



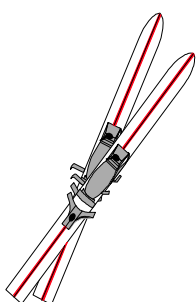
# NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2009

## EASTER CLOSING

The club will be closed on  
Sunday 12th and Monday 13th April.



Please also note that the club will be **closed**  
**on Saturdays after 25th April.**



### Members fitting their own skis.

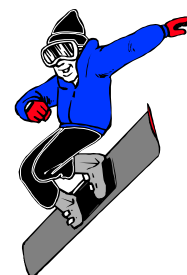
It is important that **ONLY** Staff or Instructors etc who have done a ski maintenance course, or can show the relevant knowledge to one of these people, are allowed to fit skis. There is a shortage of trained people in ski/boot room. If you are interested in helping let us know then we can arrange another to run a course.

We are only enforcing this to comply with our Insurance Risk Assessment. Thanks for your help on this matter

*Simon (Health & Safety Officer)*

### Snowboarding instructors needed

If anybody is interested in becoming a Snowboard instructor details of how to become one can be found on Snowsport England website [www.snowsportengland.org.uk](http://www.snowsportengland.org.uk) If you are interested please speak to Dave Dick who will explain how the ski club could support you.



### Want to save yourself some money?

**Many people have asked me about what you need to service your own skis and where to buy the equipment from**

I have arranged for Jon Costnor, of Jon's Ski Tuning to pay us a visit on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> Feb from 1:30 onwards.

Jon tunes skis for a living and supplies all the equipment necessary to service your own skis, whether you are a beginner or a seasoned Ski Tech.



It's all good quality products and at the right price. If you have a few friends, why don't you share the cost and buy a kit between you. With the cost of the Euro at present you could recoup the cost of a basic kit by servicing just 4 or five pairs of ski's compared to what you would pay in resort. Share this cost between a few friends and it makes sense if you own your own skis or snowboard.



Come along for a look or some advice

See you there - **Simon**

# Holiday Reviews

## 1993 - 2009

Dozing by a blazing log fire it's nice to remember the club holiday. Eighteen months after starting to ski and many Sunday afternoons' practice on the plastic, it was time to try the real thing – at somewhere called Le Corbier in France. We landed at the airport and it was seventy degrees (whew!) but after a lengthy coach transfer we arrived at the resort, where it was a bit cooler but they were playing tennis next to our "concrete jungle" hotel. There was no snow and Brian's luggage had all gone missing (it did turn up after a few days) so we went further up the mountain on a free bus to La Toussuire where there was said to be some snow. Norman showed how to get on and off a chairlift and this was it – skiing on snow. Thin, slushy and sometimes inches deep water at the end of the run but snow. It disappeared day by day and we went on a bus to Valloire and Val Frejus where there was better snow and even a blizzard. "Wait till you try real snow", they said. "What do you mean?", I said, "I thought it was great".

**But hey, enough of nineteen ninety-three, let's wind forward seventeen holidays to this year in Le Corbier.**



This time it was a ski-in, ski-out hotel set away from the concrete jungle with "real" snow following a major dump days before our arrival. Also, they'd linked Le Corbier together with La Toussuire and some other local resorts to create "Les Sybelles", the fifth largest area in France. Over sixty people went and

Norman and Brian were there again but there were no luggage issues this time. As usual, the party split into smaller groups and got on with the serious business of sheer enjoyment on snow. After a couple of misty / low cloud days, which were good for familiarisation and practice, the sun came out and you could see Mont Blanc 50 miles away. There followed four days of excellent, super, memorable etc etc skiing. Good snow, a wide variety of pistes, and off-piste that remained ski-able, meant that there was something for everyone. At the end of each day it was back to the hotel for "the cake" and afternoon tea that Terry had negotiated and then rest or whatever before the evening meal.

So, what was the difference? On both holidays there was a large group of people who were determined to enjoy themselves. The same spirit that holds the club together meant that there was support and co-operation between the more and less experienced members. There was always a good buzz in the restaurants at mealtimes where folk were either recounting the day's exploits or planning for the next. So, really, it was only the quality and quantity of the snow. The people who go on the club holiday always make the most of what's there whether it was probably the worst ever or one of the best ever. Thanks, Terry.

Uhuh. Time to stop dozing, leave the warm and dry and get back to the slope.

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## Our first holiday on snow.

**Paul and I joined Kidsgrove ski club shortly after a trip to Switzerland in the snow. We watched people on the slopes and thought we would give it a go.**

**On my birthday in April 2008 we joined and after some proper lessons we were given the go ahead to practice our skills.**

**When the holiday came up at the club we jumped at the chance to go as we needed to see what skiing on real snow was really like. We weren't disappointed, in fact the whole experience was better than we had ever imagined and going with people who had been before, some of them instructors who although on holiday encouraged us to go for it which we did, everyone was great, the hotel was comfortable and the food good, most of all the snow and the weather was fantastic.**

**This holiday experience only confirmed that we would certainly be doing more. - Tracy and Paul**

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## Roll on next year.

Tony and I arrived at Manchester Airport all set for our first club holiday in Le Corbier. Tony's new skis had not yet had an outing and they almost missed out on the trip, as Monarch airline didn't want to take payment for them. I had visions of having to call back our lift to the airport to take the skis home again and it was at this stage I thought owning your own skis was not the best idea Tony had ever had. However, after ¼ hour wandering from official to official, desk to desk and a phone call to Terry we managed to find a body to acknowledge that skis were actually allowed on this holiday and what a relief it was to see them disappearing on the conveyor belt.

