milton Keynes **Details:** Final of a fun indoor freestyle series

Further information: www.forboardersbyboarders.com & www.snozoneuk.com

Event: Metro Ski & Snowboard Show/British Invitational Championships
Date: 21 – 25th October, British Invitational Championships 23rd October
Location: Olympia, London **Details:** World's largest winter sports show, also featuring the British invitational championships on a 40th kicker
Further information: www.metrosnow.co.uk www.britishsnowtour.com

Event: British Ski and Snowboard Show **Date:** 30th Oct – 1st Nov
Location: NEC, Birmingham **Details:** Bargain holiday's and new kit, watch the big air displays and attend the interactive seminars.
Further information: www.globalsnowshows.co.uk

Event: London Freeze **Date:** 30th October – 1st November
Location: Battersea power station, London **Details:** One of the biggest British snowboard events of the year. See the world's best snowboarders on a massive kicker, with the London skyline as the backdrop. Also includes a music festival, which was headlined by Cyprus Hill last year.
Further information: www.londonfreeze.com

December 2009

Event: Santa Cruz Rookie Rider Clash **Date:** 5th December
Location: Snowdome, Tanworth **Details:** Fun freestyle competition at the UK's original snowdome
Further information: www.snowdome.co.uk

Event: World Snowboard Day **Date:** 20th December
Location: Worldwide **Details:** The Biggest celebration of snowboarding
Further information: www.world-snowboard-day.com

February 2010

Event: Winter Olympics **Date:** 15th - 16th Snowboard Cross, 17th – 18th Halfpipe, 26th - 27th Slalom
Location: Vancouver, Canada **Details:** The biggest event of the snowboard calendar. Shout encouragement at your TV for the British team which includes our best medal hope, Zoe Gillings in the Boardercross.
Further information: www.vancouver2010.com & www.snowsportgb.com

March/April 2010

Event: BUSC, The Main Event **Date:** TBC
Location: Alpe D'Huez **Details:** British University Snowsport Champions. A week of competitions, fun and games.
Further information: www.busc-events.com

Event: The Brits **Date:** TBC
Location: Laax, Switzerland **Details:** The British Freestyle Championships all take in Laax's amazing snowpark
Further information: www.britishsnowtour.com

August 2010

Event: Farmers Jam **Date:** TBC
Location: Norfolk Ski Club **Details:** Fun weekend of freestyle snowboarding, at one of the country's best slopes in one of the flattest regions??
Further information: www.norfolkski.com

Remember to check with the organisers before attending to avoid disappointment.

Fun and games at the BUSC Main Event

The British University Snowsports Council's Main Event is the highlight of the Student Snowriding calendar. Held from 28th March to 4th April, in Alpe D'Huez, France, it was a week of racing, freestyle, freeriding and inter-University fun. Budgeted for students, the main week was priced at only £359; an even better bargain was the £620 2-week package, which included a comprehensive "training" programme for both race and freestyle disciplines, although it also served as a pre-comp party session. This year's event was hosted by Loughborough University and attended by over 2000 students from across England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

Unfortunately, the big air display, which was planned for the opening ceremony, was cancelled due to poor visibility. However, the impressive fireworks display and massive outdoor party, which was headlined by the The Cutup Boys, still went ahead. Thousands of students forgot about the cold and partied under the stars along with the locals and a few ESF instructors sporting their full uniforms!

A vast range of Snowboard competitions throughout the event included Giant Slalom, Board K.O., Team Slalom, Halfpipe, Slope Style, Big Air and Boarder - X. A special mention should go to Rowan Brandreth from the University of West England who gained 1st place in both the Dual Slalom K.O and Boarder - X and Samantha Filsell from Edinburgh University who spanned the race freestyle divide to gain gold in Giant Slalom, Dual Slalom K.O and Big air.

Alpe D'Huez proved to be a world-class snowboard destination and was very well suited for the Main Event. For those who enjoy freestyle there was a snowpark situated just above the town with an assortment of rails, boxes, kickers and a small half-pipe. A very fun Boarder - X course also ran down the full length of the park. For those who prefer freeriding, the resort has an impressive total area of over 230 km. Unforgettable black runs include the Sarenne, which is the world's longest run at 18 km, and the Tunnel a very steep piste which is accessed by a long narrow tunnel through the mountain. Both of these runs are exceptional following a big dump! With varied weather over the two weeks: from blue bird to whiteout, everyone got plenty of opportunities to session both the park and hit the powder!

