

## **The British Schoolgirl's Championships 2010**

The sun was shining in Flaine on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> January when the resort was invaded by over 150 girls, their teachers and parents all looking forward to the races. The 'welcome desk' in the foyer of Residence de la Foret was kept busy all day with teams arriving, picking up their information packs, T shirts and 'goodies' supplied by our sponsors.

Sunday was another sunny day and those taking the 'official' training were delighted to be taught by a very prestigious group of ski instructors, including former French Champion Francois Simond, and French team members Nicola Sauvage, Melanie and Theo Philip Roulet. The Team Captain's meeting was held in the magnificent Auditorium, followed by a reception jointly hosted by MPI, Quest and Stephen Lee Photography.

Unfortunately the weather was not so kind on Monday with low cloud, however the two Giant Slalom races were held on the Mephisto piste without problem. Emily Evans from Kandahar had a brilliant first run but was closely followed by Stephanie Espinosa from Sandown Park, just point one of a second behind. Stephanie had another great run in Race 2, finishing first in the race and first overall, Emily having fallen in the second run. Alice Macauley of Surbiton finished third overall and first in the Children 2 category while Honor Clissold of Richmond finished 5<sup>th</sup> overall and first children 1. The Kandahar team of Emily Evans, Sophie French and Alice Taylor were winners of the GS team competition a clear ten points ahead of Surbiton B.

Immediately after the finish of the second run the Club des Sport trainers quickly set up the parallel slalom course.. This is the favourite race of the championships for both competitors and spectators. The various heats went very smoothly with no delays, the two semi finals were extremely exciting with Surbiton High B just beating Aiglon A and Surbiton High A beating Sandown Park. The atmosphere during the final between the two Surbiton teams was incredible – so much shouting and cheering- it was anyone's race and was narrowly won by the Surbiton A team of Lucy Penderleith, Eloise Greenhaugh and Emily Pocock.

The weather was still overcast on Tuesday, but again this did not deter the racers taking part in the two runs of the Slalom, again on the Mephisto piste. Emily Evans skied beautifully to come first in both runs followed closely by Stephanie. Alice and Honor both retaining their positions as best in Children 2 and Children 1 respectively. Kandahar again won the best team in Slalom and also best team overall. The best school overall competition was won by Surbiton High A, followed by Surbiton High B with St Mary's Ascot in third place.

The event ended with a very lively prize-giving on Tuesday evening, followed by a reception and exhibition of mountain photographs by Steven Lee.

We are very gratefully to our main sponsors, MTGY and BASI, Meritz who provide all the T-shirts, also the Kandahar and DHO, who also provide a training prize, BaseCamp, Leiths, Filarinskis, Naturally Wight, Snow and Rock, Quest and SCGB.

A great deal of hard work goes into the organisation of an event like this and I would like to give my sincere thanks to all the volunteer helpers, especially Ali Jubb, our Chief of Race and Kevin Webb our T.D.