

The LSC British Schoolgirls' Races *30/31 January 2006*

This popular team event, organised by The Ladies' Ski Club and sponsored by World Challenge Expeditions and The Skiers' Trust, returned to Flaine at the end of January. The sun shone and everyone was happy to be back for the 48th running of the races. Many of the same schools returned as well as four new ones this year and the Hotel Aujon was packed to breaking point as usual!

As before, the first day was spent training and three separate slopes were used to accommodate the large number of training pistes. There were thirteen instructors in all, and countless more independently, but the skiing legs returned and the girls had a good, if exhausting, time.

Monday is always a busy day for the organisers and racers alike and started with the giant slalom on the popular 'fleche' course. It was sunny again but cold for the gatekeepers in the shade and they must be thanked for their efforts. The races could not run without them.

Jo Ryding (Kandahar) was easily the best racer in the field and didn't disappoint winning the giant slalom by over four seconds – an age in ski racing. Amanda Alldridge (Surbiton High School) put up a spirited fight to finish second – a good result for her as she's still in the Children age category – whilst Helena Bray (Sandown Park) came in third with Elizabeth Palfrey (Vikings) and Amanda Rennie (St George's Edinburgh) second and third to Amanda Alldridge in Children 2. Emily Evans (Rochester Grammer), hot off the plane from the British Children's Team races in the Czech Republic, did very well to win Children 1 ahead of Eloise Greenhalgh (Surbiton High School) and the unregistered Ella Hartley, who has just spent three weeks training at the British Ski Academy in Les Houches. It was an outstanding result from her, beating many other registered racers. Ella easily won the unregistered child category and Rachael Hallewell (Sherborne) took the junior equivalent.

The parallel followed on from the GS, run on the bottom of the same slope. The poor waiter (a Tommy Cooper lookalike according to some!) in the restaurant above the finish hut struggled to get the girls' lunch but he managed somehow and they just made it to the start on time. The parallel is always the highlight of the two days' racing and it was no different this year with the LEH girls (Franki Simonds, Kirsty Dixon & Lois Parmenter) beating the Aiglon College A team (Katja Larsen, Grace Parker & Liz Stevenson) in the final. Aiglon, based in Villars and former hosts to the Schoolgirls' Races, did extremely well to have both their teams in the semi-finals. The other losing semi-finalists were Sandown Park.

Jo won again on Tuesday, this time in slalom. She was followed home by Franki and Amanda Rennie, a good result for the latter who won the Children 2 category with Elizabeth Palfrey and Alexandria Moran (BSA) second and third respectively. Emily was once again first in Children 1 with Eloise second and Piera van de Weil (Downe House) third. Livia Zafiriou (Wycombe Abbey) was the best unregistered junior and Clementine Kent (St Mary's Calne) the best unregistered child.

Just to complicate matters, another Amanda was on hand, Pirie this time, with the team from Aiglon and acted as referee for the slalom. She said it was the first time she'd been to the

races – let's hope it's not the last! She was a very good racer in her day and has valuable experience to pass on to the girls.

Not surprisingly, Jo walked away with the combined prize, with Franki second and Helena third. Thanks to her performance in the slalom Amanda Rennie won Children 2 from Elizabeth Palfrey and Amanda Alldridge whilst Emily Evans scooped up yet another cup for Children 1 with Eloise Greenhalgh second and the promising Ella Hartley third.

Sasha Sassoon (Wycombe Abbey and a registered racer) is worth a special mention. She was put in her school's B team so that the school would have a shot at the prize for the best team with no registered racers (which they won). Coming from start numbers of 119 in GS and 122 in slalom, she skied into 8th place overall and is to be congratulated on an excellent performance.

Helena led the Sandown Park team (Alex Emerton & Hanne Davis) to the best team overall whilst Franki's LEH (Kirsty Dixon & Lois Parmenter) was the best British based school.

Base Camp Group, DHO, Kandahar and SCGB also sponsored the races. Much appreciated prizes were donated by Atomic, Base Camp Group, Fat Face, Salomon and Snow+Rock.

Giant Slalom

CH1 1 E Evans (Rochester Grammer); 2 E Greenhalgh (Surbiton High); 3 E Hartley (BSA)
CH2 1 A Alldridge (Surbiton High); 2 E Palfrey (Vikings); 3 A Rennie (St George's Edinburgh) **Overall** 1 J Ryding (Kandahar); 2 A Alldridge (Surbiton High); 3 H Bray (Sandown Park) **Unregistered racers** **JR** Rachael Hallewell (Sherborne) **CH** Ella Hartley (BSA) **Best British School** Lady Eleanor Holles

Slalom

CH1 1 E Evans (Rochester Grammer); 2 E Greenhalgh (Surbiton High); 3 P van de Weil (Downe House) **CH2** 1 A Rennie (St George's Edinburgh); 2 E Palfrey (Vikings); 3 A Moran (BSA) **Overall** 1 J Ryding (Kandahar); 2 F Simonds (LEH); 3 A Rennie (St George's Edinburgh) **Unregistered racers** **JR** Livia Zafiriou (Wycombe Abbey) **CH** Clementine Kent (St Mary's Calne) **Best British School** Lady Eleanor Holles

Combined - Individual

CH1 1 E Evans (Rochester Grammer); 2 E Greenhalgh (Surbiton High); 3 E Hartley (BSA)
CH2 1 A Rennie (St George's Edinburgh); 2 E Palfrey (Vikings); 3 A Alldridge (Surbiton High) **Overall** 1 J Ryding (Kandahar); 2 F Simonds (LEH); 3 H Bray (Sandown Park) **Unregistered racers** **JR** Rachael Hallewell (Sherborne) **CH2** Clementine Kent (St Mary's Calne) **CH1** Ella Hartley (BSA)

Combined – Teams

Best Unregistered Team: 1 Wycombe Abbey A; 2 Sherborne; 3 Millfield A
Best British School: 1 Lady Eleanor Holles; 2 Sheffield High; 3 Queen's Chester
Best Team Overall: 1 Sandown Park; 2 Kandahar; 3 Lady Eleanor Holles

Parallel

1 Lady Eleanor Holles; 2 Aiglon A; 3= Sandown Park & Aiglon B