

### BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIPS at Meribel

By "foreign correspondent", **Izabella Evans.**

**THE BIG ONE!** The climax of our ski racing season and this year, as in the past, the largest camp on the SPSRC calendar. The good news is that the club is alive and kicking with some of our most promising results coming from our minis, and what's more for a change it's both girls and boys.

Over the duration of the two week camp we hosted the maximum number of 32 athletes. With principal coach, Kevin Blanks, heading up our hard-working coaching staff, he was joined by our own Trin Head together with Swiss trainers, Heinz and Atsuo for the first week and a new addition for week 2, Rudi. Fitness manager, Steve Cooper, and Katrina More-Molyneux were our ever-enthusiastic houseparents.

A smaller group travelled out on 24 March to take advantage of a training week prior to the races. With one of the most dubious seasons snow-wise, since I can remember, the trainees were blessed with snow and dropping temperatures on their arrival at the Hotel Mottaret in Meribel and went on to have excellent conditions for the rest of the week. In addition to this, they also had the added bonus of watching some of the older members of the club, now racing full-time, performing with great success at the British Senior Championships.

Listing the top 10 British results:  
**Senior D/H Ladies:** Chemmy Alcott 1<sup>st</sup>; Rebecca O'Neill 5<sup>th</sup>. **Men:** Peter Whelan 9<sup>th</sup>.  
**Junior D/H Ladies:** Chemmy Alcott 1<sup>st</sup>; Rebecca O'Neill 5<sup>th</sup>. **Men:** Peter Whelan 7<sup>th</sup>.  
**SG Ladies:** Chemmy Alcott 1<sup>st</sup>; Louise Thomas 3<sup>rd</sup>. **Men:** Tristram More-Molyneux 8<sup>th</sup>.

**SL Ladies:** Chemmy Alcott 1<sup>st</sup>; Louise Thomas 4<sup>th</sup>. **GS Ladies:** Chemmy Alcott 1<sup>st</sup>; Louise Thomas 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Men:** Peter Whelan 7<sup>th</sup>. For the combined awards **British Combined Champion and Victor Ludorum:** Chemmy Alcott and **British Non-Team Champion:** Louise Thomas.

Week 2 commenced with the Juniors racing while the Children and Minis continued to train with growing numbers. The club was joined by a host of supporting parents which bolstered the athletes for the challenges of the week ahead (not to mention holding up the flags in the finish area!)

The Juniors benefited from the best weather of the week with the challenging race piste holding up well. Top ten British Junior results were: **Slalom Girls:** Louise Thomas 1<sup>st</sup>. **Boys:** Peter Bruton 10<sup>th</sup>. **GS Girls:** Louise Thomas 1<sup>st</sup>; Helena Bray 8<sup>th</sup>. **Boys:** Peter Whelan 1<sup>st</sup>; Peter Bruton 4<sup>th</sup>. **SG Girls:** Louise Thomas 1<sup>st</sup>. The rest of the Junior Squad performed well, with JP Espinosa being a name to watch for the future.

The last day of the Junior programme was also the first for the Children. This clash of races resulted in the Children's slalom being moved to the Mottaret Stade which some found disappointing as it is not as challenging a slope as the Du Corbey Stade in Meribel which suits our racers. This, in addition, to warming weather created heavier conditions particularly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> run on this south-facing slope. Never-

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Trophy Winners  
Peter Whelan and Louise Thomas



#### Team Selection for England Squad 2007

Congratulations to Peter Bruton for being selected to the A squad and JP Espinosa to the C squad



theless, as always our athletes stood up to the challenge.

In the combined top 15 places in each category, SPSRC notched up the following results:- **Slalom Ch1 Girls:** Imogen Taylor 1<sup>st</sup>; Thomasine Nilson-Wrede 10<sup>th</sup>; Alice Macaulay 12<sup>th</sup>. **Slalom Ch1 Boys:** Jack Gower 6<sup>th</sup>. **Slalom Ch2 Girls:** Kirsty Dixon 11<sup>th</sup>. Notable additions who did not manage both races but had good single race results

were: Eloise Greenhalgh (CH2 Girls) and Daniel Absalom (CH2 Boys).

