



Newsletter February 2010

OPENING TIMES

Easter - Closed Saturday 3rd, Sunday 4th and Monday 5th April

Last Saturday afternoon opening - 24th April

May Day Weekend - closed Sunday 2nd and Monday 3rd May

Spring Bank holiday - closed Sunday 30th and Monday 31st May

Sunday closing in May 3.30pm

Sunday closing in June 2.00pm

Running your club

Due to relocation in the London area Phil Rowley has reluctantly had to resign as Chairman. The committee thanked him on behalf of the members for his hard work and commitment to the Club.

The Ski Club Committee now consists of Chairman - Ann Loton
Vice Chairman - Simon Jones, Treasurers - Craig Timmis and John Daines,
Secretary - Jo Stackhouse.

Other committee members are Eric Hartley, Dave Dick, Gerald Loton, Paul Knapper, Terry Boulton, Ian Shakespeare, Ed Marshal and Simon Feeney.

The builders are coming! Things are going to get better!

Newcastle Borough Council (owners of the building and the land the ski slope is on) have obtained funding to improve the facilities available at the club. Over the next month or two the building is to have a new roof, new windows, new toilet facilities with disabled access, new exterior doors, new steps at the bottom of the footpath and additional exterior lighting. There will be scaffolding around the building to facilitate the construction of the new roof. These will be very welcome improvements to the building but for a short time may prove a little inconvenient.



The Borough Council have assured us that they will make every effort to keep the building open for the club's use at all times.

NORTH STAFFS



CLUB LTD

Buy or Hire? **All mountain** **Carvers** **off piste** **Park**

During a recent ski holiday two of our group decided it was time to start looking for new skis. For one, the old skis were just worn out and the other wasn't happy with theirs.



Both are competent skiers, have been skiing for some time and are aware of the different types of skis, Carvers, Off-Piste, All-Mountain, Park, but neither had actually tried many of them. How many of us have, on the kind of snow where they're designed to work? So our duo set off to look around the local ski shop/rental establishments in search of new skis.

This set me thinking, I'd love to be able to bring over 2 or 3 types of ski to allow for different types of snow conditions, a true dedicated Carving ski and Park ski for when there's not much fresh snow about and of course a great big phat powder ski, just in case...oh and an all mountain ski in case I want to go playing all over the mountain. This is going to get difficult, to start with I've got to buy all these skis and I don't know which of the various makes I would prefer. Then I've got to carry the lot through the airport explaining why I have so many skis, pay extra for the carriage and when I do eventually get back home they'll all need servicing and stringing!

So what other choice do I have. What about the rental shops in resort? They are full of skis, the only problem is their HIRE skis are rubbish, floppy, cheap skis to trip up beginners. I am sure we can all remember that first ski holiday, the boots that didn't fit, the badly serviced ski which meant they turn one way but not the other and wouldn't grip on ice down the blue run.... Well, not so anymore, I went round several hire shops and asked about their best skis and got offered several good quality skis for the week at quite reasonable prices. So I hired a pair of skis, what a week! By the end of the week my skiing had definitely improved, I was really enjoying skiing in areas I had previously struggled with. I hired what I though were radical skis, which I would never have considered buying.

So why exactly have I brought my own skis with me?

To save money? It cost me 100 Euro to hire very good skis for six days. It cost me £30 ski carriage (to say nothing of carrying the things) add to that the cost of a service, (the skis I hired definantly needed a service by the end of six days) factor in the original purchase cost £400 - £500 and the hire costs starts to look quite reasonable.

Because I am used to my own skies? As I've stated, my skiing definitely improved through-out the week, so the different skis pushed me out of my comfort zone and/or were just better skis which allowed me to improve, either way my skiing improved and I really enjoyed myself.

So in conclusion there are some very nice second-hand skis for sale "down at the club" that the previous owner has out grown. I won't be rushing out to buy a replacement pair, I think I'll be seeing what the conditions are like, hiring some skis when I get there and be skiing on this seasons models. What about you?

Andy.P.Reski

Get your cameras out
Photo competition - Prizes
 'Essence of Skiing'



Snow covered mountains, groups skiing, après ski etc.

No more than three entries per person.

Please send entries in digital format to ann.loton@ntlworld.com or printed copies can be left at the ski club for the attention of Ann Loton

Winning entries will be published in the April newsletter.

Have your entries in by no later than 11th April.

Club Holiday to Valmeinier

The recent club holiday to Valmeinier was, for most people, a successful holiday. There were some problems with the coach travel which have not yet been explained by Snowcoach.

From the returned holiday questionnaires the majority of people thought - it was value for money - that the quality of the rooms were good or better than good - that the food was good or better and that the resort of Valmeinier was very good. Great fun was had during the activities organised by the staff and the fancy dress competition was very amusing. Many people visited the snow sculptures in Valoire which added another dimension to a ski holiday.

Nichola Tomkins says "The club holiday to Valmeinier was the first holiday my husband and I had been on with the club and we will both be going again, what fun and well organised by the club. We cannot wait to go on another."



endon
 SERVICES
 .GROUP.

FIX FOR FIVE

Fix your servicing costs for up to FIVE years!

We are all now well used to paying our household expenses on a monthly plan – mobile phone, gas and electricity, rates etc. etc. Well, now you can do the same with your car service costs AND fix those costs for up to five years.

We are very pleased to announce a UNIQUE service to our Endon Rewards loyalty scheme members – a new fixed price servicing package – BUDGET PLAN.

Endon Rewards Budget Plan Service provides your regular manufacturer scheduled vehicle servicing for a single fixed monthly payment. You can fix your service costs with us at today's prices for up to FIVE years and the payments are simply based on your expected annual mileage NOT the car that you drive!

See Schedule of Payments table on the right...

£ **FIXED**
FOR
FIVE

For annual mileages above or below the figures shown, please ask for an individual quotation.

Our Budget Plan covers all the parts and labour (including VAT!) for your manufacturer scheduled service plans. You only have to pay for any wear and tear items which are required at the time of repair. You are also required to have your annual MOT carried out with us but we make a special price offer of £40 to all our Budget Plan customers, saving £14 against the normal MOT recommended price. The budget plan and its payments are completely transferrable if you change your car and you can cancel the scheme at any time **without any charge or hassle whatsoever.**

Miles per year	FIXED Monthly Payment
10,000	£10 + Vat
15,000	£15 + Vat
20,000	£20 + Vat
25,000	£25 + Vat
30,000	£30 + vat
Over 30,000	Ask for a quote

Please contact us if you require help or advice at any time

Office hours 01782 50 50 50 - Evening and other times 07866 253869 or 07831 296982