An uneventful flight and transfer saw us arrive at the hotel Le Mont Corbier in time for dinner at 8.00pm. After dinner we were really impressed with the way in which the young Australian Ski technician was prepared to fit all those who needed with boots and skis; the lift passes were also ready for collection. The bedrooms were comfortable with a large bath/shower room. The food was good, once we got past the sausage night; considering the young age of the staff most of whom were very obliging. We believed the Manager had the best job though; check everyone was being productive then nip off for a quick drink and then hit the slopes. The location of the hotel was very convenient and the ski in and ski out facility was a huge advantage.

The resort itself was superb, plenty of snow made for excellent conditions and there seemed to be adequate skiing for all levels. The weather was excellent we couldn't have wished for any thing more. Just one day a little misty and even then we were still able to ski.

For those of us in lessons we had to be ready and down on the slope for 10.00am. This was an ideal time, we didn't have to rush breakfast and we even had time for a quick practise run! The lessons were enjoyable with plenty of actual skiing and good coverage of the ski area. We did however notice that the explanation of the lesson in french took at least 5 minutes longer than the English explanation. The skiing ability of pupils was well matched, pupils were soon moved up or down according to ability, so as a result there was not too much waiting around for the slower skiers.

The ski trip was a great success. Yes, we had very good conditions. Yes, we had great weather but what made the holiday most enjoyable was the people; although, it was very difficult remembering 65 new names and faces everyone was extremely friendly and we all got on so well making the trip a holiday to remember. Thank you Terry, and roll on next year!

Jill Pace

### And more - 20 plus years.

Was it really 20 plus years ago since I last went on a skiing holiday?



The answer is yes. Which seems unbelievable because it only feels like yesterday. The last holiday I went on was Les Arc with the Ski club back in the 80's. So having lost a lot of weight recently and initially thinking it isn't that long ago since I went skiing. I thought why not. In September 2008 my dad (Brian) mentioned that this

coming holiday would probably be his last. We decided that we should go together. One last holiday for my dad and one last chance for me. Back in September that seemed like a good idea. However as Christmas came and went I started to wonder if I had done the right thing. I was beginning to question my decision. Was I fit enough? Had I lost enough Weight? Would I know anyone? And worst of all would I remember how to ski? Well! It was too late. Money had changed hands and I was committed to going. So you can imagine that I was a little apprehensive as we set out to go. But, I need not have worried.

As soon as I arrived at the hotel one of my fears (Would I know anyone?) was gone straight away. There were plenty of familiar faces. One of which was Mike my room mate. (Who remembered me as a spotty teenager?) But, even the people that I didn't know put me at ease with their friendly and sociable manner. The doubts started to lift. This was going to be good after all. The next fear of course was can I remember how to ski? Well! once I'd got them strapped to my feet there was only one way of finding out. Point them towards the bottom of the slope and hope for the best. Let me tell you, it was fantastic. It was like riding a bike. I realise, it is true you never forget. The adrenaline rush of putting those turns together the wind rushing past your face, it all came back to me within minutes. Then coming to a controlled stop at the bottom and realising although my legs ached they weren't about to drop off. The only word I can find to describe it is Wow! It was fantastic! I couldn't wait to get back up there and do it again. The weather and skiing was amazing. I have now got the skiing bug. Can't wait for the next one. I've already got permission from the wife. What was going to be one last chance looks like becoming a yearly event. I may even persuade my dad to carry on. However, what made this holiday so memorable wasn't just the fantastic skiing it was also the people I shared it with. They were a great bunch; I had a great time with everyone. So, I Thank you all, especially Mike for putting up with me and making my first skiing holiday after all those years so enjoyable.

And of course Terry for organising such an outstanding holiday. Oh! Just one more thing. The burning question of the whole holiday has to be:-

Was Brian pushed or did he fall?

See you all at the slope.

Nigel

ps. Rumour has it that Normski could have been to blame.

**Look out for details of Club Holiday 2010 in the next Newsletter**

### **Snow sliders dictionary**

**Carrying skis** - even when held tightly together by straps or interlocking ski brakes, a pair of skis can be awkward to manage. To master the knack of carrying them, have a friend stand close behind you on your right or left side. Place the skis over your shoulder, with the tips forward and the bindings just touching your back, and drape your arm over their top surfaces. Now pivot on your hips slowly in both directions as if looking at the scenery or an attractive individual of the opposite sex. The last foot or so of your skis should hit your friend at about ear level. If you're grazing the top of your friends head or shoulders, adjust your grip, increase the speed of your hip turn, or flatten the slope of the ski-carrying angle.

### **Try something new!**

### **Play Cricket!**

#### **Have fun!**



This family friendly Cricket Club is looking for new Senior and Junior Members. Social Members are more than welcome to come down and enjoy the atmosphere.

Juniors aged between 9 and 17 are welcome to attend practice with our qualified coaches. As a ClubMark club you can be happy that child welfare is a top priority.



**Junior Contact (After 7pm)**  
Julie Richards (01782 777339)  
**Senior Contact**  
Jonathan Gallimore (07863 340268)

#### **Get involved!**

### **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Beer Festival**

**31<sup>st</sup> March to 5<sup>th</sup> April**  
**Tues-Thurs 6:30pm-11pm**  
**Fri 5:30pm-11pm**  
**Sat Noon - 11pm**



**RODE PARK & LAWTON CRICKET CLUB**

Patron Sir Richard Baker Wilbraham bt



### **ATTENTION ALL FORD OWNERS**

We have now become the new Ford Dealer for North Staffordshire  
Please contact us if you require help or advice at any time.

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Evening and other times 07866 253869 or 07831 296982

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