

# AICC Championships

Fun, friendships and bucket loads of laughter



Ski racing can be a fickle sport. You spend years honing your skills as a youngster only to have hopes and dreams dashed and then ... then what? Do you abandon the racing, move on to other pastures, head off to education, work and over the horizon? Do you leave your racing days behind you? There are a large number of race events that are popping up on the calendar that allow the 'ex' racer to continue dreaming of what might have been. There are big established events like the City Championships that are geared to the Financial world, the Property world has its own races as well. The Amateur Inter Club Championships are another exciting event that are growing rapidly and this year the races took place in Alpbach, Austria, home of the Alpbach Visitors Ski Club.

The races are fun, more than a hint of competitiveness with lots of race suits and minds just hoping to go that bit faster than old rivals. The racers come from far and wide and there is a strong international flavour with racers from Austria and Italy joining British racers. Over the course of the event there are three events, a Giant Slalom, a Super G (or rather an open Giant Slalom) and a mixed 'fun' Parallel Team Pro slalom.

As the adage goes, there is no 'I' in team and it is all about the team. The historical clubs of yesteryear compete against each other. Kandahar, DHO, Mardens, Ladies Ski Club, Alpbach Visitors Ski Club, Meriski amongst others are all there represented. While the races are 'amateur' in name, there are some excellent skiers with real pedigree all vying for the honour of their club.



Werner Margreiter, part of the Austrian Ski Team management took his place in the older age group (60 plus) while the likes of ex British Team downhiller Roger Walker was in the middle age group (45 - 59) and Jamie Reid was on hand to compete in the younger age group (18 - 44). Father's and sons racing for their old clubs as well as brothers all coming together.

Racing is all about camaraderie and after the 'seriousness' of the Giant Slalom and Super G, the 'professionalism of taking 'race skis' up was not in evidence, there was the mixed parallel slalom. With all teams split up so that new friendships were created, the sun blazing, the snow softening, and the national dress of Austria and Scotland much in evidence. The fun was the winner.

2017 saw the tenth edition of the races and the rules state that a racer cannot have raced on the World Cup for fifteen years. This rule has seen the likes of Patrick Ortlieb, Austrian Downhiller from the nineties take part in 2016, injury ruled him out for 2017.

If you want to race in the 2018 races then get in touch with your club and start organising! You will not regret it!



## The History of the AICC Championships

The AICC Website lists the "goal of the Championships is to re-build old networks between the Arlberg Kandahar (AK) Clubs, as well as to set up relationships with Clubs that were not involved in the past. In the early days of ski racing there was considerable informal contact between the AK Clubs and members often visited each other's Clubs to broaden their experience and make new friends. Senior racing for amateur skiers is now restricted to relatively few events, but we believe that there is a healthy level of interest in further developing senior amateur racing."

In the early days of ski racing there was considerable contact between the Arlberg Clubs and members often visited each other's Clubs to broaden their ski racing experiences and make new friends, this practice had largely stopped except for the occasional chance encounter. The goal of the Championships is to re-build old networks between the Clubs, as well as to set up relationships with Clubs that were not involved in the past.

YEAR	HOST CLUB	RESORT
2008	Kandahar SC	Murren
2009	Kandahar SC	Murren
2010	SC 18	Cortina d'Ampezzo
2011	DHO	Wengen
2012	Eagle SC	Gstaad
2013	SAS	Zermatt
2014	Mardens SC	Klosters
2015	SAI	Madonna di Campiglio
2016	Arlberg SC	Lech
2017	AVSC	Alpbach
2018	Méribel SC	Méribel
2019	Kandahar SC	Murren
2020	LSC	Flaine

The races were the brainchild of Cleaves Palmer and are going from strength to strength. The Kandahar may have won five of the six categories in 2017 but who will win in 2018? Can SC Arlberg, winners of the Men (45 - 60) age group, retain their trophy or will Meriski use home advantage in 2018 to win?

Full results of the 2017 races are online at <http://www.avsc.org.uk/aicc.html>