

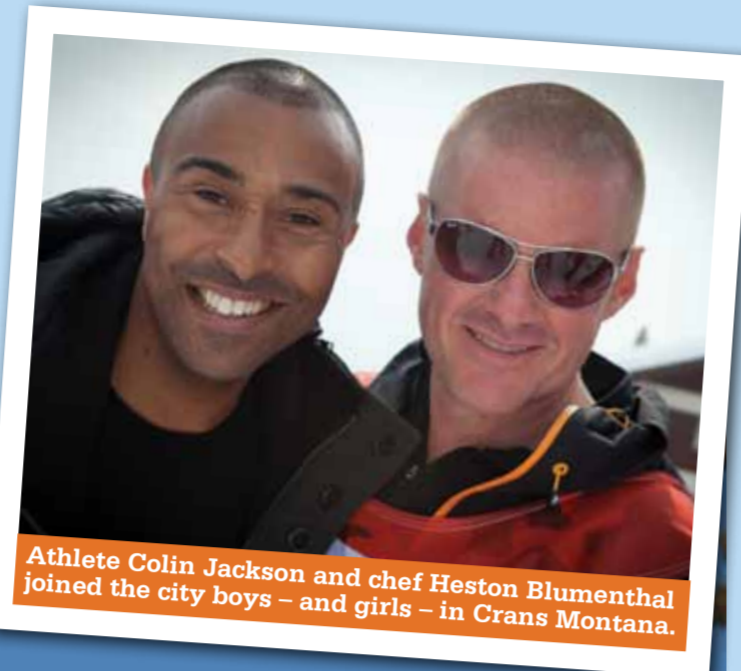


City sliders

Some well-known faces were among the skiers taking part in the Momentum Ski Festival in Switzerland recently



Antoine Deneriaz races against a Lloyds team member in the parallel slalom



Athlete Colin Jackson and chef Heston Blumenthal joined the city boys - and girls - in Crans Montana.

THE annual Momentum Ski Festival, which incorporates the City Ski Championships, was held in Crans Montana for the first time this season and attracted more than 280 participants from London and Geneva's financial communities.

Antoine Deneriaz, Olympic Downhill Gold Medalist at the 2006 Turin Winter Olympics and ambassador for Swiss manufacturing company Zai, was one of the guests.

He was joined by a host of sporting and entertainment celebrities including former

British ski team member and three-time Olympian Konrad Bartelski, world record breaking athlete Colin Jackson, Michelin-starred chef Heston Blumenthal, Ski Sunday presenter and former British team member and Olympian Graham Bell, and Matt Chilton, the BBC Ski Sunday Commentator.

An exciting programme of individual and business sector races took place, including the Accenture Dual Parallel Slalom and World Cup Giant Slalom, the Geneva Cup and the Zurich Cup.

Winners of this year's key Championship events were:
Fastest Male Team: Won by Christopher Oliveira, Filippo Guerrini Maraldi, Antony Barrow and Alessandro Guerrini Maraldi of Lloyd's of London.

Fastest Female Team: Won by Megan Turnbull, Michelle Muir, Claire Yates and Evelyn McKinnie of Accenture.

Fastest Mixed Team: Won by Olivier Brunisholz, Philippe Magistretti, Sabrina Berthaudin and Anne Brunisholz of Family Office Service, Geneva.

Fastest individual winner of the 2012 City Ski Championships: Till Hufnagel of Goldman Sachs.

This year's programme of events also included a panel discussion in the form of the first ever Financial Times Alpine Forum. The event was hosted by FT Weekend Editor Caroline Daniel and panelled by Frank Gardner, Security Correspondent at the BBC, Marcus Brigstocke,



The winning team from Lloyds

Ski wishes DO come true

BRECKENRIDGE has extended its season by two extra weekends in April as a climax to its 50 Wishes campaign. The resort has been granting wishes all season to celebrate the area's 50th anniversary season, fulfilling experiences of a lifetime submitted by guests from around the world.

