

Issue 54  
Spring 2022



# TRACKS



The Newsletter for Midland Ski Club Members

**Travels to Antarctica**

**Spreading the word**

**MSC members spotted across the world's ski resorts**

MIDLAND SKI  
CLUB

MIDLAND SKI  
CLUB

**Launch of new  
One Hundred Club**

**A tribute to Barry Smith – Ski Mountaineer**

# Welcome to Tracks from the Editor

Contact: [news@midlandski.uk](mailto:news@midlandski.uk)

Happy New Year to all club members and welcome to the Spring edition of the Midland Ski Club newsletter. It's been a busy winter for all skiing enthusiasts, with a welcome return to the pistes for racers and recreational skiers alike, plenty of dry slope racing, not to mention the Winter Olympics in Beijing.

We'd also like to pass on our congratulations to Dave Ryding for a fantastic slalom win in Kitzbuhel and a second place in Garmisch. It's such a motivation for our younger skiers to see that great things can come from starting out on a dry slope if you work hard enough. See how many club members you can recognise in this photo from when Dave visited the club a few years ago! It's been too long Dave, come back and visit us again soon – you'd be most welcome!

Julie Jones - Editor of MSC Tracks



## Your club needs you!

We can't run our races without support from our skiers and their families, but we understand that volunteering to be a course official can be daunting. There are various roles involved in running a race, from handing out and collecting bibs, acting as a gate judge on the slope, to marshalling the racers at the top and bottom of the slope. If you are interested in getting involved and would like to understand more, please speak to Di, Dave or one of our race managers and they will happily explain what is involved and arrange for you to shadow one of our experienced volunteers at a race.

## 2022 Dry Slope dates for your diary:

Saturday 2 July 2022 - Midland Club National - Swadlincote

Sunday 3 July 2022 - Telford Club National - Swadlincote

Saturday 6 August 2022 - CESA Club National - Swadlincote

Sunday 7 August 2022 - Inter-regional Championships - Swadlincote

Entry details for these and all club nationals, School Races and GBR races in the UK throughout 2022 are published on [gbski.com](http://gbski.com). Once open bookings can be made at Snowsports England online portal. Please check your membership is up to date and any affiliations are valid, as this may restrict your ability to enter races.

## MSC Winter Race League 2021/22

Just a few lines to thank everyone for their help on the race nights and beforehand. This includes all the volunteers (too many to mention but you know who you are!), Gill for the catering and also the Ackers staff. I hope everyone has enjoyed these races as much as us. It has been great to see new and old faces at these events. Thanks! See you all at next year 's Winter Race League!!

Jenni and Di

Just some of this years medal winners including MSC's own head coach Roger



# Launch of new Hundred Club

A message from the Chairs, Di Fennell & David Beech

Midland Ski Club is constantly looking for ways to enable the club, its members, and local communities to benefit from fund raising. We have decided to launch our own Midland 'One Hundred Club', giving members chance to win £250 as well as supporting the club and our nominated charities.

## How will this work?

Members will be able to buy one (or more) tickets numbered between 1 and 100, at a cost of £5 each per draw. In the first week of each month, we will hold a draw, in public, at one of our training sessions or social gatherings. The jackpot prize will go to the owner of the ticket of whichever number is pulled out of the draw each month.

The first member to enter would be able to choose from all hundred numbers, the second person the remaining numbers, and so on. A full list of who's purchased which numbers will be published before each draw.

Tickets are to be paid for by the last Friday of each month, ready for the draw the following week. The only commitment we ask is that members pay for two months at a time. After that, if they don't want to take part anymore, they can release their number(s) for someone else to buy.

## How much could members win?

The member whose number is picked from the draw each month will win the jackpot of £250. We also guarantee that each month, £50 of the proceeds will be donated to a charity chosen by the club. The remaining £200 of ticket sales each month will be retained by the club as fundraising towards repairs, social events, equipment etc.

