

# **British Skibike Team Race Report 2010**

## **World Championship Kirchberg Austria 24-30 January 2010**

Amongst 60 competitors from 14 Nations were 4 members of the British Skibike Racing Team who assembled at Kirchberg the day before the 2010 Elite World Skibob Championships. Training was a complete washout because of a huge dump of snow and less than 5 meter visibility! What a surprise the next morning to wake to a perfect alpine day, crisp and clear and find a well prepared Super GS set out on an impressive mountain. The snag was it was soft new snow that quickly cut back through to the ice underneath making the course very fast and dangerous if you strayed out of the racing line.

First out was Denis Osbaldeston with a blistering pace to finish 16 out of a field of 30 starters in the Elite Men's class and well ahead of the rest of the British Team who were just pleased to have been able to get to the finish. Unfortunately Kevin Rochfort did not finish the SG but worse still Denis broke his ankle in the soft snow at the edge of the piste the next morning just before the start of the GS. The really steep middle section of the course was the undoing of Richard Platt who missed a gate at the bottom which left Bill Osbaldeston, one of only 33 from 55 who finished the GS, now the only member of the team left in the competition. Bill had a good steady couple of runs in the Slalom the following day to secure 8<sup>th</sup> place in the overall Combination which is a fantastic result for a member of the British Team and went some way to raising moral in the team after Denis' premature departure back to the UK



Bill Osbaldeston 8<sup>th</sup> at Elite World Championships

## **World Cup Race at Wisla, Poland 17 – 19<sup>th</sup> February 2010**

After last season's Elite World Championships being cancelled due to a lack of snow just down the valley from Wisla it was touch and go whether the Team could afford to commit to attending an event in the region again. However, some unorthodox scheduling from the FISB meant that Destne followed immediately afterwards and the Senior World Championships at Gaal the following week. This all but guaranteed that the team would get some racing in if they made the trip.

In fact there was plenty of snow at Wisla and the Team (*inset*), consisting of Nic, Ric and Tim Platt experienced the most successful results in a World Cup Race for a British Team for more than a decade. The event started with the 2 runs at the GS on the Wednesday and saw Nic and Tim come and 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> respectively and pick up the first World Cup points of the season (2 for Nic and 1 for Tim). The following day the Slalom gave Tim the opportunity to overcome his brother and after a superb couple of runs he came 11<sup>th</sup> (5 WC pts) to Nic's 12<sup>th</sup> (4 WC pts), bringing the total points tally to 12 for the Team!



Ric's event was cut short with a crash in the first run of the Slalom, which twisted his knee and ruled him out of the chance to add to the team's WC points tally and unfortunately the whole of Destne too.

### **World Cup Race at Destne, Czech Republic 19 – 21<sup>st</sup> February 2010**

So immediately after the prize giving for the Slalom at Wisla, all the Teams packed up and headed across the border (about 3 hours) to Destne. Destne, being a regular destination on the racing calendar, is a familiar racing piste for the racers and so the first race was scheduled for the following morning. However this was the first time that either Tim or Nic had been there so it was quite a daunting experience to think we would be racing down a piste we'd never seen before at 9am!



Destne saw a large turnout from the Czech team and after a couple of solid runs at the GS, Nic came 21<sup>st</sup> to Tim's 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Slalom followed on the second day and with Tim and Nic feeling more confident, as the piste was becoming more familiar, it was a chance to put pressure on the racers in front. Tim (*inset in Slalom*) managed to improve his standing to 19<sup>th</sup> and Nic inexplicably went the wrong way around the final gate to leave him disqualified for

the second run.

### **Senior World and British Championships at Gaal, Austria 25 – 28<sup>th</sup> February 2010**

The Team from the Eastern Europe trip were joined by Bill Osbaldeston, Creighton and Rohan Muirhead. Ric's knee had recovered enough to compete so we had a total of 6 competitors to battle it out for the British Championships. The event comprised of the usual 2 runs at the Slalom on the Friday followed by a GS and a SG on the Saturday.

With Tim crashing out of the first run of the Slalom his hopes of winning the British Championships from Nic for the first time, after some convincing prior results, disappeared. After day one, Nic lead the field by 23 seconds and all but secured the trophy if he could just complete the other races. Ric was lying in 2<sup>nd</sup> just 3 seconds ahead of Bill who was less than 2 seconds ahead of Rohan. Creighton (*inset with Rohan*), in his first ever race was also still in with a chance of causing an upset. Bill's daughter Jessica also completed the 1<sup>st</sup> run and put herself in contention for the Ladies Trophy.

Then to the GS; by now Rohan was rediscovering his form after a year off racing and produced a remarkable run to beat Ric and Bill by 8 secs and put one hand on the men's second place trophy. Bill was a further second behind Ric which meant that Rohan lead Ric by a second and Bill followed by 4 seconds. In the final race, the GS, Rohan clinched 2<sup>nd</sup> place with another great run and Bill managed to claw back nearly 3 seconds on Ric which was unfortunately not enough. So the final results were:



British Championship Trophy	-	Nic Platt
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place and Secretary's Pot	-	Rohan Muirhead
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place and Villars Cup	-	Ric Platt
Junior Champion and John Becket Trophy	-	Rohan Muirhead
Senior Men's Trophy	-	Nic Platt
Ladies Champion and Hammett Vase	-	Jessica Osbaldeston

Finally the British Team would like to thank all our supporters for their efforts over the season. Also we'd like thank our sponsors: Skibob Association of Great Britain (SAGB - [www.skibob.org.uk](http://www.skibob.org.uk)), SkiBartlett ([www.skibartlett.com](http://www.skibartlett.com)), Beans of Bicester ([www.beanonline.co.uk](http://www.beanonline.co.uk)), Skibike Scotland ([www.skibikescotland.co.uk](http://www.skibikescotland.co.uk)) and Skibike Ltd. ([www.skibike.net](http://www.skibike.net)).

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