



SKI CLUB OF IRELAND

National Snowsports Centre for Ireland

N E W S L E T T E R

August 2020



PRE-SEASON UPDATES & NEWS

NEW SKI & SNOWBOARD INSTRUCTOR COURSES

EXCLUSIVE MEMBER DISCOUNTS

A view of the main slope with huge sections of new Dendix matting now installed on the upper green ramp and lower white section

Hello & Welcome

Thankfully when the direction came from the Government in March to shut down the club we were close to the end of the season whereby there was little impact at the time to our operation.

However as we know since then the world has changed and so too will your experience at the club when we open for members in September.

You are aware that we have a number of new committee members and the whole team has been working extremely hard during the summer to make you feel that you are coming back to a positive and safe environment.

Such items as our new online booking system will make it easier to book classes from the comfort of your home.

Changes required by Covid we feel will in fact make the whole checking-in process easier and initially people will be in smaller classes with social distancing.

There are many other features being introduced such as more advanced classes, improved communication via our Facebook and Twitter sites, a schedule of events throughout the season and the opportunity to become a ski instructor through a new club licensed program.

Our focus is to ensure that Covid does not become a restricting feature and that the club can become one of your outdoor activities of choice where you can come and enjoy the freedom of skiing that you experience on your ski holidays.

Looking forward to seeing you in September.

Stay Safe

Tom Metcalfe
Club President

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Co. Dublin
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www.skiclub.ie



SKI SCHOOL PANEL (2019-20 Season)

Back row: Cathal McGlinchey, Donal Ryan, Brendan Roche, Fiona Mullen, Conor Stakelum, Don McManus, Stephen Howe, Arthur Ennis, Andrew Thomson, Nik Battams, John Barrett, Julia Tscherning, Emer Pisarnik, Gerhard Mayrhuber.
 Middle row: Helen Casey, Roisin Farrell, Antony Levingston, Gimel van der Linde, Niamh Morgan, Rosemary Mayrhuber, David O'Neill, Tara Murphy, Richenda Garland, John Ryan, Aoife Totterdell, Kevin Totterdell, Catherine Hilliard, Gordon Walsh.
 Front row: Paddy Roche, Linda Dalby, Derek Bolger, Owen Wilson, John Curtin, Len Gallagher, Niall Carroll, Tara Carroll, Sinead Clements, Nick Smith, Fiacra Worrall, Angela Ryan.

**DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR
 CLUB MEMBERSHIP BEFORE THE
 SEASON RESTARTS IN SEPTEMBER**

SKI SCHOOL

Brendan Roche talks to us about ski school developments for the new ski season

This season, we are delighted to welcome a new Ski School Committee; I am pleased to announce that I will be joined by the following volunteers; Alan Ryan, Helen Casey, Kevin Totterdell, Antony Levingston, Sabine Harrison, Dave O'Neill and Mark Ward-Bopp.

I'm really looking forward to working with this group on behalf of the Ski Club and its members this season. We have already had many meetings and communications, with a lot of planning and work taking place in the background. There is a palpable sense of energy and enthusiasm from all of the above mentioned.

Obviously this coming season will be different from previous ones with the COVID situation dominating our approach to classes etc., but we will do our utmost for the fun to continue as always.

To ensure this happens, we have some exciting ideas which we will implement over the coming seasons. One such plan is to expand the instructor body, increasing the number of specialist coaches in order to provide a wider range of services to a greater number of Snowsport enthusiasts. These courses include Race, Freestyle and Specials coaching and will be offered to our instructor body. It is our hope they will be available in both skiing and snowboarding disciplines. We also hope to revive an Instructor Demo Team for special club occasions.

This new focus on Instructor development has been enabled by the Ski Club becoming

a Licensed Course Provider (LCP) for the Irish Association of Snowsports Instructors (IASI). This allows us to run these courses at times that suit the needs of the Ski Club. We feel this will make our volunteers even better (if that's possible) at continuing to provide lessons to all levels of skiers/boarders.

We want the club to be seen by the public as a ski school that can cater for all levels; with this in mind, we hope to introduce ski mountaineering & backcountry classes, as well as some clinics focused on more advanced skiers, to our syllabus this season.

We have decided not to start classes until October, this is in order to help prepare all our volunteers to be ready to deal with the COVID situation.

Finally, we would be delighted if anyone wants to consider becoming a volunteer, either by becoming an instructor through one of our new IASI programmes (*see page 22-23 of this newsletter for more details*) or by becoming a slope or office volunteer.

