

## **Directors Report October 2018**

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.

Some improvements have been made to the ski slope

- Old floodlight columns have been replaced by hinged ones giving safe access when needing repair
- Extra cushioning has been laid under the matting to provide a softer landing area when using the big jump.
- The undercover spectator area has been extended
- Security / safety cameras have been upgraded.
- A shelter has been built at the top of the main slope.

Freestyle Fridays continue to be popular with another new feature being added. The airbag purchased last year has proved a good investment adding another challenge for the freestylers. We have another 6 qualified Level 1 Freestyle instructors and a good team of volunteers making Freestyle Fridays happen.

The freestyle slope has been in demand from Snowsport England who held 4 of their Futures Sessions on the slope (Futures Project supports and encourages young people in the UK to get involved in snow sports in a fun and progressive way).

A charity jam, SHRED4CAL was held on 8<sup>th</sup> September and proved a huge success raising £1300 for the Callum Wylie Foundation.

On 29<sup>th</sup> September another Charity Jam took place in support of Sport Aid and the Callum Wylie Foundation raising in the region of £1280.

They were two great events with lots of fun for all the competitors. Those watching were entertained with some amazing tricks on the jumps and rails.

Sunday mornings continue to be a busy time with Junior Beginner lessons. The waiting list had to be suspended in April to accommodate those already waiting before the closure over the summer.

Each week between 25 and 40 juniors have attended the Junior Development Club where they work towards the next level of Snowlife Awards. Due to demand a new timetable is on trial dividing the Junior Club into 2 sessions.

During the year

- 480 under 8's attended beginner lessons
- 1334 over 8s and adults attended beginner lessons
- 175 attended Beginner Freestyle lessons
- 406 people had Improver lessons
- 20 special clinic lessons (carving and bumps) were held
- 448 attended group lessons—scouts, beavers, cubs, cadets. Schools

A total of 2863 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 Tignes in France was a great success. Next year's club holiday, to Sestriere, Italy 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  
Chair  
North Staffs Ski Club