

Newsletter - February 2014



**NORTH STAFFS
SKI CLUB LTD**

OPENING TIMES

Easter - 20 th & 21 st April	CLOSED
May Bank Holiday - 4 th , 5 th May	CLOSED
Spring Bank Holiday - 25 th , 26 th May	CLOSED

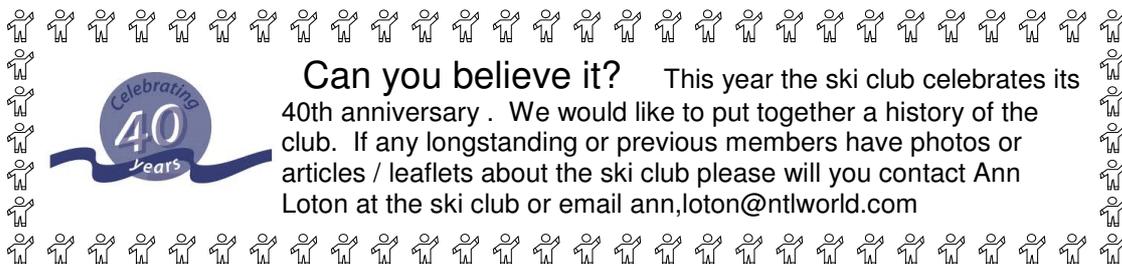
Last Saturday Afternoon Opening = 12th April

Sunday closing May 11th, 18th, close at 3.30 pm

Due to the improvements which will be made to the ski slope during the summer the club needs to close one month earlier than usual.

It will be closed from 9pm Thursday 29th May.

Keep an eye out for the date of re-opening in future newsletters .



Can you believe it? This year the ski club celebrates its 40th anniversary . We would like to put together a history of the club. If any longstanding or previous members have photos or articles / leaflets about the ski club please will you contact Ann Loton at the ski club or email ann,loton@ntlworld.com



FULL MARKS AGAIN



We are very proud to say that following the annual inspection by the Local Authority, our kitchen has retained it's 5 star status.

The service provided by Brenda and John and the team of regular volunteers is greatly appreciated by members and visitors alike and very much adds to the friendly atmosphere that people enjoy. Particularly on Sunday mornings when we thaw out all those brave adults watching their children, with bacon butties and oatcakes, the kitchen can be very busy.

We would welcome some more volunteers to help out on a rota basis and also cover holidays. So even if it is just a few times in each season, your help will be very much appreciated. Please have a chat with whoever is in the kitchen the next time you are at the slope.

2015 Club Holiday



Based at the Clubhotel Piolet in Les Menuires you will have access to a vast and varied terrain with runs to suit all abilities. Many of our Club members know the 3 Valleys well so if you want to know more about the area, just ask at the slope. Details for the holiday and a booking form are attached to this Newsletter.

Freestyle Evenings



To develop an interest in the new Snowpark area the club will be running Freestyle evenings using portable equipment on the present slope. If you are interested keep an eye out for notices at the ski club indicating when the sessions will be held.



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

Company Number: 4337963



Active
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Club Holiday 2014 Sestriere How did it go? Read the reviews :-

A GRAND DAY OUT.



In the months before the club Ski holiday, Jo organized 'Alternative Master Class' sessions (for ladies who would like to be able to ski) Jo worked very hard and we tried our best !!!

On one of the days on the holiday, Craig and John offered to be our escorts (i.e. Julie, Claire, June) to Souze D'Oulz. They guided us down the slopes, even on some Red Runs (but, we did not realize they were Red Runs until we reached the bottom of the slope). The Mountains are probably still echoing to the sound of Craig shouting TURN !! TURN !!

On the same outing Joel (age 9) had his own bodyguards, when Dan, Ian and Steve volunteered to be his guides for the day. He had a brilliant time, skiing down 10 Black Runs and about 30 other Runs.

Starting out at 9.30 they got us all safely back, being last men in, at 5.30. **It really was A Grand Day Out.**

The whole day highlighted the Ethos of The North Staffs Ski Club. Across the age groups, everyone gives their time willingly to help other members. Be it helping at the club (the boot room, the kitchen), instructing, advice, help, encouragement, knowledge, skills, ideas and deciphering the Piste Map.

