

The British National Inter Service & Army Nordic Ski Championships 2012

Ruhpolding, Germany

“The Other Ashes Tour”

Saturday 21 January 2012 - Day 1 Race Report – XC Classical events

Official Weather: Snowing, snow fresh & wet, snow & air temperatures -1° C.

Participants: Jeremy Flanagan (YM), Jill Colebourn (YW), Tim Flanagan (B) Grant Flanagan (MV) – all first-timers at the British Championships.

The day dawned ... rainy ... as it had been all night. Yep, that meant sodden snow, just like a typical ski day Downunder.

The Brits had been kind enough to allocate Australian athletes their own waxing cabin. With more than a dozen athletes from Downunder due to take part in various events during the Championships, including some Cross Country Team athletes, this facility was most welcome.

Ruhpolding is holding the World Championships in a month, and 20 million Euros have been spent upgrading it to an excellent facility.

Having inspected (in the rain) the (wet) course the previous day, I can verify that one steep hill in particular was going to be a serious challenge for the novices taking part.

The events were 20 second interval starts. During the races, the snow was sloppy, and there was almost no grip in the tracks.



On the steeper and more rutted parts of the course, there were ‘splash’ holes where novices had fallen. With well over 200 participants, the course was quickly cut up.

By the end, the Jeremy, Jill, Tim and Grant were tired and wet, but very pleased with how the events had gone.

Results: Jeremy narrowly missed out on a medal; Jill came ninth overall and

won the Ladies’ Guest category: Tim came 7th out of 15 despite no grip on the glazed tracks; Grant won the Mens Guest category.

Summary: Australian-like snow conditions, British professional organisation, including great encouragement to all invitees, happy first-time participants. “Other Ashes” Tour summary: Day 1 result (=tour results to date) = GB 1, AUS 1.

Emma Flanagan

