



GB SNOWSPORTS OLYMPIC HOPES

It's so exciting to know that Britain is investing more time and more money into our Ski and Snowboard teams than ever before. Both skiers and snowboarders too are ready to take on the rest of the world in the challenge for World Cup podiums.

Britain's top male skier, downhiller Finlay Mickel, told Natives that he has high hopes for both teams, after a summer of pre-season training in Chile: "This has really put us on a par with the top Alpine nations and in my 11 years on the team, this is the best preparation I've ever had."

Although the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver is the main goal, the target is World Cup podium finishes now – and while Lesley McKenna and Zoe Gillings have achieved this for the snowboarders in recent years, no skier has performed to this level since Konrad Bartelski finished second in the Val Gardena downhill in 1981.

Britain's top skier, Chemmy Alcott, is currently ranked 32nd in the world overall - 21st in giant slalom, 27th in downhill and 33rd in super-G. However, she has calculated that only a 1.5% improvement in her times would place her on the podium.

There have already been promising early season results with snowboard-cross racer Zoe Gillings finishing 6th in a race in Chile, and half-pipe expert Lesley McKenna came 8th and 11th in her first two World Cup events. Natives is 100% behind our GB hopefuls and wishes them all the best of luck.

WINTER FUN IN ZERMATT

The Luttman-Johnson Challenge has been organised by the Ski Club for over 30 years. It takes place in Zermatt and is a mountain restaurant race in teams of two open to all, with categories for resort workers and visitors.

The aim of this unique event is to visit a number of pre-determined restaurants around the mountains, riding as fast as possible between them - so as to spend the maximum amount of time in each one.

Resort workers and visitors enter either the Trail (for those who prefer a more relaxed pace) or the Race (for the more serious competitors). Natives Recruitment Manager Vicky Higgs is a keen competitor who won the Trail in 04/05, and MD Iain Martin and Events Manager at the time, Jon Trigell also claim ownership of the title from a past year...time for a re-match guys?!

Don't miss this year's event 06 Feb 2008 📅

