



**NORTH STAFFS
SKI CLUB LTD**

Newsletter November 2022 Seasons Greetings



OPENING TIMES

| | | |
|-------------------|---|---|
| Sundays: | 9.30 to 12.30 12.30 to 4.30 pm | Juniors—Various Sessions Recreational skiing and lessons |
| Mon-Thurs: | 7.00 to 9.00 pm | Recreational skiing and lessons |
| Fridays: | 7.00 to 9.00 pm | Freestyle Fridays as arranged |
| Saturdays: | 2.00 to 4.30 pm | Recreational skiing |

CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS / NEW YEAR
The club will close after business on
Thursday 22nd December
reopening on Tuesday 3rd January 2023



Ski Wear Bring and Buy

13th November to 27th November.

Sell unwanted ski items or grab a bargain



Clearly label sale items with price, name and telephone number (the club cannot accept responsibility for items left for sale). Money received will be kept at the club until collected. Unsold goods must be collected by **December 6th** or they will be donated to charity.



SUNDAY 18th DECEMBER

JUNIOR CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY
10.30 SKI GAMES WITH SANTA
11.45 PARTY in the CLUBHOUSE

Numbers limited so sign up soon

As the club is run on a voluntary basis please will parents contribute by donating food items for the party such as: - Sandwiches, Crisps, Cakes, Sausage Rolls, Drinks, and Biscuits etc.

Please complete the contribution list by the kitchen.

Any offers of help are always greatly appreciated, especially on occasions like these. If anybody wishes to help out with the party, could you please leave your name with someone behind the kitchen counter.

Kidsgrove Ski Centre,
Bathpool Park, Kidsgrove, Stoke on Trent, ST7 4EF
Telephone (01782) 784908 www.ski-kidsgrove.co.uk
Company Number:4337963



SNOWMARK
SNOWSPORT
ENGLAND

A few words from the Chair

The new season is well underway and the first snow is already falling in the Alps. The annual AGM in October was a chance to recap on the many achievements at the club last year. I'm happy to say that the ski club has had a much better year this year. The Financial Management Team have continued to tightly control expenditure enabling the club to invest in a new feature for the freestyle slope and new skis for all to benefit from. See the full Directors report on the notice board.

October kicked off with our open day, which was a great success 136 people had a free 30 minute ski lesson. - thanks to the staff who gave up their time to allow it to take place.

On 8th October the 8th Oatcake Jam took place. It was a great event with lots of fun for all the competitors. More details and winners on page 4. Thanks to everyone who made it possible, especially the sponsors for their support.

You may have noticed that at the moment we are having some problems with the water supply - thank goodness for the rain! It may mean that it is not possible to have both slopes sprayed at the same time. We are working hard along with a specialist engineer to fix the problem. Thank you for your patience.

Looking forward to seeing you at the slope. Ann Loton

The volunteers - who they are and why they need your help



They are the nice people who give a friendly welcome when you arrive at Kidsgrove Ski Centre. They give the lessons because they want to teach people to be good skiers. They spend time training to be qualified and better instructors. They operate the boot room, fitting boots to skis as promptly as they can. They work in the kitchen providing drinks, sweets and, on Sunday mornings, hot snacks. They Hoover up inside the ski lodge and clean the toilets. They

maintain the slope, continually improving the facility. They fix any breakdowns and look after the watering and electrical systems. They organise the club holiday. They organise other events for the benefit of members. They organise the finances that pay for it all. They do all the necessary jobs that provide the experience that members and visitors value so highly and tell their friends, relatives and neighbours about. They are the reason that most of our business comes by word-of-mouth recommendation because of our reputation. They are not paid a penny. They are not expensive. They are priceless.

They are, as you can see, very busy people. There are many ways you might want to help and they would welcome anyone who wants to join them. We are always on the look out for new recruits to join the instructing team. If you would like to join this merry band please talk to any of the volunteers at the Club or email volunteer.skicentre@gmail.com Thank you

Give someone a surprise



Gift vouchers are available for ski lessons and membership. Ask at the desk, they can also be sent by post or email



FREESTYLE NEWS



Freestyle at Kidsgrove

The new Disco Box has proved to be a very popular addition to the Freestyle slope.

Don't forget our dedicated freestyle slope is open at all times that the club is open. In addition we have three Junior Club sessions on a Sunday morning:

9:30 am to 10:30am
10:30am to 11:30am
11:30am to 12:30pm.



Freestyle Fridays 7pm to 9pm

Free for members

**Non Members : Juniors £10,
Adults £15**

**Annual membership; Junior £54,
Adult £108 Family £180**

These sessions are for anyone who enjoys freestyle regardless of age or ability.

(Subject to minimum requirements. Please ask if you are unsure).

