

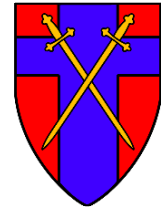


**MA to GOC UKSC
Command Group**

Headquarters United Kingdom Support Command
British Forces Post Office 140

Telephone 0049 2162 472 2944
Fax 0049 2162 472 3083
E-Mail hshac5@yahoo.co.uk

Military 948 72 2944
Fax 948 72 3083



Reference: UKSC/Comd/Alpine10

See Distribution:

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ARMY ALPINE SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS 2010 – EX LIONS CHALLENGE

References:

- A. AWSA Army Ski Competition Rules 2010 (Alpine Edition released Dec 09).
- B. Games and Sports in the Army.
- C. AGAI Ch 90.
- D. AGAI Vol 1 Ch 11.
- E. LANDSO 4402 (Second Revise) – Control and Management of CILOR.
- F. DCI(A) 48/04.
- G. LANDSO 3206 (Equipment Grants).

INTRODUCTION

1. Exercise LIONS CHALLENGE 2010, the British Army Alpine Ski Championships, is once again to be held at Serre Chevalier, in the Haute Alps region of France, over the period 19 – 29 Jan 10. These are the seventeenth Army Championships to be held in this resort. This exercise is classified as Collective Military Training and overall political clearance has been obtained by Secretary AWSA.
2. The aim of this letter is to promulgate the necessary information to Divisional/LAND Ski Secretaries and to Team Captains of Regimental Alpine teams who anticipate qualification to the Army Alpine Championships.

AWSA RACE RULES

3. These championships will be run under the auspices of the AWSA in line with Army Ski Competition Rules 2010 (Alpine Edition released Dec 09). Rule Books will be avail from the Chief of Race/TD in due course. Until rule books are issued, please continue to use the 2009 Edition. Please note that mixed teams are permitted in Alpine Army racing.

QUALIFICATION

4. **General.** Ex LIONS CHALLENGE 2010 has an all up capacity of 125 competitors. Teams and individuals may only normally compete at the Meeting once they have qualified to

do so at their respective Divisional or HQ LAND sponsored meeting in Jan 10. Those selected will be notified at their Div race meeting.

5. **Rules for Qualification.** The rules for qualification and 'Qualification Exceptions' are set out at Annex C to Reference A.

6. **Eligibility.** All competitors must be full members of the AWSA. Membership details are available from Divisional Secretaries and competitors will all have been required to join at the start of their Divisional Competition. AWSA membership will be checked at registration – no membership, no racing. Cost is £15 annually.

7. **Race Entry Fees.** Race Entry Fees will be €10 per competitor per race and should be paid at the Race Office during initial registration. Payments are to be made in cash (Euros) – *cheques or credit card payments are not acceptable*. Entries and registration of competitors must be submitted to the Race Secretary by 1800hrs Tues 19 Jan 10.

SERRE CHEVALIER.

8. **General.** The resort of Serre Chevalier consists of 3 small towns in the northern base of the mountain of the same name. The complex lies on the Route National 91, some 110km East of Grenoble and 10km West of Briancon. The Championships are based in the most easterly village, Chantemerle. Despite considerable development in recent years, the resort retains much of its traditional charm.

9. **Getting There.** Access to Chantemerle from the West is via the Col du Lautaret. This Pass is frequently closed in winter and chains must be regarded as essential (an up-to-date report as to the state of the pass may be obtained by telephoning 0033 (0)942 24 44 44). The village may also be approached from Italy in the east, via the Frejus Tunnel, Col de Montgenevre and Briancon (this road is fairly sheltered and often a better bet than the Col du Lautaret). Regardless of the direction of travel, those approaching by road must be in possession of snow-chains (notwithstanding, winter tyres are also strongly recommended). Those wishing to travel by train should note that the nearest station is in Briancon. Flights are now readily available to Grenoble and Turin; the latter being both cheaper and closer to the resort.

10. **Race Facilities.** The heart of the village is clustered around the main lift station, with the Tourist Office and Race Office in the Serre D'Aigle complex. Racing will be conducted on the North facing main slopes of Serre Chevalier, at an altitude of some 2200m. All racing will be on homologated courses.

