

*Fall-Line*

**GEAR OF THE YEAR 2018**

The skis, boots and kit you need to have in your bag this winter

# SKIING

The complete skier

**2018 SEASON PLANNER**

## READY, SET, **SKI**

Inspiration. Skills. Equipment. Get raring to go for a winter of plenty

**NEW!**

### **FAMILY SKI**

Where (and how) to get your toddlers started

### **RIGHT TIME, RIGHT PLACE**

Our mega month-by-month insider resort guide

**WIN**  
FALL-LINE'S SKIS  
& BINDINGS OF  
THE YEAR

### **FRANCE FOCUS**

From pow-hunting in the Pyrenees to a ski safari in the Tarentaise to touring the wilds of the Vanoise

**MY MOUNTAIN: PADDY GRAHAM ON WHY HE'S CRAZY FOR INNSBRUCK**  
**GOING GREEN: THE WORLD'S MOST ECO-FRIENDLY SKI RESORTS**  
**ANDORRA UNCOVERED: HOW DOES IT MEASURE UP TO THE ALPS?**

ISSUE 155 OCTOBER 2017  
£4.99 WWW.FALL-LINE.CO.UK



55>



## IL MORC

## ► MY FIT

100% cust  
liner syste  
to your ne



## ► KEY FEAT

- Center B
- Contour
- Hyperba
- Wide Par
- Dynalink
- Best shol
- Dynamic
- Inverted
- Kinetic R



Team GB's 'dark horse' up-and-coming moguls skier, Thomas Gerken Schofield

# GB HAS 'AT LEAST FIVE' OLYMPIC MEDAL HOPEFULS

Last winter's bumper crop of podiums, plus extra funding and new dynamic leadership, has given Team GB a pre-PyeongChang boost, says Gaby Le Breton

Great Britain's finest wintersports athletes are busy training in both hemispheres and at their local artificial slopes in anticipation of the 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympics next February.

Dan Hunt, performance director at British Ski & Snowboard (BSS), is flushed with the success of James 'Woodsy' Wood's slopestyle World Cup win at Cardrona, NZ, where Katie Ormerod and Billy Jones also placed fifth and sixth in snowboard slopestyle.

"We're in a totally different place to this time four years ago, not only in park & pipe but across Alpine, cross-country and ski-cross, to name just a few," says Dan. "We've progressed in our vision and performance, transforming the landscape to become podium-competitive across multiple disciplines. We've got 24 Olympic Qualifying Standard athletes, already the biggest team ever, and the energy and enthusiasm of the entire team is super-high."

With a background in GB cycling and premier league football, Dan's goals for British wintersports are ambitious and far-sighted. "Everything is aimed at taking a minimum of two to three medals at PyeongChang in order to build funding and path development to secure three to six medals at the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics," he says.

"Ultimately we want to be in the top five snowsports medal-winning nations by 2030."

Dan even sees Blighty's lack of snow as a bonus. "Off the snow, we are, if anything, at an advantage over the Alpine nations, because we've had to be. Many of our best athletes spent

years on artificial snow before hitting the real stuff." It's fighting talk, and it's now generating results.

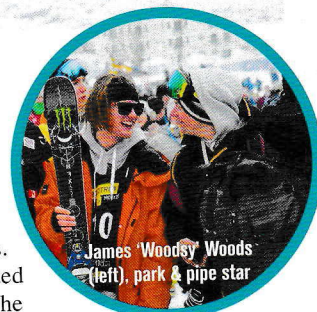
UK Sport granted extra funding to the park & pipe, Alpine and Nordic programmes after Team GB achieved 15 World Cup podiums and 47 top tens last season. Meanwhile, BSS's Innovative Funding Scheme is offering generous rewards for athletes who have previously had to resort to crowdfunding projects and part-time jobs at McDonald's to fund their careers.

In August, Dan unveiled a new moguls programme to support medal hopes, such as the trio of Gerken Schofield siblings. He also appointed a home talent manager, Mark Ritchie, to put professional development pathways in place for budding young athletes.

Introducing some cycling magic to the equation, Dan has also brought BSS-funded sports engineering to the mix, significantly improving the quality of athletes' equipment and their physical conditioning.

Dan is confident of at least five potential medals at PyeongChang, likely to be delivered by park & pipe trailblazers, such as Woodsy and Katie Ormerod, and slalom hopeful Dave Ryding, as well as by dark horses like Thomas Gerken Schofield and halfpipe skier Rowan Cheshire. Yet, in many ways he's already moved beyond PyeongChang, his sights set on Beijing. "I'm generally 60 per cent in the here and now and 40 per cent in the future.

"That said," he admits, "I don't have a clue which bus I need to get home..."



James 'Woodsy' Woods (left), park & pipe star



Rowan Cheshire, halfpipe hope

**“Off the snow, we are, if anything, at an advantage over the Alpine nations”**

Dan Hunt, performance director

## GLENCOE WANTS TO M

Scotland's oldest ski area, Glencoe, has its sights set on the new Snowfactory snowmaking system, which works in temperatures up to 10°C and guarantee a set opening and maintain a small snowbase. A disappointing winter last year, when Glencoe only opened for 32 days, has seen Scotland in general suffer from a lack of snowfall. The resort is enlisting supporters – who can pledge £25,000 (pledgesports.org.uk) – to help Glencoe Mountain Snow make

## NEW CHAPTER AT L

SATA, the new owner of Leaning Tower of London, has published opening and closing dates for the 2017/18 season pass prices for this season. The 17/18 will run from 23 December to 17 March. With a season pass costing £1,480, joint season pass with Alpina costs £1,480. SATA also runs – discount – until 2 October. The contract this summer for the 2017/18 season, which stipulates it must in the base station and the restaurants, and retain ex-fall-line.co.uk for more. The remains responsible for the off-piste areas we love, and an evaluation commission will

## HAKUBA AND KH G

Two new locations will feature Freeride World Tour – Hakuba and Kicking Horse in BC, Canada. Categories – ski men, ski women, snowboard men and snowboard women. 45 athletes will make the international journey this season. Other three stops at Vallée d'Aoste, Fieberbrunn and Verbier. freerideworldtour.com

## K2 AND VÖLKL G

K2 Sports and Völkl/Malton are starting winter 17/18 with a private equity fund. The fund will buy ski hardware brands from the Inc for a rumoured \$250m