



Glen Plake

PLAKE SWITCHES TO ELAN

Scott Schmidt in yellow, Seth Morrison with coloured hair, Shane McConkey & insane grins, Tanner Hall & gangsta attitude - some things just go together in skiing. Now amazing news comes from the USA that one of the iconic double acts in snowsports has come to an end.

Ever since Glen Plake cartwheeled over a crevasse in Chamonix sending his K2 skis soaring into the air in Blizzard of Aahhhs, a marketing partnership borne in powder heaven has seen Glen Plake riding on K2s.

Yet as of 15 October this year, that relationship is at an end. Freeskiing icon, Glen Plake has announced that from now on he will ride Elan skis. Elan are partnered with Dalbello (Plake's boot of choice) in the USA: but the main reason for Plake is the opportunity to create a new generation of freeride and freestyle ski shapes using Elan's ski building expertise and proprietary technologies (Elan produced the first shaped skis 25+ years ago). Prepare yourself for the Elan Mohican - surely it's got to be coming soon!

climatewatch

Late snow in NZ

Any Natives who have been checking our website (natives.co.uk) this autumn will know that the season in New Zealand has only just finished after a stellar season for snow.

It was so good that Wanaka-based Natives reporter, Jackie Keeble - who has been updating us on the stunning conditions all [our] summer - couldn't bear leaving fresh snow behind, even after the 'official' end of the season.

Jackie takes up the story: "On the last day of the season at about 2pm the clouds darkened, the temperature plummeted and, instead of enjoying a few beers on the deck having slashed up a few final turns, everyone had to run for cover.

"It was the best dump of snow all season and too late by about 12 hours and clearly there was only one thing to do - GET THE HIKE ON!"

After sweet-talking the Cardrona team, Jackie and pals hiked up to the Arcadia Chutes for one last run on a part of the mountain that had been grass the day before. As Jackie put it "Sweet turns to end the season properly. There is no sweeter feeling than knowing you earned your turns and that you are the only ones up there."

For more reports by Jackie and the rest of our team of Natives Reporters, keep checking www.natives.co.uk through the season.



Jackie in Wanaka, NZ

HALF OF CAIRNGORM TO CLOSE

There has been uproar over a recent consultation document from the Forestry Commission that includes plans to close lifts in the Cairngorm ski area. The potential new owners of the Scottish winter sports area have published proposal to remove most of the winter sports infrastructure on the Coire na Ciste side of the mountain when they take full control.

This would be seriously radical move as it would effectively halve the lift served area available to winter sports enthusiasts and remove some of the best pistes in Scotland for advanced skiers and boarders. Cairngorm regulars claim that this would be just another nail in the coffin of the ailing Scottish winter sports industry - already suffering from shorter snow seasons.

Pressure groups believe that unless the plan is rescinded snowsports lovers will struggle even further to enjoy their sport in their own country. If you would like to have your say - you can forward your comments to the Forestry Commission - then please visit <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/inf-d-6sphq6>

Pinky picnic on the peak

An established event on the down under wintersports scene, the 42BELOW Gay Ski Week NZ is renowned as one of the top party events of the Kiwi ski and board scene.



Gay Ski Week

This year's event - Southern Hemisphere's biggest gay and lesbian alpine party - held in Queenstown in September, saw thousands enjoy the week's events. One of the highlights was the 'Cadbury Pinky Picnic on the Peak', when around 100 revellers donned ski boots and furs for lunch on the piste at the Coronet Peak ski area.

PLANS SUBMITTED FOR CORNWALL SKI & SNOWBOARD CENTRE

Plans have been refined for the £2 million scheme at the 350 acre Trevarthian Farm at Kestle Mill on the outskirts of Newquay. The original Winterpark Cornwall concept has rebranded as 'Cornwall Ski and Snowboard Centre', with research showing strong support from locals and visitors alike. Planning permission has now been applied for with a view to open in 2007.

Plans include a five-star quality, multi-activity 4-slope dry slope facility to be located on the farm's steep slopes using SnowFlex. The slopes would include a 180m long main pitch, a 60m beginners area and a half pipe - only the second in the UK, after Sheffield Ski Village. In addition there would be a mogul run and a freeride park with jumps, slides, banks and kickers.

In other ski centre developments, Wycombe Summit has released details of plans for a possible new indoor snow dome to replace the existing site, destroyed by fire almost a year ago. The company hopes the new centre will be open by 2008. The destination will feature a 100m indoor real snow slope as well as the existing 300m outdoor run.



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