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Weeks makes it two from two in Stoke

🕒 11/05/2018 👤 NkjpMcQ841969 📁 Alpine Skiing 💬 0



Olly Weeks made it two wins from the two races at Stoke as he won the opening round of the 2018 **British Ski Academy** sponsored GBR Series having taken victory in the Club National the previous day. Weeks skied with his head to post fast runs as other racers crashed out trying to chase the race win. Weeks took the win ahead of **Josef Huppach** with **Toby Case** in third. **Craig Speed** took fourth with **William Austin** taking fifth just ahead of Jack Feneley.

After the first run **Harrison Evans** and defending GBR Series Champion, **Robert Holmes** were sharing the lead with Weeks sitting in third a tenth ahead of Huppach. Case, Speed and **Feneley** all had a

tenth between each other in that order. Ethan Hemming was just behind Joseph Thompson and ahead of Jack Upton with Chris Moore and Charlie Howe in close attendance. It was nip and tuck and no inch was being given away for free.

As with the Girls race, the verticale section leading into the last few gates caused the racers a fair degree of problems as each racer tried to cut a finer line and gain an advantage.

William Austin was the first to show his hand as he posted the first time under twelve seconds. This time was only beaten by Craig Speed and his teammate from Aldershot, Toby Case just managed to hold on to the lead when he went two hundredths ahead in terms of his combined time. Huppach then took over the lead with a hugely impressive time that was faster than Speeds time.

With three racers waiting at the start, Weeks, Evans and Holmes still to come down, the crowds waiting and watching in the finish was testament to the excitement the race was generating. Weeks was the first down in the blazing sunshine and he destroyed the time set by Huppach by almost half a second. This secured him a place on the podium.

Evans was the next to attack the course. This was a new experience for the Aldershot racer, being in the joint lead of the race was credit to his determination to improve, this was testament to the hard work he and his coaches both at Aldershot and Dragons have put into him. Coming through the mid way section of the course, Evans lost control of his skis and careered off course. At first it looked like he would swing back round onto the course but he was soon careering off the slope, down the track for the lift and finally disappearing over the edge. A stick soon appeared to show he was OK before he was rescued and walked back to great cheers across the course and down to the finish, injury free thankfully.

With all the commotion Evans's crash had caused, Holmes was trying to compose himself in the start. Weeks was still in the lead in the finish as Holmes powered out of the start. All was looking good for the Evolution and Pendle racer until he skidded into the verticale and lost his footing and was out. It was victory to Weeks as the leading two had crashed out.

Excitement, strong skiing and creativity in promoting the sponsors and the event meant this was a great start to the new GBR season.

Next stop is the start of the Indoor season at Manchester.

The age groups were won by **Harry Duncan** (Under 14, 22nd Overall); Jack Upton (Under 16, 7th); Oliver Weeks (Under 18, Race Winner); Craig Speed (Under 21, 4th); **Chris Royle** (Masters, 25th).

Full results

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