



NORTH STAFFS SKI CLUB LTD

Newsletter October 2017

OPENING TIMES

Sundays:	9.30 to 10.30	Children's lessons
	10.30 to 12.00 noon	Junior Club
	12.00 to 5.00 pm	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 (fortnightly)
Saturdays:	2.00 to 5.00 pm	Recreational skiing

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. Read the Director's Report on Page 5. October kicked off with our open day, which was a great success - 118 people had a taster. Thanks to the staff who gave up their time to allow it to take place.

The improvements to the freestyle slope are just one of the many benefits of some £25k that has been invested in our slope facilities — see what else is new on page 5



Ski Wear Bring and Buy

12th November to 26th 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 on **November 26th** or they will be donated to charity.

Please do not bring any items before Sunday 12th November as they are likely to be given away at the Oatcake Jam.



Off-Piste and Mountain Safety Awareness Training

Last year we ran some successful courses about safety off piste. The courses consisted of lectures and theoretical training, a short series of exercises on the slope and avalanche transceiver exercises in the park. If you are interested in attending a course please leave your name at the ski desk. If there is enough interest a date will be arranged.



**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
Accessible
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FREESTYLE NEWS



FREESTYLE FRIDAYS
7PM-9PM

All ages, all abilities welcome!
Members-Free
Day Members:
Junior-£15
Students-£15
Adults-£20
(Air Bag incl. Restrictions apply)

Ski - Kidsgrove

15th Sep	5th Jan
29th Sep	19th Jan
13th Oct	2nd Feb
27th Oct	16th Feb
10th Nov	2nd Mar
24th Nov	16th Mar
8th Dec	30th Mar
22nd Dec	13th Apr
5th Jan	27th Apr
19th Jan	11th May
	25th May
	8th Jun
	22nd Jun

LMW

We are pleased to say that the Airbag is now in action on **Freestyle Fridays** and is proving to be a very popular and useful addition to this increasingly popular night (conditions apply to users). Thank you to our dedicated volunteers who make this possible.

If you are attending Freestyle Fridays as a Day Member and **will not** be using the Airbag the rate is £10 for Juniors and Students, £15 for adults.

IV Oatcake Jam Saturday 11th November 2017

Saturday 11th November sees the club hosting its fourth Annual Oatcake Jam. Despite its growing popularity many members are still unsure or puzzled about what this event is all about and who it's for.

It might be easier to begin by explaining what it is **NOT**.

It is **NOT** a super serious competition!

So what is it?

It is open to **ALL** enthusiastic freestyle skiers or boarders regardless of age or ability (from novice to expert).

The aim is to have **FUN**.

The **Jam** format adopted by the club encourages the participants, who all enjoy freestyle, to spend a day together having fun and encouraging each other.

YES there will be medals and prizes but the main aim is to have participate and have fun.

Registration begins at 9 am and the practice session begins at 10 am. At 12pm there will be a break for lunch and the fun will begin in earnest at 1pm with prize giving at 3.30 pm ish. This year the airbag will be available for those who wish to polish their tricks or try out new ones for the day (conditions apply).

It's great just to watch too.

Entry forms are available from the club or you can register online, £20 in advance or £25 on the day.

At NSSC we have always been complimented on the warm welcome and friendly atmosphere at this event so please join us. Spectators and volunteers welcome.

If you are able to offer any help, either on the day for an hour or two, or by providing sponsorship we would love to hear from you.



Members Success — 2017 Indoor Championships—Chill Factor 14th October



Mia Brookes took the no 1 podium at the Indoor British Snowboard Championships for the Open Women and the Women under 12 categories. **Well Done Mia.**

Casius (Paulie) Loupis took First place and **Finnlay Loupis** took third place in the British Freeski Championships **Well Done Guys**



Always Learning - A Skiing Journey



When you look at skiing it is full of journeys, all at a different scale, each skier having their own final destination; all are equally important and valid. At one level the target could be the next hot chocolate stop (Chantilly cream optional). A scaled up target could be to get to all four corners of the piste map in Les Trois Vallees in a day (a challenge for the club holiday if you like). And it goes on, perhaps it could be completing the Haute Route from Chamonix to Zermatt. Etc, etc, etc.



But there's a scale beyond all of these - the journey we all go on learning to ski, a journey which never ends, where there are infinite targets and endless twists and turns along the way. This huge journey supports all the targets described above. Ask any of our instructors and I guarantee they will have done some form of learning in the last 12 months; from training for an assessment to spending a day in a fridge on a Warren Smith course, from attending an avalanche awareness session to spending a week learning to ski in the backcountry. We love to learn, acquiring new skills and knowledge.

So what about you? The club offers a range of lessons for all levels:

- Getting started on the slope;
- Basic improver sessions;
- Improver sessions;
- Academy sessions (bumps and carving coaching);
- Instructor training.

All sessions are run by qualified, volunteer instructors. Why volunteers? By relying on volunteers, you are assured that they are motivated and keen to see you improve - unlike some sessions on holiday where you feel that the instructor would rather be off skiing with their mates!! Our instructors are passionate about your skiing and love to see people improve at whatever level. Their love of skiing and learning is passed to you during all sessions where the focus is on safety, fun and improvement.

So, treat yourself to a lesson, at whatever level you maybe. Ask at the counter or anyone in a red coat for advice.

See y'all on the slopes soon.

