

# Muzzy skis to top six finish in Swedish 15km race

HUNTLY skier Andrew Musgrave has achieved another top 10 finish in World Cup cross-country skiing.

The Huntly Nordic Ski Club member and Team GB star finished in sixth place last weekend in the men's 15km race at Ulricehamn in Sweden.

Musgrave completed the course in a time of 33mins 04.9secs to finish just 18.7 seconds behind the winner Alex Harvey from Canada.

Musgrave kicked off his season with a top 10 in Finland and last Saturday's performance in Sweden is another massive boost.

It continued an impressive January for Musgrave who notched an 18th place finish in the men's 9km pursuit at Val di Fiemme in Italy on January 8, 46 seconds behind the winner, Sergey Ustiugov from Russia.

A day earlier, at the same venue, Musgrave scored a 20th place in the men's 15km race. He was 44.1 seconds adrift of winner, Norway's Martin Sundby.

Another Huntly skier and Team GB member, Andrew Young, has also been in action and he claimed a 10th place finish in the men's sprint at Toblack in Italy on January 14.

The World Cup tour moves to Falun, Sweden this weekend, with Korea, Estonia and Finland in February.



Musgrave is raising the bar for GB cross-country skiers.

# Italian training job for Musgrave

ANDREW Musgrave has started his preparations for the Nordic World Ski Championships later this month.

The Huntly Nordic Ski Club member is in a training camp in Italy. He missed out on a 30km World Cup race in Sweden last weekend to begin his build up for the championships which start on February 22 in Lahti, Finland.

He said: "The plan was never for me to race last weekend in Falun.

"My last race pre-world champs was in Ulricehamn on January 21. I decided to skip the rest of the World Cup races in the lead up to the world champs in Lahti

and do a decent training block instead.

"It was a hard decision - it means losing a lot of places in the World Cup overall rankings, and skipping some races I wanted to do but I feel this gives me the best chance of being at my peak in Lahti.

"I headed straight from Ulricehamn to altitude in Livigno, Italy.

"I'm here for three weeks hard training, then heading home for 10 easy days, before heading to Finland and hopefully being in my best form ever."

More than 700 athletes from 60 countries will compete over 12 days in Lahti.

# Top 14 finish for Young in Sweden

HUNTLY skiers Andrew Young and Callum Smith were in action in Sweden last weekend. The Huntly Nordic Ski Club members competed in the men's sprint at Falun.

Young finished 17th in the qualifier on Saturday, while Smith came home in 58th place. Young achieved an improved finish of 14th in the main world cup sprint race. Both took part in the men's 30km race on the Sunday but did not finish.

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