Socially, it was a great place to meet like-minded people and also to catch up with old friends from the University competition's circuits. Everyone is certainly looking forward to meeting up next year to settle a few scores and sink a few more drinks. If you are interested in competing at the event, or even just attending to take advantage of the student package deals check out www.busc-events.com.



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CEO/Office update

It has been a busy summer with a lot happening both at the Snowsport England office and around the country with races taking place almost every weekend. The exciting news is that we have now appointed 2 new development officers. Jan Doyle, who is based in Manchester and Vickie Pullin, who is based in Gloucestershire. Please read through their profiles and hopefully you will get to meet them soon. This will make a huge difference in the coming years to enable Snowsport England to help develop the sport and deliver on our Sport England outcomes.

Over the next few months there are various events happening including the Coaching Conference which is being held at the Snow Centre in Hemel Hempstead. This is a change from previous years and will have a practical element to the conference which has been received positively as it has sold out. Then at the end of October there is the British Ski and Board show at the NEC in Birmingham. **Club members can get free tickets through their club secretaries.** We will have a stand at the show and be running a consultation event on the Saturday so please come along. There are a few admin points from the office:

- Remember that the renewal year has changed and now runs from the 1st Nov to 31st Oct. So there will be a £20 late fee if you don't renew before November.
- The office needs a passport photo if it is going to issue your coaching license. This can either be posted to us, emailed or uploaded through the website.
- If you want to pay by direct debit then the closing date to get the forms back in is the end of September

I hope everyone is looking ahead to another winter season with the added excitement of the Winter Olympics.

Tim Fawke
Chief Executive

Arrows Ashes help Olympic dreams

By Gill Hall

As most of The Piste readers are aware, Arrows Ski Racing Club sadly closed its doors for business this year. The loss of the dendix slope at Swadlincote, re-covered in perma sno a few years earlier, meant that, despite giving the new surface our best shot, it proved to be unsatisfactory for our training needs.

Without a home slope to train at and the ability to attract new members, the club could no longer survive and earlier this year the sad decision was taken to wind the club up after a very long and illustrious history.

Arrows closure also had an impact on the EMSA region. As it was the only active racing club in the region, EMSA would also have to close.

The few remaining members of the club and region then had the dilemma of deciding what to do with the money that was remaining in the respective bank accounts.

After much soul searching, the decision was taken to use some of the money to commission two trophies to be named The Arrows Millennium Trophies and for them to be awarded to the Male and Female Zero Point BARTS skier, as currently, there are no trophies to reward the hard work

and effort that goes into achieving this elite status. I am pleased to report that these, quite stunning trophies which are engraved on the bowls with all the traceable Arrows members from its beginnings, have now been finished and are ready to be presented at the All England's in Sunderland to the current zero point skiers.

So what about the remainder of the money? Well, for us, that was a no brainer - when we became aware that two of the most talented skiers ever to come out of England were in the outrageous and quite shocking position of needing money to fund their training programme in their quest to get to the Vancouver Winter Olympics in 2010 - we didn't have to think twice, it was divided equally and cheques were sent to Dave Ryding and Ed Drake... and how fitting that the demise of Arrows might just, in a small way, save the day for someone else!

Arrows send their very best wishes to Dave & Ed in their bid to get to the Olympics and would urge any other clubs/regions/individuals to donate, fundraise or sponsor these guys...

Please help them to live the dream!

The Schools & Youth Committee is re-born

A team of highly experienced skiers/boarders and school/youth group leaders have come together to form a re-vitalised committee for Snowsports England. Their terms of reference include monitoring the quality of the Alpine Snowsports Course Leaders Award (ASCLA) and the Snowsports Course Organisers (SCO) Course. (There is a prize for anyone providing a better/easier title for this popular and widely recognised training course for teachers/youth workers!)

The committee has 14 Outdoor Education Advisers, Deputy Head teachers, Physical Education specialists, School ski group Leaders, Youth Workers, special needs specialists and SSE Coaches. They provide a huge reservoir of experience, knowledge and expertise to generate appropriate up to date advice & guidance to the Board of SSE on all matters relating to children and young people participating in snowsports.

The committee has met three times this

year (2009) and has entered into the helmets debate with enthusiasm! To summarise: "Wear one unless safe not to"! A primary purpose for the committee is to encourage high quality snowsports opportunities for all young people. This involves close liaison with tour operators and providers of snowsport facilities.

It is expected that members of the committee will contribute articles for publication in 'The Piste' from time to time.

This edition contains an interesting piece on risk management and the role that young people can play in this necessary task.

Martin Tomlinson (very old and long time member of this committee!) has been persuaded to chair the committee at this time but it is expected the role will be shared amongst the other members of the committee. If you have any questions, suggestions or comments, regarding the role or agenda for this committee, please email Martin at Snowsports England.

