

Austrian Cup – Relay Hochfilzen, Austria



My first race for this overseas season was a mass start Relay in Hochfilzen, Austria. It is an

excellent World Cup venue with many tracks and the range is really good as it is fully automated. We stayed in a really small apartment in St Ulrich where we cooked our own food.

The day before the race there was official training where you get to check out the track that you will race on and what the range is like and also so the officials can watch and see if you are safe and competent. After a restless night we headed off to the race where I would be starting first in the relay to show my ability to carry and handle the rifle so I can compete in World Youth Juniors.

For this race I would be racing up against 17,18,19 year olds as well as a few my own age and World Cup senior athletes, which made me nervous about whether I would be able to keep up.

When the race started I found I was able to just keep up with the pack and it was good because there were a couple of other boys my age, which I was faster than. This race would be 3 x 2.5 km loops and my first shoot would be prone, but when I came into shoot I did not do very well and had to do 2 penalties. After the second loop I did standing, which went slightly better with only 1 penalty and then I would ski again and tag off to Alex (who tagged off to Daniel when he finished). I pushed hard during the ski loop and felt strong for my first race after just 10 days in Europe. I was able to catch some bigger boys on the skis.

At the end of the race I checked the results and found that even though my shooting was poor, my ski time was not too bad and I think the reason why my shooting was bad was just because it was the first race overseas and because I started first I would have gone harder in the first lap trying to keep up with everyone else who would have been going harder to keep in front of everyone else. I have 5 days left until the next race in Martell, which should be interesting as it will be my first go at an Alpencup race.

I bought some large fire works for New Years Eve celebrations and it was fun to set off the rockets and enjoy the evening with my team mates.

The hotel we are now at in Untertilliach is really good, it's big and lunch and dinner involve a 3 course meal. All the apartments were booked out over New Year so we get a rest from cooking for ourselves for a few days.

We finished 7th out of 7 in Youth.

I finished 12.33% behind the fastest youth boy and 29% behind the overall fastest male and top World Cup Biathlete Sven Grossegger.

That's it for now.

By Damon Morton on 1.1.2012

Here are some pictures:



Climbing a steep hill on the first lap. I stayed ahead of this Austrian boy despite 3 penalties!





Photo Below: Our Austrian Cup Relay Team at Hochfilzen, Austria, from left to right – Damon Morton, Alex Lewis and Daniel Walker

