

Kootenay Cup



Teck

Kimberley Nordic Club hosting Teck Kootenay Cup #5 & 6

February 11, 2020
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
(Kimberley, B.C.)



*U14 boys line up at the start of their first Kings Court heat in the Saturday classic sprints.
Photo by Colin Ferguson.*

The Teck Kootenay Cup series #5 & 6 took place at the Kimberley Nordic Club (KNC) on February 8th and 9th in Kimberley, B.C. This year, KNC hosted a Tier 2 Points race as part of the TECK Kootenay Cup series. There were a record number of racers this year with 260 skiers on Saturday for classic sprint races with qualifiers and heats, and 241 skiers on Sunday for skate races with mass starts. These skiers represented teams from Calgary, Canmore, Fernie, Golden, Invermere, Nelson, Slocan Valley, Rossland, Kimberley, Montana and Taipei, Taiwan. Those in attendance included ex-Olympic cross country skiers Sara Renner and Beckie Scott.

Fresh snow on Friday night made for excellent classic racing conditions Saturday. For the Saturday sprints, there were an incredible 120 heats with some great photo finishes! The sprints followed the popular Kings Court format, ensuring everyone got to ski in the heats. Courses wrapped the stadium area for great spectator viewing and included some challenging hills. The 450m classic sprint course at KNC has a challenging corner as it turns toward the finish line. There were more than a few crashes throughout the day,



The 450m classic sprint course at KNC has a challenging corner as it turns toward the finish line. There were more than a few crashes throughout the day. Photo by Lyle Grisedale.

which changed up the lead unexpectedly in a number of races. Skiers in the U16 and higher categories skied on Kimberley's newly homologated FIS race courses. Sprint heats up the steep 20m climb on the longer courses got progressively more difficult with each round. Despite these challenging courses, a wide range of ages participated. Notable in this mix were three generations of the Smith family racing with Richard Smith, his son Kurstun, and grandkids Kaelum and Aleah.

There was some close competition in the U14 boys classic sprints on Saturday at KNC, but this may have been the closest lunge of the entire weekend! Photo by Dan Clark.





The Sunday distance courses used a network of trails on the hill immediately south of the stadium with varied terrain and some challenging climbs. Skis were clear of flurries on Sunday making skate conditions fast and consistent. Race loops ranged from 500m to 5km, with U14 and older racers skiing FIS homologated loops within the Kimberley trail network. The U16 girls race was the closest of the day, with the top three finishers skating to the finish of the 6.6km course within 2.5 seconds of each other. Racers, participants and volunteers enjoyed Norwegian waffles after the races as they packed up and headed for home.

Kimberley's Roan Christie skates to a third place finish on Sunday's U14 distance race. Photo by Dan Clark.



The closest finish in Sunday's skate mass start race was likely in the U16 girls race. Photo by Dan Clark.

A huge thank you to all the people who made this such a wonderful weekend! This was made possible by a group of very dedicated volunteers who did a great job hosting a very successful race for over 250 skiers. Thanks also to Kimberley Search and Rescue for their support. A big THANK YOU to Teck Resources Limited for sponsoring this amazing event!



For more information, please contact:

Sandie Gibson
250-545-9600
office@crosscountrybc.ca

Kimberley Nordic Club
Lori Craig
loricraigcreative@gmail.com

Cross Country BC (CCBC), the provincial sport governing body for cross country skiing in British Columbia, is a not-for-profit, club-based organization of more than 18,000 members. CCBC offers programs and services to support the continuous development of cross country skiing for all ages and abilities, from introductory experiences to international excellence.

Teck Resources Limited is the title sponsor of CCBC's Skier Development Program, thereby supporting excellence in sport and providing youth with experiences that will help them prepare for the for the future. For more information on Cross Country BC, please visit www.crosscountrybc.ca.



Teck