PROGRAMME

11. **Outline.** The intended programme of events is at Annex A. Flexibility remains the key and the schedule of events will be amended at short notice if the weather conditions are not favourable. Teams should note that:

a. **First Race.** The first race is on Thu 21 Jan 10. This will allow those teams from Ex PIPEDOWN one day to travel to Serre Chevalier from Les Contamines and an additional day for all competitors to inspect the racing slopes before the competition begins.

b. **Downhill Training.** Downhill training will begin after the Team Slalom. Unfortunately, the inability to stage speed events in Chantmerle at weekends precludes the ability to run a Super-G prior to the Downhill.

COMMAND AND CONTROL

12. **General.** Command and Control will be exercised through the following mechanisms:

- a. **Race Committee.** The Race Committee, under command of the Army Alpine Chairman, has overall responsibility for the running of the Championships. Duties and responsibilities of the Race Committee are listed at Annex B to Reference A.
- b. **Race Office.** The Race Office will be situated in the Serre d'Aigle complex near the bottom-most lift station. The Race Secretary will be in charge of the Race Office, which will be open from 0800-0900hrs and 1600-1800hrs daily.
- c. **Officials.** The provisional list of Race Committee members and other Officials is at Annex B. Officials are required to report by 1800hrs Mon 18 Jan 10 at the latest.
- d. **Team Captains.** Units are to appoint Team Captains who are to be responsible for the conduct of their teams and for the management of their affairs. Team Captains are to ensure they register as outlined below:

(1) Report to the Race Office on arrival in order to register their teams in accordance with Para 15. All teams are to have registered not later than 1800 Tue 19 Jan 10.

(2) Attend the first Team Captains' Meeting, hosted by Chairman Alpine, at 0900hrs Wed 20 Jan 10 at the Bandstand outside the Serre D'Aigle complex. At this meeting they will receive a briefing on the layout of race courses and the general conduct of the meeting. Race training may commence on conclusion of this meeting. Lift Passes will be available for collection at the Registration. The course for the Individual Giant Slalom may be set late that afternoon – no inspection or skiing on the race piste may take place once course setting has commenced.

(3) Attend subsequent Team Captains' Meetings at 1800hrs each day commencing on Wed 20 Jan 10. The venue for these meetings will be announced at Chairman Alpine's initial briefing.

(4) Submit race entries to the Race Secretary by the times prescribed at Reference A.

13. **Discipline.** Experience built up over a significant number of years of competition in France has shown that it is of the utmost importance to establish friendly relations with the local authorities. As such, no sympathy will be extended to teams or individuals that misbehave or fail to settle their bills; indeed, serious breaches of discipline will result in the disqualification of individuals and, potentially, complete teams with the Commanding Officer being notified immediately. Additionally, Team Captains must note the following:

- a. **Use of Military Equipment.** No military vehicles or equipment may be brought into France. Service Land Rovers are acceptable provided they are painted a uniform colour, which cannot be associated with service use. Moreover, such 'civilianised' vehicles are not to bear the logo of units or commercial organisations.

b. **Crossing International Borders.** The quickest route to Serre Chevalier from the 1 (UK) Armd Div Championships in Les Contamines entails passage through Italy, finally crossing into France at Montgenevre. Teams using this route should be aware that Italian and French authorities have, in the past, taken an extremely serious view of any attempt to conceal dutiable goods, *this includes bulk fuels!*

c. **Vehicle Insurance.** Units are once again reminded that military vehicles (including those leased as part of the BA(G) White Fleet contract) are insured by the Crown – *not a civilian insurer*. CROWN COVER DOES NOT EXTEND INTO SWITZERLAND OR AUSTRIA. Anyone intending to travel through Switzerland or Austria must ensure that their vehicles have sufficient insurance for the purposes to which they are being put and for the countries through which they will transit.

