

Newsletter - June 2023



NORTH STAFFS



CLUB LTD

CLOSURE AND OPENING TIMES

Close for the summer - Thursday 29 June at 9 pm

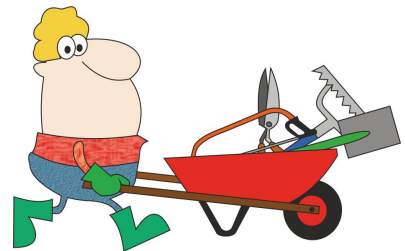
Re-Open Monday 4th September 7pm

Have a great Summer – but read this first!

Summer Maintenance - Volunteers Needed

The club will be open for maintenance during July and August Jobs to be done include:

- General tidying up around the slope
- Ski mat cleaning
- Weeding / weed killer application
- Spray jets cleaning
- Cleaning ski boots and skis.



And more....

If you think you can help with any of these tasks and other jobs which will need small working parties at weekends just message Gareth on the club's Facebook page.

Dates for your diary

2023 Oatcake Jam — 7th October, everyone welcome

Taster Day — 14th October, tell friends and family to come and have a go if they have never tried skiing before.

2024 Club Holiday to La Tuile, Italy

The holiday has proved very popular and all places are currently filled with quite a few on a waiting list.

Have a good summer and we will be in touch again in September with everyone on the holiday with full details of your balances due, payable direct to Crystal, by 24th October.

If you have not yet let me have Passport or Insurance details, please could you do so as soon as possible..... Thank you.... Jo



A Great Big Thank You

to all members and volunteer staff for your hard work throughout the past year as the club continued to get back to a more normal, relaxed, hospitable, ski club.

Kidsgrove Ski Centre,

Bathpool Park, Kidsgrove, Stoke on Trent, ST7 4EF

Telephone (01782) 784908 www.ski-kidsgrove.co.uk



SNOWSPORT ENGLAND

Junior News (6 to 18 year olds)



Congratulations!!!!

This year has got to be the best ever in terms of achievement for our young members. We have never seen so many badges being awarded, with the highest being Black 7, well done Harvey and Freya



In addition to the hard work and dedication of the members our magnificent team of Instructors have absolutely smashed it! The standard of skiing and instructing is amazing.

This has been achieved by organising the members into groups with their own instructor at each level, ensuring continuity and progress.

Well Done Everyone!

Snowlife Awards

Emily, Yasmin, Tom, Darcy, Morgan, Jay, Samuel, Dilys, Edward, Poppy, Woody, Reuben, Hafsa, Rosie, Milo, Isabelle, Dexter, Isla, Joel and Alivia for getting your first Snowlife Award and joining Junior Club.

Super well done to those below who have attending Junior club regularly and worked hard to get the following awards.

Blue Level 2 - Dilys, Luke and Hafsa.

Blue 3 - Rebecca, Nicola, Lauren, Lucy, Zac, James and Toby

Red 4 - Zac. **Red 5** - Chloe. **Black 7** - Freya and Harvey

Young Instructors Project



Since completing the Foundation Instructor course last June our Young Instructors have been busy shadowing and teaching alongside our experienced Instructors. Some have completed Safeguarding and DBS requirements. They will also be completing a First Aid course before we close for the summer.

We would like to thank everyone at the club who has supported them.

If you would like to join in or know someone who does please contact or leave a message for Diane Watts or Gareth Bott. Alternatively, come and see us on a Sunday morning for a chat.

FREESTYLE NEWS



Fridays Freestyle and Recreational sessions will resume in September on alternate Fridays, 7pm till 9 pm
Dates to follow.

Open to ALL ages and ALL abilities. Skiers and boarders are welcome. (Subject to minimum requirements. Please ask if you are unsure).
These sessions have proved popular for anyone who enjoys Freestyle regardless of age or ability or

those who want to practice on the main slope with the advantage of a lesson free slope with the addition of music.

Free for members

Day Members: Juniors £10, Adults £15

Annual Membership: Junior £54, Adult £108, Family £180

Our dedicated freestyle slope is always open when the club is open. In addition, we have three Junior Club sessions on a Sunday morning:

9:30 am to 10:30am

10:30am to 11:30am

11:30am to 12:30pm.



