

## Martin Carr

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**Sent:** 22 November 2003 18:34  
**Attach:** AndrewBennett05.jpg  
**Subject:** Flying High in Saas Fee

### Flying High in Saas Fee

Andy Bennett (20, Kneesall, Notts) jumped to new heights this weekend in the opening World Cup Halfpipe event in Saas Fee, Switzerland. Andy has a long list of trophies from British, European and American Big Air events but he took on the world's best in the first ever FIS ski halfpipe and shot to 16<sup>th</sup> place out of almost 60 entries. A member of the newly formed British New School Development Team, Andy starred in the latest Warren Smith film 'Snows in the House II' and is sponsored by Line and North Face.

'I decided to go high and almost made it to the final ten as I was only 1 point off' reported Andy. 'I was 18<sup>th</sup> in the first round but managed to pull off a few more complex tricks in my second run. The top guys are doing crazy jumps, really difficult, but with a bit more training I can be there too.'

Andy's team-mate Tom Last was not so lucky. Tom (18, Sheffield) British Big Air Champion, injured his knee in training but hopes to be back for the next event in Tignes in December.

In the absence of a team coach British Freestyle Team Manager Simon Ashton has been overseeing their development. 'This is the result we knew the team could pull off and marks the start of a new phase in British Freestyle skiing'. The team have just signed a sponsorship with new airline Duo, but with no funding from Sport UK they are still unable to employ a coach to develop this obvious talent.

FIS World Cup Half Pipe, Saas Fee, Switzerland, 22 November 2003

1 Mathias Wecsteen	FRA	82.2
2 Vincent Estorc	FRA	80.0
3 Amaud Rougier	FRA	80.0
16 Andy Bennett	GBR	61.4

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