14. **Sponsorship.** Those Teams fortunate enough to secure sponsorship must ensure that they follow AWSA rulings on advertising at Annex F to Reference A. As a guide, the following regulations apply:

a. Any team advertising sponsorship must not show any direct link with tobacco or spirits. Army personnel may not wear commercial logos on their clothing (including crash helmets) when on duty, except as authorised in Annex F to reference A. Whilst present at the Championships, all competitors are deemed to be 'on duty' whether they are on the slopes or not.

b. No service vehicle may display sponsorship logos at any time, either during training or at the Championships.

ARRIVAL PROCEDURE

15. **Administration.** On arrival in Serre Chevalier, Team Captains are to report to the Race Office to complete the following initial administration:

a. Register their teams using the form at Annex E.

b. Hand in Athlete's Declarations (one per racer) using the form at Annex F.

c. Pay race entry fees and declare team racers (if known) using the form at Annex G.

d. Show evidence of appropriate race insurance policies.

e. Return prizes (if appropriate).

f. Organise accommodation, see para.16.

To facilitate this, the Race Office will remain open from 0900-1800hrs on Tue 20 Jan 10. Those Team Captains who feel they may arrive late due to weather conditions should contact the Race Office or Secretary in order that suitable reception and accommodation arrangements can be made.

ACCOMMODATION

16. **General.** Those teams expecting to qualify for the Army Championships should view the websites below and make arrangements for accommodation through a local agent; Daniela Jouglan, who is American. A record of any bookings should be kept via email for confirmation in resort. A number of apartments will be kept in reserve for individuals who qualify unexpectedly and require accommodation who are not part of a team. Team captains

are reminded that it is not acceptable to book accommodation with more than one supplier (even verbally). Once a reservation is made (and deposit paid) it should be confirmed to the race secretary by email or in person once in resort. Daniela's details are: discoverserreche@orange.fr tel 0033 (0)6 72367597.

17. Shops, a cinema, a laundry and entertainment facilities are all available near by, as is ample car parking adjacent to the main Lift Station.

18. **Grants.** Despite significant reductions in the amount of money allocated to fund Winter Sports over the past few years, AWSA Alpine is fortunate to have very generous sponsors who provide sufficient funds to permit the offsetting of accommodation or equipment. This year the committee has approved to continue with the same significant grant that was paid last year. This will be €190 per qualified competitor (payable in Euros only). Team managers and trainers are not eligible for this grant. The Secretary will arrange to deduct this money from final accommodation bills before they are presented for payment and to act as a deposit on accommodation to cover any duplicate bookings.

19. As soon as possible after Divisional Secretaries have confirmed qualification for the Army Championships, Team Captains/Individuals should speak to the Secretary at the race office in Chantemerle to confirm their accommodation requirements. The Race Office telephone/fax number and Internet address will be passed to Divisional Secretaries once confirmed.

20. **Officials' and Visitors' Accommodation.** VIPs (defined as 1 * and above) accommodation will be arranged through the AWSA (Martyn Allen (see phone number below)). Team visitors including COs are to make their own arrangements but Lynne (details below), who manages a local hotel or Daniela will be happy to assist with bookings. All visitors are responsible for their own costs and travel arrangements, the officials cannot provide airport transfers.

SKI LIFTS

21. **Access to Slopes.** Access to the racing slope is by telecabin and chair lifts. Teams should note that it takes at least 15 mins (plus queuing time) to get to the Start from the Race Office. Those familiar with the resort should be aware that the policy on lift passes has changed and that the old 'Chantemerle Only' pass is no longer offered.

22. **Costs.** The cost of Lift Passes will be approximately €200 for a 9 day lift pass (€220 for 10 days) for Grande Serre Che' Pass (covering Monetier, Chantemerle and Villeneuve). This concessionary rate is only available through the Race Secretary and should be purchased at registration – passes bought direct from the Lift Company will be 30% more expensive. Weather permitting, all races will take place on the area covered by the Grande Serre Che' Lift Pass.

ADMINISTRATION

23. **Movement.** Unit teams, individuals and visitors are responsible for making their own movement arrangements to and from Ex LIONS CHALLENGE. Those using agency cards should note that the nearest station to Serre Chevalier is on the outskirts of Grenoble or near Turin. It is suggested that teams fill up prior to crossing either of the passes into Serre Chevalier and check Sat Navs for the nearest station. It would be very useful if teams could give this information in at the Race Office so it can be included in next year's instruction.

