

# Newsletter August 2019



**NORTH STAFFS SKI CLUB LTD**

## OPENING TIMES

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday - 7 till 9pm

**Sunday**, Juniors beginner lessons 9.30 - 10.30  
Junior Club 10.30 - 11.30 Blue Group 11.30 - 12.30 Red/Black Group  
Lessons and recreational skiing **12.30 to 3.30** in **September**,  
from **October 12.30** noon to 5pm

**Freestyle Fridays 7 - 9pm begin 13 September - further dates page 5**

**Saturday afternoon sessions starting 21st October 2pm till 5pm**

**Note - Slope closed on Monday 22nd October for the AGM at the club house  
all welcome to attend - 7.30 start.**

## **OPEN DAY** **SATURDAY 5th OCTOBER**



Encourage your friends and family to  
**GET ACTIVE and RISE TO THE CHALLENGE**

### **FREE HALF HOUR TASTER SKI LESSONS**

**10am - 3pm**

A good way for them to find out about skiing and have a go if they want to!  
Support your ski club by telling all your friends and family about this event.  
Sessions bookable in advance. Just ring the ski club to book.

[Refreshments available](#)



## **North Staffs Ski Club** **Annual General Meeting** **Monday 21st October 2019**

See enclosed information.

**The slope will be closed on this night to allow volunteers to attend.**

A draft financial statement will be available at the ski club from 5th October 2018 and at the meeting.



Thanks to all those who gave their time over July and August to - Clean the  
ski tracks - waxing - weeding - strimming - lift maintenance - building cleaning - carpet  
cleaning - etc.

**CAN YOU  
BELIEVE  
IT?**

## **Between September 2018 to June 2019**

We gave **1,350** over 8s and adult beginner lessons  
**492** under 8's beginner lessons, **175** Beginner Freestyle lessons.  
**406** Improver lessons. **20** special clinic lessons (carving and bumps) were held.  
**448** attended group lessons—scouts, beavers, cubs, cadets and schools  
Between **25** and **40** Juniors attended Junior Development Club each Sunday morning



**SNOWSPORT  
ENGLAND**

Member of the British Ski Slope  
Operators Association

Kidsgrove Ski Centre, Bathpool Park, Kidsgrove,  
Stoke on Trent, ST7 4EF Telephone (01782) 784908

[www.ski-kidsgrove.co.uk](http://www.ski-kidsgrove.co.uk)

Company Number:4337963



Active  
Accessible  
Accredited

# Jam News

## What is a Jam?

We favour the Jam format in preference to a more formal competition format because of its` more inclusive nature. So instead of narrowing each category down to three finalists, who each have two runs in which to score points in order to win, a Jam encourages participants of all levels and abilities to enjoy competing in a more supportive, friendly atmosphere. Everyone is involved for the whole competition.

## Saturday 28th September 2019



### **Charity Jam Event to be held in aid of Sports Aid.**

Justin and Ella are hosting the Charity Jam 2019 to raise funds for two great causes. Sports Aid and the Callum Wylie Foundation

Grab your skis and snowboards for great vibe and prizes. Open to beginners and masters of all ages, have fun do good! £20 to enter... If you're up for some chilled snowsports, laughs and raising some funds for CHARITY then we'd love to see you at **Kidsgrove Ski Centre on September 28th**.

## NSSC 6TH OATCAKE JAM : Saturday 9th November 2019



This is the date for North Staffs Ski Club`s own successful annual **Oatcake Jam**, now its 6th year, when we are joined by freestyle skiers and boarders from across the country, with a loyal contingent from Kendal. It`s great just to watch too.

Booking is now open. See the club website or Facebook for details.  
<http://www.ski-kidsgrove.co.uk/index.html>

### Can you help?

As the date of our **6th Annual Oatcake Jam** approaches we have already begun to make preparations, including seeking sponsorship. Over the past five years we have been lucky to be sponsored by larger companies such as **Planks, Buff, Animal, Panda Optics** and our local **Mountain Warehouse** store (who not only have provided ski wear as prizes but also give a 15% discount if you show your membership card). We have also been supported by smaller local companies such as **Autotec**, who provided us with the high visibility jackets we use on the day, **Walkers Toffee** and **Eden China** who have donated china mugs specifically for the event.

If you , or anyone you know, is in a position to offer sponsorship for **The 6th Oatcake Jam** please leave a message for Gareth Bott, Diane Watts or Luke Watts at the club. In the past ski equipment, ski clothing, vouchers for trampoline parks, cash for spot prizes etc. have all been appreciated by the competitors in the past.

Help on the day, for example: marshalling or helping in the kitchen would also be appreciated.

We look forward to seeing you on **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November**.

Entries are now being taken either online or pick up an entry form at the club.

