

Martin Carr

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Subject: Press release Les Contamines Freestyle World Cup 2006

British Freestyle riders took part in World Cups over the weekend (14th/15th Jan) in the French Resort of Les Contamines.

In the Ski X Angus Morrison (unsponsored) finished 38th, his best result to date and building on last seasons experience. He is now very close to making the top 32 and finals when the event becomes a "4 man" knock-out, being only fractions of a second behind the leaders. The Les Contamines course was potentially the most punishing yet with up to a third of the skiers withdrawing through injury.

Emily Sarsfield (unsponsored) reached the quarter finals in her second Ski X World Cup, ultimately finishing 15th placing and 3rd in her heat. This is an amazing achievement in only her third FIS Ski X event. With any luck this will push her into the top 30 in the World. Both Angus and Emily will be competing in Kreischberg in Austria in a weeks time.

In the Halfpipe Shelley Jones (Salomon) achieved GB Freestyle's first ever top ten in HalfPipe, she positioned 9th, carrying out the same tricks as the other girls, but with a little less amplitude. This event has shown her she can mix it with the best and what she needs to work on to beat them. A quote from one of the Swiss Girls "You have no mountains and you're kicking my ass".

Andy Bennet (Line Skis, The North Face) was lying in thirteenth place going into the semifinal, but fell on his third hit, bouncing off the coping of the pipe whilst carrying out a huge 540. This caused him to drop to 15th place, still the best result for a British male in halfpipe and improving on his previous best by one place. Andy will be back to claim the final place that he knows is within his grasp.

Rookies Richard Martin (riding Atomic) and Will Burrows (riding Dynastar) excelled in their first International competitions. Given spots based on their UK results, both trained hard and put together runs to be proud of, gaining 21st and 26th places respectively, beating many seasoned pros. Both performed big flairs in their runs, Will's just failing to come off causing him to lose a ski and fall and valuable places.

The evening Final attracted a crowd of thousands with flying Fin Kalle Leinonen taking first place ahead of Canada's Michael Riddle and France's Alexandre Laube in the men's event.

In the women's final France's Anais Caradeux took first place ahead of Swiss Mirjam Jaeger and Swede Marta Ahrenstedt.

For further Info and Photos contact martin.carr@freestylesnowsports.co.uk or www.freestylesnowsports.co.uk