

Harriet Steggle takes Junior Slalom Title

Bad weather forces herculean efforts from French course workers to get race on

Harriet Steggle again demonstrated that she has the better of the rest of the British Junior girls in the Slalom. Steggle was comfortably ahead of Niki Sole, a last year Junior, with Charlotte Guest taking third in the British race and sixth overall just in front of Christy MacKinnon. The first run saw terrible conditions that saw the race on the cusp of being cancelled until every effort was made to secure a race. Such was the desire to have a race, many of the trainers helped out with scrapping snow off the line and off the immediate vicinity of the course.

Steggles has had a great weeks so far in Meribel. She has regularly been on the British podium in the Senior events and now has the Junior Slalom Title to add to her ever increasing number of trophies. This was well deserved even if neither run was error free. In past years she would have given up by now the eighteen year old from Norwich has learnt to fight and battle to stay in courses and this is bearing results.

For Niki Sole, another podium has seen her stock rise as well. From virtual unknown, Niki Sole has now made yet another podium in her

final year of racing on the Junior scene. Niki Sole, along with her older sister Michelle, have certainly used the fact that a number of high profile racers are not at the Championships to raise their own awareness amongst the racing circles.

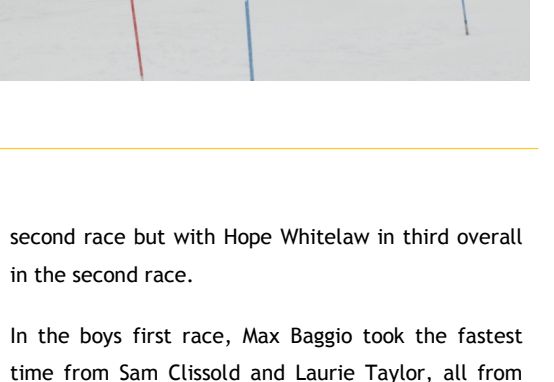
Coming third was the winner of the Kirsty McGibbon award, Charlie Guest. Guest had been surprised to win the award the previous day, yet showed the potential she has in taking third overall, just behind Sole on both runs.

While the first run had an immense amount of work put into it to make it skiable in a safe manner, the second run had a lot of salt set into it during the runs and as such it held up well during the race.

The tough conditions gave many of the younger racers the opportunity to show their metal and fight their way down the two runs for a well deserved result. Amongst those to make the top ten were Christy MacKinnon (7th), Imogen Taylor (9th) and Abbie Macey (10th). For Taylor and Macey, this was their first trip to the Junior Championships and both showed great promise for the future.



Harriet Steggle set the standard for the rest of the Junior British girls as she placed third overall behind France's Marie Aufrere in the Junior Slalom. The ESF course helpers put in a huge amount of effort to make sure the day was not a complete waste after the Junior Men's race was called off without a racer going down due to the soft base of snow and the new snow.



Boys lose out as Giant Slalom cancelled, Morning will see Men's Junior Slalom

From the moment the snow started falling, the chances of a Men's Junior Giant Slalom happening receded rapidly. By the time the course had been slipped a number of times and as much snow as possible had been cleared to the side, it was evident that it would not go ahead.

Tim Fawke, the Chief of Race for the Men's Junior Giant Slalom said: "After getting the piste machine up and having a powder run in the dark, we had a big effort from the athletes (and press) to move the snow but the conditions and snow were too soft and it would have been dangerous to start the race. For

safety reasons we had to cancel."

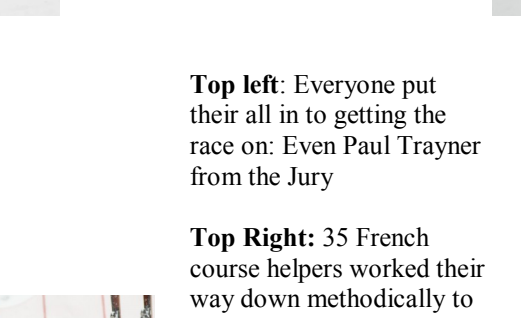
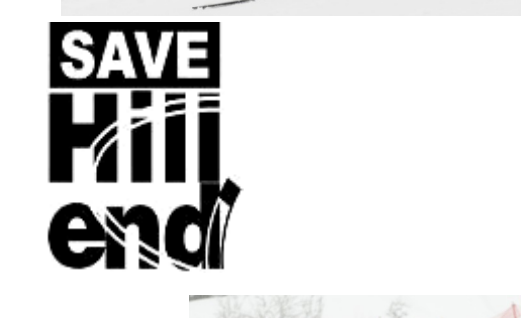
It was certainly the only realistic option for the organisers. In Courchevel, for the Scottish Children's races, the organisers had taken the decision the night before to abandon plans to run one slalom for the girls and a Giant Slalom for the boys due to the weather. In the end two slalom races were run for the children.

Rachelle Rogers and Rebecca Brown (2nd overall) won the Children 2 and Children 1 age groups in the first race with Charlotte Mayer taking third overall. It was the same two with the fastest times on the

second race but with Hope Whitelaw in third overall in the second race.

