

Thomas & Crawford add to their Titles

Louise Thomas keeps cool to capture the British Slalom title as Alcott straddles

Louise Thomas put in a composed first run to set the mark for the rest of the girls and then had to wait for her main Challenger to come down. As Thomas watched from the bottom, Chemmy Alcott, in her final Slalom, attacked the top and then came to grief along the flat section in the middle. Alcott straddled and was out much to the shock of the growing crowd at the bottom. Harriet Steggle increased her stock by taking second in the British race as well as Overall with Niki Sole placing fourth overall but third in the British race.

The hard conditions and an interesting first run course set by Tristan Glasse Davis, asked a lot of questions of the racers. Racing down the steeper side of the Stade in Meribel, the course demanded a high level of attention to detail in terms of technique. Sadly too many of the younger racers took the hairpin at the top too direct and paid the price shortly after. Alex Tilley was one that failed to negotiate the change in tempo coming out of the hairpin.

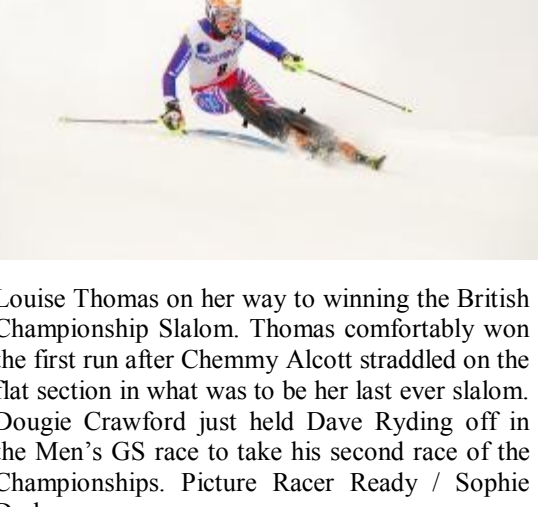
While Thomas held the lead, Alcott is no slouch on the slalom skis yet has decided to concen-

trate her talents on the faster disciplines next season. Wanting to go out on a high, Alcott was skiing fast but then straddled as she came across the flat, "that's the way it goes," she said and shrugged her shoulders.

While this put Thomas in pole position, Harriet Steggle raised her game again to take second overall. Steggle has improved her game this winter to start scoring serious FIS point results. While many of the leading female racers are not in Meribel, Steggle has posted some promising results for the future.

Niki Sole took third in the British race just ahead of a stream of exciting young British racers: Christy MacKinnon, Charlotte Guest, Emily Evans and Michelle Sole all placed in the top eight overall with Amy Donnellon, Liz Stevenson, Charlotte Jesse, Kate Angus and Olivia Parker all made the top fifteen overall.

With over half the racers failing to make the finish of the two runs, many of the racers will be wise to remember the adage: "To finish first, first you have to finish!"



Louise Thomas on her way to winning the British Championship Slalom. Thomas comfortably won the first run after Chemmy Alcott straddled on the flat section in what was to be her last ever slalom. Dougie Crawford just held Dave Ryding off in the Men's GS race to take his second race of the Championships. Picture Racer Ready / Sophie Drake

Newsletter Spotlight:

If you want to read the latest situation regarding British Ski & Snowboard, Lord Moylan has written an update on the latest situation. If you would like to read how things are then go to the link on the racer ready website or [click here](#). In the new days of openness, you can also read the [Selection policy](#) for the British team

Crawford edges out Ryding and moves closer to capturing the Overall Title after three events

There was just a tenth of a second between Dougie Crawford and David Ryding after the first run and while Crawford extended this to twelve hundredths after the second run, both racers proved that they were the class of the field. The tough conditions were hard on the legs and knees due to the rough terrain that bounced many of the racers around. Both Ryding and Crawford explained that the conditions meant that they had to fight hard all the way down.

For many of the noted Giant Slalom skiers from Britain, a moment of relaxation was their undoing: Britain's leading GS skier from the Olympics, Andy Noble, crashed two gates from home as the slope fell away and he crashed out on his inside ski into the safety netting. Up to then his run had been smooth. TJ Baldwin and Rob Bullen joined Noble in the Did Not Finish entries after the first run, in all 41 of the 118 on the start list failed to master the first run.

Following a discussion with the Technical Delegate,

who asked the coaches to help in smoothing the course some were the conditions, the second run saw some more determined skiing all the way down the field. While Crawford and Ryding led the field, no other GB racers made it into the top ten overall. Peter Whelan gave many of the pure Alpine racers a wake up call with the third fastest second run time after a first run that had seen him edge into the top thirty. Whelan spends most of his time now on the Ski Cross circuit and while he trains GS to help with this, he rarely races Giant Slalom these days.

It was Jai Geyer who took third place amongst the British racers down in 13th spot. Geyer, who trains in Meribel along with Georgie Hunt who came third in the slalom, was delighted to have made the National Podium yet has one eye towards the Junior titles next week as well as the Scottish FIS races.

