



Piste Basher club of Ireland

A Note from the President

Welcome to the new-look *Piste-Basher*. A new look to coincide with the Ski Club's new website. If you haven't seen it yet then have a look at www.skiclub.ie. We would love to hear any comments you may have about the new site or any suggestions for improvements that could be made.

Winter is truly here with the recent spell of icy weather making the slopes run really well. Europe has had great snow recently and there are fabulous offers out there for December & January from a number of Tour Operators.

There is much to report on as you will see below.... Santa will be arriving soon (Dec 14th). We would like to invite members to join us also on the 21st December for festive cheer and I take this opportunity to wish all the members, and all of our ski & snowboard friends a fun filled Christmas and New Year. Happy skiing and boarding. Now read on for more details on events during December.



Santa Comes to Kiltiernan

Every year we are honoured with a special visit from Santa Claus and this year is no exception. Santa will be taking time out from his busy schedule to visit the Ski Club on Sunday 14th December. Festivities start at 4.30pm. While it is a great occasion for the kids, we also entertain the grown-ups with some drinks and nibbles.

Santa has been practicing his carving and should make a fine figure coming down the slope. See you there!

One-day Intermediate/Advanced Course

A One-day Intermediate/Advanced Course has been scheduled for Saturday 3rd of January. The course will run from 10am - 5pm and is for those who are comfortable skiing from the top of the main slope and are interested in working on carving. If you would like to book a place on this course please call the office on 01 295 5658 or read on for a chance to win a free place on the course.

League Races

The December League races will take place this Sunday morning (7th December). We are especially keen to have some new members participating this month. Remember, you don't need to be an expert to participate. The GS starts at 10am. Once you are able to ski from the bottom of the green matting on the main slope you can participate.

Gift Vouchers

Want to introduce someone to skiing or snowboarding? Why not get them a Ski Club gift voucher this Christmas? Skiing and snowboarding are a great way to get out for some fresh air and work off the Christmas fare. Gift vouchers are now available from the office for any amount.



Special Group Rates

Ever thought about bringing a group of friends or work colleagues to the slopes?

The group rate is normally €30 per person once you bring at least 8 people but we have introduced a new group rate of €20 per person if you bring a group on a Monday or Friday evening. Email info@skiclub.ie for details



Tickets reminder

A reminder to all Members that it is necessary to bring your membership card with you on visits to the club. If you are taking a class you must have your class ticket on the slope as these will be checked and collected. If you have mislaid your membership card please contact Sue or Leóin in the office for a replacement.

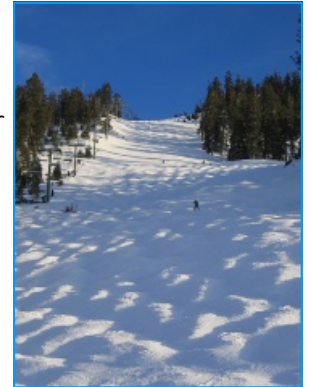
21st December

We would like to invite all members to join us for a pre-Christmas drink on Sunday 21st December between 1pm & 3pm at the Ski Club with the compliments of Tony Collins and Carmel O'Reilly from Topflight. Gluhwein, hot chocolate and a specially flown-in delicacy from Austria will be served. All come along to discuss the "quality of snow in the alps"

Advanced Friday Night Clinic

An advanced clinic for good parallel skiers (e.g. can do 5 short radius turns on the green matting) who are looking to improve their personal skiing will start on 9th January at 8pm. The clinic plans to cover topics such as carving, drills and exercises for bumps/mogul skiing, developing short radius turns, timing and rhythm and any other topics as agreed by the class. Friday nights tend to be quieter than other nights so often there is a freer slope to work with.

If you would like to book for this six-week clinic please call the office on 01 295 5658. The rate for a Season Ticket holder is €110 for the six weeks.



SCI Race Squad Update

Development Squad - As the enthusiasm for race training continues to grow we've seen an increase in the size of the newly formed Development Squad run by Tony McGuinness. Testament to the appeal of Tony as a coach - every week brings a new applicant. The squad has grown to such an extent that we plan to break it out to two sub-squads, Junior and Children.



Children's Race Squad - A successful October mid-term camp was run in Tignes and included a large number of our Children racers training on snow for the first time. The camp proved an excellent introduction to training/racing on snow and leads nicely into the upcoming Christmas camp in Austria.

Junior Race Squad - Some members of the Junior squad also trained in Tignes. This included all of the European Youth Olympic squad who have also recently returned from a race camp in Norway where they completed 7 races with some excellent results. Most notable being Simon Lyons scoring 148 FIS points in his second ever race.

Borrufa - The team to compete at the Borrufa Children's competition in Andorra was announced and includes a squad of 8 racers - this is the maximum we are allowed under competition rules and is the biggest team we have ever had compete. The team includes: Hubert Gallagher, Lauren O'Riordan, Stephen Power, Sean Murray, Iain Gallagher, Kieran McNamara, Emer Pisarnik and Meadhb Byrne.

Upcoming events include the following - League Race on 7th December, Race camp in Italy early December, SES Cup in Italy mid December, Training Camp in Austria late December/early January.

Pre-Teen Class

A pre-teen class for children aged from 8 to 12 has started on Sunday mornings. The class runs from 12.30 - 14.00 to coincide with Kindergarten classes. It caters for children who are comfortable skiing from the top station on the main slope.

Parents who have a child in the Kindergarten classes and an older child who has moved on from Kindergarten might find this class ideal. Please contact the office to book your child in.



Win, Win, Win!

To be in with a chance to win a place on the One-day Intermediate/Advanced Course on 3rd January and a T-Shirt from a certain Austrian ski school just answer the following question.

Instructors from which Austrian Ski School visit the Ski Club of Ireland every October?

- A. Schischule Wilder Kaiser
- B. Schischule St. Johann
- C. Schischule Total

Send your answer to info@skiclub.ie