

Issue 53
Winter 2021



TRACKS



The Newsletter for Midland Ski Club Members



**You're never
too old to race**

It's not all about skiing

Catch up on the social side of the club

Runners-up
Inter-Club Championships

A Chille night in Manchester
Club away day enjoyed by all

Welcome to Tracks from the Editor



Ho ho ho! Welcome to the new-look Winter 2021 edition of the Midland Ski Club newsletter 'Tracks.'

In this bumper issue we will round up the summer's racing, introduce you to our new committee, delight you with details of the social activities members have enjoyed over the summer, and ask you to 'Meet the Coach' in our new feature.

There is also a Christmas competition (see back page) for our younger skiers so pens at the ready to win an exciting Christmas treat!

A next edition is due out in late March so if you have any articles that you would like to be reviewed for inclusion please email them to me by the end of February at news@midlandski.uk

Julie Jones - Editor of MSC Tracks

Hellos and Farewells

At the Club's AGM in September members said their reluctant goodbyes to Gerry, our retiring Chairperson. Having given five years unwavering commitment to the club, steering the club through the unprecedented challenges of the last two years, Gerry is taking a step back, but will continue on the General Committee as Membership Secretary, replacing husband John.

A huge thank you to Gerry and John for their immense contribution and enthusiasm.

Members were delighted to welcome our two new Joint Chairs, David Beech and Dianne Fennell, new Treasurer Designate Neill Currie and new committee member Julie Jones, who has taken over editing the newsletter alongside Russ Pike.

Many thanks to all other committee members who agreed to stay on and continue supporting the club.

Your club needs you!

We can't run our races without support from our skiers and their families. In September 2021 Snowsport England introduced a new Alpine Officials Training Pathway, offering a simpler route to gaining the necessary knowledge and experience needed to become a course official. No advance knowledge is required, you don't even need to be able to ski, so check out the link below and get involved!

<https://www.snowsportengland.org.uk/volunteers/alpine-officials-get-trained-so-you-can-volunteer/>

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. 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

At the time of going to press two MSC Winter league races will have taken place. A thoroughly enjoyable night for skiers of all ages and ability, especially for those new to racing who want to cut their teeth in a more relaxed format. The next race is on Friday 14th January, proceedings start at 5pm and all races are held at Ackers Adventure, Golden Hillock Rd, Birmingham B11 2PY.

14 January 2022 • 11 February 2022 • 11 March 2022

Get your entries in asap! Contact Di Fennell for details at lesleyh@blueyonder.co.uk



Two heads are better than one

A message from the Chairs, Di Fennell & David Beech

Hello and the warmest of welcomes to one and all. As a club we are doing well, we have very good membership figures, currently circa 315 with a number of members still to renew - please take this as a gentle reminder. We are proud as members to be part of this club, with its long history and bright future, proud to be a part, to contribute and to belong. We are continuing to develop strong links with the Warwick schools foundation, Kingsley and Tudor Hall as they increasingly become part of our club.

We are doing especially well given the uncertain times in which we are living, many of us are so looking forward to being able to get to resorts and be able to ski the mountains, to feel that sense of freedom that two planks and a can do attitude (or the vin chaud) brings.

The club are now operating successfully from two home slopes, holding sessions and races at both Swadlincote and Ackers Adventure. We have grown our pool of coaches and they have all been very well received, offering a diversity of approach, singular in delivering improvement for the individual. We have grown our membership with a successful snow show and with the taster sessions that have allowed us to show potential members what a wonderful club we have.

We have training weeks, club holidays, ski sessions at the snowdome, fun races (and some more serious) – all being organized and run by volunteers, those that work behind the scenes, and sometimes unseen. The work that has been done, sometimes several times as plans have to be changed due to imposed restrictions. We owe a debt of gratitude to the hard work undertaken on behalf of the club, notably to Bryan Arnott who has been working so hard to keep the John Arnold training week viable against the odds.

