

Norwich youngsters are stars on the slopes at England Championships

Skiing

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Norwich's skiing prodigies set the Italian resort of Bormio alight as Travis Parker and Alex Ogden dominated the podium at the English Alpine Championships.

The pair of 11-year-olds finished second and third in the English under-12 boys Combi race, an event which is aimed at aiding the development of the 'minis'.

The fun course on the Stella Alpina piste was made up of Giant Slalom and Slalom gates, berms and a jump, and tested all elements of technical skiing.

And while they could not quite catch Luca Carrick-Smith – whose mother is four-time winter Olympian Emma Carrick-Anderson – Parker and Ogden held off the rest of the field to round off the podium.

And Parker, who first started to ski at the Norfolk Snowsports Centre and now trains with the Ambition race team, admitted he knew he had to ski his hardest if he was to challenge at the top of the leaderboard.

"I was pleased with today," he said. "On the first run I knew I was up against strong competition, so I just went for it! I tried to do what my coaches had said during the course inspection. For the second run I just went for it as I had nothing to lose. I am really happy and makes me feel excited about what might happen in the future."

The Championships are celebrating their 10th year in Bormio, with over 400 of the country's most talented skiers – ranging from under-10s to senior racers – flocking to the Italian resort to battle it out for the coveted English titles.

Most of Britain's most revered racers of recent times competed



Alex Ogden, U12 Combi racer, at the English Alpine Championships in Bormio.



Travis Parker in action in Bormio.

Photos: RACER READY.

in the Championships during the early stages of their careers, including four-time Olympian Chemmy Alcott.

Norwich School student Ogden, who trains with the Evolution race team, admitted he loved the racing in Bormio.

He said: "I started ski racing when I was seven. I have loved the sport ever since and just want to get better and better."

Follow the English Alpine Championships on the Snowsport England Facebook page and get live updates on Twitter @ SnowsportEng.

Full results at www.snowsportengland.org.uk while you can find your nearest slope offering value-for-money GO SKI GO BOARD sessions at www.goskigoboard.org.uk