It really is a club that the members can be very proud of.

June Coupland

Club Holiday to Sestriere

This year, for the first time, I went on the Club holiday without my family. I shared the travel to the airport with Val and her daughter Tanesha who live close by. We dropped our bags off at Manchester Airport the afternoon before. Something Val had done before but I hadn't. It was very strange – empty airport, no queues – very quick and gave us an extra hour in bed on Sunday morning.



The hotel was in a great location right on the snow front and the food was brilliant. We were also very lucky with the snow conditions.

Each day the number of people in the group I tended to ski with ebbed, flowed and broke into subgroups as people decided if they wanted a challenging or more relaxing day. Most days we had more experienced skiers who joined us for part of the day; imparting words of wisdom and, in a couple of cases, rescuing us!

At various times during the week Craig, John P, John D, Ian, Dan and Steve and took us under their wing; guiding us over to

the red runs of Sportina. Thanks guys!

The runs in the Milky Way (Via Lattea) offer something for everyone and apart from Saturday, our last day, they were very quiet. I particularly liked the nice wide Blues that I could practice parallel on and enjoyed run 3 down to Borgata.

The Troupe Alpini (the mountain corps of the Italian Army) were also on manoeuvres, so every morning we watched them marching up the side of a blue run in full kit then skiing down! Later in the week we could see them practicing avalanche rescue on the other side of the valley. We were thankful that they weren't needed whilst we were there. - **Julie Skirvin**

Diary of a first time skier

Nine months ago, I'd never even tried on a pair of skis. It was a bit of curiosity and the desire to take up a new active hobby which led me to the club last spring. Little did I know how hooked I'd become! All my hard work at Kidsgrove was about to be put to the test. Here I was on my first morning in Sestriere on the club holiday, about to ski on real snow for the first time.

The first day was spent finding my feet on snow as it is different to what I was used to, but very quickly amazing things started to happen...

On day 2, we found a lovely scenic blue run near to the hotel. In the afternoon something 'clicked' and I looked down - I was skiing parallel! I'd been working hard to try to parallel ski back home but hadn't quite got there before we went. It was a great moment and something I'll remember. A great thing to bring back from my first trip!



The highlight of the trip was my first ski away day on day 3. A group of us got together to ski over into the next valley towards Sauze d'Oulx. The scenery over there was absolutely stunning. With some moral support we were safely making our way down red runs in no time. I learnt so much by getting out there that day, and I really enjoyed doing it too. It set us up to go out and do more exploring so that we could make the most of the rest of our time in Italy.

Going away with the club was a real good decision for a first timer. I was always in good company, and being amongst such passionate and experienced skiers was a real bonus. I now feel more confident in my skiing as I achieved so much there in such a short time. It was a fantastic week and I can't wait to go again!

Claire Eagles

Slope development update

We are on schedule to recommence construction of our new ski areas. The work will begin in the spring whilst the club is still open but to enable work to continue and to try to ensure we will be able to open on time for the new season in September, we will have to close the club a month earlier i.e. at the end of May instead of at the end of June.

The new ski lift has been ordered and should be installed by 31st July 2014.

Unfortunately we have not been successful with our application for funding from Biffa Award for the traveller by the nursery area. "The board acknowledged the potential benefits to be delivered by the proposed project and felt there was merit in the scheme. However, it did not feel the application was a priority for the limited funding that was available". This project will have to be put on hold whilst all available funding is devoted to the new ski areas. Many thanks to all those who supported the bid.

Talks are continuing with Newcastle Under Lyme Borough Council, Snowsport England, County Sports Partnership on the possibility of putting in a bid for funding from Sport England.

As was mentioned in previous newsletter's something which will act in our favour when applying for extra funding is if we can show that the club members are supporting the project by giving a donation specifically towards the project fund.