We hope to continue to see more social events being undertaken as we hopefully see reduced restrictions (we can but hope) and would love to see increased participation and support from the whole of the membership for these. Catherine works hard to provide opportunities for us to get together and connect with one another, to be informed, entertained or to enjoy some well organised walks, please look out for these upcoming events as we would love to see you join us for these, especially our new members, it is a wonderful way to become more involved.

We have started 'Fundamental sessions' on a Thursday evening at the Ackers and these may be of particular interest to our new members who expressed an interest in the club holidays in future, come along and meet some of our members, be coached to improve, have a fun night and get in some practise prior to hitting the slopes!

A special thank you goes out to Gerry Elgy for all the work she has done as Chair of Midland ski club in her tenure as she has given the club a strong direction and purpose and has passed the baton to Di and myself to do our best to continue her great work.

We now have a new email address that we would love you to use in order to let us know of any news or events that we should spread among our members, one email to news@midlandski.uk will see all those responsible informed and this can then be rolled out quickly to inform the wider membership.

Di & Dave

It's not just the future that looks bright!

Gloucester Summer Race League 2021

Report by André Tchakhotine



The development team's return to racing was a mixed one with Gloucester announcing changes to the race format for their Gloucester Summer Race League (GSRL) that served to put off some of the younger skiers and rightly lead to the coaches and managers electing not to actively encourage any stubby racers to enter. Despite this setback 26 club members raced across the 5 rounds including a mix of experienced, developing and novice skiers.

The compacted schedule of Club Nationals, GB Races and National Championships also impacted availability for the GSRL particularly from the U14 to U21 cohort.

Highlights of the series are:

- ♦ 9 novice racers gaining their first ever race experience, taking it in their stride and making progress throughout the rounds.
- ♦ 5 developing racers attending most rounds building their confidence and climbing the results lists.
- ♦ 12 experienced racers supporting the newer team members with help on course inspection, ski prep and general race day support.
- ♦ There were medals at every round for

Midland racers in most categories and wins in U10 boys, U10 girls, U40 men, U40 women, O40 men and O40 women in at least one round each.

♦ Skiers aged 6 to 70 took part with a smile on their face, often drawn against each other in the afternoon dual slalom, including contests between siblings, husband and wife and oldest versus youngest.



The standout outcome, quite rightly but perhaps surprisingly, has been how popular the series has been with our over 40 skiers. Our 4 female racers were often the only members of their category, taking all the medals even when other clubs were represented. The 5 male O40s competed well in a big field. This all shows that the club is doing a great job of inclusivity; encouraging participation from all sections of the club.

On a personal note it's been a pleasure taking on the management of the team which was made pretty straight forward by David Beech's thorough handover and support throughout the summer by racing, marshalling and covering in my absence.

André Tchakhotine
Race Manager

Club National, English & Welsh Championships or Inter Club: whatever the race, MSC came out on top!

Les Jones Rounds Up the Dry Slope Season

The outdoor race calendar started slowly with some races being cancelled and others being rescheduled later in the summer. The Club National competition was suspended for clubs but the majority of club national races continued to run. The outdoor GBR series of 5 races took place albeit at slightly different venues to planned due to covid cancellations. The early races took place with skiers racing in Covid secure bubbles scheduled throughout the day, with later races moving to either a 3 race format (with minis in the morning, ladies over lunch and the men in the afternoon), or to the traditional all day format where possible.

Aside from our seasoned competitors who were back racing after a one year break, we had 9 skiers race nationally for the first time. Out of 20 national outdoor races across 11 venues in England, Scotland and Wales, we had representation at every single race, with 43 skiers competing across all male and female age categories from under 10 up to masters.