All participants must be 18 years of age or over, but there is no restriction on the number of tickets you can buy each month. If you are interested in taking part, please contact Di Fennell at [lesleyh@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:lesleyh@blueyonder.co.uk)

Many thanks for your support - Di and Dave

Monthly 100 Club Winner



PAY

One lucky MSC Member

Date: Every Month

THE SUM OF

Two hundred and fifty pounds

**£250**

12-43-18

58642392

For and on behalf of Midland Ski Club

# Easter Fun at Swadlincote!



Bookings are now open for our Easter Race Camps at Swadlincote on 19, 20 and 21 April 2022 with Roger and the coaches. At £59 they are excellent value for money and, even better, lunch in the cafe is included in the price! Get over to Eola and book your space now before they are all gone!! These sessions are for Midland Ski Club members only, but new members are always welcome so don't let that put you off! <https://eola.co/w/1107/activities/easter-race-camps-at-swadlincote>

## Life in a ski hotel

by Tegan Fowkes

I am currently working as a hotel assistant in La Plagne, France throughout the winter season 2021/22 after finishing my Master's degree in Clinical Psychology. I have been a member of Midland Ski Club since birth, however only going on a couple family ski weeks and attending weekly ski lessons at Ackers for a few years when I was a teenager. Therefore, I would consider myself at intermediate skill level, which gave me a strong baseline to improve upon while out here in the Alps. Working in a ski resort means I have the opportunity to ski



most days for at least a few hours and with other people at a higher skill level. I have continued to observe and discuss skiing techniques and tips with so many new people. This has been the reason for my ski skills progression and confidence to experiment with my ski style and tricks.

I originally applied for other positions, such as Chalet Host, the most common position for a Brit working a ski season, and which most of my friends out here do. However, working in a hotel has allowed me much more flexibility and time to ski, specifically in the mornings when conditions are best. Furthermore, there feels like less responsibility as I am working within a team of around 15 people, and do not carry the

weight of preparing or cooking the hotel guest food. Chalet hosts typically work alone or with another individual, having to do all the cooking, cleaning, and hosting. There are some amazing benefits of doing a ski season regardless of the work, meeting new people; getting discounts on almost anything; and as previously mentioned having ample time to ski. However, this type of work can be hard work and exhausting, so being resilient, having experience in hospitality or customer service, and speaking another language is a great addition. Someone who is social, open to new experiences and independent will be best fitting for this 5-month long, intense journey. I can be contacted by email at [tegan.fowkes@gmail.com](mailto:tegan.fowkes@gmail.com) if you have any questions about my experiences.



# A tribute to Barry Smith — Ski Mountaineer

by Tony Costin

MSC members will be sad to learn that Barry Smith passed away on 29 January 2022.

Barry was a long standing friend of mine and many others in MSC, he joined the club in 1996 in order to improve his skiing techniques, he attended many club/training week holidays during his membership.

We first met during 1996 on a MSC Scottish weekend trip to the Cairngorms whereby he introduced me to skinning a technique for ascending slopes on skis. Barry was a member of the ski mountaineering traverse of the Alps from northern Austria to the Mediterranean south



of the Maritime Alps. During this period Barry's skiing improved beyond recognition as a result of having to cope with all aspects of ski mountaineering. This put him in good stead and enabled him to ski with more accomplished skiers on club holidays.

In addition to his skiing abilities he was a very capable mountaineer accompanying me in summiting Alpine peaks including Mt Blanc, the Matterhorn and the Eiger.

Barry will be sorely missed by myself, his friends, and his family especially his devoted wife Pat.

Tony Costin



## Congratulations to John Elgy

British  
Gymnastics

Earlier this month, our former Membership Secretary John Elgy was recognised for his contribution to gymnastics. Members might not realise that John has been involved in the sport of gymnastics all his life, initially as a gymnast, then as a coach and for the last 30+ years as an international judge. In recognition of this John has been made an honorary life member of British Gymnastics, the governing body for the sport in the UK. To quote "the Nik Stuart Honorary Life Member Award recognises outstanding service to British Gymnastics and the gymnastics community for a minimum of 10 years." Congratulations, John!

