

# Sole ends Junior career on a high with win

Niki Sole takes third place overall but wins the British Junior Title ahead of Stegges & MacKinnon

Niki Sole had the biggest smile going after the Junior Female Giant Slalom. While the debate over the men's race was going on, Sole put in two solid runs that saw her level with Harriet Stegges in the race for the Junior Overall title. While the first run was run in flatish light, the second was in bright sunshine. Sole held on to the lead in the British Junior race despite a second run charge from Stegges who edged out rising Scottish Junior, Christy MacKinnon in the race for second place after Alex Tilley had made a huge error coming into the Panorama section from the meadows.

The competition at the top of the British Junior race was as exciting a race as has been seen at these Championships this year and shows the growing depth of talent in this age group. While Sole fought her way to her second Junior Title of the Championships. Sole has really developed as the week has gone on and was delighted to have won the Title in her last race as a Junior.

Steggles felt the tiredness of having competed almost every day for the last week and will take a deserved day off in the morning rather than compete in the Scottish Championships in

Courchevel. "Niki deserved to win today, she has been a worthy adversary all week," explained Stegges in the sunshine at the bottom of the race.

For Christy MacKinnon third place was a just reward for her efforts this week. Sometimes it has not worked for the young Scottish racer but this was reward for the hard work she has put in. Alex Tilley held all the cards going into the second run but made a huge error going into the panorama section and this cost her dearly. Tilley would eventually drop down in to eighth overall due to this error behind a resurgent Charlie Guest, another to be disappointed with her first run and made a charge on the second.

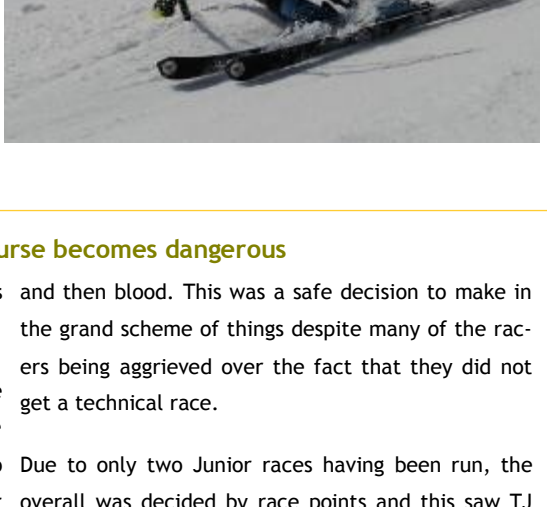
Jo Ryding made tenth place overall just in front of Amy Donnellon who was the fastest of the British first year FIS racers.

Steggles and Sole shared the Overall with Guest taking third. Guest also took the Junior 1 title with Imogen Taylor second and Amy Donnellon third. Harriet Stegges was also awarded a discretionary Ladies Ski Club award for her performances in the races. The BSA won the Paterson Trophy for the best club.



Niki Sole on her way to winning her last race as a Junior. Sole will spend the summer deciding on whether to take up a place at University or carry on racing: "Right now my heart is set on racing but first I will have to get a job to fund it!"

Below: Harry Brown before he crashed out damaging his jaw and chin.



## More frustration for the Junior Men as the Slalom starts and is then cancelled as the course becomes dangerous

It all looked so promising as the clear weather looked like it would allow the men to get a race in. Sadly the decision to salt the course once things warmed up meant that the start would have to be delayed. With the plan to salt as the girls raced taken, by the time the race started at midday, the sun was at its hottest and the amount of salt being thrown on to the course was immense. The work being put in by the ESF and the coaches to try and get the race going could not be faulted. Sadly the ruts forming were forming quicker than they could harden. By the time David Ryding went down from

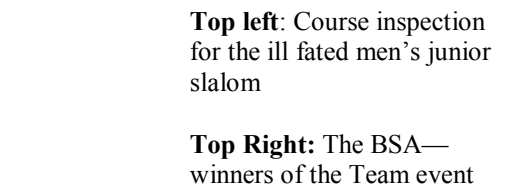
number 14, the crust had been broken and the holes were getting deeper and deeper.