For the club national races, we had:

43 skiers achieving 35 age category wins, with 76 top 3 podiums

At the 5 GBR races, we had:

19 skiers racing, with 10 age category wins and 19 top 3 podiums

Across the national championships i.e. the British at Gloucester, the All England at Silksworth, the Scottish at



Hill End, and the Welsh and Welsh Open at Llandudno, we had:

25 skiers, 6 age category wins, 17 top 3 podiums

Some stand out performances, are 7 of our skiers achieving podiums in every race, one of our skiers achieving 8 back-to-back wins, and other skiers improving their finish positions by 8 places when comparing the start of the season with the end.

In addition to the individual races, there were a couple of team events. At the Inter-Regional Championships at Swadlincote, the CESA region fielded A, B and C teams, and the A team, which was made up from only Midland skiers, convincingly took the title.

At the Inter-Club Championships in Silksworth, we fielded A and B teams, and Midland A team narrowly lost out on the title, coming a very solid second.

On 5 November 2021, the club was delighted to hold its first club championships in two years. Held at Swadlincote for the first time, there were fireworks-a-plenty as members eagerly competed for the prestigious titles.

Congratulations to our winners Phil, Louisa, Charlie, Hannah, George, Robert, Erin, Nicholas, Sacha, Huw and Hattie.

Les Jones, Race Manager

Artificial snow- real champions!

Chill Factore becomes MSC members second home as Andy Orzel reports...

It has been fantastic to see indoor ski races running again for the first time since 2019. The impact of Covid has affected the indoor scene for obvious reasons, whilst outdoor training and racing was able to start much sooner, the indoor circuit has had a bit of a lag. We have however, been lucky to have some races running.

All races that Midland skiers have taken part in have been at the Chill Factore in Manchester, as follows:

The first race weekend was in May, with the Ambition and Excel Championships bringing much excitement. All in all, there were 12 racers attending and the club came away with 10 age group podiums across the two days and one overall victory.

July was a busy month and felt somewhat back to normal. We had 5 racers taking part in the British Indoor Schools Race with 3 podiums gained. Following this the GBR series kicked off with races 1&2. In total we had 11 racers taking part and we gained 7 podiums across the two days.

In August, the Anglo Welsh and British Indoor Champs took place, this also included GBR 3 race (combined with the Anglo Welsh). Due to the low number of races so far in the year, the usual seed point threshold was removed to allow more racers to enter. We had 10 racers attend from the club and combined across the two days we achieved 9 age group podiums and 2 overall podiums.

A number of other key races which would have taken place by now have been disrupted. Here's to a return to as near to normal for the 2022 Indoor Season. Dates for these events are already being published on gbski.com - here's to more future MSC success.

Andy Orzel, Race Manager





social scene

more than just a ski club

Club Walks

socsec@midlandski.uk

Saturday 18th December Walk around Sutton Park.

Start just inside park at Bracebridge entrance where there's a car park and a cafe nearby. Meet outside cafe at 10.30.

The Park can be v muddy and wet so bring good footwear for walking!

Contact Catherine for more details on 07738 460950

NEW YEAR'S DAY WALK - BRADGATE PARK LEICESTERSHIRE

As a cure for a New Year's hangover, Mike Thomas is leading a 7 mile walk in Bradgate Country Park, which is just northwest of Leicester. The prompt 10.30 start is from the main carpark in Newton Linford; postcode is LE6 0HB Map reference SK 523097.

The car park has a number recognition system so with this in mind, pay before you leave. Lunch will be in one of the pubs in Woodhouse Eaves.

If you want to join the walk, please either email or text Mike so he can book tables for lunch.

The circular walk initially climbs up to a fine viewpoint at Old John Tower then on to Woodhouse Eaves, via Lingdale Golf Course. After a short lunchbreak, there's some road walking before making our way through the National Forest Way, and back into the main park which is well populated with deer, and past the remains of Bradgate Chapel. (The last section can be walked in the dusk, if this is needed!)