# Life as a snowboarder

by Amber Fennell



I often get asked what's it really like to live away home for six months of the year with my snowboard team. I have been doing this now since I was 8 years old, so quite normal for me now. The seasons differ from one to the next. The last three seasons have been very up and down with not so many competitions due to Covid. This has not held my team back; there is always plenty of training to be done every day.

A typical day in my team house (which is a large old ski instructor's house, on a hillside in Aschau) goes something like the following. As I have my own room, I have to keep it tidy and do my own washing. This is the same for my 10 team mates.

I get up around 6.30 to 7am, breakfast next a quick bowl of cereals and there is always fresh baked bread. When that's finished a quick check that I have all the gear that's needed for the day and slope pass still in pocket, you can't imagine the number of people that forget their slope pass. Then it's in the van for the journey to slope.

At the beginning of the season it's mostly Hintertux then as the weeks go by we start to travel to other slopes, so varied terrain. Once at the slope we start by doing all our drills and then onto tricks. This involves kicker of different sizes and also different rail types.

Lunch we have on the slope, hopefully with some sunshine, and a chat about the jumps and what we want to do in the afternoon. Back into the van arriving home around 4pm.... ish.

Once home mad dash or a shower and get ready for fitness. Normally fitness is three times a week, with the other two nights being taken up with trampoline and the other swimming. Have to say swimming has not happened this season with Covid and in the past curfews. Usually by this time dinner is ready, once that is over and the team has cleared up, then it's up to my room for homework every night! and also on Sunday. Saturday we have off some weeks. I have a petrol trials bike over here and sometimes we get time to go over the quarry and ride, that too has stopped because of Covid.

Friday night is what we call Pizza Party night which is a more causal night and sometimes have a movie to watch. As there is no television, it's good to relax watching a movie - that's if I am up to date with my homework, and for those of you who know my mom, it goes without saying anything, she's on top of my schoolwork, so no missing it!!

With not many competitions taking place this season I have been able to take a couple of weeks skiing, which has been great to catch up with friends. This has also allowed me to spend Christmas at home which is only the second time in all the years I have been snowboarding.

This has meant trips home for a couple of days and then off again to somewhere else in Europe. The days I have been home has allowed me to play a few games of paintball and training with my two brothers and my paintball team 'Lionesses.'

I do have to say I have been very lucky during this time to make loads of friends from different countries and a big thank you to my sponsors NeverSummer who picked me up a few years ago!

I hope I haven't bored you too much with this piece and if you would like to follow me on Instagram [amberfen23](#) I would be happy with that. Thanks, Amber.

**Stop press: Amber has been chosen to represent Great Britain at the World Snowboarding Championships in March, in Switzerland. Congratulations Amber, we are all very proud of you!**

# Travels to Antarctica

Antarctica from Nick Hunnisett, looking at both the historic expeditions of Scott and Shackleton, and also looking at Nick's own travel experiences in Antarctica roughly 100 years later.

Nick outlined with pictures Scott's ill-fated expedition which reached the South Pole in January 1912, only to find the Norwegian team had beaten them by 34 days. Nick had visited the base hut, now preserved as a museum, and showed us photos of his own travels in the area, the rich Antarctic wildlife (many different penguins and flying birds, seals, walruses, and whales) plus pictures of the terrain, and his helicopter exploration of the areas.

Nick then outlined Shackleton's Transcontinental crossing of Antarctica, which amazingly left British waters 5 days after the outbreak of World War I in August 1914.

Shackleton's trip planned to cross the Weddell sea, then land and cross the Antarctic continent via the South Pole. However, the Endeavour was trapped by ice in the Weddell Sea and finally sank, so they had to abandon their original aim. After various difficulties over many months, Shackleton with a group of 5 men travelled in a small boat over 700 miles to South Georgia, and then had to attempt a crossing of the frozen island, equipped with just their normal boots (to which they had added screws to grip in the snow), a carpenter's adze and 50 ft of rope. They did the journey of 32 miles in 36 hours and managed to send help to the rest of the crew; Nick had dramatic photos of the difficult terrain, as his group retraced this original route in good health, with modern polar clothing and suitable equipment, but yet they took longer!

