



NORTH STAFFS



CLUB LTD

NEWSLETTER

February 2006

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2006.

Your club continues to grow, membership is increasing, beginners and improver lessons are in great demand; finances are on a sound footing.

The committee is always searching for new ways to improve what is on offer to it's members, so, if you have any ideas about what you would like to happen just ask to speak to someone on the committee.

We have over 1000 members but the club is run by around 45 of those members who help out in various ways on a regular basis. Becoming involved with the club is a great way to meet people and make new friends. If you would like to help out just ask someone what you can do.

EASTER CLOSING

The club will be closed on Saturday 15th April, Easter Sunday 16th April and Easter Monday 17th April.

Something to look forward to, or are you already a SKIer?

If you need glasses to read this you are probably well on your way to becoming a **SKIer**. If you are in you 50's you may be one of a growing number of people who are **Spending the Kids Inheritance** pursuing blue sky and powder deep slopes.

For those of you aspiring to be a SKIer things couldn't look better. There are shaped and fat skis that take less muscle to turn and let older legs ski longer. There are advances in knee and hip replacement surgeries, older folks are only one more anti-inflammatory away from the next envy-making ski holiday. And, since they discovered one of the best ways to treat high-altitude pulmonary oedema is with Viagra well, just about everything is looking up.

More good news, all ski areas offer senior concessions. Some start at the young age of 60 saving £20 to £30 over 6 days, you can even get a free lift pass in Chamonix at 69. (If you can make it down the from Grand Montets at that age you deserve a free lift pass.) Modern après ski is also designed for the mature body. A soak, steam and a bit of a titanium-knees up is easy to do in resort these days. If the rolling Stones can do a geriatric tour so can you. Looking around the ski club there are many of us well on the way to what every ski bum dreams of – a free lift pass. The rest of you will just have to wait a bit longer!



What was it like? Club Holiday – Valmeinier January 2006

We set off on Friday morning with a little trepidation, lots of things going on in our minds. Will the coach trip be ok? Will there be enough snow? Will the weather be ok? Will the hotel be up to scratch? All these things are critical when taking so many people of varying abilities on holiday. To try to please everybody is impossible, we thought, but on our return, at the Monday night committee meeting, John Cowan

gave us a run down on the ski club questionnaires and it appears that everybody had a fabulous time.

On our part Tina and I would like to thank everybody we skied with. We tried to ski with as many people as we could and enjoyed every minute of it. The snow and weather is one thing we have no control over but for a club holiday the weather was fantastic. Ok we could have done with more snow but snow, cloud and flat light don't make a good holiday for social skiers. The hard cases among us must remember that this was a club holiday not an extreme holiday. The hotel was a complete surprise to us with friendly staff for which nothing was too much trouble. The activities they organised, sledging, quiz night, bar crawl (so I'm told), skating, party night, were first class. Food and wine, coffee, tea and chocolate were all plentiful and the rooms were excellent. The coach trip (according to the questionnaires) was very successful and although there are alternative like self drive, air travel, remember you don't get 8 days skiing with them. Tina and I know from a lot of experience that there is no easy way to get down to the Alps and back when you have only a weeks break. We thought that this holiday was excellent value for money.

Now for the thanks. Where to begin. John Cowan, Terry Boulton and Eric Hartley for putting this trip together, fantastic job. All the instructors, Ann, Tina and Brian who selflessly gave up their holiday time to guide and give advice to our fellow members. I'm sure a lot of members broke through personal barriers thanks to their efforts. Thanks to the parents of all the children who, on our coach, coach one, and from reports off the other coaches, were in charge of their offspring and said offspring's behaviour on that long journey was impeccable.

When you think that if every member we have, had come on this holiday we could have filled 9, yes, 9 hotels. The reason I say this is because we have nearly 1000 members. We need more than the few volunteers we have, to manage the ski club in different ways on different nights. If you think you might like to get involved please ask any of our volunteers to give you advice on what you might be good at.

Finally we thank you again for your company on the holiday and hope you have a fantastic rest of the season, either at the club or on other holidays. See you soon.

Dave and Tina Dick.

