

Harry on top form at Topolino!

In Val Rendena, Italy last week, only 150km from the Winter Olympic Games, and at the same time, the world's élite young alpine athletes from 44 nations were battling for honours in the 45th Trofeo Topolino.

14 year-old Harry Brown once again led the way for Great Britain, taking an outstanding 13th place in the Giant Slalom. This was a brave and remarkable performance from Harry, a member of the British Children's Ski Team for the last three years.

The 'Topolino' competition is widely held to be the unofficial world championships for athletes in this age range – this 'front page' (i.e. top 15) result has given a real indication of Harry's ability and potential for the future. With so many nations competing, and up to four athletes from each in the group, it was no mean feat!

His achievement was all the more remarkable given the extreme wintry conditions – the race took place amidst heavy snowfall, with difficult visibility and uncertain snow conditions underfoot. He showed a quite remarkable degree of skill, maturity and courage in this performance.

Earlier in the season, Harry, who is a pupil at the Mougins International School in southern France, had taken two podium places in the alpine racing competition in the Czech Republic.

In taking third place in the CZE national Championships at the start of the series of competitions, Harry showed a hint of what was to follow later in the week.

He sparkled as he put in two stunning runs on the icy and challenging Zaklety Hill in Ričky to take the silver medal position in the international 'Ski-Interkriterium' slalom, only beaten by Lukas Aicher from Germany, with Kristian Woldseth (Norway) taking the bronze.

Harry's technical skills (described as 'awesome' by BCST coach Tom Hutchison) made up for a relative lack of stature compared to these two competitors! Former German World Cup winner Armin Bittner (working with the German team) was heard to say that he was impressed!

Please see www.gbjuniorski.com for full details.

With particular thanks to BCST sponsors Trespass, Xscape/Sno!, Terry Bartlett, AdrenalinX, Kidski and the Skiers' Trust

*Jenny Shute, Children's Coordinator, SnowsportGB
26th February, 2006*