



NORTH STAFFS SKI CLUB LTD

Newsletter

October 2019

OPENING TIMES

Sundays:	9.30 to 10.30	Junior lessons (6 - 8 years)
	10.30 to 11.30	Junior Club Blue group
	11.30 to 12.30	Junior Club Red/Black Group
	12.30 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

The new season is well underway and the first snow is already falling in the Alps.

At the club October kicked off with our open day, which was a great success - 157 people had a taster lesson. Thanks to the staff who gave up their time to allow it to take place.

The annual AGM in October attended by a few was a chance to recap on the many achievements at the club last year. If you would like to read the Directors report it is available on the website.



New netting



New Skis

Improvements to the slope, additions to the pumping system and new equipment are just some of the many benefits of some £25k that has been invested during the last 12 months.



Ski Wear Bring and Buy

16th November to 1st 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 2nd** or they will be donated to charity.

Please do not bring any items before Sunday 18th November as they are likely be given away at the Oatcake Jam.



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



Always Learning - A Skiing Journey

When you look at skiing it is full of journeys, all at a different scale, each skier having their own final destination; all are equally important and valid. At one level the target could be the next hot chocolate stop (Chantilly cream optional). A scaled up target could be to get to all four corners of the piste map in Les Trois Vallees in a day (a challenge for the club holiday if you like) and it goes on, perhaps it could be completing the Haute Route from Chamonix to Zermatt. Etc, etc, etc.



But there's a scale beyond all of these - the journey we all go on learning to ski, a journey which never ends, where there are infinite targets and endless twists and turns along the way. This huge journey supports all the targets described above. Ask any of our instructors and I guarantee they will have done some form of learning in the last 12 months; from training for an assessment to spending a day in a fridge on a Warren Smith course, from attending an avalanche awareness session to spending a week learning to ski in the backcountry. We love to learn, acquiring new skills and knowledge.



So what about you? The club offers a range of lessons for all levels: Personal Performance, Parallel Performance, Bumps Clinics and Carving Clinics. Further information about these can be found on the notice board at the club.

All sessions are run by qualified, volunteer instructors. Why volunteers? By relying on volunteers, you are assured that they are motivated and keen to see you improve - unlike some sessions on holiday where you feel that the instructor would rather be off skiing with their mates!! Our instructors are passionate about your skiing and love to see people improve at whatever level. Their love of skiing and learning is passed to you during all sessions where the focus is on safety, fun and improvement.



So, treat yourself to a lesson, at whatever level you maybe.

They will be available at various times of the week, just ask at the desk.

The Journey Continues for Instructors and Coaches!

In addition to Instructor Development sessions, run by our Level 3 and 4 Coaches, many of us also take opportunities to enhance our teaching skills and personal development by attending Coaching Courses away from the club. This all enhances the experience of you, our members.

Last year, going a step further, we invited Andy Jerram to run a bespoke training session for us at Kingsgrove. It was a great success, so this year we extended it to two sessions.



Andy is an experienced BASI trainer and spends his winters in the Alps training BASI Instructors and teaching clients at all levels. He continues to work in the summer and is often seen at Snowdomes and clubs like ours, spreading his infectious enthusiasm for the sport.

Despite being very busy with club commitments and their own lives, more than twenty of our Instructors/coaches, ages ranging from fifteen to seventy plus, took the opportunity to give up a Saturday, or two, to develop their own skills and a deeper understanding of the skiing process.

If you had been passing on the day you may have been surprised to see *beetles on their backs* and even more strangely during a lunch break, much to the alarm of the volunteers who kindly provided lunch, it appeared that all our Instructors had become social media addicts.

A big thanks to Andy and of course an open invitation from us to come again.

Finally, thanks must go to all our Instructors who give up their own time, to teach and to develop their own skills for the benefit of our members.

Members - you need to read this



As we are heading to the busiest time of the season it speeds things up for you and those in the queue behind you if you have your membership card ready to show the ski room staff. If you do not have a membership card just bring a passport sized photo (a digital one you have printed yourself or one you have cut from a photo is sufficient) and a card will be issued. Each member of the family should have one if you have a family

membership.

