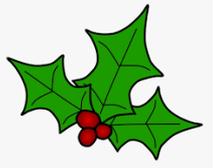


Newsletter December 2020 Seasons Greetings



**NORTH STAFFS
SKI CLUB LTD**

OPENING TIMES		
Sundays:	9.15 to 12.45 12.30 to 4.30 pm	Juniors—Various Sessions Recreational skiing and lessons
Mon-Thurs:	7.15 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 Wednesday 23rd
reopening on Saturday 2nd January

Please do not attend if you or anyone in your household are showing any symptoms of coronavirus



Look out for the poster on the booking desk to check in with the NHS Covid 19 app



When you come to the club

REMEMBER



HANDS



FACE



SPACE

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




**** Club Holiday... Andorra, 16th January, 2022 ****

In these changing times we have said a big thank you to Crystal Ski and to Maxine who looks after us at the TUI office in Cannock. As far back as June they accepted that we could not go ahead with our planned booking and held our deposits safe to use for 2022.



We have now confirmed the booking for 2022 at the same prices as advised for the 2021 holiday.

Taking into account the support shown for this holiday we have rebooked all the 74 places for which the Club has already paid deposits.

We will be in touch with everyone in the new year with the updated information.

Best wishes.....Jo Stackhouse

*** Freestyle News ***



Welcome back!

Just as everyone was getting their ski legs back it happened again. Lockdown 2!!!

The Sunday morning sessions were very popular, a new look coaching session on Friday nights replaced the old style Freestyle Fridays (in order to be Covid compliant) and everyone was enjoying the refurbished black jump. Old skills were being polished and new ones being learnt.

Thank you to everyone who supported us and joined in. It's your enthusiasm that makes it worth it.

Hopefully we will see you all before Christmas. In the meantime keep those skills alive...whether it be skateboarding or grass skiing.

*** Coaching / Instructor News ***

Just before the first lockdown Diane Watts gained her Level 1 Alpine Instructors qualification.

In between lockdowns two of our younger Coaches and Instructors managed to complete courses to upgrade their skills.



Joel Beeston successfully completed a BASI Level 1 Alpine course at Tamworth just days before Lockdown 2 kicked in. He would like to thank all those at Kidsgrove who have supported and encouraged him.

Luke Watts completed a Level 2 Freestyle course and was already using his new skills at Kidsgrove until the second lockdown began.

Congratulations to all on achieving these professional qualifications. We are sure they will put their skills to good use.

News from Club Member, Mia Brookes, member of the GB Park and Pipe team

Hey everyone, hope you're all well. Just a small update to share with you all of what I've been up to since the last newsletter.

So, after having to cancel the first GB team trip of the season to Stelvio just 24hrs before flying out, due to a positive Covid case at my school, and having to self-isolate for 14 days in September, October ended up being pretty amazing!

My mum drove me straight out to Hintertux, after I had finished self-isolating, where my coach Ben & some of the team met me there after leaving Stelvio. We had three weeks riding Hintertux glacier then after this the whole team went on to Stubai for Prime sessions. This was amazing, the jumps were the biggest I've ever done. I was on the 18 metre proline jumps and I was so happy to land my back to back 900s on this size jump before winter begins :) As we had already booked our accommodation and booked on to the prime park sessions we were allowed to stay when Austria announced that they were about to go into lock down. Every morning we met all the other nations teams at the gondola early. They run just a few gondolas up for that number of riders as the resort was closed to the public. After snowboarding we all stayed up top to wait for the shapers to shape the park in prep for the next day and then we would all ride down together to the gondola.



It was really strange but fun and I was extremely lucky to be there riding with some of the best snowboarders in the World! After this we drove straight home & although being exempt from isolating myself, once home, my parents thought it was best for everyone that I stayed at home and caught up with missed school work, as I was due to be back out in the mountains within the next two weeks. I didn't want to risk another Covid case at school and having to self-isolate again. Fortunately, we made the right decision as this did happen, and just the day before I was due to travel out to train in Corvatsch with the team!!

