



NORTH STAFFS SKI CLUB LTD

Newsletter

November 2016

OPENING TIMES

Sundays:	9.30 to 10.30	Children's lessons
	10.30 to 12.00 noon	Junior Club
	12.00 to 5.00 pm	Recreational skiing and lessons
Mon-Thurs:	7.00 to 9.00 pm	Recreational skiing and lessons
Fridays:	7.00 to 9.00 pm	Freestyle Fridays (fortnightly)
Saturdays:	2.00 to 5.00 pm	Recreational skiing

CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS / NEW YEAR
24-27 and 31 December, 1st and 2nd January

The new season is well underway and the first snow is already falling in the Alps. The annual AGM in October was a chance to recap on the many achievements at the club last year. Read the Director's Report on Page 5.

October kicked off with our open day, which was a great success - thanks to the staff who gave up their time to allow it to take place. Our volunteers have worked hard since then to get the new drop in ready for the 3rd annual Oatcake Freestyle Jam last weekend. Riders were able to get extra speed up for the jumps and a whole new host of gas pipes — see page 3 for a full report. Thanks to everyone who made it possible, especially all our sponsors for the great prizes. The improvements to the freestyle slope are just one of the many benefits of some £25K that has been invested in our slope facilities — see what else is new on page 4.

Other news... Instructor Development sessions are ongoing. Congratulations to Mark Bleasdale on flying through his Level One assessment! We are always on the look out for new recruits to join the instructing team. For more information, get in touch: nssc_instructors@yahoo.co.uk.

Monday's Masterclass and Sunday's Alternative Masterclass have ended but have been replaced by more specialised sessions that will look at different aspects of skiing. The first of these 4-week sessions, Bumps Academy, quickly sold out, but see page 2 for what's coming next. Looking to get back to speed before heading off on holiday? Why not book yourself into a set of improvers lessons? Contact the club for details.

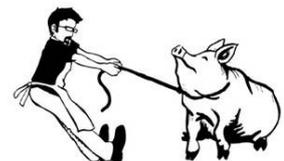
Finally, join us for 'Festive Friday' - a pre-Christmas celebration on Friday 9th December that replaces our usual Christmas meal — both slopes will be open for regular skiing and boarding (timings and ticket prices below).



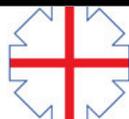
Festive Friday!

Friday 9th December

7-9 pm, £6 per person



Price includes pulled pork baps with stuffing, apple sauce, mince pie and drink Food served at 8 pm. Tickets must be bought and paid for in advance **by Weds Nov 30th**. Friends and family welcome. Skiing open to all, non members wishing to ski must pay for day membership.



**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

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Off-Piste and Mountain Safety Awareness Training

Saturday 26 November, 9.00 am - 4 pm

For those of you that love the excitement of off-piste skiing, come along to this session run by Chris Watts (BASI Level 3 ISIA Alpine/British Military Ski Leader Level 3; Off-Piste/Ski Tour Leader)



The course will consist of lectures and theoretical training, a short series of exercises on the slope and avalanche transceiver exercises in Bath Pool park

Cost £15, including lunch (all proceeds to Ski Club funds)
Book and pay in advance at the ski club

Training Academies

£20 for 4 x 1.5 hour sessions run over 4 weeks

From downhill racers shaving off fractions of a second to freestylers perfecting their corked 720s, powder hounds in chest deep blower pow to blue run cruisers seeking their next hot chocolate stop, the world of skiing is diverse. The key to it is enjoying the ride, whatever or wherever it maybe.

The diversity of the sport should be matched by the teaching. You should be given the opportunity to work on the aspects of skiing which interest you - everyone is different, everyone's goals are different. Therefore, we've introduced a new approach to ski lessons. During the 2016/2017 season we will be running themed training academies focussed on a particular aspect of skiing.

Sessions will run in 4-week blocks, through a structured syllabus designed to improve your skill levels. Numbers in each camp are limited to five, the cost per person is only £20 for all four weeks - that's six hours of coaching for only £20! The first bumps academy is already up and running, and fully booked. Other ideas include carving, high performance and all terrain skiing. We are open to suggestions - freestyle for nervous beginners anyone?

Training academies will be advertised on our Facebook page and on the notice boards in the club, so please keep your eyes peeled. Next sessions to be run after Christmas.



Junior Club Christmas Party

Sunday 18th December

Ski from 9.30 to 10.30 am

Party from 10.30 am

As the club is run on a voluntary basis, please can parents contribute party food on the day - there will be a list of suitable items at the club closer to the date.

FREESTYLE FRIDAYS

**Dates: 18 Nov
2 Dec
16 Dec**

PRICES

Members-Free	All ages welcome!
Junior-£10	Parallel skiing is required.
Students-£10	All abilities welcome.
Adults-£15	More dates to follow!



Ski Wear Bring and Buy

27 November to 11th December

Sell unwanted ski items or grab a bargain



Clearly label sale items with price, name and telephone number (the club cannot accept responsibility for items left for sale). Money received will be kept at the club until collected. Unsold goods must be collected on **December 11th** or will be donated to charity

3rd Annual Oatcake Jam

A huge thank you to everyone who came to the 3rd Oatcake Jam on Saturday 12 November and to all the volunteers who worked hard in the run up to the event to put together the best set up we've ever had.