24. **Medical.** No Service medical cover is available at the Championships. The local First Aid Post at Serre d'Aigle provides both routine and emergency cover. A physiotherapist and a dentist are also available in Serre d'Aigle. In the event of an injury, all officials, visitors

and competitors are to complete MOD form 299 (held by the Race Office) – Report on Accident/Injury. The Race Office is to be informed of any injury.

25. **Insurance.** Team Captains are to acquaint themselves with Annex J to Reference C, which governs insurance requirements. In particular, attention is drawn to Paragraph 7, which deals with the provision for permanent disability and personal accidents. It is a mandatory requirement that all competitors at the Championships have an EH1 Card (see web sites) and personal insurance to cover the risk of permanent disability or injury to themselves and third parties while both racing and recreational skiing. Proof of racing insurance cover will be inspected on initial registration; no cover – no racing. Competitors should ensure they can easily extend their cover for the Army Championships if they are selected. (Of note, Towergate Wilson offer very favourable packages. Contact details are at para 30). Competitors are also strongly advised to ensure that their policies cover theft of personal items, including ski equipment.

26. **Field Conditions.** In line with EX SPARTAN HIKE, EX LIONS CHALLENGE is classified as collective training and attracts CILOR, and Field Conditions.

27. **CILOR.** CILOR funding must be bid through your parent Division Log Sp Food Services Branch in accordance with LANDSO 4402 by each unit that anticipates qualification. Those that do not subsequently qualify for the Army Championships will be able return unused monies through their unit Imprest account. It is unusual for retrospective bids to be accepted however, in exceptional circumstances, if a unit unexpectedly qualifies for the Championships and has not already applied for CILOR, then a timely retrospective application should be acceptable. No payments or authorisations will be issued at Serre Chevalier.

28. **Army Sports Lottery Funds.** Teams and individuals travelling to compete in 'recognised skiing competitions' may apply for a grant of £100 per person towards the cost of travel, see Reference F for details. Only one grant will be awarded per person, per season, regardless of the number of meetings attended. These grants are only available to those who participate in the lottery, and who are members of the AWSA.

29. **Post.** No mail should be forwarded to Ex LIONS CHALLENGE 2010. In an emergency the postal address is as follows but competitors are warned that mail is extremely slow and will not be forwarded once the officials have left resort.

Rank, Name, Unit Team
c/o Race Office
British Army Ski Championships
Office du Tourisme Chantemerle
Le Serre d'Aigle
Serre Chevalier
05240
Hautes Alps
FRANCE

30. **Points of Contact.** The Race Secretary will arrive in Serre Chevalier on Sun 17 Jan 10. A variety of other useful telephone and fax numbers are listed at Annex D. Race Office details are likely to be 0033 (0) 6 42347864 (e-mail: roddy@thedesertrats.com). Any changes will be promulgated to Divisional Secretaries.

31. **Visitors.** Visitors, especially Commanding Officers, are most welcome and encouraged to come and support their team. That said, insufficient funds exist to provide visitors with accommodation and free lift passes. All administrative arrangements for visitors should be made by their own teams. Furthermore, in order to maintain visibility of all military

personnel in resort, the Race Secretary must be informed of names and arrival/departure dates of all visitors. Finally, it is anticipated that the Championships will attract a number of VIP visits, the details of which will be briefed daily at Team Captains' Meetings. All unit representatives are invited to the Cocktail Party on Mon 25 Jan 10 and the Prize Giving on Thu 28 Jan 10.

32. **Trophies.** All Trophies from the 2009 Championships (and a number not returned last year) must be returned by Day 1 of the Championships to the Race Office in Chantemerle. Alternatively they can be returned to the AWSA Office in Clayton Barracks, Aldershot no later than 05 Jan 10 or to Maj Jonathan Thorn SO2 G5 Plans, HQ Rhein Garrison (Rheindahlen, Germany) no later than 12 Jan 10. Any requiring repair or new silver engraving plates MUST be returned to the AWSA office no later than 09 Nov 09.

