



Beauty on the piste

She's young, blonde, beautiful and in the Top Ten. Sounds like many a girl who's managed to sing a couple of songs on a TV talent show. But Chemmy (pronounced Shemm a y) Alcott is very different and is carving out her own career, not to mention a place in sporting history.

Chemmy is Britain's Great Ski Hope, a mixture of single-minded ambition and dazzling charisma. She managed a 9th in the Women's Downhill in the 2004 season, the best result by a British woman in 30 years. Last season she was hampered by niggling injuries, but came good in the end, coming 19th in the Super G at the World Championships (the best-ever British female speed result), and picking up decent placings in her last two races, Giant Slaloms, which halved her GS world ranking. Now, confident, recovered and 23, she's aiming for the biggest winter of her life. Come February it's the Winter Olympics in Italy and Chemmy is sure she'll outshine her debut performance at the 2002 Games in Salt Lake City. "I'm four years older and so much more professional," she says. "I'm not just going to

make up the numbers, but to challenge." Chemmy has been skiing since she was 18 months old, on a family trip to France and first remembers racing when she was three. Since then it has pretty much been her life. "I set myself an ultimatum," she laughs. "If I got four As at A-levels I could commit completely to skiing. I got the grades...and got to ski full time! "I love the adrenaline rush. Being on the magical mountains, watching the sunrise. The freedom, the silence, the wind, the frosty nights. The winning!" Chemmy spent the summer fitness training in Austria in between hopping over to Argentina for some real snow tests. Her TV slot Chemmy's Diaries on Channel 4's World Cup ski coverage has already made her a household commodity of her face (not to mention her bunions were also stars of

the show). Now she is hoping for an Olympic result to bring lasting joy to Britain's army of ski fans.

Read a full, exclusive interview with Chemmy PLUS her fitness tips for you to get the most out of your holiday in the Christmas issue of the Good Ski Guide - out mid November

