



Newsletter

June 2021

CLOSURE AND OPENING TIMES

Close for the summer - Thursday 1st July at 9 pm

Re-Open Monday 6th September 7pm

Have a great Summer – but read this first!

Summer Maintenance - Volunteers Needed

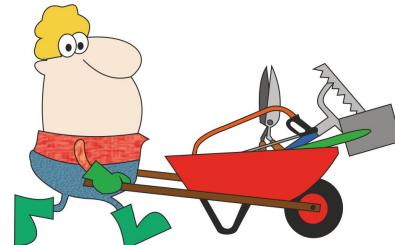
The club will be open for maintenance during July and August on the following **Saturdays from 9.30am** -

July 3rd, 17th, 31st

August 15th .

Jobs to be done include:

- Replacing rotten boards by the tow
- Weeding / weed killer application
- Spray jets leaking under matting
- Artificial turf to be put down
- Replace roof over seating.
- 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. All required training will be given.

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

2022 Club Holiday

ANDORRA

Sundays 16th to 23rd January 2022...

Hotel Sport – Soldeu

***** Last 3 Places Available *****

1 TWIN Room

ALSO – 1 other place that can be combined with this room or any other twin room already booked, to change to a triple occupancy room.

If you are interested please contact

Jo Stackhouse at nsscholidays@outlook.com

Junior Club News

Charlotte, Zac Gertie and Betsy for getting your **First Snowlife Award** and joining Junior Club

Izzy, Olivia, Jacob and Neve for getting your **Blue 2 and Blue 3 Snowlife Awards**



Louis, Freddie, James, Esme, Fern, Neve, Fabrino for getting your **Blue 2 Snowlife Awards**

Harvey for getting your **Red 5 Snowlife Award**

Snowlife Awards



A Great Big Thank You

to all members and staff for your patience and understanding throughout the past year as the club tried to keep going in the very difficult circumstances .

We hope that September will let us get back to a more normal, relaxed, hospitable, ski club. (**Can't wait for the bacon and cheese oatcakes on Sundays**)

FREESTYLE NEWS



Despite COVID lockdowns our Freestyle sessions have gone from strength to strength. Some might say,

"The comeback is better than the setback."

Freestyle Sessions

Our popular Junior Club coaching sessions (free to members age 7 to 16) are on a Sunday morning:

9:30 am to 10:30 am

10:30 am to 11:30 am

11:30 am to 12:30am.

Helmets MUST be worn, back protectors and gum shields are recommended. These should be booked in advance.

Freestyle Fridays



Open to ALL ages and ALL abilities. Skiers and boarders are welcome. (Subject to minimum requirements. Please ask if you are unsure).

These sessions are as popular as ever. Join us for a fun session with informal coaching available.



Airbag Sessions

These will resume in September subject to servicing and training. If you would like to help please speak to Gareth Bott or Diane Watts.



Futures Award

Step 1

During the first lockdown we challenged the younger members to practise their "off slope" skills. On reopening they went a step further and practised their "on slope skills".

In December 2020 the hard work paid off and Albi, Jacob and Joe were the first Junior Club members to achieve the Futures Step 1 Award.

WELL DONE BOYS!

BUT....there is a rumour some of the girls are hot on your heels.

It has been fantastic to see everyone having so much fun on a Sunday morning and Freestyle Fridays.

REMEMBER...

Our Freestyle slope, with its bespoke features, is **ALWAYS** open.



FUTURES 2021

These sessions take place across the country and are organised by Snowsport England.

This year we are hosting three sessions:

Saturday 19th June 2021

Saturday 2nd October 2021

Saturday 6th November 2021.

Snowsport England also runs courses at Graystone Action Sports in Manchester.

Details of these and bookings can be made on Snowsport England's website.

SEE YOU SOON

Here's the latest news from Club Member Mia Brookes, snowboarder, who is part of Team GB and was old enough (just 14) this year to compete at senior level in the FIS Europa Cup Series where she got two second and two first places in the first four events as well as featuring in Ski Sunday.



Hi everyone.

Finally, my winter of training & competitions has finished. It has been pretty awesome and, considering we nearly didn't get out to the alps due to the pandemic, it has probably been my most busy and successful winter yet!!

In April my training in Laax was going super well with my GB coach Hamish & team mates, I was learning so many new tricks and I was really happy and feeling positive for the final Europa Cup competition to be held in Corvatsch, Switzerland. Going into the comp I was actually leading the 20/21 Snowboard Big Air & Slopestyle European cup rankings from all of my comp results over the season and so I really wanted to take this title in my first year of senior competition. I never even imagined that I could podium in my first year of EC comps let alone this... but the final comp was being scored differently though, and all points here were being doubled as it was a major event, so this would mean that I would certainly have to podium or even win both the Big Air and Slopestyle events being held and I knew there were going to be some amazing riders at these finals!!



