

A gloriously sunny morning greeted this year's racers and there were smiles all round. Snow conditions had been fantastic all week and there was nothing to suggest the course would not be in great condition. A quiet buzz was in evidence as racers breakfasted and filled in the race waiver forms. It was then time to 'get the racing gear on' and head to the course for inspection at 10.30. This was earlier than usual due to an extended Nastar course being set that this year went down onto the Towers Main Street run and the Ski School wanted to try to finish as early as possible to avoid blocking the run too much.

The sunny weather held for the duration of the race and there was more excitement at the start as bibs were handed out to the 30 competitors. Course inspection followed then on to the serious stuff – the race itself. Some keen racing followed with most competitors completing two complete runs and more than half recording faster times in their second run. The most notable improvements were made by Thomas Showers (the youngest competitor in the race) who improved his time by nearly 11 seconds and also Veteran competitor Jocelyn Day who improved her time by nearly 5 seconds.

Some of the highlights (or is that lowlights??) were last year's Club Champion, Callum Barnard continuing the Barnard tradition of clutzy starts by getting a pole tangled up at the start, losing that then discarding the other to do most of the course without poles and still recording the overall 8th fastest time of day with that run. Another who continued a tradition was Ed Browne who again finished a run by crashing and tangling in the safety netting at the end of the race. For his effort Ed was awarded a special 'Stack of the day' prize which maybe made up a little for the sore wrist he sustained in his stack.

The clear winner on the day was returning ex Club Champion Alex Showers who recorded the overall two fastest times. The next 5 times were then all clustered within 2.5 seconds of each other making for a very competitive race. Bragging rights (ie parent time still faster than kids) still belong with Alex and Nell Showers, Alistair and Sian Browne, Gerry Mather, Craig Morton, Chris Muller and Steve Weston. Many competitors were saying it was the best ever combination of weather, snow conditions and actual race track.

Congratulations to everyone who competed!

Results were as follows:

Club Champion	Alex Showers	Junior Club Champion	Sarah Shannon
A Grade Men	Alex Showers	16 & Under Boys	James Shannon
A Grade Ladies	Tegan Weston	16 & Under Girls	Yvonne Morton
B Grade Men	No Competitors	14 & Under Boys	Matthew Gehrig
B Grade Ladies	Sarah Shannon	14 & Under Girls	No Competitors
C Grade Men	Alistair Browne	12 & Under	Llewela Browne
C Grade Ladies	Sian Browne	10 & Under	Claire Shannon
Veteran Men	Andrew Robertson		
Veteran Ladies	Pamela Gower		
Open Novice	Nell Showers		
Snowboard	Steven Burns		
Hillbilly Men	Peter Shannon		
Hillbilly Ladies	Jo Shannon		

A successful race day dinner, prepared by a group of tireless helpers under the guidance of 'master chef' Julie Roberts was served to members. Thanks go to the following for organising different parts of the dinner: Sian &

Alistair Browne(pre-dinner nibbles), Andrew & Annie Robertson (Vegetables and salads) and Laureen Barnard (deserts). Thanks also to Andrew Gehrig for helping out with the BBQ lunch and also for overseeing the BBQ roasted meats – all beautifully tender and moist. Another great Myrtleford Ski Club team effort and during dinner there was lots of chatter, sharing of the race experiences and photo ops with trophies (particularly for some first time winners).

The Medieval theme was very well received by members with two families of knights in attendance, Lady Guinevere, a very well dressed court jester and a much more awkwardly dressed court fool. A rather buxom serving wench put in an appearance and also seen were a hunch-backed sage, an evil looking Morgana, a Knight of the round table, a tiger-suited musketeer with a dashing hat, a sinister executioner and even a shaggy haired pauper who had stolen a pig.

Overall a fun night and a great Race Weekend.