"Talk on Beer making and Tasting"

Our first Midland Ski Club Social evening get together got us off to a great start post covid. On 17th November, club member Steve Price gave us an entertaining and very informative talk covering a huge array of information on the history and techniques of brewing, which covered the 4 different types of beer round the world (beers, ales, lagers and lambics), the numerous stages of brewing and processes of canning and bottling, and how the brewers achieve their colours, and tastes, to name just a few of the points he covered during the evening!"



Dates for the club's evening meetings in early 2022

Meetings will be held at the Minworth Club & Lodge, Robinsons Way, Minworth B76 9BB. Start time is from 7.15pm for socialising and talks will start at 7.45pm

Thursday 3 February 2022 Travels in Antarctica - this will be an illustrated talk on Visiting Antarctica presented by Nick Hunnisett.

Thursday 10 March 2022 - Tom Somervell will talk about the early Everest expeditions from a different perspective. 'Howard Somervell, Man of Everest, my grandfather'

Solihull school girl matches

Olympic legend's record!



English Schools Ski Association Team Competition 2021

In September 2021 club members came together in their respective school teams to compete at the regional qualifiers in Stoke and Gloucester. With fantastic results across all age categories, our skiers from Kingsley, Warwick School, Stafford Grammar, The Friary School, King's High Warwick and Solihull School proudly represented their schools, some racing competitively for the first time.

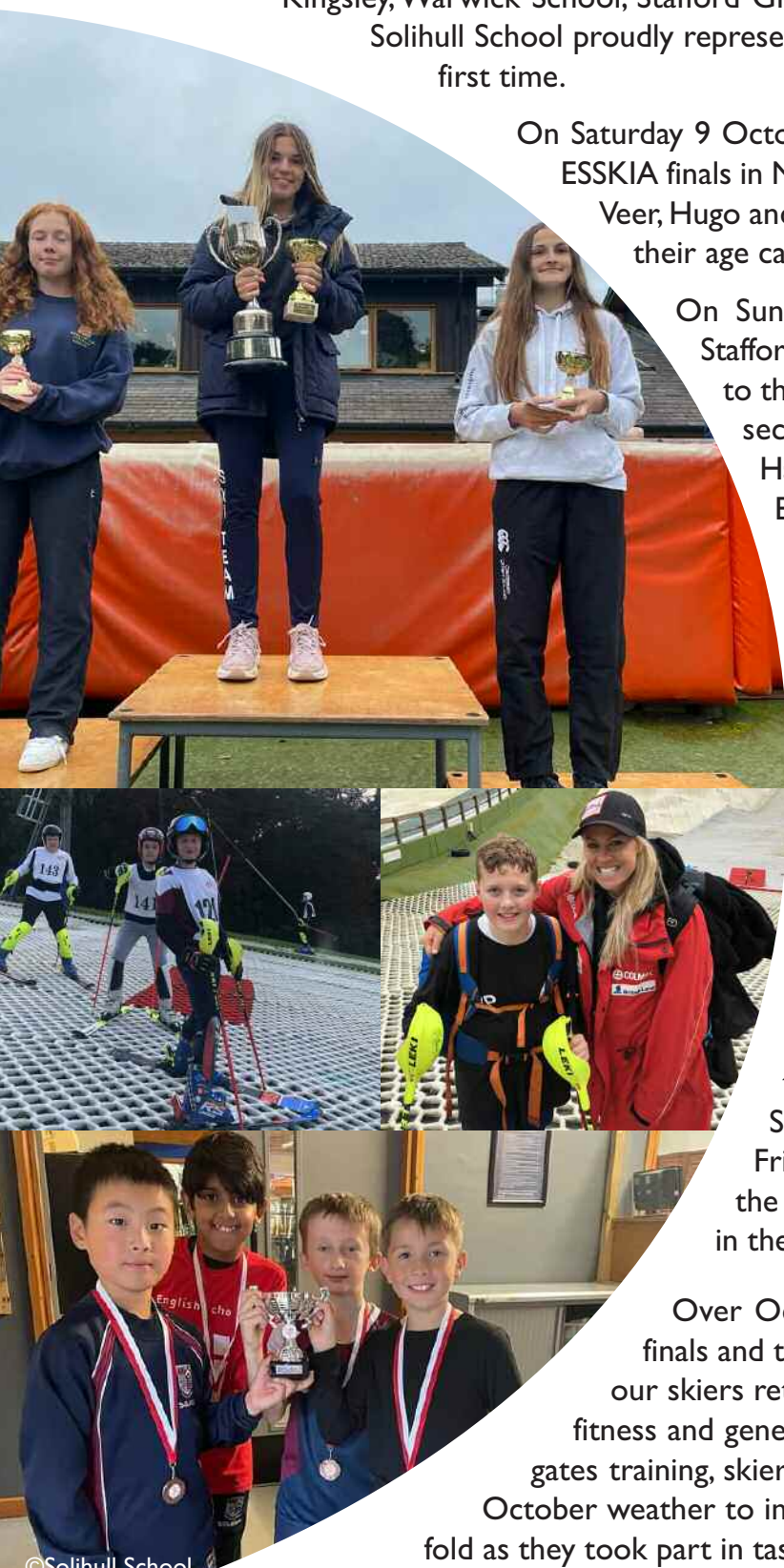
On Saturday 9 October, eleven of these schools teams competed at the ESSKIA finals in Norwich. Congratulations to the Solihull team of Josh, Veer, Hugo and Tommy who brought home the third place trophy in their age category.

