



NORTH STAFFS



SKI CLUB LTD

Newsletter

June 2018

CLOSURE AND OPENING TIMES FOR REST OF SEASON

Closed on Saturday afternoons in June

Sunday closing in June - 2.00 pm

Close for the summer - Thursday 28th June at 9 pm

Re-opens - Monday 3rd September

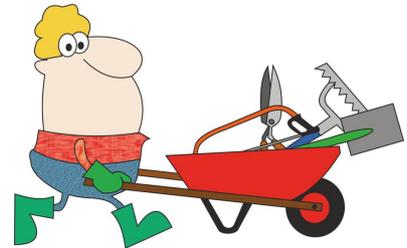
Summer Maintenance - Volunteers Needed

The club will be open for maintenance throughout July and August (from July 4th) on:

Wednesdays 7 - 9 pm

Jobs to be done include:

- Boot cleaning
- Weeding / weed killer application
- Button lift – moving along the cable, specific mechanical maintenance
- More skis to be put on fencing
- General tidying up



And more....

If you think you can help with any of these tasks and would like to select what you do in advance please put your name on the notice at the ski club or let **Ann Loton** know either at the club or at ann.loton@ntlworld.com. If you would like to take charge of one of the jobs even better.

Also There will be other jobs identified which will need small working parties on other days e.g. weekends. If you are able to offer some time to join a working party please put your name on the list at the ski club or email ann.loton@ntlworld.com

End of season clear out



Please make sure any personal equipment or items for sale left are removed before closure on the 28th June. If you have left property at the club this is your last opportunity to claim it before it is disposed of!! We will be cleaning out the ski room, any unidentifiable personal skis/poles/boots/helmets etc. left in the ski room will be put into stock for general use.



**SNOWSPORT
ENGLAND**

Member of the British Ski Slope
Operators Association

Kidsgrove Ski Centre, Bathpool Park, Kidsgrove,
Stoke on Trent, ST7 4EF Telephone (01782) 784908

www.ski-kidsgrove.co.uk

Company Number:4337963

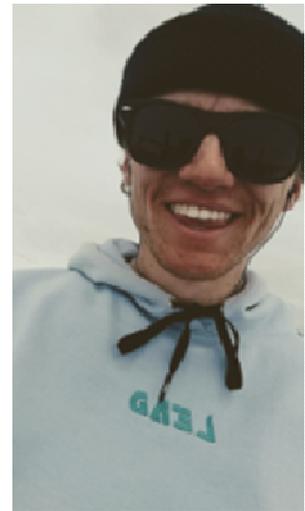


Active
Accessible
Accredited

A bit about my winter season in France and how I got there.

After much deliberation I eventually made it to the Alps for a winter season in the Three Valleys, something I had been planning since leaving school.

I learnt to ski in Meribel, first on plastic skis as a three year old, progressing to ski school when I was five, where it is reported that I was well known for talking my instructors to death. This is how my passion for skiing, and my ambition to be a professional ski instructor/coach began.



At fourteen I became involved with North Staffs Ski Club as a Bronze Duke of Edinburgh volunteer, sweeping leaves, vacuuming and ultimately fitting skis in the boot room. At sixteen, along with Cameron, I became a Freestyle Coach and a Level 1 SSE Ski Instructor. At nineteen I completed BASI 1, a five day course at a snowdome. As part of the qualification I also completed an intensive First Aid course with BASP (British Association of Ski Patrollers).

With the aim of having a season in a ski resort and furthering my ski qualifications, in early December 2017, me and my dad packed up my car and drove to Meribel.

I had secured a job with a small company called Ski Higher and was hoping to work in their Les Allues shop. However, on arrival, it became apparent that my French wasn't quite good enough so I was given a job in the workshop servicing skis. At first I was disappointed but soon realised that this arrangement would give me more time on the slopes. A real plus as record amounts of snow were destined to fall on the Alps!

Needless to say it was hard work, often working into the early hours of the morning at peak times, but very satisfying to see a clean workshop and rows of gleaming, fully serviced skis, before leaving for a well earned snooze, to make sure I didn't miss the best of the early morning powder.