New Chair for Alpine Skiing Committee (ASC)

Recently Gill Hall stood down as chair of Alpine Ski Committee (ASC). Gill has worked incredible hard over numerous years but due to work commitments has had to stand down as chair. She will still be on the Alpine Squad Management Committee. Gill has been given life membership to Snowsport England in recognition for all the work she has done. The board has appointed a new chair which is Andrea Grant. On her appointment Andrea said "I am excited about taking up this role and hope to continue the work Gill has been doing. I hope we can continue to produce athletes that will make it all the way to the top."



Students and risk management on your snowsports course

Today's young people often can't play on the street or near ponds and don't climb trees; they are generally shielded and sheltered from hazards. The end result is a teenager who cannot make sound judgements about levels of risk or indeed what constitutes a hazard in the first place. School students can gain a lot from involvement in the risk management of their snowsports course:

- Show the Snowsport England DVD Ski Safe before you go
- Make a photo quiz – Spot the Hazard - on PowerPoint and give prizes
- Put students in groups lead by one who's been on a ski course before and ask them to compile lists of hazards to be shared around with everyone. Decide what the risks are associated with each hazard and get each group to add a control for each risk.

Share all of your risk management processes with your students; you may be pleasantly surprised by their mature response to being included in this aspect of planning a safe course, they'll be safer while away and begin to develop sound judgements of their own for the future.

Sally Berry
Schools and Youth Committee member

Snowsport Englands Development Officers...

Jan Doyle

Sport has always been important to me initially as a participant, then as a coach, spectator and volunteer. I have played many sports at all levels from grassroots to national and have coaching qualifications in several – most recently fitness coaching.



Volunteering roles in my children's sports clubs led me to leave the education sector almost 9 years ago to pursue a career in sports development. Since then I have worked at the Greater Manchester County Sport Partnership which has involved writing, co-ordinating and implementing a county club development plan. Greater Manchester has been recognised nationally for its club development success which has been achieved by building capacity across the sports development network ensuring a good level of support and expertise is given to more clubs which in turn has meant the communities across the county have access to high quality clubs. As a result of these successes I have regularly been invited to be part of national forums and working groups.

I am also a tutor for runningsport, Sports Coach UK and Sport Englands Clubmark programme delivering training to both the volunteers and sports development networks.

Almost ten years ago after a family ski holiday we joined a ski club on our return. This resulted in our sons taking part in the ski racing side of the sport. Through the excellent training, friendship and support they received from the clubs Paul has been a ski instructor for the Red Devils Ski School in Kitzbuhel, Austria for the last 5 years and takes part in the racing programme over there and Tom is race captain for Salford University Snowsports Team.

I hope through these newly created development officer roles with Snowsport England we can ensure clubs and their volunteers are recognised in the sports development network and receive support in the excellent work they are doing and helping them to develop further, including them in new initiatives and funding as they occur. This will hopefully result in increased membership in clubs so others can gain a lifetime involvement in all disciplines of this fantastic sport and the enjoyment and friendships which, as a result, me and my family enjoy! Exciting times for Snowsports in England!!

Vickie Pullin

I'm twenty four years old and have been involved with Snowsports since I was 12. At 18 I moved to Canada, where I worked for Lake Louise Ski & Snowboard School for 3yrs. During this time I took several skiing and boarding qualifications with the highest being the Canadian Association of Snowboard Instructors level 3, I'm told I was the youngest person to hold this award at the time.



During my time in Canada I was lucky enough to spend a great deal of time riding with pro-snowboarders, honing my technique trying to keep up with these guys. It was suggested to me that I had some talent and I could compete if I was up for the challenge. So the gauntlet was well and truly thrown and it was up to me to pick it up and run with it. I returned home to set about becoming a member of the British Snowboard Team.

With little experience I entered lots of competitions across the UK and soon had a few notable results. Spurred on by these achievements I entered the Brits in Switzerland and following some credible results was invited for a trial with the British Team. Luckily my trial was a success and I secured a place competing in boarder cross. I had a great time on the team and learnt lots, but inevitably the same old problem that faces most UK based Snowsports athletes reared its' ugly head – money!

The financial cost of training and racing was a mountain too high for me to climb and I retired from the team. Let's hope for future athletes we can break this cycle and snowsports competitors can reach their full potential without breaking the bank.

I still wanted to be in the Snowsport business so enquired at my local ski slope and promptly found myself in charge of snowboarding at Gloucester Ski and Snowboard Centre. It was a different experience to teach on an artificial slope and this last winter has been a busy season. I currently still take Snowboard Instructor Training at the centre and have recently become a tutor for Snowsports England.