On Sunday 10 October, teams from The Friary Lichfield, Stafford Grammar and Solihull competed to gain qualification to the British Schools Championships. With fractions of a second separating the teams, Solihull Boys A (James, Harvey, Dan and Robert), Solihull Girls A (Ella, Lottie and Emily) and Solihull Girls B (Olivia, Jess, Gracie and Eleanor) all qualified to race in Llandudno. Congratulations to Ella who matched the achievement of Chemmy Allcott, who was there watching, by winning the fastest girl trophy for the third time!

British School Championships, Llandudno 27th & 28th November.

Sadly due to storm Arwen, bringing a tree down in the middle of the ski slope in Llandudno, the finals weekend had to be postponed. It is hoped that the home countries' school ski associations can find a date in the diary to re-arrange. As well as the schools who qualified in the final from Norwich, due to their best runners up place and some schools from Scotland not wanting to make the long journey The Friary School, Lichfield, and Stafford Grammar also made the final. We hope to be able to report some good news in the next edition of TRACKS.

Over October half term, buoyed by success at the ESSKIA finals and the prospect of the Club Championships shortly after, our skiers returned to Swadlincote for three days of race training, fitness and general all-round fun. Combining fitness with stubby and gates training, skiers of all abilities and ages took advantage of the mild October weather to improve their skills, welcoming new members into the fold as they took part in taster sessions.



School teams' success thanks to MSC Coaches



NSSA Open Championships 21st November - Swadlincote

To those of you who aren't sure why there are two school ski associations and what's the difference, National Schools Snowsports Association is open to individuals representing their school, whereas ESSKIA the school is represented by a team of at least three. So it's a great opportunity for skiers who don't have an abundance of skiers at their school to still achieve and be recognised individually by their Head Teachers.

Last month saw NSSA hold their Open Championships at Swadlincote, and as usual MSC were well represented by a dozen or so skiers. There were some great stand out performances in all age categories and we had podiums including some individual gold medals in all age categories.

Although NSSA encourage single skiers from a school to take part, if more than 3 children are from the same school they can enter as a team with their individual placings in their age category being added together to give a team score. Stafford Grammar had 2 MSC members in the team and came second in the mixed championship, and the Friary School from Lichfield made up entirely of MSC members won the boys championship, in their first season racing together.

A huge thank you must go especially to Roger, Toby and Emma over the past few weeks who have worked their magic.

