

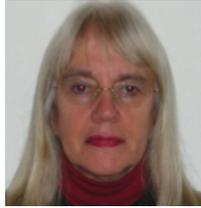


# Newsletter February 2015

OPENING TIMES	
Easter - Sun 5 <sup>th</sup> & Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> April	CLOSED
May Bank Holiday - Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup> , Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> May	CLOSED
Spring Bank Holiday - Sun 24 <sup>th</sup> , Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> May	CLOSED
Sunday closing May - close at 3.30 pm	
Sunday closing June - close at 2.00 pm	
Close for the summer - Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> June	
Re-opens - Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> September	

## Who's who at the club?

With membership numbers growing and the club busier than ever, we'll be profiling some of key club members in forthcoming newsletters



**Name:** Ann Loton

**Role:** Chair (since 2010).

**Responsibilities:** Keeping everyone hard at it!! Child Welfare Officer; Membership Secretary; Snowmark Accreditation Coordinator.

**Club highlights:** Achieving Snowmark Accreditation from Snowsport England which recognises that the club meets high quality standards in Children and Young Persons Welfare, its Skiing Programme and Club Management.

Officially opening the new slope last October after a lot of hard work by many volunteers. I am so proud of what we have achieved.



**Name:** John Daines

**Role:** Treasurer (since 1998); Level 2 Instructor (since 2004).

**Responsibilities:** Managing the club's funds together with Craig Timmis; Instructing beginners and improvers.

**Member since:** September 1991.

**Club highlights:** Successful Lottery bid in 2004. Accumulating funds over 10 years and arranging bank financing for the recent slope extension. 23 club holidays.



Our Club is run by skiers for skiers, which means that throughout the season our volunteer work force are heading for the mountains to practice on the real stuff. Help us build a larger volunteer team to spread the work load throughout the year and provide cover at busy times. Please think about how you can help to keep our slope running and providing the high standard that we are all so proud of. Speak to any of the volunteers at the club, you will be made very welcome.



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

## Club Holiday 2015 - Alpe d'Huez, France

This year, 68 of the club's members (including 9 children) headed off to Alpe d'Huez in France on the 17 January for a week on the slopes.

Alpe d'Huez is the hub of the Grandes Rousses Massif. The domain covers an area of 10,000 hectares which includes 250 km (155 miles) of linked pistes extending over an altitude range of 2,200 m and 84 chair lifts. The Sarenne black run is the world's longest at 16 km (10 miles) and an incredible 2210 m vertical drop. Despite this fearsome statistic, Alpe d'Huez is well suited for beginner and intermediate skiers with a variety of runs for all abilities - perfect for a ski club holiday.

Our ski-in/ski-out accommodation was in a great position to explore the rest of the resort with good facilities and a great bar for evening get-togethers, including a quiz. The only potential downside was the basic food - described by one of the group as "a bit school dinnerish!"

We were blessed with 4 days of clear blue skies. Views of the Alps from the top station, Pic Blanc (3,330 m), were breath-taking. On a clear day a fifth of France can be seen from this point.

One of the highlights had to be the chairlift to Auris en Oisans. Known locally as the 'scare chair,' this lift drops almost vertically down the valley before climbing up the other side at an equally steep angle through the trees. Not for the faint-hearted!

We visited the famous 'Grottes de Glace'. At 2,700 m, glacial art sculptors give the ice cave a new face every year. This year's theme was seas and oceans.

And then there was the 'La Folie Douce' restaurant.

There are five La Folie Douce restaurants in Ski Resorts in France. The Folie Douce in Alpe d'Huez is at the top of the Marmottes 1 lift, making it very easy to visit. You can ski back down to the hotel or come back down on the chair lift. What an experience: musicians, singers and dancers, exotic costumes (basques, black wings, 4 inch heels and that was just the men's attire), and loud, loud, music. Every one singing and dancing - even on the tables! What a wonderful way to end a great day out on the slopes!

Keep a look out for details of next year's club holiday.



# Kidsgrove Freestyle Academy

Saturday 7 February saw the second monthly Freestyle Academy take place, with two sessions - under 14s in the morning and over 14s in the afternoon.