If you would like any more information, or would like to make any welcome suggestions to the Ski School Committee, please send us an email to: ssc@skiclub.ie

Looking forward to skiing with you this season,

Brendan Roche
 Head of Ski School

SOCIAL & MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The SCI social and membership committee has bolstered its ranks for next season with five new members on board: Tara Murphy, Gillian Hughes, Aoife Totterdell, Joanna Makowiecka & Katie Totterdell. Despite the spectre of COVID hanging over us, we have big and bold plans for the coming season....

These include:

- a major Social Media drive to boost communication with our members and clients. On the following pages you will find details of our 4 main social channels: Facebook, Instagram, Twitter & YouTube. *Please, please take the time to click and follow us (it will be worth it, we promise!)*
- monthly talks & technical workshops (these will also be streamed online where possible for cocooning members via Zoom, Instagram & Facebook)
- Guest speakers, including Olympic athletes and international snowsports experts
- Online and in-Club fitness classes (for all abilities) to whip you into shape before your next ski trip or Kilternan training module.
- Ski clothing & equipment swap shops
- Membership Card offering sponsor/local business discounts & perks
- Regular newsletters
- Club ski holidays
- More events/activities for our Junior & Student members
- Regular competitions & promotions
- And of course our usual social club events, including Alpine Fest, World Snow Day, Santa/Christmas Fair, Club Ski Trip Reunion, End of Season BBQ, etc.

Watch this space for more announcements!

Tara Murphy
Social & Membership Committee

We are always looking for help with events and contributions for newsletter articles - please contact us at newsletter@skiclub.ie





[CLICK THE ICON TO FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK](#)

FACEBOOK

Our public Facebook page is the best place to follow all the latest Ski Club news. Next month we'll be launching an additional private MEMBERS-ONLY Facebook Group that offers:

- Exclusive travel & ski gear deals, discounts & perks from our sponsors
- Online fitness videos to help you get in shape before your next trip
- Livestreaming of Club talks/workshops so that cocooning members can attend and participate remotely
- Photo & video albums from Club archives
- Interactive area where Members can share holiday tips, photos, swap/sell gear etc.

INSTAGRAM

Similar to Facebook (but more visual) our SCI Instagram feed features regular pics from our slopes in Kilternan, including updates from the Racing Section, Kilternan Karvers and the Schools & University Groups. We will also be posting regular 'stories' and re-posting member and clients' photos and comments.

If you have any great photos from Kilternan (or from far-flung mountains abroad) that you would like to share, please email: newsletter@skiclub.ie



[CLICK THE ICON TO FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM](#)

Please FOLLOW, like, comment & engage with our Social Media platforms as much as possible!
It really helps to promote the Club and to raise awareness of IRISH SNOWSPORTS

[CLICK THE ICON TO FOLLOW US ON TWITTER](#)



TWITTER

Follow us on Twitter for the usual club news, photos and events. But Twitter is also the place where we retweet (or 'share') external ski & snowboard content that we feel our members will be interested in; ski resort bulletins, teaching opportunities & international snowsport news.

We will also be using Twitter to follow our Irish Olympic athlete hopefuls and to keep you up-to-date with important sponsor promotions.

YOUTUBE

Subscribe to our YouTube channel for video content. This is where you will find Freestyle Friday film footage, as well as highlights from Club events & league races at Kilternan.

Our ski school instructor demo videos are also located here and can help you gauge your skiing level before you book lessons with us. We will also be posting pre-season instructional videos explaining how our new COVID procedures can keep everyone safe around equipment dispense, lessons and slope use.



Coronavirus
COVID-19



In light of the Coronavirus public health crisis, the Club has formed an expert COVID Group (from the fields of medicine, risk management, health & safety, construction & engineering) to tackle the challenges ahead. FRANK LEE reports on the various changes we can expect to see at the Club when we re-open in September....



COVID TASK FORCE

The Ski Club COVID Group has held eight virtual meetings and one face-to-face (but spatially distanced) meeting since May 13th.

Our objective, in this virus dominated climate, is to make a plan so that anyone who comes to the Ski Club when we reopen will be as safe as possible in terms of contracting COVID 19.

We started on a couple of main fronts.

One was to gather and review the range of Government COVID health-related advice then available.

The other was to start a process of assessing the risk of virus transmission in each location or circumstance in which someone coming to the club might find themselves.