Dates for Freestyle Fridays 7pm to 9pm

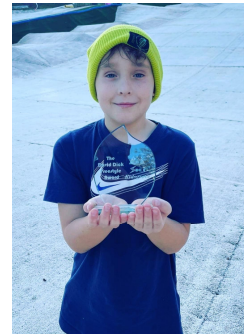
Friday 18th November
Friday 2nd December
Friday 16th December
2023

Friday 6th January
Friday 20th January
Friday 3rd February
Friday 17th February
Friday 3rd March
Friday 17th March
Friday 31st March
Friday 14th April
Friday 28th April
Friday 5th May
Friday 19th May
Friday 2nd June
Friday 16th June

David Dick Freestyle Award

This year the award was presented to Tyler Carr for showing resilience and determination.

My Name is Tyler, I am 10 years old and have been Freestyle skiing for about 3 years and this is my 3rd time competing in the Oatcake Jam. I most enjoy grinding on the pipes and I am working towards perfecting a 180 and eventually a 360.



My other interests include playing football and going out to play with my friends.

I would like to say a big thank you to all the staff. They have been a big support and helped me. I am very proud to have won this Award.

FUTURES SESSIONS

These sessions are run by Snowsport England Freestyle Coaches at venues across the country. They are a great way to have fun, learn new tricks and make progress.

We are pleased to be hosting three of these sessions at Kidsgrove Ski Centre on the following dates:

**Saturday 3rd December 2022
6 pm to 8:30 pm**
**Saturday 25th February 2023
5 pm to 8 pm**
**Saturday 22nd April 2023
5 pm to 8 pm**

Booking should be made via the Snowsport England website. Please ask if you need help to book.

Brian Woodcock

It is with great sadness that we heard of the passing of Brian who was a familiar face in the boot room for many years. His contributions to the running of North Staffs Ski Club are too numerous to mention, but the Freestyle team would like to say a special thank you for the many projects he completed on our behalf, especially the construction of the "drop in" and the platform allowing the airbag to be stored safely and allowing us to access it with ease - Thank you Brian, you will be fondly remembered as a "Freestyle Friend".

OATCAKE JAM V 8 2022

Saturday 8th October 2022

Once again we had a great turn out with competitors from as far away as Dorset and Scotland!!!









Everyone had a great time and the weather was kind to us, not too hot, not too cold!

The tricks and skills of the more advanced competitors wowed everyone, including walkers in the park. It was great to see the camaraderie between the competitors as they encouraged each other to push themselves to the limit.

Thank you to our sponsors: The Railway Inn Alsager, June Coupland, Chris Watts and Watts Your Next Adventure.

Oatcake Jam v 8.0 2022 — Results

Congratulations to everyone who took part for their enthusiasm and encouragement they gave to each other. *denotes club member

| Ski Male under 12 | Ski Female Under 12 | Ski Male under 16 | Ski Male over 16 |
|---|--|--|---|
| 1st Hunter Minister* 2nd Rory Macpherson 3rd Robbie Savage  | 1st Helena W 2nd Iona Macpherson  | 1st Kai Watson 2nd Deja Parker 3rd Fergus Allen  | 1st Tyler Nicholls 2nd Jay Hebblethwaite 3rd Luke Watts*  |
| Ski Femail over 12 | Snowboard Female over 16 | Snowboard Under 12 Male | Overall Snowboard Male and Female |
| 1st Ash Clayton 2nd Ella Hall 3rd Jodie  | 1st Amy Caswell  | 1st Cameron Long 2nd Alfie Sewell 3rd Theo Macmillan  | 1st Conor Dixon 2nd Ben Haughton 3rd Amy Caswell  |

Junior Club News

(6 to 18 year old)

Snowlife Awards

Congratulations!!!!

This year has got off to a great start. With a total of 36 badges being awarded:

WELL DONE TO...



Blue 1

Samuel E, William E, William S, Andrew S,
Harry H, Zac Howell, Evie B, Benjamin P,
Emily M, Maia B, Olivia W, Toby H, Luke H.

Blue 2

Alex R, Thomas R, Ella W, Maia M, Isla L,
Harry H, Toby H, Zac H, Elsie M.

Blue 3

Laurence L, Emily L, Thomas L, Aliza E,
Thomas R, Holly P, Edward K, Ava Grace H.

Red 4

Chloe W, Ava Grace H.

Red 6

Katherine A, Jaime M, Noah B, Freya P.

This success is a reflection of the hard work of our dedicated Junior Club Instructors who turn up every Sunday morning whatever the weather. **Thank You!**

***** UPDATE *****

Young Instructors Project



With the guidance of Cameron, Adam and Joel our Young Instructors are continuing to improve their skiing skills and are beginning to “shadow” and teach during teaching sessions. Many of them turned up and gained valuable experience on the popular Taster Session at the beginning of October. We have received very positive feedback from Instructors and people participating in the lessons. Thank you to everyone involved in making this project successful.