Stuart Nixon



Volunteers and Young Instructors

At North Staffs Ski Club we are always keen to encourage members to participate in the running of the club. This can take many forms, from volunteering on an ad hoc basis when there is a special event (see the Oatcake Jam) , or on a more regular basis all help is appreciated.

Many of our younger volunteers begin by volunteering as part of an award scheme such as the Duke of Edinburgh or Scouting awards. Two recent examples are Luke Watts and Tom Turrell.

Luke began volunteering as part of the Bronze D of E scheme. His first jobs included clearing leaves and vacuuming the clubhouse. He progressed to working in the boot room and eventually he became an instructor and freestyle coach.

Tom began by volunteering as part of the Scout Award scheme. After spending a year in the boot room he has now been invited to begin training as a young instructor. If you are working towards a similar award please let us know so we can share your success and encourage others.

If you are a young person who would like to volunteer or know someone who would like to volunteer please ask for details at the club.



Congratulations to Ann Kroll, Nicola Tomkins, and Mark Wakefield on flying through their Level Two assessment! Instructor Development sessions are ongoing. We are always on the look out for new recruits to join the instructing team. For more information, get in touch: nssc_instructors@yahoo.co.uk.

We will miss you!

The end of November will see us saying *Goodbye*, hopefully only temporarily, to two of our young enthusiastic Instructors and Freestyle Coaches, Cameron and Luke.

Cameron will be spending the Winter in Japan as a Ski School Instructor using the BASI Level 2 qualification he gained last year in Italy.

Having gained BASI Level 1 this summer Luke will be working in the Three Valleys in France whilst working towards BASI Level 2.

We wish them good luck and look forward to hearing about their adventures and future successes when they return.

Membership Benefits

As a members of North Staffs Ski Club you are automatically a member of Snowsport England. The National Governing Body has negotiated benefits for its members (you) and the full list is at

https://snowsportengland.org.uk/Members_Offerings

The list includes discounts off holidays, ski equipment and clothing from a variety of suppliers.

Nearer to home there are benefits to being a member of North Staffs Ski Club.

Just look at the pictures below and see what you could be doing **at no extra cost on top of your membership**.



Repairing senseless vandalism.



Making a place that makes you feel at home, look like home.



Keeping the wheels turning



Collecting the mugs and plates thoughtlessly left on the slope.

These were just a few pictures taken during an hour on one day.

There are lots of other folk getting that "extra something" out of their membership.

Go on, be one of them. **Volunteer**



Skier and Snowboarder Issue 1 17/18 check out the link below

<http://edition.pagesuite-professional.co.uk/html5/reader/production/default.aspx?pubname=&pubid=1aa75c0c-cdc8-4ec8-aff-c3615302248c>

Director's Report October 2017

Over the past year we have continued as a successful ski club building on the developments made in previous years.

The Financial Management Team have continued to tightly control expenditure. Our thanks must go to them for their ongoing dedication towards keeping us solvent and enabling the club to improve its facilities.

Many improvements have been made.

On the freestyle side, some new matting has been laid, a new feature has been purchased from Sweden, jumps and rails have been boarded and painted.

The water spray system has been cleaned out and a new filtering system installed.

A new sheltered area has been built for spectators.

Thanks must go to all who had any input in the work carried out.

Freestyle Fridays have become more popular particularly with the purchase of an airbag. We have another qualified Level 1 Freestyle instructor and a good team of volunteers making Freestyle Fridays happen.

Sunday mornings continue to be a busy time with Junior Beginner lessons. Each week between 25 and 40 juniors have attended the Junior Development Club where they work towards the next level of Snowlife Awards. During the assessment days more than 50 children gained the next level and some jumped up 2 levels. We now have 2 juniors who have their Snowlife Level 8 award, the highest we have ever presented.

During the year

484 under 8's attended beginner lessons

1379 over 8s and adults attended beginner lessons

175 attended Beginner Freestyle lessons

299 people had Improver lessons

40 special clinic lessons (carving and bumps) were held

There were 250 group lessons—scouts, beavers, cubs, cadets. Schools

A total of 2328 lessons couldn't happen without the team of dedicated instructors.

To meet the demand, the team of 5 Level 3 Coaches have continued with instructor development sessions encouraging members to become Level 1 instructors and several Level 1 Instructors have gained Level 2 Status.

The number of members has remained fairly consistent over the year as new people have taken up the sport whilst others have moved onto other things and left the club.

The club holiday to La Tania, in the Three Valleys was a great success. Next year's club holiday, to Tignes, France, is fully booked.

The club still operates under Snowmark Accreditation demonstrating that it meets Snowsport England's criteria as to its skiing programme, safeguarding and protecting children, knowing the club and its community and club management. Snowmark is an acknowledgement that we take these issues seriously and that we provide a high quality and welcoming environment for participants in the sport.

The Club continues as a Children's University validated Learning Destination.

Once again many thanks must go to all who have played a part in keeping our very successful club running during the last twelve months. Particularly to those who run and maintain the kitchen so that it continues to meet the Level 5 Food Hygiene rating awarded by Newcastle Borough Council, to those who work tirelessly in the boot room, to the instructors who pass on their knowledge and enthusiasm to the members and the beginners learning to ski.

We must not underestimate the skills of the volunteers, their willingness to learn new skills and undertake new methods of working as the club develops. We are lucky to have so many people willing to give so much time and energy to the club.

Ann Loton