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Nepal team ski-less in Val d'Isere

Posted By: [Rod Gilmour](#) at Feb 10, 2009 at 10:50:44 [[General](#)]

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A heart-rending story from the world skiing championships in Val d'Isere and not one that goes 100bpm at the thought of going hell for the leather down the Face de Bellevarde piste.



Off piste: Nepal won't win medals but should win charity Photo: Reuters

This one's about the Nepalese ski team. No ski resorts, no major medals, no chance.

The two-man team are in Val d'Isere thanks to the dream of Richard Morley (pictured), a British businessman and former skier turned Nepal coach.

Having travelled to France, Shyam Dhakal and Subash Khatri discovered that their skis did not meet the requirements imposed by the International Ski Federation (FIS) for the competition.

"A local shop offered to lend us some skis but we're not sure they will be legal. It's very frustrating when you see that some of the guys from leading ski countries just use their training skis a couple of times and just throw them away," Morley, who launched the Nepal Alpine skiing team a decade ago after a request from then King Birendra, said.

Described as "mountain boys with as much guts", they have until Friday to find someone charitable enough to lend the team two pairs of skis before the giant slalom race.

For the record, the closest Nepal has become to winning a major medal came at the 1972 Olympics when Jeet Bahadur KC took part in the marathon. Leading after 32 kms he then had to quit the race after suffering cramp. At least the slalom is a touch shorter.

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