A shout out for **Cameron Long** otherwise known as **Speedy Boy**, often seen on a Freestyle Friday who competed at the Kjam and made the podium. Fantastic Cameron more information to come.

OATCAKE JAM V9

Saturday 7th October 2023

Our annual event, which draws competitors from across the country, is open to all those who enjoy freestyle, all ages and abilities are welcome.



Bookings are now being taken. You can book in person at the club, just ask for a form, alternatively you can book online by clicking the link on the website.

Last year we had a record number of members taking part. Let's see if we can beat this.

It would be great if you or anyone you know could provide sponsorship. This could be a contribution to the mugs and stickers we give out, cash for prizes or ski-related items.

Maybe you know someone who would be interested in filming or photographing our event?

If you would like to help out on this day or can provide sponsorship, please contact: Gareth, Chris and Diane via the club Facebook page.

Hunter Minister - My Freestyle season



I'd started to think I would never really get back on my skis after the Covid lockdowns. It was such a mad time. I lost my drive, lost my focus. The group of friends I used to ski with all got dispersed during lockdown when we couldn't meet regularly and it all just fell a bit flat.

But, something changed before Christmas last year and I decided that this was the year I was going to try for selection to the Snowsports England Park and Pipe Team. I had to be able to demonstrate my ability to perform a series of tricks, some of which I hadn't done before, some of which I'd attempted and failed!! Now I had a goal, a criterion to work to and a deadline!!!! I quickly set to work perfecting my tricks, filming them and compiling my application to the Park and Pipe Team.

Although my coach, Luke, was working away in Canada he managed to coach me to achieve the inverted tricks, something I'd never done before. I was also so grateful for Luke's reference to Snowsports England recommending me as an athlete with potential and worthy of a place on the team. I had finally complied all the elements I needed for the selection panel – and sent off my application.

I was totally delighted when Snowsports England wrote to me congratulating me on my progression and offering me a spot on the team. This was the catalyst I needed to propel me into this year's ski competitions.

I went on to compete at The British Championships in Scotland. What an epic experience that was. All my mates from around the country all gathered in one place with nothing but skiing on their minds. This is just what I'd been missing, and I was buzzing!! The weather wasn't playing ball during the competition, with fog dropping thick over the giant kickers prepared for the slopestyle runs. I was really hoping to podium at The Brits but sadly it wasn't to be, but I realised that skiing with my pals was far more important to me, and I was thrilled to see some of my good friends win medals.



Next up was Kjam 2023. Second to our very own 'oatcake jam', this is one of my all-time favourite comps. Held on the black hills of Kendal, I never miss this opportunity to showcase my skills, try out a few dare devil tricks and playing one up with my friends. I've seen some crazy stunts being tried out at Kjam – with the lure of Kendal mint cake offered in return, there really is nothing freestyle skiers won't attempt!! **I was happy to come first in my category, winning loads of new ski gear this year.**

There wasn't much time to sit on my Kjam success before I was gearing up to compete in the English Championships. This took place at Milton Keynes this year and was the first one since COVID knocked everything sideways. My strategy going in to the English Champs was to score huge points by focussing on performing highly technical tricks. You only get two runs to showcase your skills, with the highest scoring run being judged overall. There are rules to follow when performing each trick and transitioning into the next trick, so having a prepared strategy going into each run is something Luke taught me quite early on when he coached me. This way you can give it your best chance to maximise the points scored on each run. I try not to overthink it too much, else the wait at the top would be pretty nerve racking. Instead, I have a plan, I execute the plan, and deal as best I can with any unexpected curve ball – like hitting a slushy patch of snow, or catching an edge. That's why they call it freestyle I guess!!! I threw down some cool tricks, including a 360 tailgrab, a 540 and a backslide – this was on top of some rail tricks. I was so happy to complete both runs, landing all my tricks and was stoked to **win Silver at the English Champs.**



Looking ahead I think its Farmers Jam and the Oatcake jam on the horizon next. Jams are really fun. Getting as many runs in as you can to show off your best moves and impress the judges. Ill be practising hard now to fine tune some crowd pleasers!!