That assessment took account of the risk of the circumstance happening and the likelihood of virus transmission in that circumstance.

The next step involved taking a view on what avoidance or mitigation measures are needed to reduce risks to tolerable levels (there is an amount of Government guidance on that process).

Cutting a longer story short, the outcome - a *COVID Response Plan* for the Ski Club - is based on the Government detailed 'Roadmap for Reopening Society and Business' and 'Return to Work Safely Protocol'. It will be kept under review and updated in the light of

practical experience, comments received, and Government advice as it changes over time.

Some mitigation measures envisaged for the club are:

- Commonly touched surfaces like boots and skis will be sanitised after use.

- In enclosed spaces the risk is higher than in the open air, so there will be limits on the number of people in various parts of the Club buildings, and there will be internal rearrangements carried out in the ski dispense area and members' room to facilitate social distancing.

- Changes to numbers in class, class timing and teaching procedures will be introduced.

A lot done, more to do. We will be circulating members with more information about the Plan before the Club opens again in September.

Frank Lee

The SCI COVID Group is: Tom Metcalfe, Donal Murphy, Marion Ryan, Owen Wilson & Frank Lee. We thank them for the huge amount of work they have already done over the summer months under difficult circumstances.

Should you have any specific comments or feedback for the COVID Group, please email: covidgroup@skiclub.ie



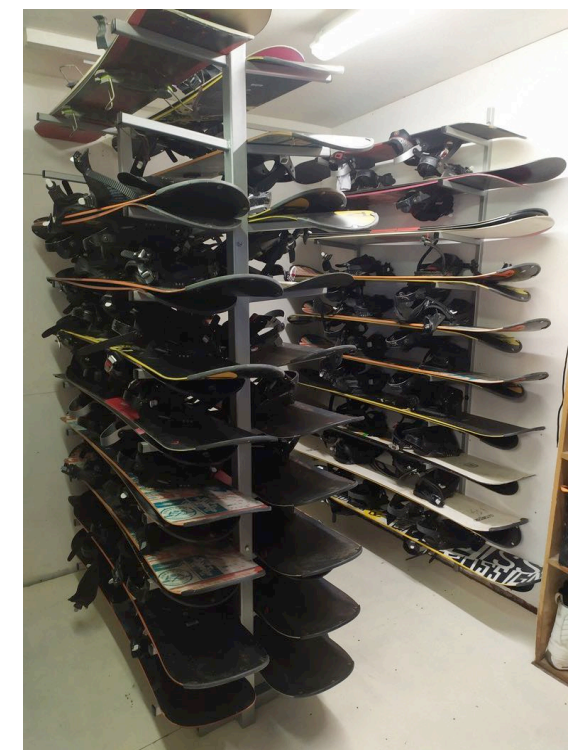
MAINTENANCE MOB



Above: Repairs have been made to the Poma lift track on the Intermediate/middle slope and large sections of new white Dendix matting have been installed on the main slope



Below: The renovated snowboard room; and the timber counters - temporarily moved outside whilst the equipment dispense area is remodelled to allow for greater social distancing indoors



Summer works continue as usual at the Club. Contractors Lissadell Construction have laid swathes of new mat on the green ramp and near the bottom of the main slope; repairs to the timber supporting the middle slope lift track have been carried out.

Skis taken out of service during the season for repair have received the necessary attention. Some new skis have been ordered.

The well pump supplying the sprinkler system tank is back delivering H2O

now that groundwater levels have risen from earlier lows.

Specialist maintenance services were carried out on the drinking water treatment plant and the wastewater treatment unit.

We will have news on more changes at the club later in the summer, in the meantime I hope you have seen the remodelled(!) snowboard room – courtesy of Ruairi Magee and Frank Fahey – on the club [Facebook](#) page.

Frank Lee

RACING

The racers have been dying to get back racing since the lockdown! This has probably been the longest time they have ever been out of their skis and boots. I know of a few kids who have grown out of a pair of skis that they never even skied on.

We are currently planning for a return to racing the next season. We are hoping to run a summer camp or possibly a back-to-racing camp, depending on a number of COVID-related factors. More info will be sent out as soon as possible. We are also planning to run the End of 2020 Season Championships as this was one of the many events that were cancelled.

On a wider note, we are trying to integrate racing more into club. We currently cater for the Minis (age 7-11) who train on Saturday mornings and Sunday Racers (Age 12+). One of the plans is to have more courses set during normal sessions so that everyone can practice going through a course and then hopefully test themselves at the Club League Races! We are also looking into running extra race classes so that more people in the club can try out racing in a safe and fun environment.