33. **Media Ops.** Media continues to be poorly supported by the teams, although last year saw a massive improvement. Ex LIONS CHALLENGE simply would not happen without our generous sponsors, however in return they expect local media coverage. **This year in order to reduce the burden on teams to produce articles after the event, Team Captains are to arrive at the Championships with articles already prepared and a comprehensive list of their local media.** This will be handed to the BFG Media Ops team who will be in attendance for the whole competition. The article can be developed during the week and photographs added. This is a prime opportunity for teams to promote their Battalion, Regiment or Corps and so the articles should include other achievements for your Unit or team individuals during the year. In addition, the photographer has in the past taken excellent photos for unit use free of charge. Details and articles are to be submitted to the Race Secretary using Annex G attached. Full details of the Media Plan will be briefed at the first Team Captains' Meeting. Do not leave it until the last minute, start drafting your articles now and have them cleared through your Commanding Officer before you arrive.

34. **Managing Sponsors.** As with any large scale winter sports event, Ex LIONS CHALLENGE costs a significant amount of money to mount, and would be a complete non-starter were it not for the kind generosity of our sponsors. After detailed negotiations in the closed season we are fortunate that our sponsor has agreed to continue to support the event, but also that some new sponsors have agreed to support the championships. It is vitally important that our sponsors feel that they are getting value for money: all participants in the Championships have their part to play in this. The message is clear, 'look after the sponsors and they'll look after you'. On the slopes and at prize giving it is important that competitors talk to and interact with the sponsors; back in your units ensure that people understand that Army Alpine Skiing is only made possible by the generous sponsorship; it is essential that teams mention their sponsors in media reports and send them copies (via the Race secretary) of results at the end of the season along with good PR material, such as photographs, that sponsors can use in their own publications. This will be the first time that the new sponsors will have seen the event and so it is incredibly important that their first impression is favourable.

35. **Useful Websites.** Useful websites are as follows:

www.spartanhike.co.uk – full details for Land Comd qualifying championships.

www.awsa.co.uk – main AWSA website with a link to the Alpine (Ex LIONS CHALLENGE) website.

www.serre-chevalier.com (office du tourisme)

Tower Gate Wilson (AWSA Sponsors). Contact is Richard Dorman. E-Mail address is richard.dorman@towergate.co.uk . Tel Mobile: + 44 (0) 7515 629249 or office: 0116 240 7777.

BLOC Eyewear. AWSA sponsors and are offering very good deals for the military. Access website through AWSA website.

36. **New Secretary.** Whilst writing this instruction, I have been warned for a short notice operational tour. The new secretary will be Maj Roddy Christie, who many of you will know. His details are as follows:

a. E-mail: roddy@thedesertrats.com

b. Tel: 94731 2369 or +44 (0)1748 872369 or +44 (0)771 4766860 (Mob)

37. **Summary.** There is a fair amount of administrative work required from you as team captains prior to the Championships. A plea from me is that you do not leave it until the last minute. Of note, ensure that trophies are returned, your team are members of the AWSA and that you have prepared your media article. Roddy or myself are here to help, so please get in touch early if you have any concerns.

{Original Signed}

H CAMPBELL-SMITH
Maj
for Chairman Alpine

Annexes:

- A. Programme of Events
- B. List of Officials
- C. Useful Telephone Numbers
- D. Team Registration and Declaration Form
- E. Athlete's Declaration Form
- F. Team Entry Form
- G. Media Check List

Distribution:

External:

Action:

HQ LAND HQ ATG(A)
 Media Ops
All Army Alpine Teams
All Officials - Listed at Annex B

Info:

MA to CGS
HQ UKSC – G7 PAT
 Media Ops
 BA(G) Sports Board
HQ 1 (UK) Div for Sec Ex PIPEDOWN
HQ 5 Div for Sec Ex SPARTAN HIKE
BRITMILREP Paris

- ASCB - Chairman AWSA (GOC HQ 4 Div)
- Vice Chairman AWSA (Col Grossmith)
- Secretary AWSA