I will be home schooling now for the next few months and will be spending my winter living in our caravan out in Laax, Switzerland. I also turn 14 this season, so I am allowed to enter my first FIS competitions so have just recently passed all my medicals and received my FIS licence which is super exciting! I'm hoping to travel to a few World Rookie comps again if they run. If none of you heard yet the World Rookie Tour recently announced that they are doing their first ever UK tour stop in Glasgow. If anyone's keen to enter, they are really good fun and they do activities off the hill too in the evenings. It's a good few days – I've heard it will be Big air at Bearsden and a rail jam at Braehead. I think it's in mid-January.

I'm currently staying in St Moritz and riding Corvatsch. All the GB park and pipe skiers and snowboarders are training together right now which is brilliant fun.

Woodsy has been staying with us all too, he's hilarious, Kirsty Muir & myself even teach him to do TikTok dances! He's pretty good at table tennis too which is no surprise. :)) Did anyone see Billy Morgan and Woodsy swap skis and snowboards last week? have a look on their Instagram!!!!

I'm hoping to compete in my first Europa cup here in a couple of weeks time and then afterwards will drive back over to Laax to spend Xmas and New Year with my parents, do some filming and just have some fun lapping P60! I'm having a great time and will let you all know how my season is going in the New Year, or you can follow me on my Instagram account mia_brookes.

Hope everyone has a fun Christmas & you can all get to the mountains real soon!!

Mia Brookes xxx

“Volunteers are not paid... because they are not worthless, but because they are priceless!!”

Kidsgrove Ski Club has a fantastic group of volunteers. In 1973 Kidsgrove Urban Council built the Ski Slope. Bathpool Park had boats on the lake, a tennis court, a golf driving range and the first ski slope in the area. Most of our members will know the volunteers by sight, but not know anything more.

Two questions were asked to the volunteers:

Question 1: Why did you start to volunteer and for how long?

Gerald: I started to work towards my qualifications with the ski club in 1994. I was keen on skiing and the club at that time needed instructors.

Lynn and Colin: Colin and I could already ski when we came to Kidsgrove. We brought the boys to learn to ski and were usually down the ski slope every Sunday. Colin helped in the boot room and then became an instructor. Lynn said, at first I helped with the admin at the slope and then eventually became an instructor, it was like a natural progression.

Craig: I was a cub and scout with Silverdale Scouts and was brought to the Ski Club by Brian when I was 11 years old in 1977. When I was 22 I became a ski instructor, but then became involved with the maintenance of the slope in 1985/8, but then started to help with the finances. I have been volunteering ever since, for 33 years.

Cameron: At age 8 my mum and dad could already ski and wanted to take my brother and I on a skiing holiday. We went away, but did not come straight back to the club. After a break, aged 12 I started to attend junior club and at 18 starting my training to become an instructor.

Norman: My son when he was 15 wanted to have some skiing lessons in 1982, so I took him to North Staffordshire Ski Club in Bathpool, but then decided to have lessons myself. I then became a level one instructor in 1984 and I volunteered ever since.

Eric: I started to learn to ski when I was 50, at the end of my first skiing lesson, the instructor said “everyone is doing very well apart from you Eric”. In my second lesson the toe de-railed, after a hammer had fixed it on a temporary basis, I volunteered with small working party to design and install a new toe.

Andy: I got roped in to help, pressure from the other half. I volunteered in 2016, 4 years ago and support in the boot room on a Tuesday.



Anne M: I came down to Kidsgrove Ski Slope in 1993 when I was 11 years old, we had a lesson with Ian. When we were signed off we all joined as a family, I had improver lessons and then eventually wanted to become an instructor. I have been teaching now at the slope for 22 years.

John: In September 1991 I saw an advert for a free taster session at the club, so came down. I joined as a member and started to ski on a Sunday afternoon. I became an instructor in 1996, successfully gained my level 1 in 1998 and have been teaching for over 20 years. I volunteered to become the treasurer around the same time.

No it's not your eyes, apologies for the slight blur.
Did you spot the deliberate mistake?

Tim: I first came down to the Ski club to do a paid job to fix the CCVTV, my daughter Ruby wanted to have skiing lessons. So in 2016 we both had lessons, Ruby progressed quicker than me. Eventually I was signed off and then started to come down more often. I started to help out where I could and then got roped into helping with the Oakcake Jam and Freestyle Fridays, where I go into the boot room.

June: I started to help out at the ski club about 9 years ago in 2011, Joel was at the Sunday morning club. One Sunday Jo was busy in the kitchen and I offered to help do the washing up. Every Sunday morning since, I have helped out in the kitchen.