The racers gave their all and while early starts were getting the cream of the slope conditions, some racers, like Scott MacBain, battled their way down to try and make something of the event. The longer the race went on, however, it became more likely that the race would be cancelled.

With 128 racers on the start list, after less than 30, the decision to cancel was made. Harry Brown had taken a gate and knee to the chin with bone showing

and then blood. This was a safe decision to make in the grand scheme of things despite many of the racers being aggrieved over the fact that they did not get a technical race.

Due to only two Junior races having been run, the overall was decided by race points and this saw TJ Baldwin win the Overall ahead of Frankie Clough and Bradley Morgan. Matt Thompson won the Junior 1 Overall with Ashley Hill second and Jack Gower in third.



Top left: Course inspection for the ill fated men's junior slalom

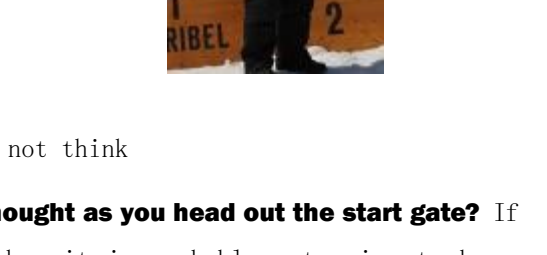
Top Right: The BSA—winners of the Team event

Middle Left: The British Telemark team provided the forerunners for the girls Giant Slalom

Middle Right: The Men's Overall podium: Bradley Morgan, TJ Baldwin and Frankie Clough (L—R)

Bottom Left: The Master and his apprentice: Marc Telling and Ashley Hill

Bottom Right: Jim Hewitt takes over for his last Children's Championship



## Ten questions with... Jai Geyer

**Are you superstitious?** 'The writing is on the wall!'

**Where did you watch the Olympics?** I watched in the chalet in Meribel.

**Do you think the right person won the Crystal Globe in your favourite discipline?** After a long thought...Yes I do. Ted Ligety won the GS.

**Do you put your left or right ski on first?** Right ski.

**Do you like your family coming to watch you race?** I do.

**What unusual things do you put in your rucksack on race day?** (Jai takes a long time to think what he actually puts in his rucksack...) There is nothing unusual that I

put in there, I do not think

**What is your last thought as you head out the start gate?** If I start thinking then it is probably not going to be a good run, so hopefully nothing!

**Croissants or Pain au Chocolat?** Pain au Chocolat.

**Powder or freshly groomed piste?** Freshly groomed always!

**Beer of wine?** Wine!

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

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

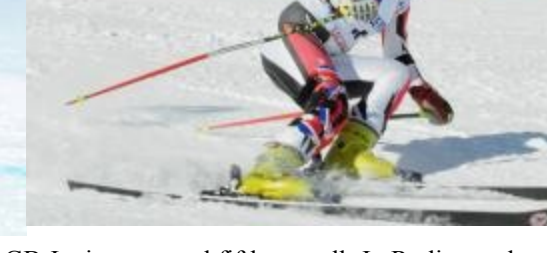
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Questions or comments? E-mail us at [nell@racer-ready.co.uk](mailto:nell@racer-ready.co.uk)

## Watch the videos...

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



Amy Donnellon on her way to eleventh overall and best first year Junior 1; The frustration on Tom White as the Slalom follows the GS into the cancelled events from this year; TJ Baldwin tried to make the best of starting number 1



Jai Geyer, the subject of the 10 questions today; Christy MacKinnon who took third place in the GB Junior race and fifth overall; Jo Ryding making a welcome return to racing at this years Championships after nearly two years out injured

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

Easy! Go to [www.britishalpinechamps.com](http://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!