

BARSC

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2007

The BARSC Championships, over New Year, continue to be our most important event of the season. This year's lack of snow all over the Alps did not make for ideal racing conditions for much of the winter but Derek Metters, the Chief of Championships, did a marvellous job in putting on any races at all, with some moved to a higher slope. Sadly, the Super Gs could not take place but the Juniors had a slalom & GS in Val Thorens whilst the Children had 2 GSs & a slalom in Les Menuires. The minis also had two races. Derek and his team are to be congratulated on their efforts. The lack of Super Gs is an issue and BARSC is looking at the possibility of putting on more FIS Super Gs later in the season.

In addition to the Championships, BARSC again ran Minis' races in Méribel where there were over 100 entries. A 'combi' race was included this year for the first time and generally well received, although it was felt that the French did not co-operate as well as they might by building a very basic course. Ingrid Christophersen and her team did a terrific job in running the races on BARSC's behalf.

Club races were run by the DHO – the British Schoolboys in Les Menuires, the LSC – the British Schoolgirls in Flaine, the Kandahar – the Masters in Courmayeur, the BSA - the Inter School Ski Challenge in Les Houches and BUSC – the university races in Les Deux Alpes. The move of the Welsh Championships, from Oppdal in December to Champéry in March, proved popular with many athletes travelling there to get races they might not otherwise have had. The reinforcement of the entry rules for the British Championships caused problems but it was generally considered to be a good thing and the races were a great success.

On the national front, the British team did not perform as well as it might, with the exception of Chemmy Alcott, who had a good season culminating in the World Cup Finals in Lenzerheide.

The modernisation of SnowsportGB did not receive approval. Whilst not accepted, some of the proposals are moving forward, notably the Coaching Scheme. It is hoped that more positive news will evolve. Jason Cockburn has left for pastures new and been replaced as Chief Executive by Mark Simmers who, we hope, will bring a breath of fresh air to the proceedings. Oliver Jones continues to work tirelessly as Chairman, giving up a large part of his time, and Susie Berry is to be thanked for her work representing BARSC on the modernisation proposals.

BARSC members continue to contribute a large amount of time and energy to British skiing generally. Special mention must be made of Peter Heath, the National Seeder, and Jenny Shute who manages the Children's Team as well as being SnowsportGB's Child Protection Officer. Jim Hewitt continues as Chief of Championships for the British Junior & Children's Championships whilst Susie Berry has taken on the Chairmanship of the Children's Team selectors.

Finally, I should like to take this opportunity to thank John Thomson for his help in preparing the Minutes of the Board Meetings.

Sarah Robinson
21 May 2007