

Disabled Skiing in Lesotho Africa 2013 – it's true!

Mathys Roets's dream has started to become true with the first bi-ski run on an African ski slope. He is determined to open up the ski resort in Lesotho <http://www.afriski.net/> to anyone with a disability so that others can enjoy the same rejuvenating experience and confidence builder as himself.

Knowing how few people would have the means to travel to the well known ski resorts of the US, Canada and Europe his aim is to bring disabled and adaptive skiing to South Africa. It starts with a bi-ski donated by The Silverstar Program in Canada but he is also very keen to get his hands on a Tessier ski which are manufactured in France. With more funds the aim is to extend the programme to incorporate other disciplines and get more specialist ski instructors to go and help out which includes training those living and working in the region.

Having done an adaptive ski programme at the ski resort of Silver Star Mountain Resort near Vernon, British Columbia. The Silverstar program <http://www.ssass.bc.ca/> is amazing! I skied for 5 days with 2 ski instructors on every session and its free! My one instructor is their Olympic coach <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oUrVqvxqv3s>

Mathys had contacted Ski 2 Freedom to find out about progressing his skiing with a family holiday in France. Val d'Isere and Philippe Pouchkine from ESF Val d'Isere came up trumps and provided the Roets family with an experience of a life-time – see this clip of what it meant to Mathys and his kids <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S8Dbz9FTGpQ&feature=youtu.be> His enthusiasm for learning to ski, and for Val d'Isere are well remembered by everyone who helped out.

Mathys was given a head-start on his journey to bring disabled skiing back to South Africa with the generous donation of a sit-ski from The Silverstar Program in Canada but he is also very keen to get his hands on a Tessier ski!

"We did it! First sit-ski in Africa.

We went skiing, 8 guys and one bi-ski but it was loads of fun, even though the slope was just about 1km long.

Eventually everybody got a nice chance. Next year if possible I would like to start a small slalom event. Hopefully we will have more skis available.

For now if anybody wants to know....it is possible and there is a very good instructor to help, but only one mountainman bi-ski"

Having been asked to see if there is any interest in some qualified ski instructors for disabled and adaptive skiing and snowboarding to go to help out, Ski 2 Freedom has had some very positive feedback and it looks as if Lesotho could be a place to go instead of the more usual Southern Hemisphere ski resorts..... helping out young South African disabled kids and maybe combining with a bit of game safari Pretty good idea and somewhat different but incredibly rewarding!