STAY SAFE and ENJOY!

It is that time of year again! Whether we are shopping for new kit or hoping we can still get into our old one many of us are looking forward to our coming ski trips.

Just as important as having the correct clothing and equipment is the awareness of the mountain environment. If this is your first holiday even if you have been having lessons before you go, consider going into Ski School.

You will learn how to manage chair lifts and find your way around the resort, as well as extra skills to help you on the snow.

If you are skiing with your family or friends, decide on a meeting place on the mountain in case somebody gets separated from the group. Have contact numbers on your mobile phone for the people that you are skiing with, your holiday rep and your hotel, also your Insurance company. It is advisable for everyone to also carry this information in written form, together with your passport (or a photo copy).



When you have children with you, make sure that clear arrangements are made as to who is the responsible person if their parents are not present. Throughout the day it is important to keep them fed & hydrated with regular stops. Also, regularly check their fingers, toes, nose as they freeze up quicker on children and they are more likely to carry on without noticing.

Some do's and don'ts

Do—wear a helmet.

People buy protective cases for their laptops and mobile phones, so why shouldn't you protect the most important computer of all—your brain?



Do—be honest with yourself. If this is your first (or even second) ski holiday you don't need to do the most dangerous slope. You may end up putting yourself (and others) in harms way for the sake of bragging rights. If you are not ready to ski down a scary slope stay off it.

Do—practise correct slope etiquette. Remember the skier ahead of you has right of way. If you are crossing a

path, turning or stopping it is your responsibility to move.

Do—wear layers.

Your body's temperature will go up when you are skiing and drop when you are riding chairs and gondolas. By layering up you can add and shed garments as needed.

Do—seek medical attention if you bang your head.

A minor bang can have a major impact. Many serious head injuries have delayed effects, so it is very important that you play safe.

Don't—try jumps and tricks without precautions.

If you do feel it's time to spice up your run don't go headlong into ramps without wearing a helmet and getting expert advice about where to hit a ramp and at what speed.



Don't—mess around on the slopes.

A great holiday on the slopes can rapidly go downhill if you don't respect the elements and take your safety seriously.

Don't—ski when tired, hung-over or worse—drunk.



You need your wits about you when skiing or boarding. Not only could you be a danger to yourself you could also be a danger to others. Getting injured whilst under the influence of alcohol, is not only extremely dangerous due to the altitude, but you also won't be covered by your insurance.

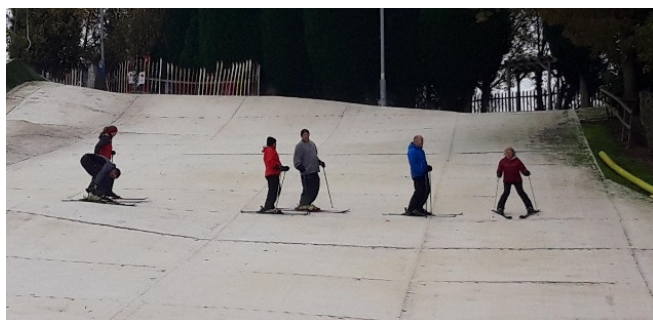
Don't—ski alone.

Never head out onto the slopes alone - this especially applies to more experienced and advanced skiers, who are prone to taking bigger risks. It's always best to ski with a friend who can look out for you in case something goes wrong - this is just good common safety practice.

Don't—struggle when you fall. There will always be wipe outs when skiing and snowboarding. It's as much a part of the fun as it is part of learning. When you fall (and you will!) don't fight it. Struggling against the speed and trying to stop yourself from sliding will only increase the chances of injury - mostly to your knees, arms and shoulders. Just go with the forward motion, laugh at yourself and enjoy the ride!

If you have not yet been down to the slope this season we look forward to seeing you to wake your ski legs up.

Instructors Re-energized



In October and November we conducted two Technical and Teaching Workshops for our cohort of resident Ski Instructors.

These consisted of a full day of training with Andy Jerram – BASI Trainer/Snowsport England Ski Instructor Trainer. Andy delivers professional training internationally, to trainee and qualified Ski Instructors annually.

The objective, was to update, refresh and re-energise our instructor team, in readiness for the winter teaching season at Kidsgrove.

The content of both the days was tailored to the needs of the group, generally focusing on improving technical skiing, most instructors admitting to not doing enough personal skiing. We also discussed and updated teaching models, ideas and techniques appropriate for use in a facility such as ours.

We have had workshops on previous years, but this year the uptake of places was fantastic, with 12 instructors from Kidsgrove on each workshop signing up to take part.

The benefits of this type of training aren't only for, or confined to, the Instructor cohort. There is a considerable benefit to the club as a whole, in that newer, more recently developed ideas and techniques of teaching skiing are shared thus of benefit to everybody who skis at the club, whether Alpine, or Freestyle.