The photos that accompanied the evening's talk were an amazing range of snow, icebergs, other Antarctic scenery, and wildlife. The evening was both very enjoyable and also informative. As if it was planned, the very next morning, TV news reported that an expedition was setting off to try to locate the wreck of the Endeavour from the position that Shackleton had recorded in his log!

Catherine Frankenburg





Come along to our stand at the National Snow Show on 15-16 October 2022 at the NEC in Birmingham. It's a great opportunity to catch up with club members, buy a few goodies, as well as listening to some of the fantastic speakers including Anna Turney, Keme Nzerem, Chemmy Alcott, Eddie 'The Eagle' Edwards, Mollie Hughes and Tim Warwood.

If you're able to spare a couple of hours to help us on the stand, Jeff would love to hear from you! Contact him via [news@midlandski.uk](mailto:news@midlandski.uk)



## Dry Slope Ambassadors

We are very proud and happy to announce that 3 members of Midland Ski Club have been chosen as Snowsport England Dry Slope Ambassadors 2022, following in the footsteps of previous club members. Congratulations to Amber Fennell, Charlie Deem and George Brown!!

Read more about what the ambassadors do at <https://www.snowsportengland.org.uk/dry-slope-ambassadors-for-2022-announced/>



## Peer in the snow is go go go!



The trip to Snow Valley in Peer, Belgium is all set to go! Check your diaries for 24th-28th October 2022 and pencil in a well-earned half term break.

If any of the club's previous trips to Europe are anything to go by, this will be a fantastic experience for racers of all ages.

Prices will include accommodation and all meals, slope passes and coaching from MSC coaches. We will arrive (skiers arrange their own transport) on Monday 24th October ready for an afternoon training session and leave on Friday 28th October after lunch.

Please contact Di as soon as possible with your details and she will provide further information including cost.

Peer is a very popular venue and Di needs to confirm our booking as soon as possible, so don't delay!

# MSC members enjoying winter fun

Club members have been spotted in resorts far and wide this winter, as well as representing the club at races from U10 up to FIS. Here are a few pictures of members out and about enjoying the snow!



# Meet the Coach

In this issue we find out more about David Beech



*How long have you coached with the club?* 12 months

*How old were you when you first skied?* 40

*Where did you learn to ski?* Borovets

*Favourite UK dry slope?* The Ackers (of course)

*Favourite snow resort?* La Plagne (so far)

*What skis do you use?* Many but mainly Nordica

*Ski idol?* Bode Miller / Candide Thovex

## **Best ever race result**

I don't have a best ever race result, it is the (slow and steady) improvement that I have seen over time that is my best result! I am not a natural racer (some may say I was never a natural skier!) I was always over cautious around others when I first learnt to ski and I started racing to improve my reaction times and skill sets. It gave me the confidence of really being in control at speed on the piste and to take off the hand brake.

## **Biggest crash**

Luckily I haven't had any! Although on one training week when we (Bryan, Jennifer and myself) went back up for 'one last run' at the end of the day I decided to do a speed run only to realise as the brow of the hill was fast approaching that I wasn't on the piste that I thought I was and didn't know what lay immediately ahead, I decided to go to ground at 50 mph (before I got any faster) and luckily just had a sore shoulder for a while to remind me to check I'm on the right piste next time!

## **Why do you love skiing?**

Hey, it's FUN! Freedom, fresh air, mountains, fitness, good company and coffee stops. Seriously what's not to love! Skiing the mountains for me is pure enjoyment and my aim is to widen my opportunities to experience all they have to offer. I have started to telemark which feels to me like taking that sense of freedom to another level, I plan to go and play on a pair of twin tips in Finland with my son, James, who shall be snowboarding (we may even swap sometimes as I have been to the dark side before). Like I said, it's fun!



## **How do you spend your time when not skiing?**

I have a full-time position managing a tool making company in Warwick, I regularly play 5 a side, I am currently learning Finnish, play guitar and family time is very precious to me. I also spend some time in the joint chair role of the club and instruct at the Snowdome every Saturday. I seem to like to keep busy!