## Sunday Mornings...



I personally believe we have had a fantastic season and would like to take this opportunity to thank the entire Sunday team for their efforts this year.

The slope based team, has been consistent in its professionalism, dedication and commitment, it is these qualities which continue to provide the safest possible learning environment for our junior members and lesson population.

On behalf of the slope based team, I would like to say a big thank you to everyone of the administrative and support staff, who inevitably get locked away in the club house, dealing with everything from paperwork, managing bookings, issuing skis, boots along with maintaining and repairing things that we allegedly break, to feeding and watering everyone that strolls in to the club house.

With regard to the slope based staff, what can I say? What an outstanding group of individuals, I am so proud to be a part of the Sunday Instructor team and consider each and everyone of the team as friends above colleagues.

This season has seen the team continue to grow both in confidence and ability to deliver high quality, dynamic instructional coaching techniques. Most of them have been keen to attend the Friday night instructor development sessions, those that have been unable to make them, have instead selected mentors from the senior instructors and coaches available during recreational time, that has assisted with personal skill development. Whichever option was taken, it is obvious that it is working. Our dedicated team continues to advance through their journey as sports coaches and progress to new levels.

The Sunday coaching team consists of many members, all of which I intend to mention. Firstly our youngest team members, Matt and Fin. These guys, the sons of two of our instructors can be seen on duty most Sunday mornings, regardless of weather, assisting with the smooth operation of the drag lift and other slope activities. They are always happy to help the new users overcome their introduction to this daunting piece

of kit and they do it with smiles permanently fixed to their faces.

The second youngest team member is Joel. Joel just keeps astounding us with his personal skill level. He can be found instructing both freestyle and regular alpine sessions, with the attitude and professionalism of someone way beyond his 15 years. We look forward to welcoming him as a Level 1 Ski Instructor as soon as he reaches his 16th birthday (and completes his paperwork of course). He is sure to climb through the ranks at an accelerated rate.

Joel is not alone on a Sunday morning though, he is in fact accompanied by a strong team of freestyle coaches. The first to mention are Luke and Cameron. Luke along with Cameron are our original freestyle coaches, both of these guys, when asked, happily went along to the Chill Factor to attend a free ski coaching course that we, at the time knew little about. This was back when the freestyle side of the slope was still under construction. A lot has happened since then! Luke and Cameron, along with background support have been instrumental in establishing Sunday morning 09:30 - 10:30 freestyle sessions, Luke also with Friday freestyle for all sessions. Both of these sessions have proved extremely popular. Unfortunately the boys, now both highly qualified, have heard the mountains calling and feel the need to desert us and the UK, for most of the winter. Cameron disappears off to Japan where he continues to gather experience and qualification and Luke does much the same in France. We who stay behind are extremely jealous.

With these guys safely installed over seas, the responsibility of the Sunday morning freestyle sessions then falls firmly on shoulders of Adam. Adam who is assisted at present by the infamous Joel. Adam is qualified as a freestyle coach and ski instructor and looks after the Sunday morning sessions for most of the winter, he does this, along with regular calls to cover both kids club and general skiing lessons. Adam is a confident, knowledgeable and highly skilled coach. The kids along with us, absolutely adore him.

Moving now to the more traditional team members. Up first we have our senior instructors Gerald and Ann K. Both of these guys are battle hardened Level 2 Ski Instructors and together bring enthusiasm, guidance and experience to our team. It is as senior instructors, their duty to cascade their experience. These two do just that eloquently. Gerald now in his eighth decade can often be seen flying around the slope on a variety of skis including telemark! Gerald is an inspiration to us young un's as he calls us and is living proof that age does not need to be a barrier for those wishing they had learned to ski.

Cont...

Next to our Level 1 Ski Instructors, these legends are made up of Colin, Helen, Adam (again) and Lyn. These guys are the backbone of our team and along with Alasdair, himself a candidate level 1 coach, week in week out, turn out in any weather to greet the mini human missiles that appear at the foot of our slope.

These little angels will range anything from 5 to 16 years of age and generally have one goal, this is to get to the top of the slope by the shortest and fastest means possible (especially the boys). Luckily for everyone involved, this experienced group of instructors, create an environment, where each individual can progress at their own rate to safely achieve their goal and eventually join us as recreational skiers. Some progress quickly, some take a little longer. In either case this is not an issue, due to the lesson structures we have in operation.

If an individual is willing to learn, our team are willing to give them any amount of time that this takes. What is for sure is, by the time an individual is signed off, We would be would be happy to ski with them in any recreational or mountain environment. We will be safe in the knowledge that individual would know the basic rules of any slope, most likely, they will be able to turn and stop in various conditions and terrain. They will be familiar with the use of drag type ski lifts, be able, to some extent, deal with their own ski equipment and know how and what to do, to handle a minor mishap, such as a stumble or briefly losing a ski. Above all they will not intentionally present an immediate danger to them selves or other slope users. That is the remit to being signed off and has proven to produce the safest possible rookie skier.