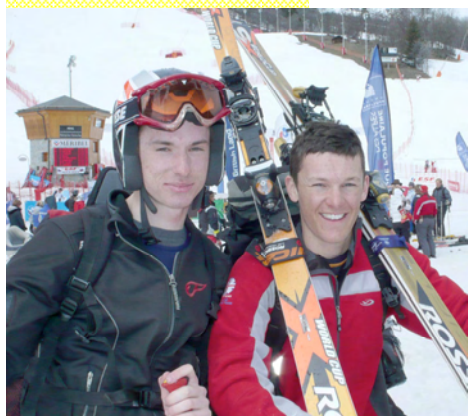
For GS and SG the children moved back to the top section of the Du Corbey Stade, the finish area only accessible to the brave-hearted parents willing to ski to watch their intrepid children power their way at hair-raising speed to the finish (most of the time anyway!). The rest were found guarding the SPSRC flags at the very bottom waiting patiently for any news. The GS took place in snowy conditions with the light conditions varying, this together with the proximity of the girls and boys courses made it quite challenging to recognise the appropriate child until they stood beaming in front of you or alternatively disappeared over the ridge, the latter an indication of a less than perfect run!

The results for the combined top 15 places in each age category were as follows:- **GS Ch1 Girls:** Imogen Taylor 1<sup>st</sup>; Alice Macaulay 15<sup>th</sup>. **GS Ch2 Girls:** Kirsty Dixon 8<sup>th</sup>. **GS Ch2 Boys:** Daniel Absalom 8<sup>th</sup>. Again we had some single run wonders – Jack Gower 2<sup>nd</sup> Ch1 in race 1; Eloise Greenhalgh 6<sup>th</sup> Ch2 in race 1 and Thomasine Nilson-Wrede 10<sup>th</sup> Ch1 in race 2.

On the penultimate day of the championships the children went on to have a training SG, no doubt a wise precaution by the organisers since so few Children's SGs are run. The results for the "SG" were as follows:- **SG Ch1 Girls:** Imogen Taylor 6<sup>th</sup>; **SG Ch1 Boys:** Jack Gower 3<sup>rd</sup>. **SG Ch2 Girls:** Stephanie Espinosa

5<sup>th</sup>; Kirsty Dixon 8<sup>th</sup>; Eloise Greenhalgh 10<sup>th</sup> (clearly our girls prefer going down as straight a line as possible!). In the combined British Championship Awards I am delighted to report that Imogen Taylor took the silver medal in the Ch1 Girls category.

And finally, but by no means least – the MINIS! Competing on two days, the races were made up of a combi race on the first day and then the GS which was singly to count for the British Championship. Unfortunately, nobody seemed aware of this point until after the event, so on a personal note to all race organisers – please publish the conditions of championships/awards prior to the event so there are no nasty surprises on the night! The results, as mentioned previously, were fantastic and the top 15 are as follows:- **Combi Race Girls 2:** Darcie Mead 5<sup>th</sup>; Issy Taylor 8<sup>th</sup>; Emma Mills 13<sup>th</sup>. **Combi Race Boys 2:** Rory Gower 1<sup>st</sup>; James Sieber 5<sup>th</sup>; James Petrie 8<sup>th</sup>; Oliver Krahalski 11<sup>th</sup>. **GS Girls 1:** Melissa Maiklem 7<sup>th</sup>. **GS Girls 2:** Jessica Maiklem 2<sup>nd</sup>; Issy Taylor 7<sup>th</sup>; Darcie Mead 14<sup>th</sup>. **GS Boys 2:** Rory Gower 2<sup>nd</sup>; Oliver Krahalski 9<sup>th</sup> and James Petrie 11<sup>th</sup>.

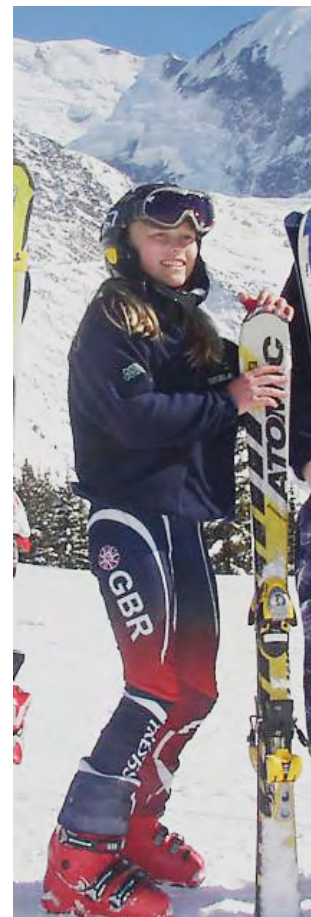


So to wind up, firstly can I say congratulations to all our racers, not just those who achieved placings, but each and every one who came and even to those who couldn't race because they were injured in the run up to the Championships. Maybe for some it just didn't happen this time, for others it was their first major racing experience or for a few injury or fitness let them down. It takes a lot of guts to throw yourself down a mountain at speeds these children travel at. So, as far as I'm concerned there are no losers and all that counts is the experience and what you take from it. Being a spectator certainly puts things into perspective. On more than one occasion I was asked "why are you here?" Well, other than I actually enjoy the

sport, my son Greg was recovering from an injury, training in preparation for the next season and taking all the glory for his coaching help with the minis! You see it's not just

about the racing!