Although it was good to have so much snow, there were times when there was **too** much and the lifts were closed. However, that did not deter me and my new friends from having fun. Armed with shovels, we quickly got to work making our own snow park at the bottom of the itinerary run which ends in Les Allues.

One of the highlights of my season was successfully completing a ten day BASI 2 course in Meribel, which allows me to work as a Ski Instructor anywhere in the world, except France and Italy.

Eventually, like all good things, the season came to an end and I found myself driving back to the UK.

What next? To progress to BASI 3 I need to complete 200 teaching hours and complete a BASI 1 qualification in snowboarding which I hope to do in Switzerland next season, so it looks as if I had better start saving hard.....

Luke Watts

A bit about my ski season in Japan and how I got there.

I first started skiing when I was aged six on a family holiday in France, then started skiing at Kidsgrove when I was eight in the kids club on Sunday mornings. I went to the kids club on and off for 8 years (mixing Skiing with Rugby, mostly skiing) until I was asked if I wanted to help with running the kids club and that is when my passion for skiing really started.



Kidsgrove put me through my Alpine Snow Sports England level one qualification when I was 16 and then my freestyle UKCP level one when I was 17, this then allowed me to instruct at the club rather than helping.

Whilst I was at college, I arranged to do some instructor shadowing with a company in Switzerland during one of the holidays. From this experience, I decided that I would rather do a ski season and get qualified to teach abroad than go to uni so I looked into lots of different ways and companies that would help me get qualified. I found a course in Italy that would train me and put me through my BASI level 1 and 2 exams then give me an opportunity to work for them teaching on the mountain. The course I did was 10 weeks long with Interski, was great good fun and in an amazing place. Once I had passed the course, I worked with them teaching British school kids who were out for their school ski trips, the group sizes ranged from 3 to 14 kids over the 4 weeks of teaching.

After I had done one season I just had to do another but finding work in Europe was futile as I didn't have enough experience or a high enough level for the ski schools. This is when I started to look a bit further afield. I applied to many different ski schools all over the world from America and Canada to the other side in Japan. Thankfully, I received good replies and after a telephone interview an offer of employment from a Canadian company. However, this needed a visa and the Canadian visa system is a lucky dip so I had a very slim chance of getting one. So while waiting hopefully for a visa for Canada I kept looking for other opportunities, one of these was in Japan and after a telephone interview, writing to the Embassy, getting a visa etc. I was on my way to Rusutsu ski school in Japan.

I was in Japan for just under 6 months, instructing skiing at the resort for 5 months. Whilst I was working for the ski school, we did regular training and they put all the international instructors through the Japanese ski school qualifications. For the level 2 SAJ (Ski Association of Japan) we had to do short turns, long turns and stem turns. The level one SAJ (the higher qualification) was a bit more challenging as only 45% of us passed, this involved short turns, long turns, zip lines and slide slipping a diagonal line across the pistes. In my time at Rusutsu I did an avalanche skills training course where we trekked into the backcountry, learned about the different snow packs, and practiced going through training scenarios.

Japan was a fantastic experience: teaching all nationalities, lots of snow, good food, great people, fantastic culture and it was amazing getting to ski fresh tracks in champagne powder where nobody had skied before.

Back next year maybe!

Cameron Stewart

FREESTYLE NEWS 1



As we come to the end of another successful season we would like to say thank you to everyone who has turned up and made it such a success. The final Friday will be **Friday 22nd June**. The airbag will be out and hotdogs and ice creams will be on sale.

Event Results

K JAM Kendal 5th May 2018

Yet again a group of freestyle skiers from Kidsgrove made the journey up the M6 to Kendal. Every year the weather gets better and better as does atmosphere, warm welcome and the standard of skiing.



Archer, Fynnlay, Jacob, Logan, Luke, Paulie and William all had a fantastic time. For six year old Jacob W, it was his first time in a competition. He amazed us all with his determination and resilience. He wasn't even deterred when he got a blister, he just kept smiling and gave a big thumbs up at the end.

Hunter, Fynnlay and Paulie all came home with medals. A big well done to everyone who competed and made it such a great day.

English Slopestyle Championships 19th May 2018 Snowzone Castleford...