If you have not already done so teenagers and adult members will need their details for setting up their skis on the back of the membership card. You will need the following information

- your weight in kilograms (we have scales at the club if you don't know it)
- Your height in centimetres (there is a height line at the club)
- Your shoe size or boot length (if you have your own)

A yellow membership card form with a logo at the top left. The form has fields for: "NAME _____ DATE _____", "AGE _____ WEIGHT _____ HEIGHT _____", and "SA _____ DIN _____ TECH INTLS _____". At the bottom, it says "MEMBERSHIP CARDS MUST ALWAYS BE PRESENTED".

Here's where you need your membership card.

The ski technician will need to know the calculated din setting for your skis each time you come to the club. So once it has been calculated the information will also be put on the back of your membership card.

What did you do this summer?

Fourteen year old Owen never ceases to amaze us with his infectious enthusiasm and smile.

It is less than a year, after being encouraged by his friends to "... give it a go..", since he appeared at Kidsgrove for his first ski lesson. Once he had been signed off and become a member he became a regular sight at the club, practicing his new skills and being supported by his friends, Ashton and Cody. Eventually, as many boys do, he bought a helmet and ventured onto the waves and ultimately the Freestyle slope. With the support of his friends he is hoping to conquer the box.



When we closed for the summer in June, Owen just couldn't stay away. Most Wednesday evenings he turned up to help, spending time on the slope and in the boot room. The biggest job he tackled was cleaning the boards around the building, being Owen he turned up for several weeks with his own ladders and brushes, not stopping until the job was done. Next time you come down the path have a good look at his handy work, not a cobweb in sight!!

When he is not skiing Owen enjoys cycling up Mow Cop and around Burslem, he also runs regularly at Astbury Mere and even finds time to swim.

FREESTYLE NEWS



I have never tried Freestyle ... how do I begin?

At Kidsgrove we are lucky to have six qualified UKCP Level 1 Freestyle coaches. In addition to Freestyle Fridays, where we have coaches available, **Junior Club Members** can attend the **Sunday morning Freestyle sessions, 9:30am to 10:30am.**

If this isn't for you then one hour introductory sessions are also available:

Sunday 12:20pm to 1:30pm

Tuesday 7:30pm to 8:30pm

Wednesday 7:30pm to 8:30pm

These sessions, with no more than four in the group, should be booked in advance and cost **£4 for Junior Members** and **£5 for Adult Members.**

The Futures Snow Award

From September Junior Members have been able to work towards **The Futures Snow Award.** Please ask the Freestyle Coaches or Volunteers on Freestyle Fridays for more information.

Alternatively you can look on Snowsport England's website and download the information yourself.

Futures Snow Award is a brand new award scheme aimed at young people aged 6 to 12 years old who want to keep skiing and snowboarding. Each "step" of the Futures Snow Award is made up of 20 tricks: ten tricks that can be achieved on any mountain, indoor or dry slope and another ten that are completed "off snow".

All twenty tricks will help the mastery of balance, spinning, jumping and turning skills both on and off "snow".

Futures Step 1 Snow Award is aimed at participants who can control their speed on a short slope and can turn.

The Futures Project is a collaboration between Snowsport England, Snowsport Scotland and Snowsport Wales. It supports and encourages young people aged 6 - 18 to get involved in snowsports and to develop their skiing and snowboarding skills.

The Futures Project

Last session for this year at

Kidsgrove: Sunday 17th November: 12:30pm to 3:30pm

Cost: £25

These popular events are also held at other venues and should be booked on the Snowsport England website, where more details can be found.



The 4th Charity JAM 2019 took place on **Saturday 28th September 2019**

For the second time we were stoked to host this event for the Taylor-Tipton

family, who were once again raising money for Sports Aid and the Callum Wylie Foundation. Two very worthy causes.

Along with some of our own members, Albi, Jacob W, Jo, Fynnlay, Paulie, Harry and Luke you may have spotted a few GB Park and Pipe athletes.

We saw some stunning tricks and fabulous front flip 'trains' over our kicker.

Photos and videos of these events can be found on our Facebook and Instagram pages.

Well done to everyone who took part and especially Albi and Jacob W who won prizes in their respective Grom categories.

A magnificent sum of over £800 was raised for Sports Aid and more than £200 for the Callum Wylie Foundation.

