

*Ski Club of Ireland*  
*Club Holiday Feb 2010*



*Bad Hofgastein*

# Some of our Ski Groups

Organised by ability, we formed a number of groups under the different instructors . We had to get one instructor replaced but generally the instructors were of a high quality, with Stefan Bessel (Fiona Bryson's group) probably the pick of the bunch.



← Adrian, Deirdre, Michael, Cathal, Peter and Fiona

Deirdre, PJ, Fiona, Bernie, Marie, Catriona and James



← Tom Brendan and John (Tom is easy to spot)



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Phil – the only “Bad” one in the group

Eamonn, Ruth, Audrey and Ger – couldn't even get themselves lined up properly – what a bunch. Note Ger's hand in the backpack and see the subsequent picture on page 14 for what he is up to !!



Katrina, Carol and Natalie

# Some of our Skiers

Well its all about skiing – that's why we came to Bad Hofgastein.

Tom in fine style

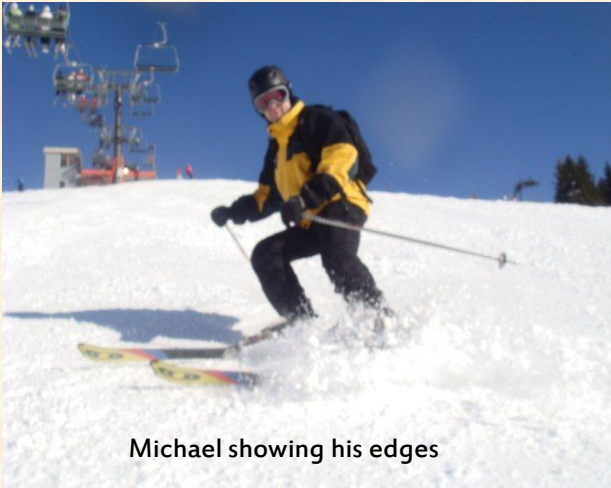


Formation skiing with Michael, Niall and Arthur

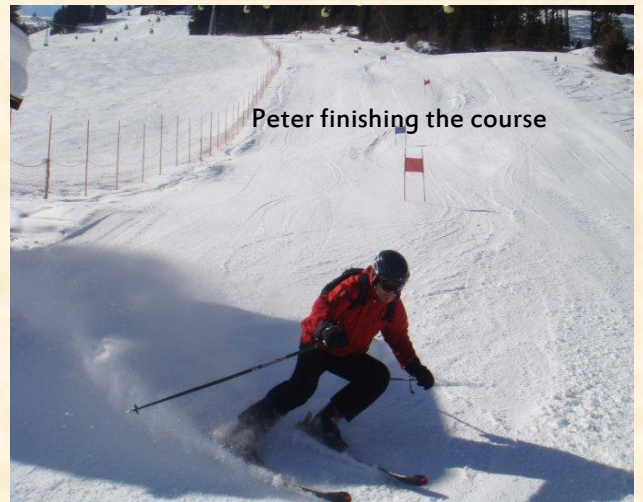
Adrian also in fine style



Fiona flowing



Michael showing his edges



Peter finishing the course



Think it's Barry



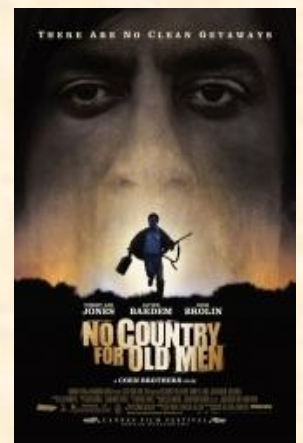
Wow – Gemma doing freestyle -

# No (back) country for old men

Presented with transceivers by their instructor upon meeting him for the first time, Brendan, John and Tom wondered whether they should abort or not. In the end, the decision to stay in the group paid off as some fine off-piste conditions were encountered by the group of three Irishmen and five Austrians.