Brenda and John said Q1: We started volunteering about 30 years ago. Craig roped me and John in to help on a Wednesday night. Brenda made tea and sold sweets and John washed up. After a while John and I moved to help on a Sunday too.

Brian: I was a scout leader and took the cubs and scouts skiing on a Wednesday evening starting in 1977. In 1979 the slope was closed by the council so I decided to organise coach trips to Telford Ski Slope, which I did for four years before North Staffs Ski Club opened again in 1984.

Joel: I have been skiing at the club for 9 years. I started to help out on the slope when I was 14 and then started to coach when he was 16.



Ann L: I started working at the club in 2002 when I took early retirement from my job as deputy head of a school for physically disabled children and needed something to fill my time. After joining the committee in 2002 I eventually became chair in 2010.

Simon: In 2005 I booked a holiday to Canada, but I couldn't ski! I needed to learn to ski, so I went to Stoke to have lessons. A mate told me about Kidsgrove, so I decided to come down to have a look and I have never left. Within 12 months of doing my instructor training I became an instructor and ran the kids club on a Sunday for years. I then joined the committee and continued to support the club. It's like a huge family of skiers.

Ian: About 40 years ago, my wife's brother was at the ski club and invited us to come down. All the family had lessons and became members. It wasn't long before I became an instructor, then I joined the committee. I can remember, when some of the ski club members wanted to move all of the equipment to Festival Park from Kidsgrove, I was one of the volunteers that objected. Thank fully I did object as the ski club has gone from strength to strength.

Suzanne: My boys started to have lessons in 2014 and I was freezing watching them. When I heard I could get a free coffee if I volunteered, I was straight in the kitchen; that was 6 years ago. I volunteer on a Tuesday and Sunday now.

Jo: After a family holiday in Banff I started to learn to ski and came to Kidsgrove in 2000. Once I could ski, Norman asked me to help out in the kitchen. From there I became a committee member before I became an instructor. I discovered skiing in my 50's and enjoy the company from other instructors.

Question 2; Tell me an interesting fact about you that no one else will know?

Quiz—Guess who said it

Tim - Jo - John D - Andy - Simon - Suzanne - Ian - Ann L - Norman - Lyn - Craig
Colin - Gerald - Brenda - Cameron - John T - Brian - Eric - Anne M

	Fact	Who is it?
1	In their youth, this person started working on an early computer that used 'valves' this was in 1961	
2	This person believes they are the only member to ski down the slope carrying a quarter of a million pound camera. This was when Midland News came to film at the slope.	
3	This person first went skiing with a party from school in 1963 to Engelberg, Switzerland using leather boots and wooden skis.	
4	This person used to work on an Ostrich farm, in Brownlow. They are also 10 years clear of cancer!	
5	This person had a pet sheep called Lula Bell when they were younger, along with 3 ducks called Donald, Daffy and Jemima	
6	When this person was younger they used to play rugby—their position was scrum half and they played for Macclesfield Ladies Rugby Team.	
7	This person has 7 pairs of skis and 6 bikes	
8	This person's father was an undertaker	
9	This person can drive a horse and cart and used to give horse riding lessons, in their youth they were offered a job as a horse riding instructor.	
10	This person nearly died aged 16 after they were bitten by an adder in Wales.	
11	This person has skied since they were twelve years old and had a pair of leather ski boots.	
12	In their youth, this person used to be in a tug of war team that became world champions. They played for Norton Tug of War team	
13	In this person's spare time they go to Le Mans every year and they are a massive fan of motor racing.	
14	This person used to play the cello and achieved grade 5, at school they played in the orchestra.	
15	This person holds the oldest membership at the club Any guesses?	
16	This person was a store detective for 20 years.	
17	This person used to be on the University Archery Team and they have fished since the age of 7.	
18	This person used to sell 'knicker elastic' and had a market stall in Ellesmere Port for 33 years	
19	When this person was younger they built a GP 14ft racing dingy in their garage and joined North Staffs Sailing Club.	

Answers 1. John D 2 Ian 3. Ann L 4. Tim 5. Colin 6. Suzanne 7. Cameron 8. John T 9. Jo
10. Gerald 11. Lyn 12. Andy 13. Craig 14. Ann M 15. Brian 16. Brenda 17. Simon 18. Eric 19. Norman