For more details on the popular NSSA race leagues being held at both Swadlincote and Stoke-on-Trent throughout Winter 2021/22 visit www.schoolssnowsports.co.uk

Russ Pike

A YOUNG MSC MEMBERS THOUGHTS ON THE DAY

Following an early start to the morning waking up at 6:00am I ate a briosh quickly (for breakfast.)

Then eventually came to Swadlincote after the journey that me and my brother slept in the car.

We got our bibs and got ready. Then we headed for the slope then did bounces whilst skiing normally then stuck the outer pole down the hill then just skied normally the rest. I went behind HH (Huw Harding) in perfect timing all the way down the slope then they started to set the course and we came off chatting. It was a great day - Jon

All the hard work really does pay off



On those dark, cold, wet nights when Roger is asking you to drive harder into the gate and all you want to do is go home - well hang on in there as hard work pays off as we congratulate our young skiers who have been selected to represent their countries in this summer's squad selections:

English Alpine Squad: Amber Fennell, George Brown, Emilia Orzel, Lauren Bloom, Ryan Bloom, Ellie Jackson

GB Snowsport Alpine Squad (FIS): Oliver Weeks, Jack Upton, Toby Case

Snowsport Wales Squad: Oliver Weeks, Adam Lee, Joe Feiven

Dry Slope Ambassadors: Toby Case, Lauren Bloom

Our first time at Chill factor by Reece

Having only had a week on snow in 2021 it was great when I heard MSC were organising a training session at Chill Factor. I wasn't sure what to expect as I've only ever skied indoors at Tamworth and always thought it's not very good compared to Les Gets.

My 'Mr transport' took my brother and I up to Manchester late Sunday afternoon, and when we arrived at Chill we were amazed how big it was compared to Tamworth, it even had shops in it!

I was really surprised how good the snow was at Chill, and my brother and me had a brilliant night and it was great to see so many members of all ages. The coaching as usual was really good and to have half the slope to ourselves was amazing. We learnt so much about technique on snow compared to dry slopes and I can't wait for the next time.

Sadly the dad of my good friend Finley Royle, had a really bad accident on the slope next to us, and is awaiting an operation so not able to ski this year - get well soon Chris.



BASE LAYER GLOVE FIT THERM PANTS TRAINING SHORTS HOODIE



Look better - ski better!

Refresh your wardrobe ready for the winter by treating yourselves to Midland Ski Club clothing. Follow this link: <https://2and2print.co.uk/midland-ski-club/>

National Snow Show, NEC

On the weekend of 23/24 October, club members came together to promote the club at our stand at the National Snow Show at the NEC. With prizes donated by Ski Racing Supplies, Ski Bartlett, Lockwoods and Alp Sport an exciting prize draw enticed prospective new members to enquire more about everything the club has to offer.



Meet the Coach

In this issue we find out more about Emma



How long have you coached with the club? 6 months

How old were you when you first skied? 12

Where did you learn to ski? Ackers & Snowdome

Favourite UK dry slope? Hillend, Edinburgh

Favourite snow resort? Lech, Austria

What skis do you use? Volkl on snow, Fischer on dry slope

Ski idol? Axel Lund Svindal

Best ever race result

It wasn't even a race it was a super g training day back at uni championships in France, it was the best result purely because I survived without crashing. I had never done super g before in my life, its mental!

Biggest crash

2014 in Alp D'Huez I had a compression fracture in my t12 vertebrae and bruises in just about every part of my body after a big fall on the bottom sector of the ski cross course. Nobody else was caught up in the fall luckily. Big tip to anyone with balance issues do not do ski cross pump track sections on twin tips, the spring back they give you might well not be the one you were expecting.

Why do you love skiing?

"There is something special about skiing that as a sport it can bring so many people together from many different walks of life. Its fun but challenging and constantly changing as new technology, equipment and techniques come around. I love skiing for the memories, friends and travel opportunities it has given me in life. I never leave a slope without a smile on my face."

How do you spend your time when not skiing?

