



Piste Basher club of Ireland

A Note from the President

Ski and snowboard holidays are now coming towards an end, but what a wonderful season it has been for snow in Europe (not forgetting Kiltarnan). A wonderful time was had on the club holiday to Zell am See last week. A memoir of the trip can be downloaded from the Ski Club Website at www.skiclub.ie/Club_Holidays/Default.104.html Hopefully the excellent snow conditions will continue for those of you going on holidays in the next few weeks.

Spring is the ideal time to bring friends, colleagues and family members to the Ski Club as the slopes tend to be quieter at this time of year. Don't forget to come along for the March League races and the End of Season Club Championships on 5th April. This is always a good event and we look forward to seeing as many participants as possible.

Kindergarten

An additional set of four Kindergarten lessons will start this Sunday 8th March at 1pm. Kindergarten is for children aged between 4 and 7 years old. If you would like to book your child in please call the office on 01 2955658. The Season Ticket Holder rate for four lessons is €55.

Saturday Morning Mini's Group

The Saturday morning Mini's group continue to tear up the slopes with a clatter of chatter and a flurry of fun every weekend, and more are welcome. Feel free to come along if you're aged 7-11 years and are happy skiing from the top of the main slope.

We'll concentrate on learning and practicing the essential skills that will help lead to ski racing. These Classes take place for Season Ticket Holders every Saturday morning 10am – 11.30am.



One-day Intermediate/Advanced Course

Due to popular demand another One-day Intermediate/Advanced Course has been scheduled for Saturday 21st March. 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.

Final 1-Day Learn to Snowboard Course

The final 1-Day Learn to Snowboard Course of the 08/09 Season will take place this Saturday 7th March. If you're a skier and you've always fancied giving boarding a go then this is your chance! There are just a few spaces left so call the office as soon as possible to book your space.

March League Races

The March League races will take place this Sunday morning (8th March). As always we are very keen to see new members participating. You don't need to be an expert to take part in the races - once you are able to ski from the bottom of the green matting on the main slope you can participate. The GS starts at 10am.



Members' Room

It will be necessary for all members to remove their skis, boots and poles from the Members' Room at the end of the season.

Stickers to be placed on skis/snowboards and boots stored in the Members' Room will be issued on renewal of membership for the 09/10 season. From 1st April only boots and skis or snowboards with a 09/10 Members' sticker may be stored in the Members' Room.

Any equipment stored in the Members' Room after 15th April that does not have a sticker will be removed.

SCI Racing Updates

Borrufa The Borrufa competition proved to be a great success with a full team competing across Slalom, Giant Slalom and Combi events. The team consisted of four Children 1 and two Children 2 racers and all performed admirably. The standard of racing, particularly in the Children 1 age group has certainly improved over the past twelve months as is evident in the Borrufa results and in the future we are likely to see some spirited competition among these peers. Congratulations to the team which consisted of Hubert Gallagher, Lauren O'Riordain (both CH2), Sean Murray, Stephen Power, Maebh Byrne and Emer Pisarnik (all CH1).

Topolino For only the second year ever we had SCI members on an Irish team to compete at the Topolino competition in Italy. This is considered the Children's World Championship and past competitors include names such as Benie Raich and Stefan Eberharter of Austria. Our guys, Hubert Gallagher and Lauren O'Riordan, competed in both Slalom and Giant Slalom. The competition was very tough and the introduction of new rules saw only the top 60 qualify for a second run in each discipline. Hubert did very well to qualify for the second run in Slalom but unfortunately pushed a little too hard on the second run and crashed out. Despite this both Lauren and Hubert skied very well and can be proud of their achievements

European Youth Olympics Congratulations to the EYOF team after some very tough racing in Poland. Conditions were more suited to twin tips than slalom skis as several foot of snow descended on Slask-Biskidy which, combined with poor visibility, made for extremely tough race conditions. Simon Lyons pulled off another great result, despite a fall on the first run, and came home in 42nd position. Cillian Worrall performed well with a solid first run in slalom and was unfortunate to catch a tip close to the finish on his second run. Lisa McShera also performed well in the slalom and GS. Matt Mitchell is fast following Brian Byrne's footsteps with his no-holds barred attacking style and was unfortunate not to finish (particularly in Giant Slalom where his ski popped off due to the deep ruts). With 47 competing European Nations, 9 Winter Olympic Disciplines, 33 events and 1070 athletes, the festival provided these young athletes from the Ski Club of Ireland with a unique Olympic experience. (more detail at www.eyof.ie)



World Championships The World Championships saw two SCI members (and coaches) Shane O'Connor and Brian Byrne compete. Brian ran in both Giant Slalom and Slalom and was unlucky not to finish in either. For those who know Brian they will be familiar with his all-put attacking style which saw him run some very good split times before pushing a little too hard and ultimately crashing out on the steeper section of both courses. Shane only competed in the Slalom event and managed to secure his best ever result with 96 FIS points (more detail on FIS at www.gis-ski.com).

Junior World Championships As we write SCI race trainee Shane McShera is flying to Munich on his way to compete at the Junior World Championships in Slalom and Giant Slalom. Shane earned his place after 4 months on the FIS scholarship program which allowed him train and race fulltime this season. We wish Shane the best of luck with his races.

English Children's Championships Two SCI children trainees, Stephen Power and Emer Pisarnik, competed at the English children's championships where they performed well in tough conditions. Arguably an easier competition than Borrufa the standard is still very high as the UK have many excellent Children skiers. In addition the race was run on the bottom of the famous Stelvio piste in Bormio, renowned as one of the more challenging world cup downhill's. Best results saw Emer take 35th overall (10th in category) for the Slalom while Stephen took 70th overall (28th in category) also in slalom.

Worth a mention We've some excellent results recently across FIS races in Europe. Shane McShera scoring consist points around 140 show the obvious improvements he has made during the season while Shane O'Connor (recently referred to as being like a fine wine) became the first Irish "part time" racer to make it under 80 FIS points with a 79 at a recent race in Le Markstein in France. This quite an achievement and further raises the bar for those current and future FIS racers.

Some Important Dates

Season Ticket renewals are due from 1st April. Regular practice and lessons finish on 29th March, the slopes will then be open for practice to 09/10 Season Ticket Holders on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings until the end of May.

Questions or comments? Email info@skiclub.ie

www.skiclub.ie

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