



Muzzy is the man: Huntly skier Andrew Musgrave.

## Muzzy misses out on medal by narrowest of margins in Lahti

**HUNTLY** Nordic skier Andrew Musgrave just missed out on a medal finish at the World Ski Championships in Finland.

Musgrave was in action in the men's 50km cross-country race on Sunday in Lahti.

He achieved his best result of the season and one of the best of his career, when he came home in fourth place.

He finished in a time of 1hr 46min 31.8sec, just behind Finn Matti Heikkinen.

Sergey Ustiugov, of Russia, was second and the winner was Canadian Alex Harvey, who clocked 1hr 46min 28.9sec.

Musgrave had spent three weeks in a training camp in Italy to ensure he was in the best shape possible ahead of the championships.

Last Wednesday he was 12th in the men's 15km race in a time of 38min 11.4sec, less than two minutes behind the winner, Livo Piskonen of Finland.

Musgrave (27), who is based in Norway, has had a great season in the Cross Country World Cup, earning his first ever top 10 finish.

His fourth place finish in the world championships was a best ever finish for a British cross-country skier.

# Fab Huntly four are ski heroes in Turkey

**Skiing by Pat Scott**

IT was truly a team effort by the group of four cross-country skiers from Huntly who represented Great Britain in the European Youth Olympic Festival in Turkey.

In races at one, two, seven and 10 kilometres, only seconds separated twins Oliver and Fergus Newman and team-mates Jack Nicholls and Brodie Murray.

Back at school, catching up on class work and prelim exams, the lads said that the event last month had been everything they had hoped for.

Weather and snow conditions were perfect but the altitude proved challenging for the boys who shared top honours across the distances although all agreed that the sprint had been their favourite race.

One race was equivalent to skiing up the Bin Hill four times.

Jack said: "It was a very different experience being part of a large competition with so many different countries taking part. Competition was as hard as some other events I have been to but as an experience it really stood out."

Oliver was pleased to turn in his best race performance in the opening event and said: "It was a really strong field so it was good to race against guys at that level."

For Fergus learning from other athletes was part of what he described as a really good experience.

He said: "I had the chance to learn from the other British athletes and find out what makes



Cross-country skiers in Turkey, Jack Nicholls, Fergus Newman, Brodie Murray and Oliver Newman.

Picture: Bruce Murray

them good at what they do and how they prepare for their sports."

Brodie launched a crowd-funding appeal to fund his ski ambitions and also has several jobs but said competing in Turkey had been well worth all of the effort.

He said: "It really was a great experience and I just want to thank the people who had the

confidence in me and helped me raise £2000."

All four now have their sights set on the World Junior Championships in Davos in 2018 and based on their performances this year should be able to secure the FIS points needed to qualify.

Although the competition season is over the boys will continue with low-intensity training.

Joe Divall, chef de mission for Erzurum 2017 said: "The athletes have had a really successful week with 12 personal bests recorded across the five sports and I'm sure their time as part of Team GB will stand them in great stead for their future sporting careers. It's been a memorable experience for all of us involved and one that will no doubt stay with these athletes for a long time."

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It was a very different experience

Jack Nicholls