Tom would describe this as back country – perhaps not but certainly well away from any nearby pistes – what a way to start skiing on Sunday with fresh powder and wonderful sunshine – if only we could ski it like our instructor Andy did !



With Andy already in the forest forging a trail, Klaus, his son Dieter and Julia head into the trees. And boy, don't trees insist on you making turns, when and where you normally would not !

# Hats off on to them

It is customary on the Club Holidays to present prizes to those who merit acclamation. This year, each group selected the individual they felt deserved the accolade "(wo)man of the match". In addition, a small number of individuals were recognised for their achievements during the week. The photos taken by Arthur are not as sharp as he would have liked and certainly not as sharp as his skiing.

Eamonn presented to by Ruth



Conor presented to by proud Pauline



John presented to by Brendan



Adrian presented to by "posing" Peter



## ROLLOF HONOUR

- Michael Costello
- Ciara NiChulachain
- Clara Keogan
- Caroline Walsh
- Yvonne Martin
- Conor Brannigan
- Fiona Bryson
- Adrian Blackshields
- Anthony Cleary
- John Harty
- Katrina Carroll
- John O'Brien
- Justin Neville
- Eamonn O'Dea

Katrina presented and dressed by Gemma



Justin presented to and tickled by Sinead



Fiona presented to by James



John masquerading as Michael Costello



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John presented to by Sis Maura



Brown envelope for Kostas and staff



Yvonne presented to by Alan



Anthony gets worst tobogganer award



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- Katrina Carroll
- John O'Brien
- Justin Neville
- Eamonn O'Dea

Cool Dude Clara presented to by Mum



Best smile and best skier award by Sis



Caroline presented to by Brendan



The years have passed so quickly !



# Good Pics

There were good moments captured in photos which are worth sharing.



Kostas and the Birthday Boy Alan



Natalie continuing her instruction apres-ski



Three prize winners wearing their hats –  
Ciara, Clara and Fiona



Come on Tom – invest in something more  
stylish than that tea cosy !!



Ann spending time with us despite being on her  
honeymoon with Tim – we wish you both well !!



Marie and Bernie smiling and happy after  
a “great day” skiing



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Anthony on his way to SpecSavers



The Snowman is the best of that motley crew !!!



Eamonn with the Rodin "Thinking Man" pose



The three lads in suspense



John, Arthur and Conor wearing their hats – the silliest hat award goes to Arthur



John, Maura and Carmel - The Galway Racers

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A ringer for Brian Kerrigan (fag and all)



*"Go in peace to love and serve the Lord"* – Fr. Cleary



Love the hat Paul !!



Barry and Mairead not impressed by the food in the hotel and resort to eating the carnation



Margaret and Deirdre adding a much needed dollop of style and class to proceedings



Next stop the North Pole for the Brannigans and O'Briens

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They became good friends over the course of the week ;



Girls ~~Abroad~~ Abroad



Ger masquerading either as Napoleon or Charlie Chaplin



Looking up Audrey !!



Up Munster !!!



The always elegant Maura and Dad Kevin -(Note the skier approaching - Audrey always wants be in every picture)



A really pretty picture of Gemma and Carol – smiling makes all the difference PJ

# Stefan Bressel

Not only did he instruct brilliantly, he joined his group most afternoons for apres-ski drinks at Angertal. He had his mother join the group for drinks one afternoon, she having heard about the fun he was having with the Irish group. PJ was even heard to mutter that he could possibly be enjoying himself despite himself !! An artist – he can be seen on [www.stefanbressel.de](http://www.stefanbressel.de)