According to British Team Coach, Mark Tilston, the course conditions were "horrid". To this effect the number of British racers that made it into the top

twenty finishers was not that great but included Frankie Clough in 17th and Peter Whelan in 19th. The race for the best under 18 year old saw three racers all chasing young Jack Gower after the first run. When Gower slid out low down on the second run this allowed Jo Morrison, Tom White and Ashley Hill the opportunity to attack and capture some silverware. Hill had won the Super G and Slalom Under 18 crowns yet had to be content with third in the Giant Slalom as Morrison came from the back of the pack to snatch the under 18 crown.

These were brutal conditions but they were the same for all the racers. The bumpy ride down the hill and the soft conditions meant that the snow broke up in uneven patterns, some gates had smooth runs while others were just holes! This was a case that the racers had to ski smart as the snow could not cope with aggressive racing. While Crawford edged out Ryding on both runs, they both showed the rest of the field how much they still have to do!



Top left: Mel Piper's miserable Championship continued. Placed second after the first run, Piper crashed out on the second run in the Slalom. (Photo Drake)



Left: Ashley Hill and Harriet Steggle from Ambition displaying just some of the trophies won so far!



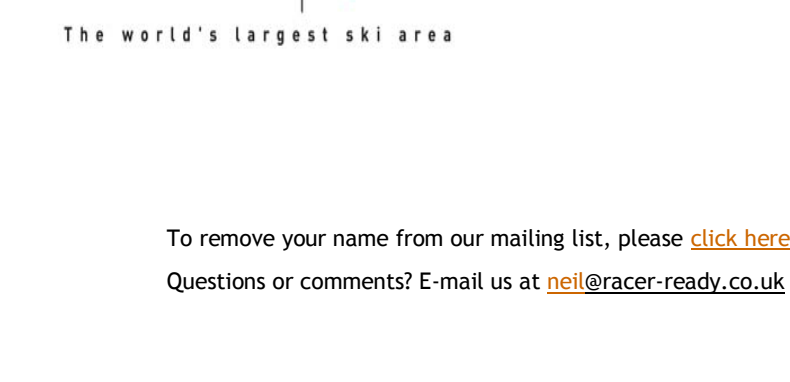
Right Top to bottom: Dave Ryding on his way to second in the Men's GS Jan Sedlac from Sweden tries the alternative way down by running Tristram More Molyneux crashes out in the GS

- Ten questions with... Jo Morrison**
- Are you superstitious?** No.
 - Where did you watch the Olympics?** In Maine, America
 - Do you think the right person won the Crystal Globe in your favourite discipline?** Yes. Reini Herbst skied awesome so that was good.
 - Do you put your left or right ski on first?** Either. Does not really matter, what ever is easiest.
 - Do you like your family coming to watch you race?** Yes its

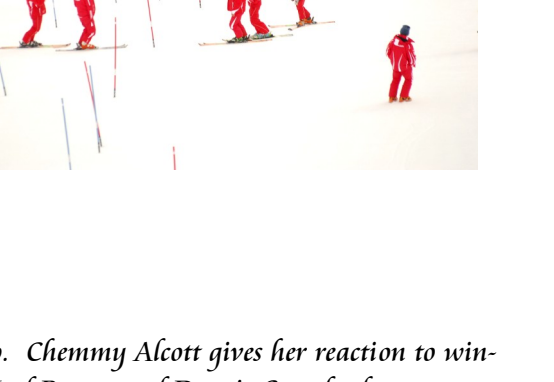
- good, definitely!
- What unusual things do you put in your rucksack on race day?** Just a mess really. I do not put things in there, they just end up there.
- What is your last thought as you head out the start gate?** Just go for it!
- Croissants or Pain au Chocolat?** Croissants
- Powder or freshly groomed piste?** Freshly groomed!
- Beer or wine?** Beer!

What's the programme for the racing in Meribel? [Click here](#)

What are the results from the races so far? [Click here](#)



Above: Jo Morrison on his way to winning the Under 18 Title in the British Senior GS Championship race. Jo is today's subject in 10 questions.



Watch the videos...

Catch up with all the racers as they give their own responses to their performances in video. Chemmy Alcott gives her reaction to winning her ninth GS Title, Alex Tilley and Christy MacKinnon also give their race reports. Noel Baxter and Dougie Crawford comment on their podium performances while David Ryding rues a straddled gate!

To watch [click here](#)



Just some of the salt going down to make the GS race happen, Dougie Crawford on his way to winning the Men's GS, The men's podium



Louise Thomas and Harriet Steggle on the podium; Frankie Clough putting in the hard work down the GS course; Niki Sole on her way to third in the GB Slalom

So you want to watch the races live...?

Easy! Go to www.britishalpinechamps.com and then go to results page and scroll to the bottom!

There you go! Now your kids cannot complain when you know how they have done as they cross the line! You will still get their excuses but you will see the classification, the ranking and the start list as well as the live timing!