## **Tell us something about you that might surprise us?**

I have two snakes, a corn snake (Slithers) and a royal python (Myra)! I say 'I have' but the truth of the matter is that I have inherited them as they are actually Laura's (my daughter) but despite her leaving home they are yet to do so!

## **Can you give us one tip for aspiring skiers?**

Enjoy the wins! Our sport is so rewarding. Each new skill we learn is a win! I still remember the sense of satisfaction from when I could first snowplough in control, from when I discovered I could skate the uphill sections along trails. It matters not what skill we achieve, it is the sense of achievement itself!

# Winter 2021/22 Alpine Championships

As a club, we've had 11 of our junior members racing as part of British Seeded Alpine events in Austria, Italy and Scotland from U10 - U16 age categories.

Many fantastic performances with first time racers performing brilliantly, some smashing personal bests and others showing grit and determination in the face of adversity. In particular, Hattie Taylor getting a 5th place finish in the U10 stubbie slalom in the English Champs in Bormio, Italy; Robert Jones achieving a 4th in the U14 Super-G at the Ambition races in Santa Caterina, Italy; and Georgia Blaikie landing a fantastic 2nd in the U14 Slalom at the Scottish Champs in the Cairngorms.

Congratulations also to Adam Orzel, who trained with MSC at Ackers, on his overall third place U14 finish at the English Champs in Bormio. More details of the race results can be found on [gbski.com](https://gbski.com).

Our older FIS racers have been in action all round Europe too, with Ellie Jackson taking a fantastic 2nd place in the slalom at Markstein, France together with a total of 4 top ten finishes.

Through March and early April, more Alpine racing is taking place, with junior races in Andorra, Switzerland and France, along with other MSC members taking part in local European races and in other snow disciplines. There is so much to be proud of in all our members' achievements, and so much to look forward to heading into the 2022 artificial season starting towards the end of April.



Les Jones





# social scene

## more than just a ski club

## Walking dates

[socsec@midlandski.uk](mailto:socsec@midlandski.uk)

**Saturday 9 April 2022**

**Circular walk from Ullenhall**

Meet 10.15am for 10.30am start

Led by Graham and Yvonne Gossage

Approx 8 miles

Bring a packed lunch

Drink and/or meal at pub after the walk

Further details and to confirm you are coming by email to [yvonne.gossage@outlook.com](mailto:yvonne.gossage@outlook.com)

**Thursday 5 May 2022**

**Circular walk from The View, Hill Farm Marina, Stratford Rd, Wootton Wawen,**

Led by Gill and Steve Pickard

Meet at 10.45am to start walking at 11am

Approx 7 miles, bring packed lunch.

It can be muddy, so walking poles recommended. The food is good at The View after the walk with plenty of parking.

Please book your place by emailing Gill Pickard at [gillian.pickard@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:gillian.pickard@tiscali.co.uk)

## Snowdonia walking break

A three day mountain walking break is being planned for 25 to 30 September 2022 in Snowdonia, with accommodation in a local hotel. Keep the date free in your diaries and let Jean Brayshay know via [jean.brayshay@gmail.com](mailto:jean.brayshay@gmail.com) if you want to express an interest. An application form will be in the next newsletter.



# The 'alternative' MSC winter training week

What do skiers do when they can't go skiing down mountains? – Gill Pickard



The club training week was deferred yet again, the grim truth that we had lost out on another week of alpine skiing quite rightly caused a feeling of gloomy acceptance amongst the group due to go. Then Mike Thomas came along with a proposition. An alternative week away, walking in the Peak District. Mike offered to organise and lead the week's walks, he identified a good place to stay – the Travelodge in Ashbourne - and we all booked in accordingly, some staying the whole 5 nights and others joining for a few. The lodge was in a good location and although it did not have any dining facilities there was an Aldi right next door which

provided all our needs. Food for breakfasts and picnic lunches, plus essentials for the traditional room parties.



