

## The LSC British Schoolgirls' Races 2008

Fifty years of the Schoolgirls' Races, who would have thought it? They were blessed with glorious sunshine, happy girls, assorted hangers on and all those who had run the races previously, including one of the founders - Liz Fulton. It was a pleasure to see her there and she gave a lovely speech at the anniversary dinner saying how they used to cut branches off trees to make the poles and colour old sheets to make the flags. What a change from the rules and regulations of today! The Secretary General of FIS, Sarah Lewis, was on hand to hear it all and it was noted that she had won the races in her day.

The proceedings started with the Giant Slalom on Monday 28 January. The snow was good (unlike last year), the course held up well and the girls thoroughly enjoyed it. Franki Simonds (LEH) skied a blisteringly good race to win by nearly five seconds, an age in ski racing. She was followed by Stef Ovenden (Cheltenham) and Liz Stevenson (Aiglon). Stephanie Espinosa, the first of the Children 2 girls was fourth. All top three children 2 girls finished in the top ten overall, a great achievement. Alice Macaulay skied very well to finish first in children 1, ahead of many older skiers. Vivien Krall (Millfield) skied into 16<sup>th</sup> place to win the unregistered junior prize and Ella Hartley (Bryanston) walked away the winner of the unregistered children prize. LEH was the best school.

The parallel followed later the same day but this time took place on the bottom of the Stade as the powers that be in Flaine had decided to remove the Poya poma during the summer to make way for a new chairlift. As ever, it all went swimmingly and they loved it. It is easily the most popular of the three events and it's lovely to hear all the cheering at the finish, not to mention the camaraderie between the girls. There were several crashes and spills, occasionally from the fancied team, but it was the Aiglon A team that came through to beat Millfield A in the final. Everyone was thrilled for Aiglon as they played such an important part in the staging of the races for many years in Villars.

Tuesday was slalom day and, like last year, this was held on the bottom of the GS piste. It's a much nicer slope for the girls, more turns and undulations, and they loved it. This time Charlotte Evans (Kandahar) skied brilliantly to beat Stef with Franki third. Stephanie Espinosa was again fourth and the best of the children 2 girls, all in the top ten. Alice was the winner of children 1 with Natasha Krefting (Heathfield St Mary's) the best unregistered junior and Ella taking the children's prize once more. Surbiton High was the best school this time.

In the combined Franki easily won the overall, thanks to her fantastic run in the GS, ahead of Stef and Charlotte. Stephanie Espinosa and Alice Macaulay walked away with the children categories, having won both events, as did Ella Hartley in the unregistered children 2 category. The best unregistered junior was Natasha Krefting and Sophie Caldwell (Snowsports) was best in children 1. The team competition is always the most keenly fought. The girls love being part of a team and it shows. LEH was the best British School and Best Team overall ahead, on both occasions, of Surbiton High's A team. An emotional Surbiton B team won the newly renamed Eve Alcott Cup (in memory of Chemmy's late mother) to cheers all round and Bryanston beat Wycombe Abbey A to be the best team with no registered racers.

The races were organised by The Ladies' Ski Club and sponsored by Mind The Gap Year and Base Camp, who were both represented. Other sponsors were The Ski Club of Great Britain, who was on hand to help, the DHO and the Kandahar. Atomic, Base Camp, DHO, Salomon, SCGB and Snow+Rock donated much appreciated prizes.

### ***Giant Slalom***

**CH1** 1 A Macaulay (Surbiton High); 2 V Miller (Queen Margaret's York); 3 L Mayer (Queen's Chester) **CH2** 1 S Espinosa (Sandown Park); 2 E Greenhalgh (Surbiton High); 3 A Thomas-Jackson (Xscape) **Overall** 1 F Simonds (LEH); 2 S Ovenden (Cheltenham); 3 E Stevenson (Aiglon) **Unregistered racers JR** V Krall (Millfield) **CH** E Hartley (Bryanston) **Best British School** Lady Eleanor Holles

### ***Slalom***

**CH1** 1 A Macaulay (Surbiton High); 2 D Miller (Queen Margaret's York); 3 L Mayer (Queen's Chester) **CH2** 1 S Espinosa (Sandown Park); 2 E Greenhalgh (Surbiton High); 3 A Thomas-Jackson (Xscape) **Overall** 1 C Evans (Kandahar); 2 S Ovenden (Cheltenham); 3 F Simonds (LEH) **Unregistered racers JR** N Krefting (Heathfield St Mary's) **CH** E Hartley (Bryanston) **Best British School** Surbiton High

### ***Combined - Individual***

**CH1** 1 A Macaulay (Surbiton High); 2 D Miller (Queen Margaret's York); 3 L Mayer (Queen's Chester) **CH2** 1 S Espinosa (Sandown Park); 2 E Greenhalgh (Surbiton High); 3 A Thomas-Jackson (Xscape) **Overall** 1 F Simonds (LEH); 2 S Ovenden (Cheltenham); 3 C Evans (Kandahar) **Unregistered racers JR** N Krefting (Heathfield St Mary's) **CH2** E Hartley (Bryanston) **CH1** S Caldwell (Snowsports)

### ***Combined – Teams***

**Best Unregistered Team:** 1 Bryanston; 2 Wycombe Abbey A; 3 St Mary's Calne  
**Best British School:** 1 Lady Eleanor Holles (F Simonds, K Dixon, M Dendle); 2 Surbiton High A (E Greenhalgh, A Macaulay, A Murphy); 3 Sheffield High (Hannah, Heidi & Olivia Parker)  
**Best Team Overall:** 1 Lady Eleanor Holles; 2 Surbiton High A; 3 Sandown Park (S Espinosa, I Taylor, J Carew)

### ***Parallel***

1 Aiglon A (E Stevenson, X Hawrylyshyn, G Parker); 2 Millfield A (E Francis Venezia, R Wyld, V Krall)