

The Slope!



News from Ski Club of Ireland (SCI) Racing Club

Message from the Chair, Mark Ward-Bopp

Welcome to the first edition of the Ski Club of Ireland Racing newsletter.

Every few months we will aim to keep you updated with training and racing events and share news of what is happening on the dry slope and snow.

We've had a great start to the season, with an away trip to Wales and hosting the 2022 Irish Championships. The league races have been well attended and very competitive! I look forward to the rest of the winter season and next spring/summer dry slope events.

This newsletter belongs to us all, so if you've any suggestions or would like to include some information feel free to email racing@skiclub.ie.

Mark Ward-Bopp



In This Issue:

- Message from SCI Racing Chair
- Introduction to SCI Racing Committee
- Update on SCI League Races
- Information on GBR Races
- Additional Dates for Your Diary
- FIS World Cup Update
- Hintertux Update
- Message from Mini's Coach.

2022/2023 SCI Racing Committee

- **Chair, Mark Ward-Bopp**
- **Committee Member, Bernadette Brown**
- **Coach, Conor Columb**
- **Coach, Carolyn Dent-Neville**

We would welcome two more committee members with administrative and organisational skills to join the committee to help organise events, communicate to members and write this newsletter. 😊

If you are interested, please contact racing@skiclub.ie.

We appreciate that a committee role is not for everyone, so if you can volunteer but can't commit to committee, we would really appreciate any help you can lend. Trust us, there's a job for everyone!

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Ski Club of Ireland



@skiclubofireland



@skiclubofireland

SCI League Race Update

The Ski Club of Ireland league race calendar is in full swing, with Amelia Allen leading the women's standings and Adam Brown leading the men's competition.

League races take place once a month throughout the season, and are open to all members who can comfortably ski from the top of the main slope.

On each race day there are two events – a slalom course consisting of short turns, and a giant slalom course consisting of longer, more open turns. Participants take two timed runs through each course, and their fastest run counts. By competing in these races, you earn league points, with prizes for the overall winners, as well as spot prizes, awarded at the end of season races.

The league races aren't just for race squad members. We would really like to see more members of the wider ski club community, and particularly more adults, getting involved – so come along and test your mettle!

Sunday Morning League Race Dates:

- 8th January
- 26th February
- 11th March (dual slalom competition) *
- 26th March
- 22nd April (end of season)

*Note, the dual slalom will be Saturday evening.

Additional SCI Dates For Your Diary

- **Summer Camp**
Friday 25th – Sunday 27th August 2023
- **Irish Championships**
Saturday 7th – Sunday 8th October 2023.

Thank you again to everyone who helped with the 2022 Irish Championships.

We would like to organise training for officials in advance of the 2023 Irish Championships. Please let us know if you're available on Saturday 7th and/or Sunday 8th October.

GBR Races

Running throughout the year, there are races held with age categories ranging from U10s all the way through to Masters. Competitions are held on artificial dry slopes and in snow domes across the UK and Ireland.

These events provide the opportunity to gain seed points: oBARTS for outdoor and iBARTS for indoor races. The rules for the running of the national ski races are defined in the British Artificial Competition Rules (BACR), posted on: www.gbski.com.

To be eligible for seed points, you need to be affiliated with Snowsport Wales. Further detail can be found on: <https://snowsportwales.com/membership/>.

For anyone who is already affiliated and competed in the Irish Champs, you can find your updated seeded points on www.gbski.com.

SCI plan to attend the following away races:

- **Friday 19th – Sunday 21st May:**
Welsh Outdoor GBR (1&2), Llandudno, Wales
- **Friday 8th – Sunday 10th September:**
Welsh & British Outdoor Champs, Pontypool, Wales
- **Friday 1st – Sunday 3rd September:**
Scottish Outdoor Champs, Hillend, Scotland
- **Friday 22nd – Sunday 24th September:**
NWSC CN Race, Llandudno, Wales.

We're pleased to advise that the Olympic Bus will be available. Team participation is subject to the number of racers available. If you wish to attend, please email racing@skiclub.ie at your earliest convenience.

If racers wish to attend any additional events independently, an event calendar and entry details can be accessed via www.gbski.com. In the past some of our racers have also individually attended:

- **Saturday 6th & Sunday 7th May:**
Welsh Indoor GBR (1&2), Chill Factore, Manchester
- **Saturday 8th & Sunday 9th August:**
Welsh Indoor Champs, Chill Factore, Manchester.