If I've missed anyone out, please accept my apologies!



Thomasine takes 3rd in GS at BARSC



And so does Rory!



New SPSRC Schoolgirls Team

## PERFORMANCE RELATED...

Following their notable performances at the Easter races, three of our younger trainees have been selected to attend fitness tests and train with the British Children's Team in Saas Fee this summer. These are Stephanie

Espinosa, Alice Macaulay and Imogen Taylor (who is now no stranger to the Children's Team having been picked at the BARSC races and has already competed at several European race venues). Well done girls!

## CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

Don't forget to keep Sunday 24 June free for the Sandown Club Championships. As usual there will be a series of timed runs to decide the winners with racers being judged in the usual age groups. It is hoped that there will be enough time to complete 4/5 runs depending on numbers and the best 3 times will count. Prize-giving will take place

afterwards. As well as giving the trainees a chance to show what they're made of, this is a fun, social event in the club's calendar giving new parents a chance to get to know old (existing!). And there's always the lure of bacon butties and coffee at the club bar which will open early to cater for us.

## SPSRC UNIFORM – LAST ORDERS!!!

The next deadline for Sandown uniform orders is **11<sup>th</sup> May** for delivery end of Nov/Dec. It is important to note that Spyder, who supply our uniform, have exceptionally long lead-times and any orders placed after this date are not guaranteed to be here in time for the next season. Gail Gower who now heads our training committee is currently still handling uniform so please contact her as soon as

possible to discuss your requirements. For any racers who miss the deadline, there may still be a limited stock of blue old-style jackets/trousers (second-hand, good quality). Again, please liaise with Gail. Can we remind all members that the minimum requirement for uniform is a club fleece/sweatshirt, particularly for photo/press opportunities.

Photo Credits for this issue:-

Dion Taylor  
Kay Whelan  
Nic Espinosa  
Sarah Carew  
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## SUMMER CALENDER

### LSERSA/Dry ski races

Sun 13 May – Aldershot  
Sun 17 June – Brentwood  
Sun 8 July – Welwyn  
Sun 23 Sept – Bromley

### Club Nationals and Grand Prix races

Please refer to [www.britski.org](http://www.britski.org) or John Harris for info.

### SPSRC Club Championships

Sunday 24 June

### Saas Fee Summer Camp:

14 – 31 August (Juniors)  
21 – 31 August (Children)

### October Training Camp, Saas Fee:

20-30/31st October

#### Sandown Sponsors

Bartletts of Hillingdon Ltd.  
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Lown Travel & Leisure Ltd.  
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## Welcome Newcomers

In this issue, we have a huge number of new "Mini" members to welcome, many of whom have already shown their tremendous potential at the Easter races. Starting with Christian and Katya Bingle-Williams; Henrik Jensen (cousin of Christian, already a Sandown trainee); Alicja and Oliver Krahel-

ski; Jessica and Melissa Maiklem; Darcie Mead; Emma Mills and Alex Lawrence (brother of Ned). We would also like to welcome two new athletes in the Children section – Evie Kock (Ch2Y1) and Abigail Carpenter (Ch2Y2), who many of you already know as Alasdair's sister.

## NEW EDITOR FOR VORLAUFER

We are pleased to announce that David Woolven (Niamh's dad) who has recently joined the club committee has agreed to take over the role of editor of our club newsletter. Sarah Carew, who re-launched the newsletter and pulled it together with the help of

husband, Patrick (and Microsoft Publisher!) is stepping down to make way for "new blood". Good luck to David and please help him by sending in stories, news and photos whenever possible.

## NEW SPONSOR FOR SANDOWN

# SQUIRE FURNEAUX



We are proud to be able to announce that the Squire Furneaux Group have agreed to sponsor the club for the upcoming season. Based in the Home Counties, Squire Furneaux is a family-run business offering the best choice for Volvo, including new and used car sales, rental, service, parts and accessories. We hope that a representative will

be able to attend our club championships in June when we can give them a warm Sandown welcome.

Still on sponsorship - a reminder to some of our newer members that Bartletts of Hillingdon offer sponsorship to club by way of a 15% discount to our racers.

