

## Unforgettable skiing adventure at 3.000 metres

It is Friday morning the 2 April 2010, the last day after a lovely skiing holiday in Villars-Gryon. Karina, a Danish female who has difficulties walking due to multiple sclerosis, is mentally preparing herself to a skiing adventure.

Claude-Alain Hofer who is the manager of the Handiconcept Association of Villars-Gryon is waiting for his guest from Denmark at the train station in Villars. He has organised a very special final to Karina's skiing holiday. They are going dualskiing at the Glacier 3000 in Les Diablerets.



"It was a beautiful morning and I was much excited to go to Les Diablerets. I was even more excited and deeply moved when I stepped out of the gondola at the Mario Botta designed restaurant-station. From there one has a spectacular 360° view over a breathtaking, quiet, white and unspoiled landscape and some of the most summits of the Swiss Alps."

"Claude had told me that it would be an adventures day, but I had never imagined what caught my eye and what was expecting me on the slopes," Karina relates.

### **Dual skiing gives unlimited possibilities**

The Dualski is designed to enable quadriplegics to ski independently on the slopes. However, independent skiing requires many skiing lessons and is mostly for people who can frequently hit the slopes. According to Claude-Alain, dual skiing is the closest you can come to 'normal' skiing.

"Karina has told me that the highest point in Denmark is some 170 meters. Not much, eh! Such landscape does not allow much dual skiing practice. Therefore, we should work as a team. You can say that I, being the instructor, was the 'first pilot' while the 'apprentice', in this case Karina, was the 'second pilot'. Karina helped me moving the balance from the right to the left and in that way we worked as a team down the slopes. This solution gives an

inexperienced dual skier the most challenging run and a high degree of safety," explains Claude-Alain.

With great care and precision, Karina was safely seated in the dual ski ready to explore the Glacier.



"I am impressed! We did most of the slopes of the Glacier. We went off-piste in the new, soft glacier snow and ended the adventure with the 5 km long and very steep black slope with a lot of humps. The dual ski is very comfortable with gentle suspension and is very navigable. It really gives you a 'close to the real thing experience' – and a kick," Karina explains laughing.

"It was a fantastic adventure and it was great fun! I never thought that I would experience anything like this. The dual ski made it possible. However, it wouldn't have been possible if it wasn't for Claude! He is an extremely competent skier. At the same time the man is completely fearless and super trustworthy and caring and that made me feel 100% safe all the way," Karina underlines.

"I had an unforgettable and fantastic adventure and the best thinkable final of this years skiing holiday in Villars-Gryon."

"Handiconcept has convinced me that skiing is for everybody, regardless your possible handicap and I can warmly recommend other disabled people to plan

their next winter holiday to go to Villars-Gryon. They will be in the good hands of the Handiconcept team," Karina concludes.

Karina is a 46 year old female from Denmark who has difficulties walking due to sclerosis and who therefore cannot ski normally. The skiing holiday 2010 is the second time she takes lessons with Handiconcept on the slopes of Villars-Gryon. However, 2010 was her first time on the dual ski.

