

BARSC Championships approved by BOA Chairman

"2007 will be a busy year for British sport. Next week I leave for Sydney to join 112 young British competitors with their 64 coaches for the Australian Youth Olympic Festival. There they will compete in an Olympic environment against strong teams from Australia and China. With London 2012 on the horizon this will be the largest team we will have ever taken to Australia outside an Olympic Games.

In February in Jaca, Spain, the European Youth Olympic Winter Festival will provide 21 British athletes, including some of our best young skiing prospects with their first opportunity to experience a multi-sport event and a chance to savour the atmosphere of an Olympic Village and Olympic competition.

But the year started with just as important an event. Despite the inclement Alpine weather, the BARSC championships held in Les Menuires were organised superbly by Derek Matters, Susie Berry, Ros Humphrey, Peter Heath, Richard Ellis, Ian Roberts and their teams comprised exclusively of volunteers. Everyone involved impressed the British Olympic Association with this opportunity to see at first hand the strength and depth we have in talented young skiers.

Success in British sport depends on the clubs, and the coaches who are the true 'centres of excellence'. They are currently producing an outstanding young generation who combined technical excellence with courage and character to deliver some remarkable performances on which future British Olympic ski teams can be built with confidence. Some of the winners in Les Menuires were already focusing on the Winter Olympics in 2014. I would encourage them to retain that focus and commitment. The future of British skiing is in good hands. It is now incumbent on us in the British Olympic Association and through the sports administrators with whom we work to provide BARSC and our young competitors with the tools to progress their own talent to peak performance. I am totally committed to ensure we do.

It was a privilege to present the prizes. Congratulations to the medallists, competitors and to the clubs. Thank you to the coaches, support staff and the massive commitment from all the children's families. Keep training hard. Above all enjoy your skiing."

Lord Colin Moynihan
Chairman
British Olympic Association
Les Menuires, January 2007"