In the boys first race, Max Baggio took the fastest time from Sam Clissold and Laurie Taylor, all from the older age group. Robert Poth took the fastest time in the younger age group with eighth place overall. Paul Henderson and Jake Morgan made the fastest second run times with again Laurie Taylor taking third overall. Robert Poth again won the Children 1 age group in tenth equal place overall.

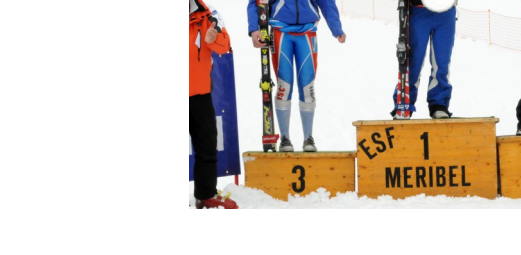
The racers over in Courchevel had to cope with dreadful conditions similar to the Meribel weather.



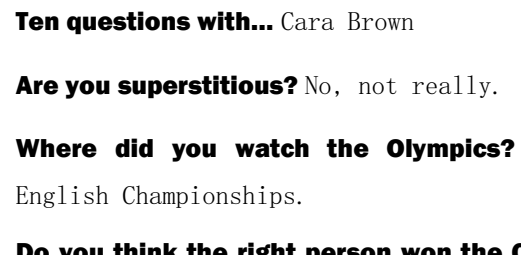
Top left: Everyone put their all in to getting the race on: Even Paul Trayner from the Jury



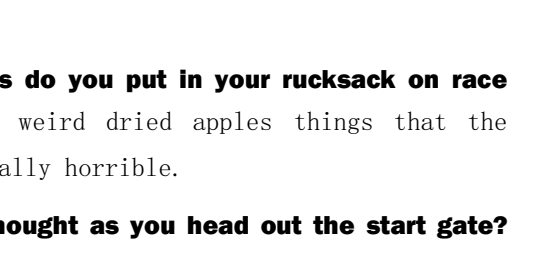
Top Right: 35 French course helpers worked their way down methodically to make sure the racers had two courses ready to go.



Middle Left: They worked on their hands and knees as well!



Bottom Left: The girls GB podium.



Bottom Right: A relaxed TD after the race was over!

Ten questions with... Cara Brown

Are you superstitious? No, not really.

Where did you watch the Olympics? In Bormio, at the English Championships.

Do you think the right person won the Crystal Globe in your favourite discipline? Yeah... My favourite discipline is the downhill so yeah (*Who won it?*) erm, I don't know! (*Lindsey Vonn*) So yes, there you go!

Do you put your left or right ski on first? I put my left ski on first.

Do you like your family coming to watch you race? No. They are always there annoying you. This is my week to escape

from them!

What unusual things do you put in your rucksack on race day? I have these weird dried apples things that the others think are really horrible.

What is your last thought as you head out the start gate? Just be really aggressive. This is the run, this is the one time. If you keep thinking that you are going to have a good run

Croissants or Pain au Chocolat? Pain au Chocolat.

Powder or freshly groomed piste? Freshly groomed!

Coffee or Tea? Tea!

(We had to change the last question due to Cara's age!)



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

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

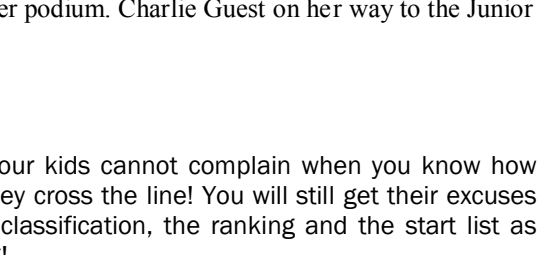
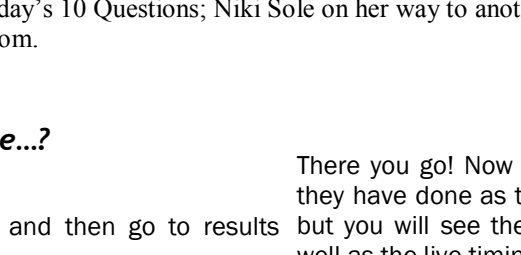
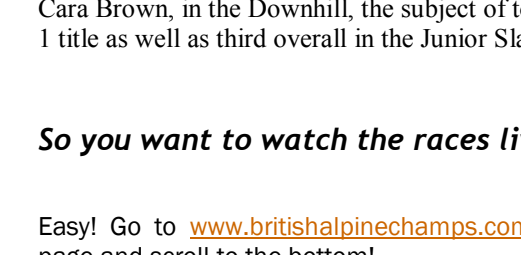
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Questions or comments? E-mail us at nell@racer-ready.co.uk

Watch the videos...

Catch up with all the racers as they give their own responses to their performances on video. To watch [click here](#)



Billy and Frances Adam flank daughter Maree Rudd after being presented with a present for their hard work over the last 30 years volunteering at the British Championships. Harriet Steggle looks back at the past winners of the Junior Slalom trophy. Robin Kellen helps out on the course



Cara Brown, in the Downhill, the subject of today's 10 Questions; Niki Sole on her way to another podium. Charlie Guest on her way to the Junior 1 title as well as third overall in the Junior 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!



Left (top to bottom):
Christy MacKinnon



Imogen Taylor