

Skiers slope off for charity

A GROUP of business people from Edenbridge have spent 12 hours skiing across the Swiss slopes to raise more than £16,500 for charity.

The team of enthusiasts from Berthold Bauer VAT Consultants, in Roman Road, flew to Villars in southern Switzerland at the weekend to take part in an international skiing event organised by ex-Formula One racing driver Jacques Villeneuve.

Now in its ninth year, the BOV24H Villars race sees participants from across the globe gather to ski non-stop for 24 hours to raise millions of pounds for sick children.

More than 100 teams were split into four categories depending on their abilities and competed against each other to see if they could ski downhill in relay for an entire day and night.

The squad from Edenbridge, which was named Pirates of Villars, was placed 54th out of 115th in the race and raised the second highest total of any team.

The money raised will be donated to the Anthony Nolan Trust, which helps children with Leukaemia.

Team member Justina Davidson said: "Unfortunately due to severe weather conditions the race was cut down to 12 hours but the team still managed to

achieve a lot more than we thought we would."

To keep the skiers entertained throughout the race, a music concert was thrown with performances by various pop talents from around the world.

Mrs Davidson added: "It took three hours to get people off the mountains after the show, it was unbelievable and really kept the skiers going."

"But it was all about raising money for sick children and that was our real motivation - it was a race for life."

■ The event will be broadcast at this weekend on BBC 2's Ski Sunday.



MOUNTAIN HIGH: The team of skiers from Berthold Bauer VAT consultants who took part in 24-hour ski in Villars, Switzerland, raising £16,500 for the Anthony Nolan Trust

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