

# Cross-country ski duo begin Winter Olympics bid

HUNTLY skiing duo Andrew Young and Andrew Musgrave are taking on the best in their sport at the Winter Olympics in Beijing.

The cross country skiers, both products of Huntly Nordic Skiing Club are competing in their fourth Olympics and got their action under way this week.

Young (29), who came perilously close to missing the Beijing Games after contracting Covid in mid-January, was involved in the men's sprint free qualification event on Tuesday.

In a very competitive field of 90 skiers, he finished 36th and just missed out on qualification to the next stage of the competition.

Musgrave (31) had already taken part in the men's 15k + 15km skiathlon and finished

in 17th place, with Russian Olympic Committee's Alexander Bolshunov delivering one of the most dominant displays in the sport's history to take gold.

"The form Bolshunov is in at the moment is absolutely wild," he said. We're going to have to do something miraculous to beat him.

"You don't get gaps like that in our sport."

Musgrave's focus is on the 50k mass start event that takes place on February 19.

Both Huntly men are involved in that race as well as Friday's 15k classic event and Sunday's 4 X10k relay race along with Team GB colleague James Clugnet, who is competing in his first Winter Olympics.