Fiona taking over the instructor's jacket



Even instructors fall occasionally



Buying the schnaps for the group at the end of a great week

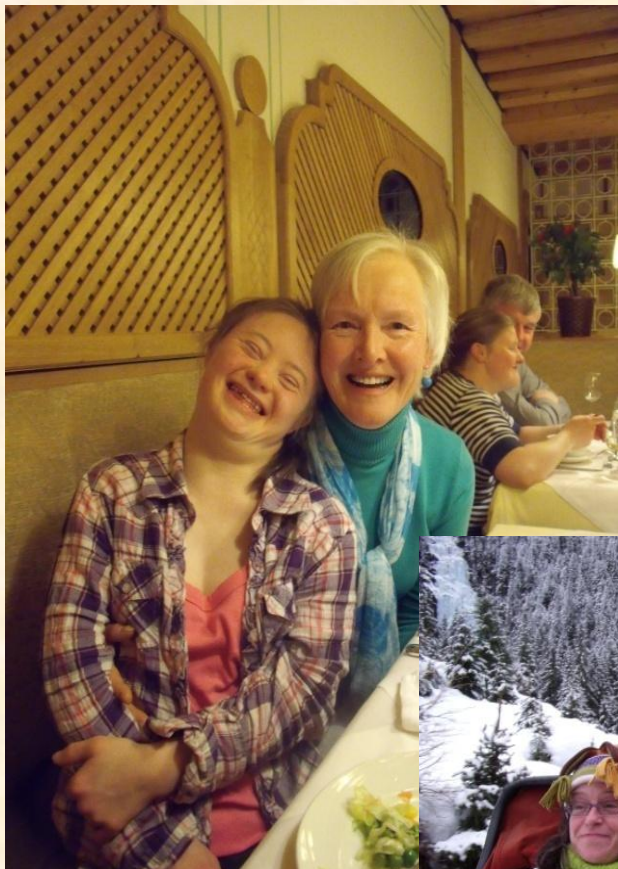


Cheers everybody !!



# Clara Keogan – Cool Dude

Legend or what ! Having her skiing cut short with a knee injury, did Clara complain and moan ? No way Jose ! Hobbling around on crutches, she maintained her good humour and we all enjoyed her company. Meanwhile, her Mum Phil took to the skis like a duck to water and we suspect we now have a committed skier in our midst, albeit not yet up to the standard of her young daughter .

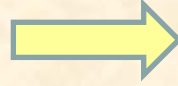


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*I know I have some Performance Enhancing Products somewhere here in my rucksack - Ger*



Nothing like beer to enhance your performance Ger  
- Ask the girls !!



Most men would be happy to be surrounded by the girls despite Justin's presence – what's wrong Cathal ?



Nice one of the Carroll siblings – Barry, Katrina and Gemma



Last year it was Amanda – then the recession struck and the best he could do in 2010 was a snowman - no wonder he looks somewhat despondent !



Kieran, Arthur, Alex and Conor, with Alex looking like the only one taking her skiing seriously !!

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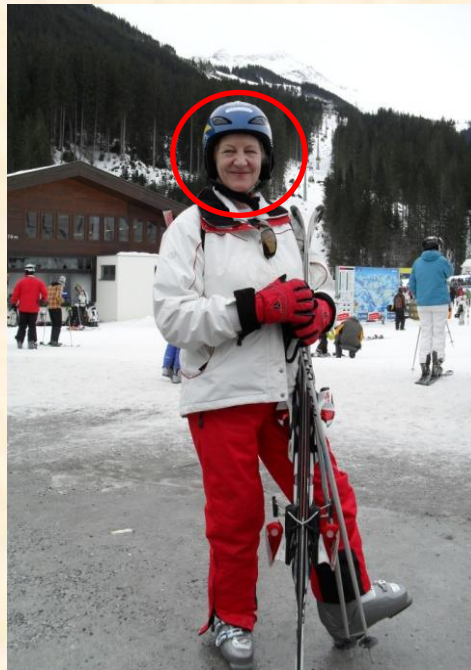
John Harty, Niall Carroll and John Leonard not realising that the last bus back to the hotel has just left !!