This is not an easy task and our dedicated team are able to meet any challenge they find themselves presented with and they do this, along with everyone else who holds a role at our club, for free. All professional, first aid and technical qualifications, along with social vetting procedure are undertaken in our own time. We do get the odd cup of tea for free though...

That just leaves me. As duty Level 3 Ski Coach on Sunday mornings I'm there, backed by a strong admin team, to ensure our planned sessions run as smoothly as possible and everyone on the slope achieves their personal goals. I think it's working well but I'll let the Kidsgrove Ski club world get back to you on that one, we are always open to suggestions for improvements and assistance on Sunday mornings no matter what the source. It is our motto that "If someone has a better idea we will go with it".

That only leaves the unsung heroes, who get soaked and or freeze at the bottom of our slope. The parents of our lesson population and junior club. Thank you all for giving up your time on all of those cold wet mornings to join us, in giving the junior members the best start possible to their, what will in most cases be, the life long obsession that is skiing. If any of you are interested in assisting us in any way please feel free to make yourself known to any member of staff. There is always something that needs doing.

Finally I wish each and every one of our club members a happy summer. I look forward to seeing you all again, along with the new friends we are yet to meet, for a fun and action packed 2019/20 season. - Rob Finney

## ★ ★ Junior Club ★ ★

Sunday morning badge assessment will be ongoing. There will not be a 'badge day'. For this to work it is important that the junior member attends as regularly as possible.

It is also **very important** to be able to start on time for the session:

**Blue Group** junior members should arrive at **10.15 for a 10.30 start.**

**Red/Black Group** should arrive at **11.15 for a 11.30 start.**

Please be punctual it will **not** be possible to join the group after **10.45 or 11.45.**

Congratulations go out to all of our junior members who have worked so hard this season and achieved so much, we are proud of you all and hope to see you again in September.



# FREESTYLE NEWS



## Freestyle Fridays...

**...for all ages and abilities, skiers and boarders!**

As we approach our 5th season it is encouraging to see such a diverse crew attending our popular fortnightly sessions.

At Kidsgrove we are lucky to have a dedicated freestyle slope available at all times - what makes Freestyle Fridays special is that we have coaches available to offer support, advice and more importantly encouragement in bucket loads. In addition we also have an airbag (weather permitting), on which to practice new tricks and the all important music to add to the relaxed atmosphere.

Everyone is welcome and all participants need to sign the Freestyle disclaimer form (under 16's should have this signed by a parent or guardian) and those wishing to use the airbag need to be assessed by a Freestyle Coach (this form **must** be signed by a parent or legal guardian in the presence of a coach).

Remember the club is run by members for the members so any offers of help are always welcome: setting up skis in the boot room, getting the airbag out, supervising the airbag, ideas for features, etc. It is only with the support of our members that we are able to provide the experiences you enjoy.

A big thank you to our coaches and to everyone who already supports us on Friday nights, your help opening up, fitting skis and boots, working in the kitchen and setting up the airbag has been invaluable. We hope to see you soon.

### Freestyle Fridays 7 - 9pm

September 13 & 27	October 11th & 2th	November 8th & 22rd
December 6th & 20th		
January 3rd, 17th & 31st	February 14th & 28th	March 13st & 27th
April 24th	May 22nd	June 5th & 19th

**All help welcome (setting up the airbag etc.).**

### I have never tried Freestyle ... how do I begin?



At Kidsgrove we are lucky to have six qualified UKCP Level 1 Freestyle coaches. In addition to Freestyle Fridays, where we have coaches available, **Junior Club Members** can attend the **Sunday morning Freestyle sessions, 9:30am to 10:30am.**

If this isn't for you then one hour introductory sessions are also available:

**Sunday 12:20pm to 1:30pm**

**Tuesday 7:30pm to 8:30pm**

**Wednesday 7:30pm to 8:30pm**

These sessions, with no more than four in the group, should be booked in advance and cost **£4 for Junior Members** and **£5 for Adult Members.**

## New in September 2019 !!!!!!!!

The futures project is a collaboration between Snowsport England, Snowsport Scotland and Snowsport Wales. It supports and encourages young people aged 6 -18 to get involved in snowsports and to develop their skiing and snowboarding skills.



Beginning in September Junior Members will be able to work towards **The Futures Snow Award**.

## The Futures Snow Award



Futures Snow Award is a brand new award scheme aimed at young people aged 6 to 12 years old who want to keep skiing and snowboarding.

