

# Racer Ready caught up with Ireland's Florence Bell after the Giant Slalom...

**1. How are you enjoying the Games so far?**

Very much, thanks.

**2. What has been the best thing about the Games in terms of sporting excitement and then in terms of cultural and educational aspects?**

So far, apart from competing, the most exciting thing has been the Opening Ceremony where I carried the flag for Ireland.

**3. What did you do in terms of preparation for the Games?**

I kept on top of my general fitness. In addition, I have been training on snow.

**4. How much interest has there been in you at home in terms of competing here?**

There has been a lot of interest! As well as coverage in local newspapers in Ireland and England (where I live), I was also on Central ITV News. My school friends were very excited about the TV coverage and I was busy on Facebook!

**5. What other sports have you been able to watch?**

To be honest, I haven't been able to watch any other sports because, since my coach, Lynn Sharp, arrived in Innsbruck, we have been busy training and preparing for the races. After my slalom race on Friday, I hope to have a chance to watch some other sports.

**6. What is life like in the Olympic Village?**

It's good. We have 3 people on our apartment and I know that some other teams have 6 in an apartment. When you

have just 1 bathroom between all in the flat, this must cause a few problems I would think! We share our building with the Austrian team. Normally, it's quite quiet but I expect that will change at the weekend when the competitions come to an end and people start to party! We have breakfast at the Olympic Village in a heated marquee but for other food we have to go to the Congress in Innsbruck. I like that arrangement, though, because it forces you to leave the Village and to look at other things like the Cultural stands in the Congress and the ceremonies and concerts in the Medals Plaza.

**7. Does this inspire you to go for the main Games in the future?**

Yes. I would love to be selected for Sochi in 2014 or for Pyeongchang in 2018.

**8. What educational / cultural programmes have you taken part in?**

I have enjoyed exchanging Pins with other athletes and at the Congress - I managed to swap one of my pins for an 1964 Innsbruck pin, it is my best one. I also enjoyed looking at the stands for the different Nations. Local children have been given a project to research the Country that they have been assigned. The children looking after the stand for Ireland were really excited to see representatives from the Country they had studied and they had done a lot of work on their stand. Some of their research was a bit odd, though - they believe that the Irish countryside is glowing in the dark as a result of phosphorescence from the peat bogs!! I may get a chance to look at other things when my races have ended.