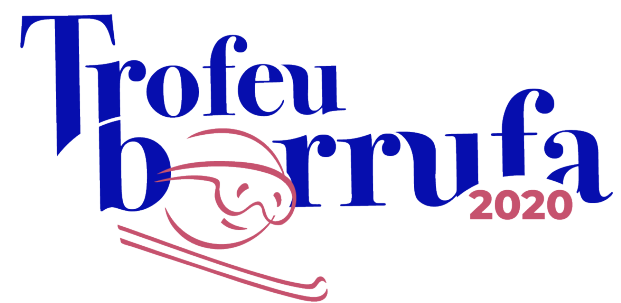
If you have any questions please email racing@skiclub.ie or check out sciracing.ie for more info.

Mark Ward-Bopp
Racing Committee



TRAINING CAMP HINTERTUX

SCI Racing also organised a youth training trip to Hintertux, Austria



Right: The Borrufa Trophy international ski competition for athletes aged between 14-16 years is held every January in the Principality of Andorra.

The SCI team that represented Ireland this year were (from left to right): Amelia Allen, Isobel Ainsworth, Adam Brown, Oscar Allen, James Ward-Bopp, Richard Ainsworth & Daniel Clarke.

Thanks to the wonderful coaches Giorgio Marchesini, Alain Untergassmar & our own SCI trainers in Kilternan - we had some great results and hope to improve for next season.



John Breen skiing on Toneleeg Mountain, Co. Wicklow in 1972

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The following vintage images come from the late John Breen's extensive photo archive, dating back to the early days of the Ski Club of Ireland in the 1960s.

John compiled a slide show of over 200 personal photographs for a memorable lecture in March 2000 that looked back at three decades of the Club's history. His engaging and informative presentation celebrated the huge changes from the SCI's early origins at Knockrabo, to the massive development of the multi-slope complex at Kilternan.

As part of our recent *#ThrowbackThursday* posts on Facebook, we decided to re-create John's full-length slideshow as a short video and presented it on the Club's YouTube channel

[Click here to watch the video slideshow](#)



Skiing on Djouce Mountain, Co. Wicklow, February 1973



Vintage Club badge



John Barrett, Niall Carroll & Paddy Roche, Instructor Training weekend, September 1984

FROM THE ARCHIVES



Irish Race Squad, International Races, October 1981

Ski School Instructor Panel 1987



ZOOMing, don't you love it? (Remote working reaches SCI)



By now you many of you will have experienced the healthy (well, at least health preserving) delights of what us old folk call *teleconferencing*. Perhaps you are using Google Hangouts or Microsoft Teams. Maybe you've noted that Skype does multi person calls, or that WhatsApp can video link more than two people. (You did of course know that WhatsApp facilitated more than just message exchange?) Oops I forgot Facetime by >2 too.

Back to Zoom.

It's really quite simple, and I presume the other apps are very similar.

Someone sends you an invitation by email to join a meeting, you click on the link accept

the usual terms etc. (too many to read today), agree to something else because if you do not you don't get to participate, and in you go.

Participants already on the call appear as faces on your display (technical term, really means screen.)

Then off you go with sound and vision. (Just not the Bowie kind)

Teleconferencing (in our case, ZOOM) has become the norm for large and small SCI meetings since mid March. (I've been involved in about 20) and has enabled cooperation and planning to take place which would otherwise have been difficult, if not impossible.

(FL, in Donegal presently)

MARKETING COMMITTEE

Hi All,

To keep everyone in the loop with what's going on with marketing within the club for the season 20/21. Rosemary Mayrhofer and John Ryan are being supported by Aileen Eglinton @ AE Consulting. The Alpine Fest will be run on the 10/11 October, and this will be kicking off the new ski season at the club.

In the background Rosemary is working hard with Aileen to communicate, through the press and social media (with Tara Murphy), that the Ski Club of Ireland (aka National Snowsports Centre) is launching its winter schedule with the Alpine Fest and will be promoting a 'Ski Staycation' for the coming season; staying at home might be the only skiing members may get this year.

We are currently exploring some government supports that may be available to the club post Covid.....a work in progress. We are also actively setting up partnerships with various commercial entities - airlines, shops & travel/tour operators - who may be willing to offer discounts & deals for our members.

