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**Press release – 13 March 2018**

**Sport and hefty study grants at a record-breaking Jesús Serra Foundation Trophy**

**The 11th Jesús Serra Foundation Trophy was held at the Baqueira Beret ski resort over the weekend of 10-11 March. Nearly 180 amateur and competition skiers took part in the Open Alpine event on Saturday in which they raced side-by-side. Study grants worth €15,000 went to the winners of Sunday’s thrilling parallel slalom.**

Baqueira Beret once again hosted the 11th Jesús Serra Foundation Trophy over the weekend of 10-11 March. This time round the Trophy broke all records with 177 people registered for the event. On the day it seemed that the weather was going to be pretty poor. However, “the Trophy was a great success,” said Laura Halpern, Director of the Jesús Serra Foundation, as she thanked all the participants who year after year have remained loyal to the event.

The competition kicked off on Saturday the 10th with the first Open event in which amateur and competition skiers competed in the giant slalom. This race is all about speed, skill and technique as competitors seek to zip between the gates as quickly as possible and a great time was had by all.

All skiers can take part in this Open Trophy event irrespective of whether or not they are licensed. It features some big gifts with which the Jesús Serra Foundation seeks to encourage and reward the participation of all entrants. Hence at the awards ceremony on Saturday, and in addition to the trophies, there was also a draw for Salomon equipment (two pairs of skis, helmets, sticks, jackets, glasses, fleeces, backpacks and gloves), two Suunto heart rate monitors, Buff products, Baqueira Beret ski passes, subscriptions to the magazine Solonieve and two nights in the Palacio de Villapanés hotel in Seville. This meant that all competitors in all categories had a chance to take away a prize for their participation.

The 16 best times in the women’s category and the 32 best times in the men’s category from Saturday then competed in the Trophy’s parallel slalom event on Sunday. This last race decided which of the competitors would get the ski training study grants offered by the Jesús Serra Foundation.

The parallel slalom is a spectacular event where the tension to see who would win the big prize grew as the finals approached. And no wonder, as the study grant for the winner came to €3,000, for the runner-up to €2,500 and for the third finisher to €2,000.

On the women’s podium Anna Díaz Prieto from the GRANUEC club was in first place, Mariona Boix from the LMCE club in second and Ona Rocamora from the CAEI in third. Díaz Prieto is a medical student and was very grateful for the help provided by the prize and the Foundation as the grant will give her some respite from the workload of studying and doing her sport.

The men’s podium was made up of the Andorran Joan Verdú, Iker Gastamiza from the CEVA club and Axel Esteve, also from Andorra. Gastamiza, who is Basque, underscored the incentive the Trophy means for skiers who are at university along with the crucial financial support the prize provides to the winners in their studies and personal plans.

As Jesús Serra Foundation Director Laura Halpern noted, there’s no doubt that this 11th Trophy has been a resounding success and the values it promotes were on display all the time.

Complete results of Saturday’s Open giant slalom: <http://bit.ly/2tGs7wc>

**AGENDA**

**OPA FIS Finals of the European Cross-country Skiing Cup – 16/18 March**

From 16 to 18 March the best European cross-country skiers will compete at Beret. On the 16th there will be a Sprint at distances of between 1.4 and 1.6 km based on category. It will be followed on the 17th by a mass start Distance competition where the top categories will compete over 15 km for men and 10 km for women while in the junior category it will be 10 km for men and 5 km for women. The last competition, the pursuit, is scheduled for the 18th.

http://baqueira.es/opa-fis-continental-cup

**Quattro Era Baishada – 17 March**

The quattro Era Baishada is to take place on Saturday 17 March at Beret Stadium. It is an Open event sponsored by Audi which features a straightforward and fun combination of a number of winter sports disciplines. Registration at:

http://quattroerabaishada.com/

**More press information**:

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