



BANNER BUSINESS SUPPLIES ARMY BOBSLEIGH CHAMPIONSHIPS

FRIDAY 22nd FEBRUARY 2008

The Army Bobsleigh Championships were held in Igls, Austria on Fri 22 Feb. This followed 4 days of training for the 10 teams. The Championships were again very kindly sponsored by Banner Business Supplies.

Even with the high operational tempo, 7 male teams (including one guest team from Jersey) and 3 female teams entered the Championships. CSgt Sean Olsson ran the week of training and coached the drivers during the week and WO2 Kenney Pereira ensured that all the equipment, brakeman training and administration was carried out. On race day, WO2 Pete Gunn very kindly headed up the Jury for the race.

The RAF provided 2 spur bobs prior to the race and the 1st run began with the 7 male teams from on their race draw placings followed by the 3 female teams on their race draw placings. After the first run there was a 20 minute break before the 2nd race run. This was done on positions after the first run, with the slowest team sliding first and the fastest team sliding last. The male teams went first followed by the females. After the 2nd run, WO2 Kenney Pereira weighed all the teams to ensure that the bobsleighs were not overweight!

It was a gripping race and very close at the top. The Army Bobsleigh Champion for 2008 was Sgt John Hillman 3 PARA with his brakeman, Pte Adam "Monk" Randle, also of 3 PARA.

The runners up were another Regimental team, with Lt Harry Pilcher driving him and his brakeman, Sgt "Pops" Owen of the QDG to an excellent second place. This race was only the third week on the ice for Lt Harry Pilcher. He learnt to drive on the ice camp in Calgary, in Dec 07 and followed this with a week at Winterberg in Jan 08 for the Novice Championships where he beat both the Novice and Junior Teams. He is certainly one to watch for the future. Third place went to a 2 RTR team, the driver being Sgt Paul "Cully" Culwick and his brakeman being Tpr French.

In the female race, the Army Champions for 2008 were LCpl Paula Walker and LCpl Alicia Jarman both of the Royal Signals. This marks the end of LCpl Walker's first season on ice as a driver, as she has spent the season on the Europa Cup. The runners-up were Cpl Jackie Davies and Capt Belinda Robson also of the Royal Signals. There was less than 3/10ths of a second difference between 1st and 2nd place. Third place went to LCpl Danni Johnson and Capt Nicki Whitley of 40 Regt RA.

MALE RESULTS

1 st place	Sgt Hillman/Cpl Randle 3 PARA	1:50.17 secs
2 nd place	Lt Pilcher/Sgt Owen QDG	1:50.85 secs
3 rd place	Sgt Culwick/Tpr French 2 RTR	1:52.04 secs
4 th place	OCdt Eades 5 Trg Regt RLC/Gnr Greenslade Kings Tp RHA	1:53.92 secs
5 th place	Capt Chaganis/LCpl Fisher 4 RIFLES	1:54.10 secs
6 th place	Tpr Schofield QDG/Lt James 3 CSMR	1:54.94 secs

Fastest Brakeman Sgt Owen QDG 5.59 secs

FEMALE RESULTS

1 ST place	LCpl Walker/LCpl Jarman R Signals	1:52.58 secs
2 nd place	Cpl Davies/Capt Robson R Signals	1:52.86 secs
3 rd place	LCpl Johnson/Capt Whitley 40 Regt RA	2:06.96 secs

Fastest Brakewoman LCpl Jarman 5.94 secs