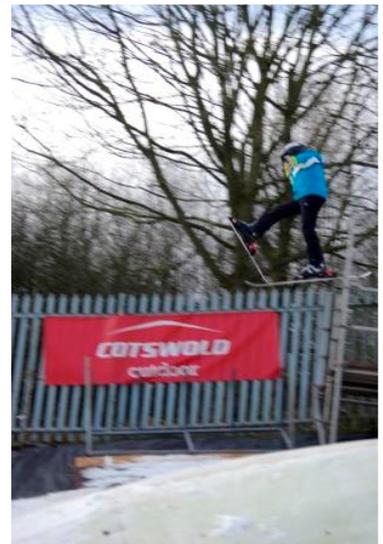
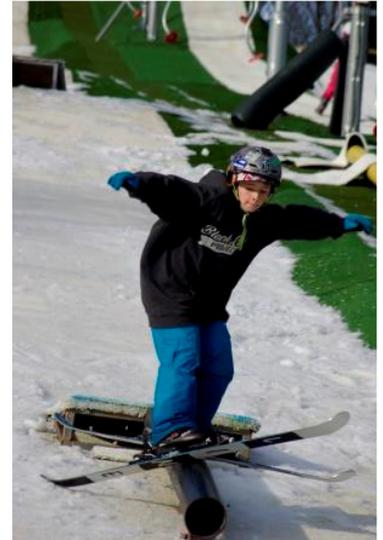
Run by Chris Mavin, SSE UKCP, Freeski Coach and assisted by our own freestyle coaches, Cameron Stewart and Luke Watts, these sessions are aimed at skiers of mixed ability, with a minimum of basic parallels required.

Chris is a UKCP level 3 coach currently working as an instructor in Morzine in France. Also an engineer, Chris was involved in the design and construction of our freestyle slope and flew in from France to coach this month's Freestyle Academy session. Like all instructors and staff at the club, Chris is a volunteer - many thanks Chris!

Shown below are the 12 girls and boys (aged from 6-12 years) who attended the 2-hour morning session, learning new tricks and tackling the features on the freestyle slope.

Great to see all these youngsters getting the most out of our new slope. "It was really good," said Maia Jones, aged 8, "we learnt to do things we'd never done before."

Each participant gets individual on-slope tuition, picks up tips by replaying videos of themselves with Chris, and is given a full debrief on what they need to work on at the end of the session. Goal sheets from Chris are now at the ski centre for all of those who took part.



Pick up your goal sheets  
at the club now!

 Find us on  
**Facebook**



Next FREESTYLE ACADEMY session

**Saturday 14 March**

9.30 - 11.30 under 14s

12.00 - 2.00 14s and over

£10 for members; £15 for non-members

Helmets, long sleeves & gloves are mandatory  
Interested? Put your name on the list at the club

# Disability Sport

## Can you help?

Some of you will know Claire Holdcroft, who is a past member of North Staffs Ski Club.

Claire has been confined to a wheelchair with dislocations of her lower limbs for 6 years and is endeavouring to become a member of the British Disabled Ski Team.

As a competent Mono sit skier, Claire is struggling to progress due to the lack of equipment and is looking for sponsorship and donations to support her cause and ultimately enable her to achieve her ultimate goal of representing Great Britain.

She has already completed a 6K race in her wheelchair. If you can help by making a donation to help Claire reach her goal, please speak to one of the staff



Are you a skier or a snowboarder?

**Disability Snowsport UK Needs YOU!**

To become a volunteer at Tamworth Snowdome

Every 2nd Thursday of each month

3.00 - 4.30 pm and 4.30 - 6.00 pm

Up to 3 hours free slope time helping the disabled to ski

For more information contact  
[Andy.winspeare@gmail.com](mailto:Andy.winspeare@gmail.com)



## Masterclass

Intermediate or advanced skier?

Looking to improve your ski technique?

Monday evenings 7.00 - 9.00 pm

Please book at the ski desk.

### Alternative masterclass

Looking to improve at a more gentle pace?

Monthly on Sundays at 5.00 pm



## THANK YOU

Thanks to everyone who donated food and raffle prizes for the Christmas party and made it a success

Remember you can book children's ski parties

Saturdays 12.00 - 2.00 pm

If you receive this newsletter by post and would like to get a full colour version by email please contact Ann Loton at the club or by email:  
[ann.loton@ntlworld.com](mailto:ann.loton@ntlworld.com)