The evolution of ski teaching is a continuous process, old ideas are improved upon year on year, club clients and members will therefore be initially taught to ski and subsequently improve, using the best and most current teaching models and techniques. This can and will be shared to all in the club over time as we will hopefully all be teaching and sharing the love in a similar manner!

Everyone witnessed a rapid and distinct improvement in their performance by the end of the day, powerful skiing being demonstrated by all, on the wave run as a final series of exercises! The buzz at the end of each of the workshops was palpable, with a mood of impatience to get back out there and do it!

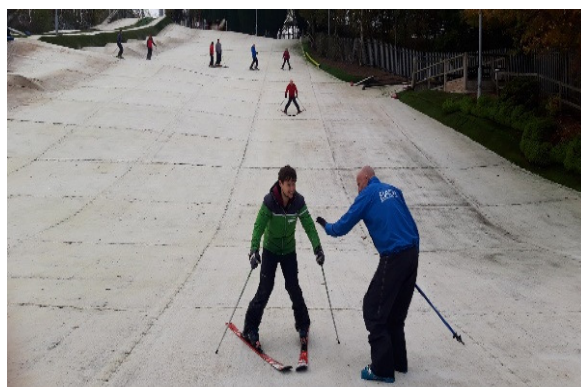
Some feedback comments were as follows:
"Invaluable day today, really enjoyed every session.

Thanks to all involved for organising."

Fabulous day, thanks for organising. Definitely invaluable ☺"

"I think we all enjoyed it and were better skiers at the end of the day. Thanks"

"Really enjoyed Saturday with Andy. I can't believe how much he manages to enable me to improve my skiing in a day. His teaching ideas are also so good, practical and appropriate for our slope. He makes it all seem so easy. It was also a great opportunity to reconnect with Instructors who attend on different nights. Can't wait to get back down to Kidsgrove to ski. Feeling enthused!!!! Hopefully he will be back soon."



Lockdowns and Covid pandemic legacies have lingered and these workshop sessions have hopefully refreshed and revived our instructor cohort for the benefit of all.

The outcome is that 24 of the Kidsgrove Instructor team are re-energised and enthused in the run up to our main teaching season.

Myself and Andy thoroughly enjoyed facilitating and delivering these workshops, thank you to all who attended and worked so hard, I look forward to seeing you all at Mount Kidsgrove in the next few weeks. - Chris Watts

Brian Woodcock



People at the club have been saddened by the death of Brian who, until December 2021 could be found in the boot room on Sunday mornings dishing out skis and boots to juniors and entertaining the staff with tales of his past activities at the club. He was responsible for many of the buildings/constructions around the ski slope.

Tony Green one of the founder members of the ski club has shared his memories of Brian and his association with the club

"Brian Woodcock died unexpectedly, at home in Silverdale, on Monday 7th November 2022. Aged 84.

The loves of his life were his wife Phyllis, they married in 1961 - children Nigel and Debra and granddaughter Rachel - his job as a self-employed joiner/builder and skiing & absolutely in that order.

His involvement with skiing started around 1976 when helped by Norman Salmon he took Nigel and a group of Scouts skiing, both to Kidsgrove Ski Centre and the Telford dry slopes every Saturday morning for around 2 years.

At this time the Ski slope material at Kidsgrove was worn out and Brian decided on a mission and together with Derek Poole, started raising money for replacement matting. They succeeded and Dendix (upturned tooth brushes) was purchased and to ease assembly, Brian made a wooden jig.

He was a familiar sight every weekend with his Land Rover and trailer at the ski club, helping out with maintenance. The trailer came to an untimely end when one Sunday on his return home, it was missing. He retraced his journey but never found its final resting place.

By now the die was set, skiing was in his blood and in the early 80's when the ski club started holidays in the French Alps Brian was one of the first to put up his hand. There were only 2 speeds for Brian on the snow, stationary or flat out, he was always first down, often stopping at the wrong place.

One year in Sportina Brian was suffering with perceived Hypothermia. The gang stopped at a bar on the slopes, the patron seeing Brian was unwell, kicked his grandmother out of bed and Brian jumped straight into the warm bed with his boots on. He was an avid reader of historical battles and history in general, especially the Kings and Queens of England, he was very knowledgeable on this particular topic.

He was an incredibly practical man, willing to advise on practical problems. He built a petrol engined tow which was used in Newcastle and the Roches to ferry skiers' back up the slopes.

An Ex-Grenadier Guard, he served a tour of duty in Cameroon as a result of which he hated bananas, his bed was called "the pit" and he snored for England. For him a spade was a spade, he never minced his words.

Brian continued serving the club both in the boot room and on maintenance with Eric Hartley (they built the memorial bench for Albert Povey) until around the end of 2020 a total of 44 years.

So long mate, you lived respected and died regretted."