

Shelley Rudman wins gold and Kristan Bromley silver at St Moritz skeleton World Cup

British sliders Shelley Rudman and Kristan Bromley were both in the medals at the St Moritz Skeleton World Cup in Switzerland today, with Rudman winning gold in the women's race and Bromley taking silver in the men's.

By Brendan Gallagher
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Rudman, silver medallist for Great Britain at the Torino Olympic Winter Games in 2006, won her second World Cup gold of the season and her fourth medal overall.

Second to Canada's world ranked No 1 Mellisa Hollingsworth after the first of two heats, Rudman's second run of 1:09.88 was the quickest of the day. It piled the pressure on the Canadian, who could only take silver, finishing four-hundredths of a second overall behind the Brit.

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Rudman's gold today followed the gold she won at the Cessana track in Italy last month, silver at Lake Placid in the USA in November and bronze at Königssee in Germany a week ago. With fourths in two other races, Rudman's lowest World Cup finish of the season was her seventh in Altenburg, Germany in December.

Team-mate Amy Williams, silver medallist at last season's World Championships, also performed well in the women's race this afternoon.

She finished fourth overall – her sixth top-10 World Cup finish from seven competitions.

Williams was sixth after the first run but climbed a couple of places on the second, missing out on the bronze medal by 0.27 seconds.

Rudman remains second in the overall world rankings with Williams fifth. Britain's Kristan Bromley produced his best result of the season by taking silver in the men's World Cup race at St Moritz earlier today.

He had posted the fastest time in the first of two heats today, but the entire first heat was discounted because of problems with the start grooves.

Bromley was second fastest behind Eric Bernotas of the USA in the second run to take silver. He adds the silver to the bronze he won in Park City, the USA in November.

Today's result propels Bromley from ninth to sixth in the overall FIBT world rankings. Team-mate Andy Wood came 13th today.

Overnight Britain's athletes were in action in the Intercontinental Cup in Calgary, where Adam Pengilly won silver, his first medal of the season. Ant Sawyer was eighth and Chris Type ninth.

In the women's race, Sarah Sydney achieved her highest Intercontinental Cup finish to date, coming eighth. Donna Creighton finished 10th.

Today's Skeleton World Cup races were the final World Cup events counting towards national quotas and points of the 2010 Olympic Winter Games qualification period. Overnight UK time sees the second Intercontinental Cup race in successive days in Calgary, Canada which also comes within the qualification period.

The British Olympic Association announces its selection of Team GB skeleton athletes for the Vancouver Olympic Winter Games on Friday 29th January.

The Skeleton World Cup circuit now moves on to the final leg of the 2009/10 series at Igls in Austria next week – an event that doubles as the European Championships. Women compete on Friday 22nd January with the men going on Saturday 23rd January. The final round of the Intercontinental Cup is at Park City in the USA on Friday 22nd January.

Results from St Moritz World Cup – men (all athletes one heat only)

Gold: Eric Bernotas (USA) – 1:09.15

Silver: Kristan Bromley (GBR) – 1:09.27

Bronze: Martins Dukurs (LAT) – 1:09.33

13th: Andy Wood (GBR) – 1:09.76

Results from St Moritz World Cup – women

Gold: Shelley Rudman (GBR) – 2:20.42

Silver: Mellisa Hollingsworth (CAN) – 2:20.46

Bronze: Kerstin Szymkowiak (GER) – 2:20.68

4th: Amy Williams (GBR) – 2:20.95

Results from Calgary Intercontinental Cup – men

Gold: John Daly (USA) – 1:53.44

Silver: Adam Pengilly (GBR) – 1:53.54

Bronze: Charles Włodarczak (CAN) – 1:53.64

8th: Ant Sawyer (GBR) – 1:54.06

9th: Chris Type (GBR) – 1:54.23

Results from Calgary Intercontinental Cup – women

Gold: Anja Huber (GER) – 1:55.51

Silver: Amy Gough (CAN) – 1:55.83

Bronze: Michelle Kelly (CAN) – 1:56.50

8th: Sarah Sydney (GBR) – 1:57.58

10th: Donna Creighton (GBR) – 1:57.91

Overall FIBT World Rankings – men

1: Martins Dukurs (LAT) – 1469

2: Sandro Stielicke (GER) – 1270

3: Frank Rommel (GER) – 1256

6: Kristan Bromley (GBR) – 1146

17: Chris Type (GBR) – 745

22: Adam Pengilly (GBR) – 652

23: Ant Sawyer (GBR) – 600

25: Andy Wood (GBR) – 592

47: Dave Swift (GBR) – 352

Overall FIBT world Rankings – women

1: Mellisa Hollingsworth (CAN) - 1446
2: Shelley Rudman (GBR) - 1412
3: Kerstin Szymkowiak (GER) - 1364
5: Amy Williams (GBR) - 1168
16: Donna Creighton (GBR) - 809
32: Sarah Sydney (GBR) - 460
59: Maggie Davies (GBR) - 240