We started the trip at Carsington Waters on the Sunday morning with a gentle walk around the area (9 miles), good paths with a great café at the visitors' centre. The sun was out and we were off to a good start. The Stepping Stones Pub adjacent to the lodge was an easy place to have a first night's meal.

We were so lucky with the weather, 6 sunny days in January with just 1 hour of rain the whole time we were there and that had finished before we got out of the cars.

Over the next 4 days Mike led us through some beautiful countryside with varying terrain and levels of ascent. We tackled Gritstone Edges, starting at Baslow (12 miles). This was the longest of the planned walks and had some magnificent views along the way.

We ate lunch at The Grouse Inn but with 6-7 miles still to go we were aware that the light might beat us before we regained the carpark. We watched the wolf moon rise over Curbar Edge as we walked the last mile and arrived at the cars as darkness fell. Mike had booked us all in for dinner at The Royal Oak so it was a quick turn around and a very nice meal which included venison bourguignon and pheasant casserole.



On Tuesday with the weather still smiling on us we did Dovedale and Tissington (9 miles), both lovely.

Wednesday was Lathkilldale (11 miles) and Thursday the Limestone Way (7 miles). Each day was a different experience.



What stands out in my memory is the enjoyment of being surrounded by wonderful countryside and walking it with a great bunch of people who would usually only get together when going skiing. A special bonus was that a couple of folks who could not make the ski week were able to join the walking week, this was the silver lining in the cloud named Covid.

A really big thank you goes to Mike, without whom we would have stayed miserably at home. Let's do it again!

# An Ashbourne Alternative

Rolly Winzer

With the postponement of the John Arnold Training Week, instead of Niederau, on Monday I joined a bunch of displaced skiers in the Peak District for spell of magnificent walking, in magnificent scenery with magnificent weather. Mike Thomas could not have organised it better. There were 14 of us to head off from Baslow in the frosty sunshine to clamber up on to Curbar and Froggatt gritstone edges. Here the rounded rocks project proud like high above the sweeping landscape and we lingered long to appreciate the views and pose just a little bit, for photos. We still managed the pub though for a late lunch.

The next day dawned even frostier but with the same sunshine. We departed from near Thorpe, skirting the pyramidal Thorpe Cloud down into Dovedale. After the obligatory pose on the stepping stones across the river we strolled up the tourist trail beneath imposing crags and buttresses, frequented not by the usual hoards but herons, robins and dippers. We climbed the still frosted grassy bank above Milldale into dry stone wall country. Mike threw in a delightful surprise on the way back, arranging for us to drop in on “Pipes in the Peaks”, a remarkable collection of Crompton organs along with a dozen or so vintage and classic cars including an e-type jag and a couple of lotuses. They all still run, unlike Steve and Gill’s motor which needed a push-start when we returned to the cars.



First thing Wednesday was wet and cloudy but we passed out of it as if through a curtain on the way to Monyash. Initially, Lathkilldale is a narrower, rockier canyon. Lower down, where a stream emerges, ash die back was being cleared in patches on the steep sides and replanted with alternative species in order to maintain future tree cover. We took a break by a bridge and being a former centre of lead mining, an old mine shaft has been made accessible for viewing. The pubs in Yowlgrave were shut but the pie shop wasn’t so we sat on their sunny benches partaking of their excellent pies.

The sun was out in full force again on Thursday and from Thorpe we were now reduced to a magnificent seven. Following the Limestone Way proved a little tricky in places as it crossed fields laced with other paths. Narrow stone pillar stiles were a feature where it paid to have narrow legs and not too fat a bum! Our favourite pub the Royal Oak near Ashbourne hosted a picnic lunch before a return along the lower Dove valley. A contrasting but equally enjoyable day.

Many thanks to Mike for organising this alternative and to all those who made it so enjoyable. It was brave of Shona who knew no one else but Mike to join us and hopefully, she will join us on the white stuff in the future.

Those in attendance at times various:

Bryan Arnott, Jean Brayshay, Tony Costin, Richard Hopkinson, Shona Hudson, Yvonne and Graham Gossage, Fran Mercer, Gill and Steve Pickard, Pete and Jill Seamen, Mike Thomas, Rolly Winzer

# Hi ho, hi ho, It's off to walk we go!!!

**By Jean Brayshay**

The training week was deferred, yet again,  
Oh, "What can we do?" was the refrain.  
Mike Thomas, as always, came to the rescue.  
With a walking break most of us could do!