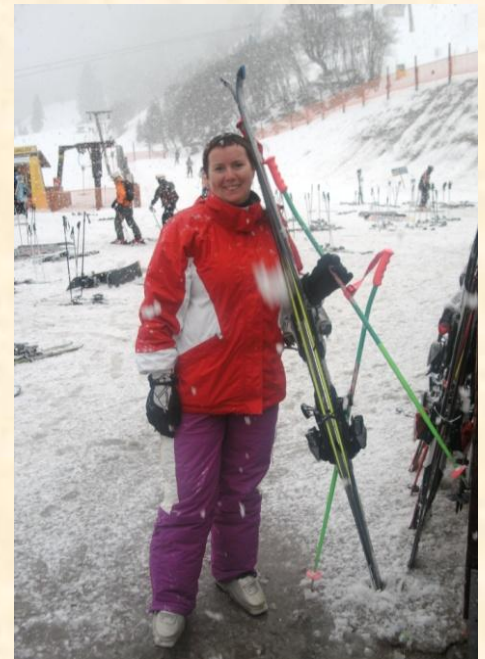
No sign of vertigo for Freddy as he downs another beer with Justin and Ruth !!



The maestro himself John Leonard gearing up for another run



Deirdre heeds her daughter's advice and invests in a helmet midweek



Pauline looking for all the part a skier !!



Have you ever seen a smile as big as Ciara's – Sinead's is not that far behind



Switch from the milk to the beer PJ – it puts hair on your chest and a smile on your face

# Dining in the Palace Hotel

If it was good enough for President McAleese, it was certainly good enough for the Bad Gang. The food was excellent and Kostas and his staff really looked after us well. Perhaps we may enjoy their hospitality again.



← Margaret, Jenny, Arthur, Niall and John

→ Catriona, Anthony, Cathal, Ruth and Caroline



← Alex, Lorraine, Marie and Brendan



→ Katrina, Carol and Gemma





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**Aoife, Carmel, Conor, PJ, Kieran, Pauline, Kevin and Maura – where did John go ?**

**Deirdre, James, Clara, Phil and Tom**



**Mairead and Barry**



**Justin, Fiona, Deirdre and Peter**



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← Eamonn, Martin, Ger, Freddy and John

Michele, Audrey and Michael →



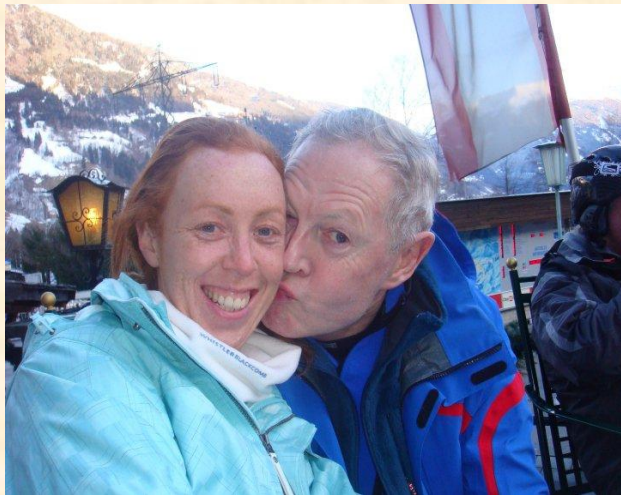
← Sinead, Bernie, Michael, Fiona and Ciara

Tara and Aoife →



# Getting close

A lot of socialising took place off the slopes, the pictures speak for themselves !

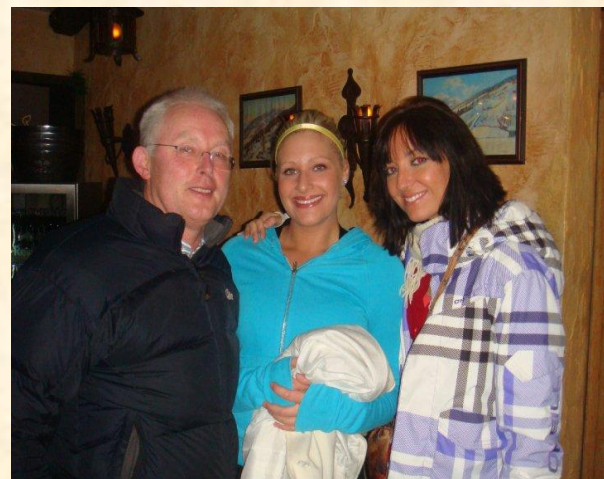


It must be the Instructors Blue Jacket that attracts the women to Tom – it can't just be the new body parts !!!