Snowsports Association of Ireland (SAI) are responsible for all FIS & Children's International Races, including the Lowland Champs & Trofeu Borrufa. You can be added to their mailing list by emailing: snowsportssai@gmail.com.

ON THE PISTE

FIS ALPINE SKI WORLD CUP

Carolyne Dent-Neville

The FIS Alpine Skiing World Cup has finally kicked off in earnest, after a faltering start plagued by weather-related cancellations that have sparked debate around the scheduling of early season races, and a wider discussion on the implications of climate change.

The World Cup is the pinnacle of alpine ski racing. Racers compete in a circuit that takes them all over the globe. There are four main disciplines – the technical disciplines of slalom and giant slalom, and the speed disciplines of superG and downhill.

The tech tour began with a men's giant slalom in Sölden, Austria. Last year's World Cup winner, Marco Odermatt, took top spot. Joining him on the podium were Slovenia's Zan Kranjec and Norway's Henrik Kristofferson. Kristofferson has traditionally performed poorly in this race, however he made the switch to new ski brand, Van Deer, and so far the skis seem to be working for him.

The women's tour began with a slalom double header in Levi, Finland. Mikaela Shiffrin proved that she remains a force to be reckoned with, taking the double win, and both reindeers that came with it. The tour then moved to Shiffrin's home turf in Killington, USA. The giant slalom was won by Switzerland's Lara Gut-Behrami, who seems to be returning to her best form. For the first time in this event's history, Shiffrin didn't win the slalom. Instead, top honours were shared by Switzerland's Wendy Holdner and Sweden's Anna Swenn-Larsson, both of whom were standing on the top step for the first time. Fans were particularly happy to see Holdner finally get the win, after 30 podium results in classic slalom.

The speed schedule for the men began with a downhill in Lake Louise, where Norway's Aleksander Aamodt Kilde took top spot – his first time reaching the podium in Lake Louise. Odermatt, who managed third in the downhill, came back fighting to take the win from Kilde in the super-G.

The tour will continue with a jam-packed schedule until the end of March. It will be exciting to see Britain's Dave Ryding back in action when the slalom races get going in early December. Later this season there will also be the World Championships held in France, where hopefully we will get to see some of our homegrown talent in action.

HINTERTUX



Finn McCann

This year was my first year in Hintertux and from the moment I arrived I knew I was going to love it. Throughout the entire day we were never short of things to do, whether it was a meeting or land training there was always something to do. On the mountain conditions were great and I felt my skiing benefited greatly from the training. All the coaches were really nice and made me feel very welcome. I really enjoyed my time there and hope to be back again.

Callum Keatinge

I really enjoyed the whole experience in Hintertux. A whole new experience as I had never skied on a glacier before nor on proper GS skis with GS training on snow. The food was pretty good and the hotel was good fun. I think it has improved my skiing and I am already looking forward to going again next year.



Note from Saturday Minis Head Coach

Moselle Foley

The Ski Club Minis section is aimed at younger skiers loosely based in the 7–11 year-old age bracket. Sessions run on Saturday mornings from 10.00 to 11.30am. Taking a fun-based approach, coaches use a wide range of training tools to improve performance and to prepare younger children for race training. There are obstacle courses, jumping, backward skiing and even chocolate 🍫

If you or your kids are in that age bracket and comfortable skiing from the top, then come along for a try-out any Saturday morning. The season is broken up into two terms – Pre- and Post-Christmas – with 10-12 sessions scheduled in each. You have to be a Club member and there's a fee per term (ask in the office).

Moselle Foley is the Minis Chief so when she's not sailing around the planet, you'll find her there ably assisted by Ciaran Lee, Stephen Chandler, Conor Columb and occasionally some trainee coaches!

P.S. – there's a WhatsApp group for notices to the Minis parents so make sure your number is included!

JUST FOR FUN, **SPOT THE DIFFERENCE**



*That concludes our 1st newsletter. Our last training session this season is **Sunday 11th December** for the Sunday Race Squad and **Saturday 17th December** for the Minis, and then we start back on **8th January** for the 4th league race.*

Many thanks to all the racers, parents and everyone who have supported SCI Racing in 2022. On behalf of the SCI Race Committee, a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

Mark.

