

Welcome to the August issue of the *Piste Basher*. It's been a few months since you heard from us here at the Ski Club and one might ask 'what happened to the summer', but don't despair – the weather is improving and we can look ahead with confidence to a wonderful season, so don't hesitate to replace your wellington boots for ski boots.

The slopes were in operation last week for four days for the annual ski race camp and the comments were 'the conditions were ideal, with the slopes running beautifully'. Around 45 racers took part and a bar-b-que was held organised by the parents of the racers, it was a huge success.

The season will get off to a 'kick start' this week with Team Leaders meeting followed by the Instructor, Office and DIN meeting on **1st September** and refresher course on the **5th, 6th & 7th September**. Please note the slopes will **not** be open for practice that weekend (Friday, Saturday or Sunday).

In this issue of the Piste Basher we bring to your attention some of the highlights for September. We will follow with regular updates. Please read on to see what's happening and what events are being planned. Please note the quiz at the bottom and we hope to bring you more of these with a variety of prizes in later issues.

Wishing you all a great season ahead. Remember, this is your *Piste Basher* so if you want us to highlight an event; news etc. get in touch with Sue or Leóin at the ski club office and don't forget to check out our web site www.skiclub.ie for more detailed information.

Rosemary Mayrhuber
President



Calendar

The slopes will reopen for practice to current Season Ticket Holders on Monday, 8th September. Classes will start a week later on Monday, 15th September. Some important dates to mark in your diary are:



1st September	Instructor, Office & DIN Meeting
5th, 6th & 7th September	Instructor, Office & DIN refresher weekend
21st September	Ski Assessment & Tips Session (info below)
4th & 5th October	Irish Open International Races
12th October	League Races 1
18th October	Start of Saturday Night Opening for Season Ticket Holders
22nd November	Snow Ball in Fitzpatrick Castle Hotel, Killiney.

The full calendar can be found on www.skiclub.ie

New Looks for 2008/2009

Exciting plans are under way in many areas and over the coming months you will see progress week by week.

This season we can look forward to a more pleasant 'walk-up' to the slopes in front of the nice, new building. The car parking area remains the same.

Very shortly we hope to commence work on the nursery slopes, with completion planned before the busy season. A team has been formed who will give regular updates on progress etc.

We also have a new website in development and new instructor uniforms in the pipeline. It should prove to be a busy and exciting season!



Membership Renewals

Membership & Season Ticket renewals are now due for the 2008/2009 Season. If you have not yet renewed please call the office Mon-Fri 9-5 on 01 295 5658 to do so. Rates are as follows.

Category	Adult	Family	Student	Child (7-12)	Youth (13-18)	Student Family Supplement
Basic Membership	€80	€160	€80	€25	€40	€60
Season Ticket (includes membership)	€380	€760	€285	€135	€195	€170

Weekend Beginner Courses

Due to the huge success of the weekend courses last season we are planning many more of these over the coming months. However there will be a slight change with the courses running for the Saturday only. There will be an option to continue on the Sunday morning or another session of your choice during the week. These day courses proved very popular for people from the country or those who have busy lives and cannot commit a 4 week course. The first all day course for skiing will take place on Saturday 20th September and for snowboarding on 18th October. Check out the web site for other courses and further details.

Ski Racing Update

As the school holidays draw to a close we're well into the second half of the summer race season. Having already completed 10 races (over 5 weekends) we have seen quite a few successes across the board at all ages of competition. A total of 28 trophies from 49 race starts makes for good statistics. But even better than this, we have had a total of 30 different racers compete from a squad that now numbers 34 regular trainees. With 8 races remaining (over 4 weeks) which includes the Irish International Champs and European Indoor Snowdome Champs it will be an exciting run up to the new winter season.

Well done to all the trainees for a great summer season so far and good luck to Shane McShera for his up coming winter season. Shane secured a scholarship to an FIS development squad where he will benefit from top class full time training in Italy. This is a very prestigious scholarship and the first time anyone from SCI has ever secured such an opportunity.

In addition to all these races we managed to squeeze in a four day training camp at the Landgraaf Snowdome in Holland - an amazing facility with a 500mtr indoor snow slope where the squad were lucky enough to train alongside the Austrian World Cup team no less. Following on from this we held our annual Summer Dry Slope camp which, despite weather's best efforts, was hugely successful and enjoyable.

Upcoming races of note include Welsh Dry Slope Champs (12 - 14 Sept), British Dry Slope Champs (26 - 28 Sept), Irish Championships (4 - 5 Oct) and European Snowdome Champs (10 - 12 Oct). Other dates of note include the October Mid-term training camp at Tignes (25/10 - 01/11).

Sunday Morning 21st September

Are you thinking about what classes to take during the coming season . . . race class, intermediate clinic, advanced clinic etc. etc. – or where do you fit in? Why not come along to this session on Sunday 21st September between 10.30am – 1.00pm. We will have instructors available to give you suggestions, tips and advice on your standard and technique. We hope to have more classes tailored to our members needs this year.

This is a free assessment session for members and season ticket holders from advanced beginner standard to expert skier or snowboarder. Refreshments will be available after the session. Numbers may be limited therefore it is advisable to email your interest to sci@skiclub.ie.



Quiz

We plan to have a quiz in each *Piste Basher* to give you the opportunity to win something from the Ski Club or one of our sponsors. This time we are giving away a course of four ski or snowboard lessons.

To be in with a chance to win give us the answer to following question.

Q: The Three Valleys is a famous ski/snowboard area in France - two of the three resorts are Meribel and Courchevel, is the third Val d'Isere, Val Thorens or Val de Fiemme?

Please send your answer via email to sci@skiclub.ie. The draw for the prize will take place on September 1st.



Questions or comments, or want to be removed from our mailing list? Please contact us.

sci@skiclub.ie

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www.skiclub.ie