I am very passionate about skiing and boarding and want to help develop and promote snowsports within the UK. Watch this space.....

Dave Clarke 1937-2009

First President of the English Ski Council – 1979/1982

By **Dave Francis** (Director and Chief Executive ESC 1979 – 1985)

“
He travelled
lightly on this
Earth of ours”

Long before I met Dave, I knew his name – one of Chris Bonington’s famous North Face of Everest team, back in the early 70’s.

However, by the end of that decade he was to come into my life and that of many hundreds of English skiers, as President of the newly constituted national governing body for skiing – the English Ski Council.

There was no better choice; a man with a deep commitment to the sport and its environment, a proven organiser – from his role on the Everest Expedition, a name known to the ‘common man’ with whom he empathised and a diplomat who ably steered the new organisation through the heavy ski politics of the time, to calmer waters of dialogue and co-operation.

At times he and I were parodied as the ‘Long and short’ of ESC; a role I was happy to play alongside such an inspiring person. Even so, he lead a powerful team among whom was Ian Graeme, formerly of the NSFGB, who was to give Dave so much valuable insight and background in support of his efforts. To say that Dave was a ‘people person’ would appear glib had one not known the depth of feeling he had for people’s efforts and the wide circle of friends he had. Joe Brown, the renowned rock climber and mountaineer, comes to mind as one with whom he and his wife Liz, shared many personal adventures and Dave was never short of those.

I recall one such self – reliant trip, when he, single - handed, kayaked the canal system between Yorkshire and Lancashire, often bivouacking along the route. I am certain that few if any had done that journey before him; then Dave achieved many ‘firsts’ in his multi-faceted life.

For those few, who do encounter such ‘first time’ experiences – the ‘unknown’, adrenalin surges, the no going back, success and failure are moments in life no one can take away. I like to think that the experience of creating and developing ESC was one he would have remembered in later years, as one that did make changes in other peoples lives as well as his own – helping ‘ordinary’ people achieve ‘extra-ordinary’ things.

In a land where memory is notoriously short – as Churchill once remarked – it is good to know that ESC did acknowledge and honour him as a Life Member; something I am sure he would cherish in later years when times of reflection become more prevalent.

In spite or because of his adventurous nature, Dave was a family man and along with Liz his wife, guided their two children, Mark and Beth, to their own paths in life. I had the great pleasure of knowing them all and briefly sharing in their home life in the busy ESC days.

All those who today enjoy the benefits of what local ski centres and clubs offer; plus the more committed involved in the in opportunities available through ESC, will in some way have benefited from his influence and efforts of those he lead in that formative period.

One personal memory I have, that typifies the man, is that he always travelled with only a small holdall. This always carried his necessities, along with a bottle of red wine to share with the company he was going to be with. This for me sums up the simplicity of his style and the nature of the person.

As I reflect on the part of his life that I was privileged to share, I am looking out across my valley to the eastern range of the Andes; I feel somehow that he was here before me. While it may sound trite those North American Indian words, often quoted or adapted, are surely made for such a special person as Dave: “He travelled lightly on this Earth of ours”.





John Sheddon had this to say about Dave Clarke,

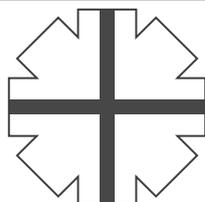
"Dave Clarke was the very courageous, diplomatic and charismatic 'front man' who always had the needs of these and all our skiers at heart, and who stood up to the very snobbish and often bullying personnel from some of the Alpine Racing Clubs who were against the development of the sport in England. He was one of the few, truly great human beings that I have ever met - I haven't met very many because in today's world of celebrity and publicity it is too easy to confuse fame with contribution, and high profile with greatness. Dave was not famous but as a loving, caring human being with high standards, he should have been.

He lived by honest, strong principles which showed in everything that he did and his examples of living and working were a great inspiration to all of us in the early years of ESC and I have always tried to live up to the standards he inspired in me when I first met him, through the English Ski Committee of the old National Ski Federation of GB.

Some of 'our skiers', who were encouraged by Dave and for whom he often 'battled', went on to become, Olympians, World Champions (Junior and Senior), TV producer and commentator, and more, including Director General of FIS!

I think about him now as I reflect on how he changed the Ski World for ever and I am very sad indeed by his passing yet enormously proud and privileged to have known him and to have had him as, first a 'boss', then a mentor and thirty nine years a friend".

Dave Clarke passed away on 9 July 2009 aged 72 years.



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