Each "step" of the Futures Snow Award is made up of 20 tricks: ten tricks that can be achieved on any mountain, indoor or dry slope and another ten that are completed "off snow".

All twenty tricks will help the mastery of balance, spinning, jumping and turning skills both on and off "snow".

Futures Step 1 Snow Award is aimed at kids who can control their speed on a short slope and can turn.

## The Futures Project Dates

**Kidsgrove: Sunday 22nd September : 12:30pm to 3:30pm**

**Kidsgrove: Sunday 20th October: 12:30pm to 3:30pm**

**Kidsgrove: Sunday 17th November: 12:30pm to 3:30pm**

**Cost: £25 - payment to Snowsport England**

## Pass on your passion...

***Are you a keen enthusiastic skier with experience of skiing on snow?***

***Would you like to encourage others to experience this wonderful sport?***

***Then read on....***

North Staffs Ski Club is always on the look out for new instructors who are willing to give up a few hours a week to "Pass on the passion". So where shall we begin?

As a UKSS Level 1 Ski Instructor you would be part of our dedicated team teaching beginners to snowplough and towards parallel skiing. You would need to attend an initial two day course and complete a minimum of 20 hours shadowing, followed by an assessment of your personal skiing and teaching skills. (There is a dedicated course for 14 to 16 year olds.) A Safeguarding Course, DBS check and First Aid Course would also need to be completed. At this point you would be awarded a Licence by Snowsport England (14 to 16 year olds would have to wait until 16 years old for their licence to be issued, but they are able to instruct under the supervision of other instructors.

The club would pay for your course, membership of SSE, Safeguarding Course, DBS check, First Aid Course and your uniform...and then you can begin to enjoy your journey as a fully fledged instructor... before you know it you may have even progressed to Level 2, 3 or even 4.

In addition Instructor Development sessions are held on alternate Friday nights, they are led by our Level 3 and 4 coaches and give you the opportunity to develop your personal skiing.

If you are interested then please speak to one of our instructors or volunteers at the club or leave your contact details.

We look forward to hearing from you.

## How did you spend last winter?

### The Three Valleys 2018 -2019

Finding the perfect job to maximise skiing time (recreational and training), is not easy - but being a ski technician with a supportive boss comes pretty close.

Shifts vary according to the time of the season. Weekends are frantic, especially at peak times, as day trippers and change over days coincide.

Working from 4pm to 2am is not unusual. If the slopes have not been kind to the skis then the shifts may be even longer. Skis used by day trippers are usually the most abused and the day trippers themselves often come in a little the worse for wear after a day on the slopes, emphasizing the need to prepare yourself and keep fit.

Working in a workshop piled high with skis can be daunting - but seeing them gleaming and ready to go back to the shop can be satisfying. The downside can be sore, cracked hands caused by the emulsifiers and it is also physically demanding. In contrast the benefits of being able to get up early and ski fresh powder in the couloirs is priceless.

Highlights of the season? Obviously the opportunity to ski the best snow but also the opportunity to ski with members of the club and show them around my favourite resort. I also loved taking part in an Ice Hockey tournament, scoring three goals in the final, one of them with my bum... needless to say ... my team won!





**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**NORTH STAFFS SKI CLUB LTD**  
**MONDAY 21st OCTOBER 2019**



**7.30 p.m. Venue - The Ski Club**

**The ski slope will be closed on this evening to allow volunteers to attend.**

**The Business of the Evening will be as follows:**

- To accept apologies.**
- Minutes of the previous AGM.**
- Chairman's report.**
- Treasurer's report.**
- Any other business.**
- To elect the committee.**

All members are welcome. Voting can only be carried out by full members (not associate members).

Should you wish to stand for the committee; at the bottom of the page you will find a nomination slip. Please fill this in and post to:- Jo Stackhouse at the ski club no less than 21 days before the AGM.

Your present committee is made up of the following:

Chair - Ann Loton. Vice Chair - Simon Jones. Secretary - Jo Stackhouse  
Treasurer - John Daines / Craig Timmis

The remainder of the committee consists of: Terry Boulton, Gerald Loton, Eric Hartley, Paul Knapper, Ian Shakespeare, Cameron Stewart, Diane Watts, Gareth Bott, Martin Hall, Suzanne Barnett

A **Committee Member** will be expected to commit his / her time to the club for at least **two hours a week** on one of the days we are open. The committee meets once every 2 months between September and July, committee members are expected to attend **at least 5 out of the 6** scheduled meetings.

-----  
We hereby nominate ..... as a Committee Member of North Staffs Ski Club Ltd.

Proposed by .....  
Seconded by .....  
Date .....

Note: Nominee, Proposer and Seconder must all be **full members** of the club (not associate members).

**NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED by 1st October 2019**



Member of the British Ski Slope Operators Association

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