

Good experience for skiers



SKIING

WEST of England Ski team, comprising of 12 children aged from five to 13, have returned from a week's race training and competition in the Bulgarian resort of Borovets.

Based at Avon Ski in Churchill, the team were sponsored by Skiers Trust GB, Stephen Jabs Decorators Ltd and Alpine Kitchens of Worle. Generous support also came from Dare2be and Big Air.

Fourteen Bulgarian ski clubs totalling 180 competitors were split into three age groups and boys and girls sections.

The West team did fantastically well, as all six finished the course and recorded times. In the 5-6 boys, Callum Black (5) came eighth from 16 starters, 7-8 girls Lauren Black (8) was fifth out of 25, and Paige Thomas (8) was 11/25.

In the 7-8 boys, Sebastian Comelio (8) was 13/28 and in the 9-10 girls, Emma Penhale (9) was 6/20, while in the boys, 9-10 Henry Richmond (10) scored a brilliant 8/48.

On Wednesday it was the giant slalom with one run for those 12 and under, and two runs for the older age group. In the

younger group, Madeline Brown was 21/27 and Jemma Penhale 23/27, first time for both of the girls.

In the boys section, Thomas Thurston was 28/53 and Harry Richmond was 36/53 with Cameron Thomas unfortunately popping out of a ski. In the older group, sole racer Georgina Cooper was 21/27 having had to complete two runs of the course to record a place.

Thursday was the turn of the slalom and both age groups had to complete two runs down a course of 48 gates for run one and 45 for run two.

Madeline Brown came a fantastic 13/27, Thomas Thurston was 27/31, and Georgina Cooper 23/24. Jemma, Cameron and Harry all skied out, on what was a demanding course.

Grateful thanks must go to the sponsors, the parents, Peter Kennell, for being a great help and a brilliant coach, Fraser Black, team manager, coach, organiser and mentor, and special mention to Stuart Robertson (chair SWSA) for his invaluable help.

For more information on getting children interested in snowsports, please contact Fraser Black on 01934 518166.