And Michele who is this man with his arm around you ?

Anthony with some classy women - and he has no Blue Jacket !



Adrian – a big hit with the girls - Peter looking a little miffed perhaps ?

Audrey falling for Cathal or is it Alan ?



# The "Bad" Gang of 2010

There was a myriad of personalities who made up the party – a mixture of young and old, friends and strangers, beginners/intermediates/advanced skiers, early nighters and late nighters etc.... Everybody seemed to get on well with each other and hopefully many will return in 2011.

Bagnell Ruth	Keogan Phil
Blackshields Adrian	Lawless P J
Brannigan Aoife	Leonard John
Brannigan Conor	Martin Yvonne
Brannigan Kieran	McCann Audrey
Brannigan Pauline	McCormack Bernie
Bryson Bernie	McGlinchey Cathal
Bryson Fiona	Metcalf Tom
Bryson Michael	Mullen Fiona
Carroll Barry	Mullen Deirdre
Carroll Gemma	Neville Justin
Carroll Karina	Ni Chulachain Sinead
Carroll Margaret	Ni Chulachain Ciara
Carroll Niall	O'Brien Carmel
Carroll Tara	O'Brien John
Cleary Anthony	O'Brien Kevin
Costello Michael	O'Brien Maura
Cronin Michele	O'Dea Eamonn
Darcy Mairead	O'Doherty Alan
Ennis Arthur	O'Driscoll Deirdre
Ennis Natalie	O'Driscoll James
Ennis Jenny	Phillips Paul
Farrell Martin	Rafter Carol
Ferguson Alexandra	Regan Michael
Fogarty Gerard	Turner Peter
Gibbs Catriona	Walsh Caroline
Harty John	Whelan Brendan
Johnston Freddy	Whelan Lorraine
Keogan Clara	Whelan Marie

## OVERALL

It was a great week due to a number of factors including

- Sunny weather most of the week
- Good snow conditions
- No queues at lifts
- Excellent hotel – good food and service and free drinks
- Everyone getting on well with each other
- Good tuition (in one case eventually)
- Transport to slopes outside hotel
- Logistics going smoothly
- Few and not serious injuries

What we missed from ZellamSee were the apres ski Deila Bar , the Races and the Videos.

*Dear Brendan*

*Deirdre and I really enjoyed our week with the Ski Club in Bad Hofgastein. We felt most welcome in your lovely group, our ski class worked very well and it was nice to dine with different people each evening. You were most helpful when I rang initially to enquire about the trip. All in all, we feel that this was one of the best ski holidays we have had.*

*James O'Driscoll*

- There were 58 people in total, many of whom were family members
- There were 4 ski instructors in the group
- Later in the week a local ski instructor was frequently seen in the company of one of the group - a case of **Meet the Fokkers** perhaps ??
- We had one so-called snowboarder, Anthony Cleary, who saw sense midweek and returned to skiing
- We had two non-skiers, Margaret and Jenny, who nonetheless had a great time



**AND OF COURSE WE HAD THE CELEBRATION OF ARTHUR AND JENNY'S WEDDING ANNIVERSARY ON FRIDAY NIGHT - ROMANCE KNOWS NO BOUNDS WITH OUR ARTHUR - TAKING JENNY ON A SKI HOLIDAY FOR THEIR HONEYMOON AND ANNIVERSARY (AND SHE DOESN'T EVEN SKI !!**