"Excellent, superb, the whole thing, This will take some beating." Mark Harris.

"Thoroughly enjoyable all round. Initially concerned about the coach travel but much better than expected." Richard and Heidi.

"Feel at home first time around, brilliant." Nick .

"The best club holiday we've been on." Phil, Albert, Warren and Dave.

"We had a blast! Hotel and staff were great, food excellent, overall a real family experience." The Osbornes.

"Met a super, generous, jocular and caring group of people. An absolutely 'cracking' holiday!"
Debi (newcomer).

Look out in March for details of the next Club Holiday.

Kidgrove Ski Club to Follow Saudi Example

Over a year after the installation of the new surface most of you will now have had the chance to experience the great runs available. However, not unlike a novice snowplough, things don't stay still for long. John "hatchet" Daines has revealed a long term development plan. "I've worked closely with a group of

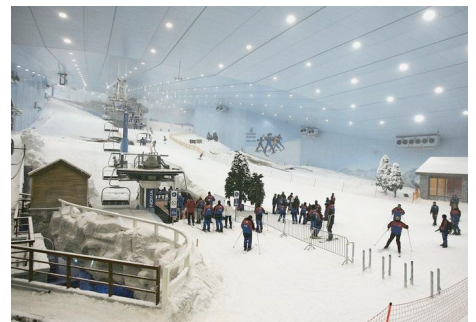


Saudis fundraising for and developing their indoor snow slope. And, to be honest, we should be able to reproduce it at Kidgrove. The structure we plan to build is identical to the Saudi slope, but will take its architectural influence from the Sage Centre in Newcastle (Upon Tyne) – it will be known as the Armadillo of Bath Pool Park." Eric "spanners" Hartley has helped install the Saudi slope. "It's not a bad design I suppose", mused Eric, "but I think things could be improved – starting with the Poma installed chair lift. I've got a couple of old



washing machine motors that I could put to good use, and I can adapt the buttons on the current tow to hang bits of the old wooden benches that we ripped out of the ski room. It shouldn't take more than a weekend. I've spoken to Gerald "Sparkitus" Loton and he reckons that a couple of 13 amp fuses and some domestic cable should sort the electrics". Gerald continued, "I think the two old SMEG fridges that are in the garage can be hotwired to cool the whole thing to just above freezing."

I'm sure that members will revel in skiing on real snow in Kidgrove. Chairman, Terry "final word" Boulton reckons that both the Saudi and Kidgrove slopes will be a great success. "This will make us the largest snow slope in, well, ermm, Kidgrove. We plan



to operate an exchange scheme with the Saudi slope – we're hoping to swap a number of our instructors for a couple of their palm trees for our car park".

The only stumbling block appears to be finding anyone willing to dress up as a bear and entertain the kids. The Club has taken strong steps to address this issue – anyone seen skiing in a silly hat will be automatically put forward for bear duties.

Beat that for improvement at the club!!!!

Remember Last Summer?

The excitement, the drama the nerve tingling finishes?

Re-live it all by playing cricket this summer when the slope closes. We run 3 Senior and 3 Junior (U11, U13 and U17) teams so all are welcome. Playing at one of the most idyllic locations in the region, we offer something for everyone - fine teas, real ales and friendly faces all in a relaxed atmosphere.



We are tucked away in the Grounds of Rode Hall Estate so you won't see any signs for us. If you're interested in playing, getting junior out of the house for a couple of hours, or coming down and enjoying the atmosphere then get in touch. Contact Stuart Nixon 07910 222153

RODE PARK & LAWTON CRICKET CLUB

Freeform Productions

The makers of *A Place In The Sun*, are looking for 'househunters' for their new series. They are hoping to kickstart their third series with ski shows, they are looking for people who are wanting to buy a property in or around ski resorts as well as considering a UK option. They are specifically looking around the Dolomites in Italy and Austria. If you are interested please contact: househunters@fftv.co.uk or call **0161 236 5983**

Some of you may have noticed that our instructors have fantastic new ski suits to keep them warm dry whilst teaching. Thanks go to High Peak Leisure who has generously sponsored them. Thanks are also due to them for providing the prizes for the Kids Club Christmas Party



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