

SPORTS

sports @ interior-news.com



PUSHING TO THE FINISH LINE

Girls in the midget 12-13 age group compete in the first leg of the Teck Northern Cup on the trails of the Bulkley Valley Nordic Centre on Jan. 11. Zoe Hallman finished the 3.5 kilometre classic mass in 15:32 minutes, with Mia Recknell, Claire Lesawich, Haley Hanchard and Rachel Cuell close behind. Fifty-one participants from around the northwest competed in the annual cup race. For the full story see page B11.

Contributed photo

SPORTS

Nordic club skis to success in annual cup race

By Kendra Wong
Smithers/Interior News

The Bulkley Valley Nordic Club cleaned up at the annual Teck Northern Cup race against clubs from around the northwest on home turf two weeks ago.

In almost every cross-country skiing category, a local skier came first against competitors from the Prince George and Vanderhoof clubs.

"The race went really well this year, everybody had a really good time," said Lea-Marie Bowes-Lyon, the race director.

"Since most of the racers are in our junior program, they're pretty familiar with all the trails so that's one of the advantages of being at home. So for them, it's a chance to race on the courses that they already know."

In solid conditions (along with the fresh dump of snow the mountain had), just over 50 people hit the hills to participate in the classic, mass start regional race.

Claire Chandler, Catherine De Gisi, Jenna Chandler, Ivan Hanchard, Jesse Smids, Zoe Hallman, Seton Kriese, Hamish Woods, Andy Thompson, Walter Bucher, Sandra Nash and

Teresa White all took home first place in their respective categories.

Another race bonus is that clubs that participate in the Teck Northern Cup are also given a certain number of points based on what position the club's racer comes in. At the end of the season, there is an award for the club with the most points.

Bowes-Lyon said the Smithers nordic club has won the banner for the past two years and hopes to continue their winning ways this year.

The next race is the Chris Dahlie Open on Feb. 8 and is open to the public.