Skiers and boarders had travelled from as far as Kendal and Chatham to compete. This was the first opening of our new raised drop in, designed to add even more speed for the jumps. Conditions were extra-fast due to the rain!



The first two hours were set aside for open practice and gave a great chance for the new visitors to the slope to find their feet before the jam began. Joe Ward then led the way with some huge cork 7's inspiring everyone to throw some corks and inverts in to their run too.



Thanks to John Weatherley MC for keeping everyone laughing and smiling throughout and to all the sponsors for the wonderful prizes, including The Lodge Pub in Alsager (Helen and Phil Goodall donated a snowboard!), The Outdoor company, Trespass, Planks, and Mountain Warehouse.

Winners (clockwise): Over 17s: Under 13s; 13-17s. And Snowboarders.



Success for club freestylers at BRITS

Congratulations to Mia Brookes, aged 9, who came first in the under 12s snowboard and Paulie and Fynnlay Loupis who took 2nd and 3rd in the under 12s freeski at the BRITS in October!

Investing in our slope facilities

Over the last year or so we have invested over £25k in the slope facilities and we've started to get the benefit. The 3rd Oatcake Jam on Saturday, November 12th was a good opportunity to show them off.

FREESTYLE SLOPE

New signage on the cushions at the bottom of the slope makes a very positive statement and provides a good background for photographs of freestylers in action. Founding member, Brian Woodcock has spent many days with Eric Hartley and others over the past months designing and constructing a new drop-in ramp to give a faster run-in to some of the bigger features. Thank you, Brian. This year, the competitors could see that the initial teething problems with the freestyle slope have been sorted and that it really is a facility that is worth the journey to come and use.



We've built some steps up to a new viewing area that's provided with 3 oak benches. Chris Watts and Craig Timmis have spent several days adding non-slip strips to the area; thank you, volunteers. It provided a great location for DJ Tom Finney and his roadies at the Jam.



SLOPE ACCESS

Note that the only way on to the slope will be to turn left after entering through the gate and then moving behind the net. Similarly, the only way off will be as indicated by the new sign on the left i.e. through the net and not across the beginner lessons area. There will be a barrier across the access to the beginner area that will only allow access and exit for people on beginner lessons.



KEEPING DRY

The covered area inside the gate has been extended with more "roof" and Perspex screening from the wind and rain coming from the park. Many thanks to volunteer Terry Evett and others.

KEEPING WET

We seem to have sorted out the problems with insufficient spray capacity and both slopes are now providing a much better sliding experience. Thanks to volunteers Eric Hartley and Gerald Loton.

Director's Report October 2016

Over the past year we have continued as a successful ski club building on the developments made in previous years.

The Financial Management Team have continued to tightly control expenditure. Our thanks must go to them for their ongoing dedication towards keeping us solvent and enabling the club to improve its facilities.

A new viewing deck has been constructed on the far side of the Freestyle Slope which will enhance the experience of spectators at the 3rd Annual Oatcake jam to be held in November this year. A new drop in ramp will also be completed in time for the Oatcake Jam to provide an even faster approach to the biggest jump on the Freestyle Slope.

The maintenance team have become very familiar with the technicalities of the current button lift and the watering system making changes where necessary thereby 'tailoring' it to our specific needs. As usual without their dedication and donation of considerable time and skills the ski slope would not function.

Freestyle Fridays are well established and we now have 2 Level 1 qualified freestyle instructors as well as the continuing team of Alpine Ski Instructors. Thanks must go to them for their dedication towards teaching others to ski. Again without their efforts the club would not be the success that it is.

The number of members has remained fairly consistent over the year as new people have taken up the sport whilst others have moved onto other things and left the club.

Sunday mornings continue to be a busy time with Junior Beginner lessons and the growing number of children who attend the Junior Development Club where they work towards the next level of Snowlife Awards. Assessment days were held in December and June, more than 50 children gained the next level and some jumped up 2 levels.

The club holiday to Sestriere was a great success. Next year's club holiday, to La Tania in the Three Valleys, France, is fully booked.

The club still operates under Snowmark Accreditation demonstrating that it meets Snowsport England's criteria as to its skiing programme, safeguarding and protecting children, knowing the club and its community and club management. Snowmark is an acknowledgement that we take these issues seriously and that we provide a high quality and welcoming environment for participants in the sport.

The Club continues as a Children's University validated Learning Destination. One of our juniors graduated with a gold award.

Once again many thanks must go to all who have played a part in keeping our very successful club running during the last twelve months. Particularly to those who run and maintain the kitchen so that it continues to meet the Level 5 Food Hygiene rating awarded by Newcastle Borough Council, to those who work tirelessly in the boot room, to the instructors who pass on their knowledge and enthusiasm to the members and the beginners learning to ski.

We must not underestimate the skills of the volunteers, their willingness to learn new skills and undertake new methods of working as the club develops. We are lucky to have so many people willing to give so much time and energy to the club.

Ann Loton