"We had one wish - our 50th - left to grant," said resort spokesman Pat Campbell, "and our guests and fans said they'd love to see us extending the season."

Breckenridge will open lifts and terrain at Peak 8 only, including the Imperial Express SuperChair, on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 20-22 April and 27-29 April, from 9am to 4pm. "April is typically one of the snowiest months of the season and we have excellent conditions we expect to last," said Campbell.

ASPEN/SNOWMASS: The Oasis, a mobile pop-up champagne bar featuring Veuve Clicquot, is being moved around Aspen Mountain by The Little Nell, one of Aspen's hotels and combines flutes of fizz and spectacular views every weekend for the rest of the season.

Guests can gather clues to locate the elusive bar on The Little Nell's Facebook page. Best deal on a glass of Veuve is \$15 (£9) or a bottle of Veuve Grande Dame is \$225 (£142) if you've given up skiing for the day.

HEAVENLY/KIRKWOOD: Up to 9ft (2.7mtrs) of recent snow in the most powerful storm to hit the Lake Tahoe region this winter has given the two resorts chance to keep on skiing and boarding well into spring.



USA Starbucks cutting the ribbon

Heavenly will shut down during the week from April 15 and re-open Friday through Sunday the weekends of April 20 to 22 and April 27 to 29, weather and conditions permitting. Kirkwood will keep the same weekend-only schedule as long as snow conditions support skiing and boarding.

Heavenly's operation will include the Heavenly Gondola, Tamarack Express and Dipper Express, with a limited expert-only operation at Gunbarrel Express. Kirkwood plans to operate Chair No 6, Cornice Express, and Chair No 10, Wagon Wheel.

VAIL: The area recently claimed the accolade of best value in lift passes, including the new Tahoe Local Pass with access to more than 10,000 total skiable acres between Heavenly, Northstar and Kirkwood.

For \$419, Tahoe local pass holders receive seven-days-a-week access to the three top resorts in the Tahoe region for \$80 less than last year's

comparable Epic Local Pass and bosses say it pays for itself in just over four days. Guests of Heavenly, Northstar and Kirkwood now have a variety of pass options to choose from.

*Vail bought the Kirkwood resort at Lake Tahoe, as well as undeveloped sites at the base area, for about \$18million. Vail Resorts said Heavenly and Northstar pass holders have immediate access to Kirkwood - and Kirkwood pass holders will be able to ski and ride Heavenly and Northstar.

SQUAW VALLEY: The world's first ski-in, ski-out Starbucks has been opened 8,000ft up the mountain, offering spectacular views and the chance for guests to stay on their skis or boards while they order their drinks. The Starbucks is at the Gold Coast mid-mountain complex and can be reached by the resort's Funitel with or without ski or boarding gear. It will be open daily from 9am to 4pm throughout the season, weather permitting.



Après ski at Zerodix in Crans Montana

Presenter on BBC Radio 4 and Edouard Cuckierman, the founder and CEO of Catalyst Funds and Chairman of Cuckierman & Co Investment House.

Bruno Huggler, assistant director and marketing manager at Valais Tourism, said: "The City Ski Championships went very well in Crans Montana. The local organisers and Momentum Travel managed to give a new dimension to this event. The City Ski Championships will continue to grow and we are expecting approximately 400 participants next year."

Amin Momen, director at Momentum, said: "After 12 years in Courmayeur, Italy, we are delighted to have relocated the Championships to Switzerland and that it has been such a success. Crans-Montana has fantastic facilities, including

the World Cup Giant Slalom course which was perfect for the main competition. We look forward to returning next year."

The Momentum Ski Festival (incorporating the

City Ski Championships) will take place in Crans-Montana, from 15 - 17 March 2013. To register, visit: <http://cityskichampionships.com>

• Pictures from this year's Momentum Ski Festival & the City Ski Championships are available from Martin Bond Photography: <http://client.martinbond.com/v/1/C96590202/m0m3ntum>