Five members of the club competed, Hunter, Fynnlay, Luke, Mia and Paulie, with Hunter, Mia and Paulie winning medals. Well done to you all for competing.

Want to learn how to do the Freestyle tricks?

As well as coming down to the club for freestyle lessons from our instructors check out



Futures Project Sessions held at Kidsgrove

The first of these was held on Sunday 13th May. It was well attended and everyone agreed that they had all made good progress. There are three more to be held at the club:

Sunday 24th June,

Saturday 1st September and

Saturday 17th November.

Further information and booking can be found on Snowsport England's website.

https://snowsportengland.org.uk/Futures_Project_2018

Future dates for your diary:

We are honored to have been asked to host two Jam style competitions for charity.



The first is to be held on Saturday 8th September called Shred for Cal in memory of Callum Whyllie.....

Come and join all ages from around the UK and shred for Callum Whyllie. His passion for the outdoors and specifically Skiing and Mountain Biking is dearly missed so this event is to celebrate the life of Callum and share his passion among the ski community. A raffle will be held during the day and T-shirts sold all day to help raise money for the Memorial fund for Callum.

http://www.ski-kidsgrove.co.uk/html/assets/newsletter/Shred4Cal_poster_1.pdf for further info.

The second is to be held on Saturday 29th September in aid of Sports Aid.



Grab your skis and snowboards for this year's Charity JAM, change of venue but same great vibe and prizes. Open to beginners and masters of all ages, have fun do good! All monies raised from entry will go to SportsAid... £20 to enter... If you're up for some chilled snowsports, laughs and raising some funds for CHARITY then we'd love to see you at Kidsgrove Ski Centre on September 29th.

Look out for more details on our website and Facebook.

OATCAKE JAM: November 10th 2018



This is the date for North Staffs Ski Club's own successful annual **Oatcake Jam**, now its fifth year, when we are joined by freestyle skiers and boarders from across the country, with a loyal contingent from Kendal. Booking is now open. See the club website or Facebook for details.

<http://www.ski-kidsgrove.co.uk/index.html>



And Finally !!!!

CONGRATULATIONS to our six new Freestyle coaches who dedicated a whole weekend (including a Friday night), working hard to complete the SSE Level 1 coaching course. All those who saw them were amazed at the effort they put in and support they gave to each other.

So watch out for **Adam, Jacob, Joel, Harriet, Logan and Tom** wearing their very bright and unmistakable T- shirts (jackets to follow soon).

2019 Club holiday

*** *5 places still available* ***



Somewhere in the world it is snowing while we enjoy this summer weather.

Next season and the Club holiday seems a long way away.

Although we do not go until January, arrangements have to be finalised by October.

So if you are thinking of joining us have a look at the details below and contact

Jo Stackhouse by email on nsscholidays@outlook.com



The 2019 holiday will be for the week beginning Sunday 20th January 2019

To the Hotel Du Col in Sestriere, Italy. This will be our third visit, the hotel was refurbished two years ago and provides excellent ski in/ski out accommodation.

Based on Half Board... Dinner on all 7 nights with wine or soft drinks included
Flight/Hotel/Transfer – **Adult = £669** (based on 2 sharing)

Child = £525 (11 years or under on date of travel –sharing twin or family room)

The holiday is provided by Crystal and booked through TUI and is subject to their terms and conditions.

Please have a look on the Internet at the hotel and resort as well as the terms & conditions.

Crystal offers various packages for lift passes and ski carriage or ski hire. The examples show the full quoted prices but we have negotiated a discount of 8% on these items, to be shown on your final Invoice. ;

Area ski pass with ski carriage (ages 10 to 74) = £210

Area ski pass with Ski hire (ages 12 to 74) with Standard skis £231 – Intermediate £256 –
Advanced £281

Child Ski Bundle – Boots/skis/helmet (ages 4-11) = £57 Boot hire = £34

Area ski pass only –(ages 2 to 7) = £57 (ages 8 to 74) = £193

The 6 day “Milky Way” full area ski pass also covers Sauze D’Oulx and Claviere and includes one day in France (Montgenevre)–the tour operator organises a coach for approx. 24 Euros per person – payable in resort

Tourist tax payable locally to hotel.. An approximate fee of €2 per person per night.