

high slopes low morals

THERE WASN'T A DRY SOUL IN THE HOUSE THE WEEK-END BUDS CAME TO EDINBURGH. BEN SIMPSON PICKED HIS WAY THROUGH THE CARNAGE

bUDS sets the scene for a hedonistic and highly competitive year of student fun. The British University Dry slope Championships is certainly unique – imagine a cross between a super cool resort in the mountains and Glastonbury, throw in some ski and snowboard racing and you're halfway there.

Ski and snowboard clubs from universities as far afield as Imperial in London, Dublin and Brighton pitched up early doors at the Hillend dry slope in Edinburgh for the first of two days of competition. On the Friday, riders and racers locked horns in the ski slalom, boarder GS and slopestyle. But the morning was held up for over an hour as the air ambulance was called to a nasty wipeout at the top of the slalom course – the girl involved was unconscious for five minutes, the helicopter caused chaos to the campsite and fancy dress

costumes as it attempted to land on the slope, but the girl was OK in the end.

The north east duo of Northumbria and Newcastle won the male and female slalom respectively, while it was an all-Scottish affair with Dundee and Edinburgh taking the boarder GS titles.

The slopestyle comp took place on Friday too, with success for Sheffield in the female ski and male boarder fields, while the male ski crown went to Manchester and the female boarder to Glasgow.

The Friday night party was graced by DVJs the Urban Knights at the City club, and





one of our best results for many years. Sadly, both lads crashed out in the second run, but the girls managed a fantastic 9th and 13th overall. Together with a 2nd place in the boarder GS it was a top effort all round.

"Saturday was another early start for the giant slalom and the arrival of our small but dedicated band of supporters. Andy always cuts a dashing figure in his deck chair, beer hat on, funnel in hand and cowbell dinging and donging as his liver depended on it. However loud and abrasive they were, our happy few of four adoring fans could never quite match Manchester SKUM's 60 or so knights of St George marauding around Hillend. A fantastic effort as I'm sure any witnesses will agree.

"We fired on back in the bus to the gaff, where the lucky ones grabbed a quick shower, and made tracks for the ball. What a night. After playing a blinder and heading straight for the food to beat the queues we 'ripped the arse out ae it'. You know it's a good night when you look left and you see tables groaning with folk chanting at each other and you look right and get splattered by some bloke long arming a roast dinner. All I want to know is what happened to that girl who got turned over inside the portaloo? Answers on a postcard please.

"A special thanks also to everyone who stacked it in such spectacular fashion over the course of the weekend – at times it seemed like a Ski Sunday omnibus! Joking aside, it was great to hear everyone admitted to hospital avoided serious injury. They taught us all a valuable lesson – if you're not falling over, you're not trying hard enough." 🍷

In the big air comp, Laurie Anthony from Sheffield won again on her skis, while Napier took the male title. Edinburgh cleaned up on the snowboard big air, having first and thirds in both the male and female categories.

With racing over the medieval-themed BUDS Ball took place on the Saturday evening. There are too many stories from that night, so here's Ben Robinson from Glasgow Uni Ski and Snowboard Club to spill the beans.

"After a 5am wake up call, we met bleary-eyed but on time at six. Aye right! By 7.45am we were still driving around Glasgow retrieving the walking dead from the night before. Captains meeting was missed, and we just about made it for the tail end of inspection. But hey, what's new?

"Needless to say, all our extra preparation was worth it. Two boys and two girls in the ski slalom's top 20 is

there where certainly a few epic hangovers on Saturday morning. The fancy dress was in force more than ever, with a special mention to the not-so-sober bloke wearing the bikini top. Despite the hazy heads the following morning, Newcastle took a clean sweep of the GS titles, including a 1-2-3 in the male GS. The boardercross was more of a mixed bag with Glasgow and Napier edging out Durham and Leeds. Loughborough won the skier duals, with Surrey winning the boarder duals.