A big thanks to all those at the club who work in the kitchen and also those invisible members who work behind the scenes

The 6th Oatcake Jam Saturday 9th November 2019



After the success of **The Charity Jam** it is almost time for our own **6th Oatcake Jam**. A chance for everyone to get stoked and enjoy the vibe.

There will be medals and spot prizes for those who impress. If you are not sure what to expect then come down on Freestyle Fridays and all will be revealed.



Sponsorship

If you, or anyone you know, is in a position to offer sponsorship for **The 6th Oatcake Jam** please leave a message for Gareth Bott, Diane Watts or Luke Watts at the club. In the past ski equipment, ski clothing, vouchers for trampoline parks, cash for spot prizes etc. have all been appreciated by the competitors in the past.

Entries are now being taken either online or pick up an entry form at the club.

What is the difference between a Jam and a competition?

The main difference between a Jam and a competition is that in a Jam the emphasis is on enjoyment and creativity. A Jam encourages participants of all levels and abilities to enjoy competing in a friendly atmosphere. Everyone is involved for the whole competition. You may even pick up a spot prize or two.

Freestyle Competitions are equally enjoyable, after a practise session each competitor has two runs to put down their best score and the top twelve move forwards to the final. In the final each competitor has two runs again and the best run counts.

FREESTYLE NEWS

Freestyle Fridays...



...for all ages and abilities, skiers and boarders!

At Kidsgrove we are fortunate to have a dedicated freestyle slope available at all times - what makes Freestyle Fridays special is that we have coaches available to offer support, advice and more importantly encouragement in bucket loads. In addition we also have an airbag (weather permitting), on which to practice new tricks and the all important music to add to the relaxed atmosphere.

Everyone is welcome and all participants need to sign the Freestyle disclaimer form (under 16's should have this signed by a parent or guardian) and those wishing to use the airbag need to be assessed by a Freestyle Coach (this form **must** be signed by a parent or legal guardian in the presence of a coach). Helmets essential and other protection advisable.

Remember the club is run by members for the members so any offers of help are always welcome: setting up skis in the boot room, getting the airbag out, supervising the airbag, ideas for features, etc. It is only with the support of our members that we are able to provide the experiences you enjoy.

Freestyle Fridays Dates for your diary

2019

October 25th

November 8th & 22nd

December 6th 20th

2020

January: 3rd, 17th & 31st April : 10th & 24th

February: 14th & 28th May: 8th & 22nd

March: 13th & 27th June: 5th & 19th

Freestyle Friday and

Faction Skis Film

Night:



On 11th October Freestyle Friday was one delivered with a difference.

We were approached by Faction Skis and asked whether we would be interested in premiering their annual 45 minute ski feature film.

The night itself was Freestyle Friday as normal, we had the airbag out and the freestyle park was full of skiers. Followed by burgers and hot dogs.

The ski lodge had been converted into a cinema using all the benches and seating available, who ever knew that we had so many seats!

Big screen, video projector and sound system were at the ready and the film began. "The Collective" is this seasons annual offering, featuring the worlds best Freeride and Freestyle skiers, performing in some of the most spectacular locations on the planet!

One could never fail to be inspired by the ski performances and the photography in Norway, Finland, Japan, Canada, Switzerland and France. If it wasn't for the motivating soundtrack, one might have been able to hear a pin drop amongst the assembled audience, it was standing room only, as the audience were wowed by the sheer spectacle of it all.

The message in the madness is a simple one, one that we all share in the skiing community. One of togetherness, sharing our love and passion for the sport of skiing and the mountains, with friends and those we are close to and also of sharing unforgettable, unique, collective experiences, with those who share the same passion.

A beautifully shot and well put together film, with a great musical soundtrack, easy to watch more than once, the Collective will be shown at cinemas and venues all across the skiing world. We were very likely one of the first venues to premiere this movie this season, anywhere in the world!

For future dates, venues and showtimes visit: <https://uk.factionskis.com/pages/thecollectivefilm>

The event was a resounding success, hopefully even more members of the club will attend in the future, we can surely squeeze more into the Ski Lodge in order to spread the love.

We are sure to be asked to host this event again next season, hopefully it will become an annual start of season event!

The Freestyle Friday Crew