

Directors report October 2023

I'm happy to say that the ski club has had a good year this year.

The 2023 club holiday to Tignes started badly with a 24-hour flight delay. The rest of the holiday at the resort was a great success but to cap the experience there was a bomb scare at the airport which resulted in a delay in the homecoming flight. Everyone received compensation, many, many, thanks must go to Jo Stackhouse who managed the problems which arose from the delay with her usual efficiency.

The freestyle slope was again in demand from Snowsport England who held Futures Sessions on the slope (Futures Project supports and encourages young people in the UK to get involved in snow sports in a fun and progressive way).

An open day was held on the 14th of October 2023 this was a great success with 168 people attending for a free 30-minute ski lesson. 32 more than last year! Some of whom are going to have a go and have booked a set of lessons. The event resulted in more than £1500 of lesson bookings.

On 7th October 2023 the 9th Oatcake Jam took place. It was a great event with lots of fun for all the competitors. People had come from as far south as Dorset. Feedback from competitors and spectators was very positive. Those watching were entertained with some amazing tricks on the jumps and rails. Members of the public watching from Bathpool Park were also passing positive comments about seeing people enjoying themselves. Our Jam is about encouraging young people of all ages and abilities to join in and have a go in a supportive environment.

The club is very fortunate to have so many ski instructors/coaches willing to give their time to pass on their expertise to beginner skiers and members. Opportunities were made available for the instructors/coaches to participate in courses at the slope towards improving their skiing/coaching skills.

The Financial Management Team have continued to tightly control expenditure. Our thanks go to them for their ongoing dedication towards keeping us solvent. The treasurer will outline the years accounts.

The club is affiliated to Snowsport England and continues to operate under Snowsport England guidelines, adopting their Safeguarding and Protecting Policy. The club undertakes to provide a high quality and welcoming environment for participants in the sport.

Children's lessons remain greatly in demand, there is a waiting list for 6-year-olds and many who gain their level 1 Blue Award continue in the Junior Club progressing through more awards. To engage older Junior Club members, we have introduced the "YIP's" project (Young Instructors Project) giving them the opportunity to become young instructors/coaches.

The club has been in demand from scout groups wanting to provide an outdoor sporting experience for their groups. As schools have returned to taking groups of pupils on skiing holidays the demand has risen both from school groups and individuals wanting to complete a beginner's course of lessons.

Freestyle/ Recreational Fridays continue to be successful; some features have been updated with new colourful side panels using donated composite material off cuts which should never need replacement.

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 to the beginners learning to ski. Thanks must go to those who provide continuous ongoing maintenance to the ski slope and tow.

We must not underestimate the skills of the volunteers, their willingness to learn new skills and undertake new methods of working. We are lucky to have so many people willing to give so much time and energy to the club. The experience for all who come to the club over the past year has been more relaxed as we get back to normal after the pandemic. It has been rewarding to see the staff working together to make people feel welcome and safe.

Ann Loton

Chair



A club run entirely by volunteers who love skiing.

Kidsgrove Ski Centre, Bathpool Park, Kidsgrove

Stoke on Trent, ST7 4EF. www.ski-kidsgrove.co.uk

Tel: 01782 784908