I love to be outdoors doing various sports, exploring nature and travelling. I am currently studying for a masters degree in Sustainable Development so someday I will be surrounded by books, papers and my laptop. I love to learn languages, cultures and meeting new people.

Tell us something about you that might surprise us?

I have a fear of vertical heights so yes looking down from chairlifts and gondolas is not something I get overly excited about.

Can you give us one tip for aspiring skiers?

Best advice I was ever given and so I happily pass it on - when skiing in a mogul field talk to the bumps as you go past as if they were friends. They suddenly become less scary.



Raise funds for Midland Ski Club



every time you do your everyday shopping online!

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online – from your weekly shop to your annual holiday – you could be raising free donations for Midland Ski Club with easyfundraising?

This is a super-simple and easy way you can support the Club and raise funds for all activities. There are over 4,000 shops and sites on-board ready to make a donation – including eBay, Argos, John Lewis, ASOS, Booking.com and M&S – and it won't cost you a penny extra to help us raise funds.

All you need to do is:

1. Go to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/midlandski> and join for free.
2. Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping.

After you've checked out, the retailer will make a donation to Midland Ski Club at no extra cost to you whatsoever!

There are no catches or hidden charges and Midland Ski Club will receive funds that can go towards running all aspects of the Club for the benefit of all members.

Thank you for your support!

What is easyfundraising?

easyfundraising is the UK's biggest charity fundraising site. It's simple to use, and it's free. Since 2005, good causes and charities across the UK have raised over £24 million with easyfundraising.

How does easyfundraising work?

easyfundraising turns your everyday online shopping into donations for your favourite cause, at no cost to you.

How?

Just visit your favourite retailers through the easyfundraising website and then shop as normal. Once you've made a purchase the retailers will then make a small donation to Midland Ski Club to say "thank you". There are over 3,300 retailers to choose from, so you'll be spoilt for choice.

How much will I raise?

The donation per purchase will generally be between 0.5% and 10%. Some retailers - including insurance and broadband providers - will pay a flat fee which can be in the £100s.

How can easyfundraising help Midland Ski Club?

Using easyfundraising means that we will have a steady stream of donations coming throughout the year. It's an effortless way of raising funds consistently alongside all our other fundraising initiatives. Once signed up, you will raise a donation for Midland Ski Club every time you shop online via easyfundraising - whether you're doing your weekly grocery shop, buying car insurance, booking a holiday or even switching energy provider.

Is it really free?

Yes! You won't spend a penny more than normal when shopping online.

For further details visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk

Stubbies corner

Christmas 2021 Word Search

V C D M C C H Y T A D C S N W S Z G
Z H M R R Z H A U T C R W Y G K K U
G R S O O M S C R O L E A U A S Z I
E I T S M I T K K M U I D S T M M O
L S U S B D O E E I B N L A E G U W
F T B I L L C R Y C N D I N S S F W
D M B G E A K S W G O E N T B N U I
K A I N H N I X Y F E E C A F O H N
W S E O O D N N K A L R O V Z W X T
T M S L L I G D Y N A S T A R L K E
V F U P M W B O O T S K E Y J F Z R
M Q O Y E D B Y X U E X T U N S X W

Find the following words in the puzzle.
Words are hidden → ↓ and ↘ .

ACKERS
ATOMIC
BOOTS
CHRISTMAS
CLUB
CROMBLEHOLME
DYNASTAR
ELF

GATES
MIDLAND
NOEL
REINDEER
ROSSIGNOL
SANTA
SKI
SNOW

STOCKING
STUBBIES
SWADLINCOTE
TURKEY
WINTER

Guess the Santa and win a chocolate Santa!

Can you work out which familiar face from the club is disguised as Santa? Get your thinking caps on and email your answers to news@midlandski.uk before 24th December to be in with a chance of winning a chocolate Santa!

Over 16s and non members need not apply.

Editor's decision is final!