Over the summer months a lot of activity has been undertaken to improve the appearance of the club from a visual perspective. Hopefully this will give a more enjoyable customer experience, adding a touch of the Alps and a ski holiday feel to Kilternan, while celebrating our roots in Ireland from 1964 to the present day.

Aileen has a lot of good contacts in the ski holiday industry and this is something we will be able to tap into. She also has a lot of contacts in Austria and understands our business/club.

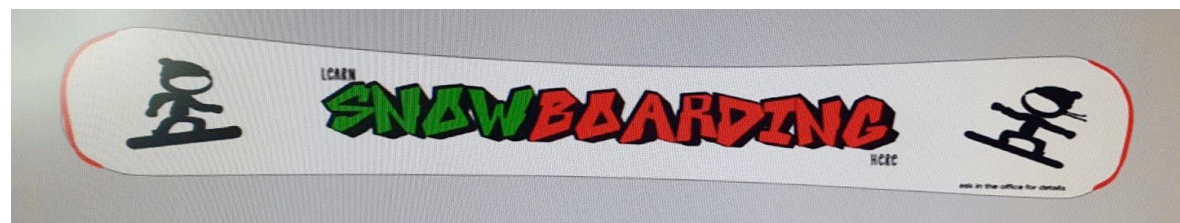
We will be giving regular updates with regard to club partnership opportunities as they progress to include discounts and travel opportunities, etc.

Also just a note!!! We are looking for assistance with the marketing committee as we are a bit light on bodies and need more volunteers. Any members with experience in marketing, graphic design, printing, or who have any bright ideas on promoting the club in any way should apply via info@skiclub.ie.

Best wishes for the coming season.

Regards,

John Ryan



Thanks to Aoife Totterdell for upcycling some old club skis and snowboards - these will form part of new signposts around the clubhouse



HAVE YOU GOT WHAT IT TAKES?



YOU CAN TRAIN AND QUALIFY as a ski or snowboard instructor in just one season at the Ski Club of Ireland in Kilternan, Co. Dublin!



If you ski or board with confidence down a red run, and can safely tackle most black runs, you have the necessary skills. If you enjoy interacting with people and helping others, you have what it takes to be a teacher.

A FREE introduction evening will be held in September to go through the course details and explain everything involved. There is no charge or commitment at this stage.

The training side of the course will be run over two Friday nights and two Sundays in September/October. All trainers are highly qualified and licensed by the Irish Association of Snowsports Instructors ([IASI](http://iasl.ie)).

During the season we will provide you with the required 20 hours shadowing and ski school experience. If you wish we will assign an experienced instructor or team leader as a mentor.

The assessment will be held next Spring, again over two Friday evenings and two Sundays. This gives participants ample time to work on their skills over the winter.

We encourage trainees to practice together in groups between training and assessment, this makes it fun and is a great way to build friendships.

We are also considering Freestyle and Race Coaching courses, and preparation for Level Two assessment those who have achieved their IASI

Level One qualification previously. This will depend on the level of interest.

The cost for Level One training and assessment is EUR600.00 and for on-slope practice you will need a SCI season ticket, or pay per session.

We also have a discounted scheme for Ski Club members who can commit to ten 3-hour sessions of Ski Patrol duty or client assistance with skis in the high-season period December to February.

A recent email circular to members garnered plenty of interest and the Club already has enough candidates to run both Alpine and Snowboard L1 courses this autumn. However, extra places are still available: further information will be available on our website shortly - in the meantime, please email all queries to:

info@skiclub.ie (for the attention of [Kevin Totterdell](#))



