

Bob Devey, ASSI

1933 – 2006

Bob Devey, who was involved with skiing at Kidsgrove for more than 30 years, has passed away.

Bob was born in Birkenhead and joined the army at 17 where he served for 22 years in the Royal Signals and retired as a sergeant major. Whilst in the army Bob spent many years in Germany where he learned German and married his wife, Joyce, who was in the RAF. The German mountains provided the opportunity to take up skiing, which was to become his lifetime passion. In later years he served in Cyprus and was an instructor at the forces ski school in the Troodos Mountains.

Following army service Bob joined Kidsgrove Ski Centre as the resident instructor when it opened in 1973. Over many years he continued to teach countless people to ski as operation of the slope was taken over by the North Staffs Ski Club. Bob had a regular lesson on Wednesday nights and everyone and anyone was roped in to join, whether you wanted to or not.

His attention to detail ran through everything that he did and was reflected in the way that he maintained all the ski equipment. Bob spent every Saturday morning and many days during the summer shutdown ensuring that all the skis and boots were commissioned and maintained to a high level. Bob was meticulous when it came to keeping records of the equipment

He was well known throughout the industry and had contacts with the major suppliers that he renewed each year at the Soltex trade shows.

Bob also taught in Scotland for many years and was involved with the Trans-Pennine Ski Club. He looked forward to visiting Kaprun, in Austria, with them every May.

Bob had an encyclopaedic knowledge of skiing and was always able to answer the many questions he was asked.

He will be missed by those that knew him.



There is a small memorial garden at the top of the ski slope.



Bob in the ski room at Kidsgrove Ski Centre



Bob at Soltex 2004

Bob can also be seen at the left of the group of instructors on the "Lessons" screen.