So, can you help your club by donating a small or large amount to go directly into the project fund? If you feel you would like to donate please give it to someone behind the ski counter. If all our adult members donated £10 we would raise £5,000. If you are a tax payer then it can be gift aided to mean more. Just ask for a form at the ski club. Remember, the club is run entirely by volunteers which is why it is the cheapest skiing in the country. We need your support to improve your skiing experience at Kidsgrove! Once again thank you to all those who have already made a donation to the project.

If anyone knows of a company who would like to sponsor a particular aspect of the project then that can easily be arranged. Just contact Ann Loton at the club.



FIX FOR FIVE

Fix your servicing costs for up to FIVE years!

We are all now well used to paying our household expenses on a monthly plan – mobile phone, gas and electricity, rates etc. etc. Well, now you can do the same with your car service costs AND fix those costs for up to five years.

We are very pleased to announce a UNIQUE service to our Endon Rewards loyalty scheme members – a new fixed price servicing package – BUDGET PLAN.

Endon Rewards Budget Plan Service provides your regular manufacturer scheduled vehicle servicing for a single fixed monthly payment. You can fix your service costs with us at today's prices for up to FIVE years and the payments are simply based on your expected annual mileage NOT the car that you drive!

See Schedule of Payments table on the right...



FIXED

FOR

FIVE

For annual mileages above or below the figures shown, please ask for an individual quotation.

Our Budget Plan covers all the parts and labour (including VAT!) for your manufacturer scheduled service plans. You only have to pay for any wear and tear items which are required at the time of repair. You are also required to have your annual MOT carried out with us but we make a special price offer of £40 to all our Budget Plan customers, saving £14 against the normal MOT recommended price. The budget plan and its payments are completely transferrable if you change your car and you can cancel the scheme at any time **without any charge or hassle whatsoever.**

Miles per year	FIXED Monthly Payment
10,000	£10 + Vat
15,000	£15 + Vat
20,000	£20 + Vat
25,000	£25 + Vat
30,000	£30 + vat
Over 30,000	Ask for a quote

Please contact us if you require help or advice at any time

Office hours 01782 50 50 50 - Evening and other times 07866 253869 or 07831 296982

Club Holiday 17th January - 24th January 2015

Les Menuires



After a very successful visit in 2013 we are returning in 2015 to the Clubhotel Piolet in Les Menuires, part of the 3 Valleys ski area. With doorstep skiing from our hotel for all levels of skiers.

Many club members have been to this area before but if you have not, there is something for everyone. The resort of Les Menuires is set at 1850 metres in the Vallee de Belleville. Between the traditional village of Saint-Martin-de-Belleville and the high altitude resort of Val Thorens.

Les Menuires provides gentler novice slopes nearer to the resort, whilst the upper slope offer an array of interconnecting red, blue and green runs. For more experienced skiers, the modern chair lift system allows speedy access to Val Thorens and the Meribel and Courcheval valleys.



We will be travelling with Skibound to their Clubhotel Piolet which provides doorstep skiing and also easy access by foot to the Croisette (the centre of the resort).

There is a bar area with comfortable settees and a small recreation room that is also accessed from the reception area. The restaurant which opens from the bar provides stunning views across the valley.

There are a variety of activities available in Les Menuires and free shuttle buses connect the hamlets that make up the resort. There is a

swimming pool and sauna at the local sports centre.

Accommodation is based on two adults sharing a room. There are however some larger rooms on the third floor that have additional beds on a mezzanine level. These are ideal for families, or if more than two adults are willing to share. All rooms are ensuite.

We shall be on a half board basis **for all 7 nights with;**

Buffet breakfast

Tea & cake after skiing

3 course evening meal

We have negotiated sole occupancy of this small and friendly hotel with just 30 rooms, we are expecting the places to go quickly so you need to book early to secure your place.

Costs ; Adults £455 per person (2 sharing)

Reduction of £70 for 3rd or 4th adult sharing with 2 full paying adults.

Children £325 (11 years and under at date of travel - sharing with 2 full paying adults)

Ski Carriage, Ski Hire & Lift Passes—

prices and details will be available nearer the holiday.