EXCLUSIVE SKI CLUB MEMBER OFFER



salomon

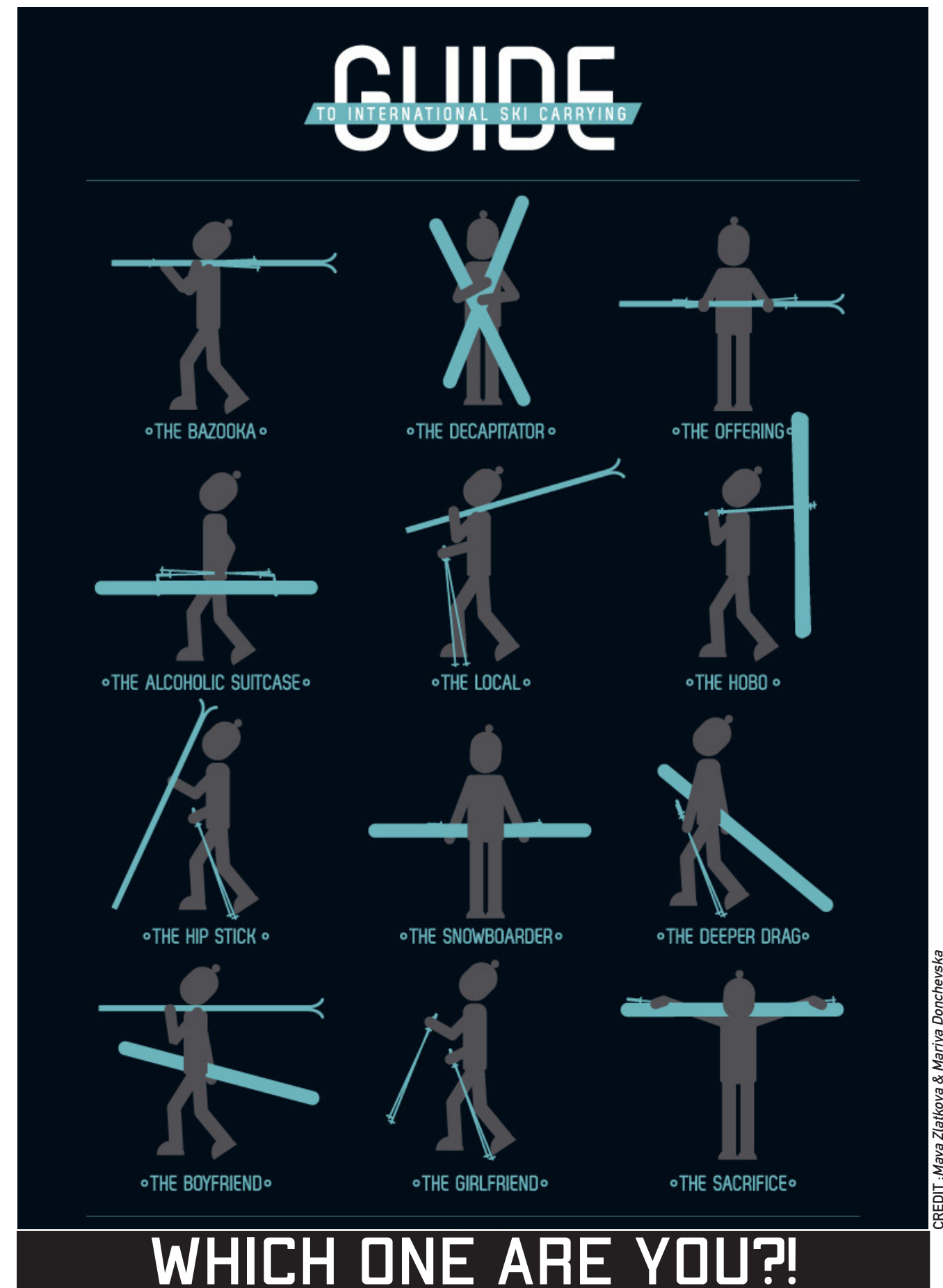
TIME TO PLAY

Wayne Fahey, a Ski Club instructor (Tuesday night team) and Salomon rep would like to extend a fantastic Salomon deal to all SCI members for the 20/21 season!

As part of the deal, Salomon are currently having a clearance of all 19/20 winter equipment with discounts of over 50% on retail prices.

Any SCI Members interested in availing of the discounts can view the equipment here: www.salomon.com/en-gb. Please email Wayne directly at w.ofathaigh@gmail.com and he will check availability and confirm (pricing = cost + vat).

***FOLLOW OUR SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS FOR
MORE MEMBER DEALS & DISCOUNTS THIS SEASON!***



AUTUMN DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

AUGUST (DATES TBC)

YOUTH RACE CAMP

1 SEPTEMBER

SLOPE OPENS FOR INSTRUCTOR PRACTICE

4 - 6 SEPTEMBER

INSTRUCTOR REFRESHER WEEKEND

18 SEPTEMBER (TBC)

TALK: CORMAC COMERFORD & BRENDAN
DOYLE'S ROAD TO THE BEIJING 2020 OLYMPICS

2 - 3 OCTOBER (TBC)

INTERNATIONAL RACE WEEKEND

5 OCTOBER

CLASSES RESUME
& SLOPE OPENS FOR PRACTICE

10 - 11 OCTOBER

ALPINE FEST

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