FIS Europa Cup - 3rd place

First was Big Air, I qualified in second place, I was pretty confident that I could land a trick in finals that could possibly win overall as no-one had done it in practice but the weather changed and they didn't end up running finals the following day, just took the qualification results. It was still looking promising though and on Slopestyle qualis day I qualified to finals again, and again I had a run that if I landed would hopefully take first place but sadly, I fell on both my runs!! I was so disappointed at the time but then quickly realised that it isn't always going to go your way and this was a huge learning experience for me and actually did me good. I didn't expect it but, when all the points were added up, I did actually come 3rd in this seasons Europa cup standings, so this was a lovely surprise, and I'm still very proud of this achievement, only being 14 and the youngest competitor by 4 years.

Unfortunately..... my final weeks came to an end sooner than I had planned, and still with the World Rookie finals in Austria to compete in. I was riding and filming with Dad and took a pretty nasty slam going into the last proline - a jump that I'd been training and competing on all that week!! I fell hard and suffered a concussion. I got air lifted and spent 24 hrs in St Moritz hospital. All turned out ok, apart from my season ending this way.

I'm now back home and at school and recovering well, the GB team's Doctor and Physios have been monitoring my recovery and doing daily scat tests etc. I've also been having weekly sessions with my physio Jeff at Harris and Ross. The team would prefer me to take 3 months off now, to give my head time to heal & prevent another knock. The first few weeks were hard going and I did get really tired but thought I was OK, but obviously I wasn't, now I understand how important it is to rest up. I am now back cycling and running to start my rehab and introducing a little bit more each week, I'm also meeting with my acro coach next week at Graystone action sports in Manchester to start some basic exercises. I cannot wait to skateboard and snowboard again, but a rest won't hurt and I have plenty of school work to catch up on anyway!!!



Ski Sunday with Chemmy Alcott, Jamie Anderson and Mum

No plans as yet for summer training, just rehab work for another 5 weeks, but I think things will kick in again in September/October time, the first trip will probably be to Hintertux and Stubai and I cannot wait.

Have a lovely summer.

Mia xx



NORTH STAFFS SKI CLUB LTD

In North Staffs Ski Club, we re-invest all the surplus money that we make from lesson and membership fees. Firstly, in the slope itself together with the lift system, watering system and other things like ramps and rails for freestylers. Next, we try to keep the skis, boots and related equipment in good condition, replacing them as necessary. Finally, and most importantly, we invest in our people because a slope and skiing equipment aren't much use unless we have trained and qualified volunteers to operate the facility and deliver lessons and hospitality.

We are not a racing club and the underlying ethic is not competition; however, we are about participation and recreational skiing at a level that allows people to achieve and possibly exceed their aspirations. We operate by selling lessons and then, when people reach the required standard, selling annual memberships. That means having a team of qualified and motivated instructors that is able to get people to that standard.

Some of you may not realise it but all our instructors have come from within the club's membership. Because they are a volunteer team, there is no point advertising for trained instructors willing to work for nothing. The other side of the coin is that they have all grown up in the club, understanding how it works and that their objective is to teach people to ski, not to get paid. Because all instructors are volunteers it is possible to add a second instructor (if available) to a group if a few people require additional help; difficult in an environment where it would create additional cost. All this contributes to the large amount of positive Facebook / Google feedback and word-of-mouth recommendation that means we need to do very little advertising.



Instructors have to be licenced by the sport's governing body, Snowsport England, hold a First Aid certificate and be registered for Safeguarding (each of these needs to be refreshed every 3 years) and also have an enhanced DBS. With about 40 instructors, that takes a bit of keeping track. The club pays for courses and refreshers.

After the closures and intermittent openings over the last 15 months we have invested in a series of courses, led by Richard Barbour – a senior tutor at Snowsport England. The bulk of instructors have been, or will be going, on a Skilful Skiing Day that gives each attendee personalised assistance with his or her personal skiing. The large team that is there on Sunday mornings to run our well-regarded Junior Club which develops junior members along the long 9-stage process of Snowlife Awards has had a special course to help them with some coaching techniques that aren't part of the instructor programme.



Feedback so far is that all those involved have enjoyed the days and feel re-motivated as we come out of the lockdowns. This investment will also mean that all the instructors will have been refreshed for the next 3 years.

As far as First Aid is concerned, 3 half day sessions are planned to ensure that all instructors will be refreshed for the next 3 years.

This has mainly been about the instructor team but there are other groups of volunteers who are equally valued and receive training as necessary. The kitchen team, led by Brenda Timmis, the ski room team that ensure that boots and skis are fitted correctly and the maintenance team led by Eric Hartley.

How lucky we are to have such people.



Yes he is still at it at the age of 90!

Norman Salmon our oldest volunteer.

Many thanks for all your hard work over the years.