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## Weeks makes it three different winners from three rounds at Gloucester GBR

🕒 30 June 2017 👤 Neil M 📁 Alpine Skiing 💬 0



Three races and three different athletes have won the races so far this summer in the British Ski Academy sponsored GBR Outdoor series as Ollie Weeks was the class act of the race to take his first Outdoor GBR race win. Declan Huppach and Robert Holmes joined the Midland Ski Club on the big podium with Toby Case and TJ Baldwin taking fourth and fifth overall.

With exams starting to end, the GBR race at Gloucester attracted some of the best racers of the summer scene looking to state their mark in the series. From the moment TJ Baldwin started the mens race off as the first man down, there was a feeling of excitement through the first run. Baldwin set a fast time that saw him go into seventh after the first run. Baldwin was here to win he explained after the first run and as a past World Cup Downhill and Super G racer, as well as being an accomplished Slalom racer, Baldwin has set his sights on the All England in September. This was setting a marker for the rest of the field.

Weeks, Huppach, Holmes, Case and Craig Speed took the top five places after the first run with Josef Huppach a tenth of a second ahead of Baldwin. Chris Corr, winner of the opening GBR race at

Pendle was just behind Baldwin to spice up the competition.

Chris Corr could not replicate his wizardry on the second run that had seen him win in Pendle and crashed out after the banana gate that had caused a lot of the girls trouble. With places being decided by hundredths of a second, mistakes were brutally punished.

Baldwin was next up and gave an exhibition of attacking skiing. Baldwin had just under seven tenths to make up on race leader Weeks yet fought for every hundredth he could find. Small mistakes were made but Baldwin knows that with some training come September he can challenge for one of the few titles to have eluded him earlier in his career.

Next up was Josef Huppach and the younger brother of Declan, gave a good account of himself but was not able to better the mark set by Baldwin and slotted in just behind Baldwin and Adam Lee who had lead when Baldwin left the start gate. Then came Craig Speed, another much improved racer this summer, yet he got his line badly wrong at the last gate and was disqualified. The tension was building, a tension that had not been seen since the days of Georgie Hunt, Adam Lee (Ravens) and that generation. To have eight or nine racers in with a challenge of winning was great to see.

Toby Case, a rising star coming from the Ambition Training Group (and Aldershot Race Team) grabbed the lead from Baldwin, his coach from last winter with a time three tenths ahead of Baldwin. His lead did not last long as Robert Holmes then held on to the lead despite Case having been faster on the second run.

Huppach then came down to take the lead from Holmes. Huppach, like Holmes was slower than Case but the combined time had him in front. Baldwin slipped off the podium. It was great to see large numbers of parents, racers and coaches watching from the side of the course in anticipation of what Weeks could do. Would it be Huppach or Weeks who would take the win?

In Kitzbuehel in January, Dave Ryding was asked how he had fared with the pressure of being the last racer at the start. His reply was simple yet had the majority of the World's media questioning his response: "I have been last down in races in the past," he replied referring back to races in the old Grand Prix Series that he had won.

Weeks produced a smooth second run that let his skis run and took not only the fastest second run time but also the race win. An appreciative nod from both Baldwin and the watching Malcolm Erskine was recognition of some great dry mat racing by Weeks.

If Weeks can go on to emulate Ryding on the World Cup that would be awesome. Summer racing does have place in the future of developing British racers.

The culmination of the GBR Series sees two rounds at Pontypool this weekend. Who will take the Series titles?

### Race result

Pictures from the racing are on [www.racerready.zenfolio.com](http://www.racerready.zenfolio.com)



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