The Travelodge in Ashbourne he did book,  
And messaged us all to have a look.  
A bargain deal he had found  
A five night break, saving us ten pound!!

At Carsington Water some of us met.  
A walk round the lake, without getting wet.  
The next day, Baslow, was the start place  
Over Froggarts Edge we did pace.

Day 3 we parked at the HF home,  
From Thorpe village we did roam.  
Along picturesque Dovedale for a mile or two,  
Stopping at Millers Dale for the loo!!

Then over the hills onto the Tissington Trail  
"Please stop for lunch", we did wail.  
Our first room party was held that night  
With twelve in the room, it was a bit tight!!

The wine and beers began to flow,  
Then into Ashbourne we walked, real slow.  
To fill our rumbling empty tummies  
With creamy pasta and terrific curries!!

Day 4 we walked in Lathkilldale,  
After 13 miles, some were looking pale!  
The Royal Oak fed us well,  
A short drive back & into bed we fell.

Our last hike out was on the Limestone Way,  
From Thorpe to Ashbourne, a cracking day.  
Some then went home, a few of us stayed  
Because for 5 nights we had payed!!

For the lack of skiing some felt bad  
But after all, not one of us was sad!  
For Mike's great planning we were very glad  
And WHAT A GREAT TIME WE ALL HAD!!!

# A WONDERFUL LIFE ON THE EDGE - Tony Costin

This was my first day, the weather was still, cold and crystal clear, perfect conditions for a high-level edge walk. The walk started in Baslow town car park which was approx 30 minutes' drive from our Travelodge base in Ashbourne. The first part of the walk took us through part of the Chatsworth House estate and eventually into gritstone country where foot slipping was non-existent due to the nature of the rocks.



The Curber edge was then reached which led onto Froggatt edge, both edges consisting of pure gritstone which took me back to my early scrambling/rock climbing days. What a wonderful pronounced edge this is offering far extending views on a crystal-clear cloudless sky.

By this time everyone was running on empty for lack of fuel and a lunch stop beckoned. At last, we spotted our lunch stop, a pub called the Grouse Inn which stimulated an increase in pace and spirit.

The pub was a traditional Derbyshire watering hole and offered a wide range of excellent fodder, we sat on a sun-drenched terrace and thoroughly enjoyed our rest and lunch.

After an hour we were refuelled and eager to complete our day's walking, the walk was somewhat easier following the river Derwent but just as enjoyable, however we took a pause by one of the weirs along the course to lend an ear to one of the boss's (Mike) jokes about a misfortunate cat attempting to cross a weir to which he was met with a cringe filled response.

What a great memory sticking day !! A jewel in a crown.

Many thanks to the Boss for his exemplary leading/ organising skills and to all who made the day so very special.

## Fundamental ski training sessions – David Beech

I want to let you all know that the 'ski fundamental' sessions have started again...these sessions offer great value for money general ski coaching - just £20 for 2 hours on a Thursday night at The Ackers, they are ideal for newcomers, individuals and family groups looking for general ski coaching, in order to improve their skills, build their confidence, develop fitness to ski, refresh old skills, pre-training for winter trips from snowplough upwards and to provide an opportunity to meet other club members.



These sessions are suitable for families wishing to improve their skills together. Breaks may be taken during the session. These sessions will run EVERY OTHER Thursday at The Ackers commencing 10th February 2022. The session times are 6:00 'till 8:00pm and you can book these now through our Eola booking system: <https://eola.co/w/1107/activities> We look forward to seeing you there!

## Club Ski Holiday Obergurgl, Austria 4th-11th March 2023

For the 2023 Club holiday we will be staying at the Hotel Alpenblume in Obergurgl in the Örtal valley. The hotel has 20 rooms and we have 17 of them.

