

Brockhurst and Marlston House Ski Club – a parent’s perspective

I have been lucky enough to go on five trips; but that’s not a huge number as some have been on quite a few more. For those parents who have not been, I would like to tell you why I think you should really consider going. I have been lucky, over 25 years, to do all sorts of ski holidays and these trips have been some of the very best:

Skiing

- All parents, from beginners to advanced, tend to take the opportunity to ski with the instructors specifically provided for the adults each morning
- There is plenty of opportunity, outside of the lessons, to ski with your children and their friends, as well as in adult groups, a super range of skiing experience
- It is a joy to watch all the children of all ages mix, regardless of ski ability. Perhaps good proof of this is that there is often at least one old boy or girl
- If parents want to have lunch in the mountains, rather than go back to the hotel, they can do so. (It is worth trying to do that once in the week with a group of children too)
- Well chosen resorts (including with an eye on excellent snow chances) to cater for everyone

Cost

- Given that the cost of the trip includes *everything* except for pocket money for the children, and drinks at the bar, I think it is really excellent value

Hotel

- This is the bit that some parents don’t like! The hotels are sound but can seem relatively basic because the accommodation and food is designed more for the children than the parents
- Parents with differing views on creature comforts may be one of the reasons why there are at least as many individual mothers and fathers as couples. This means there is no chance of anyone feeling left out

Other activities

- Parents generally like to take part in all the children’s activities (e.g. evening events and shopping)
- Great opportunity to get to know children in all years and become friends with parents across all age groups, as well as get to know all the group leaders better

Travel

Much less stress than the normal family trip because someone else is in charge from the moment you set off from school! This includes the smooth organisation of ski and boot fitting and sorting ski passes

Summary

Even if you can't go, do consider encouraging your children to give it a go! Because everyone takes great care to ensure unaccompanied children have as great a time as everyone else. The Parks, over many years, and now the Raeburn-Wards, strive to make this a wonderful trip for all

Do talk to people you know who have been