

Ridnaun Part 2

As the shooting continues to go well so do the friendships start to grow.

We have teamed up with New Zealand and spend a lot of time with them here. Their Coach Phil and I spend time in the wellness room after training while the athletes relax in one of the many pools, spas and saunas this hotel has to offer.

The shooting and skiing are coming together nicely with all athletes getting better and better each day. They all have the belief that they can shoot just as well if not better than the rest here.

Now it is the big day - Race Day. The fields have grown for this race as there are other athletes from many other countries here training for the IBU Cup Race. Hamish will race 10 k Junior Men, Dyllan and Giles 7.5k Youth and Gabi will race 4.5k Youth Women.

The weather was good, track excellent and all zeros where good. Hamish went off first nice and steady to start with Giles set off another 3.5 mins behind and then Dyllan second last in the field 3 mins behind.

Hamish was in for his first shoot with 1 miss, Giles 2 misses and Dyllan 1 miss. The skiing is fast so the boys all worked hard and by the time they were in for their second shoot, Giles, Dyllan and Hamish are all on the standing shoot together. Giles feels the pressure and misses 4, Dyllan 1 miss and Hamish shoots clean.

Final result Junior Men

Hamish Maclean 7th 38.30, winning time 30.53

Youth Men

Dyllan Harmer 3rd 28.32

Giles Richardson 14th 34.05 winning time 28.27.

Youth Women

This was Gabi Cigana's first ever International race so pressure was on. It started off nice and easy getting into the rhythm then she came in for her first shot and missed 4. This took its toll a bit with 4 extra penalty loops to ski. The 2nd shoot had 3 misses and so it was a good effort overall and the experience will hold her in good stead for the future.

Final result

Gabi Cigana 10th 23.43 winning time 20.10

In summing up the experience it was good to see that with the athletes from all over the world that were there we can match them in the shooting however we still need to work on range time and ski speed. With the dedication they have shown over the past 9 days they now know what they have to do and will work hard at achieving good results in the future.

Special commendation goes to Dyllan Harmer for his 3rd place it was only by 5secs between 1st and 3rd.

We now should be lobbying the IBU about having a camp here at Mt Hotham.

The team that has enjoyed the past 9 days have decided that the catch-cry for Biathlon should now be - "Hot Chicks, Good Hotels, and Skiing", in that order. I will let you ask them about this but all had a very good time.

I would also like to thank the ABA for allowing me this opportunity to take them and learn more about how big Biathlon events are organized so hopefully in years to come we are as good as them.

Cheers Geoff Harmer

PS World Youth Junior Champs Nove Mesto Jan/Feb 2011
BE THERE.