The bedrooms all offer an Austrian twin bed, ensuite shower and WC and some have a shared balcony.

Örtal comprises 363 km of ski slopes, 90 mountain lifts and 6 ski areas - Obergurgl, Sölden, Hochoetz and Kühtai

Please look at the link for more information

<https://www.ingham.co.uk/ski-holidays/ski-resorts/austria/obergurgl/hotel>

The basic cost of the holiday is £1180 and includes flights and transfers.

The deposit is £150 per person. Final balance will be due at the end of November

For further details contact Diana at [waterwizard10@gmail.com](mailto:waterwizard10@gmail.com)

**Club holiday places have all been taken. There may still be 2 or 3 family rooms available in the hotel but will be at a higher rate. Let me know if you want me to investigate an extra room or if you wish to be on the reserve list.**

# Thursday morning social skiing at the Snowdome

By Gillian Pickard



One of the disadvantages of living in the Midlands is the lack of skiable mountains, or even hills anywhere near enough to be reached on a regular basis within our own borders. The pandemic's restrictions have drastically impacted on our skiing for two seasons now and those of us not keen on plastic have been deprived of our sport on the white stuff. How to keep the skills honed and the muscles toned for our eventual return to Alpine skiing?

Over the past months a regular group of skiers from the Midland Ski Club have met up informally at the Snowdome in Tamworth. The MSC has no official presence there, the club is our link. Some have skied recreationally whilst others have joined the over 50's coaching session that the Snowdome run bi-weekly. It has proved a popular choice and although I advertise one date per month to meet, ski and socialise, most people opt to come more often.

The next few sessions earmarked for a social ski at the Snowdome are: -

Thursday 31st March 10:00 - 13:00      Thursday 28th April 10:00 - 13:00

Thursday 26th May 10:00 - 13:00

Please book directly with the Snowdome

The details of the sessions can be found using this link: -

<https://www.snowdome.co.uk/ski-snowboard/lift-pass-sessions/lift-passes/>

Choose 'Coaching, then Over 50's Club' or 'Discount Sessions', then 'Morning Club' if you want recreational ski only. Being a member of the Snowdome gives you a reduced price and if you intend to come regularly, I recommend joining – you very quickly get your money back and more.

**Prices are: - Adults**

Over 50's Morning Club - £45.00 (£31.50 member) (includes tea/coffee)

Recreational Morning Club - £39.00 (£27.30 member)

Normal skiwear is necessary, helmets are compulsory. Boots, skis and helmet hire are included in the price or bring your own. If you use their skis ask for the best, newest ones! Remember to bring a mask or buff. There are small lockers available in the changing area to store your stuff whilst on the slope. These require a 20p piece which is non-refundable.

Some of us stop for lunch in the Alpine Bar afterwards.

I do hope you will come along and be part of the regular group. If you let me know you are coming and I/we will look out for you!

Gillian Pickard





Following the tragic death of Team GB athlete Ellie Soutter on her 18th birthday, her family has committed to continue fundraising in her memory. We support upcoming young winter sports athletes, both financially and mentally, to help them fulfil their potential and achieve their dreams.



Please help us to help our  
young winter sports athletes

Supporting talented young winter sports athletes through funding initiatives and coaching them through the pressures of professional competition.

We have created different corporate funding packages for all budgets, offering promotional opportunities to businesses. You can make a real difference to a talented young winter sports athlete

**VISIT OUR  
WEBSITE**

[www.theelliesoutter.foundation](http://www.theelliesoutter.foundation)

TO MAKE A DONATION VISIT:  
[www.gofundme.com/f/riding2win](http://www.gofundme.com/f/riding2win)



[media@theelliesoutter.foundation](mailto:media@theelliesoutter.foundation)

## Coming up in the Summer newsletter!

Review of the British Championships in Tignes  
Results from the Midlands Schools Race  
Review of the club holiday 2022

Highlights from the Winter Race League  
Review of the Esskia British Finals  
Another exciting instalment of 'Meet the Coach'

If you have any news stories or photos to contribute, please send them to [news@midlandski.uk](mailto:news@midlandski.uk)