

**Fostering,
promoting
and
developing
the interests
of English
skiers**



Board shuffle points to new future for SSE

The 2005 Annual Meeting saw a number of changes to the board, as well as presentations on the future of Snowsport England and with two newly elected members to the board.

Sandy Telling decided to stand down as Chairman due to work commitments. He has worked tirelessly to improve communications between the organisations, and also on the modernisation project.

He is not leaving the organisation completely and remains as the board representative on modernisation, working with ARC.

Graham Pickles decided to retire as Treasurer, but will remain involved in Yorkshire region. Graham has had an extremely tough job over the past five years, working with Key Committee Leaders to develop Snowsport England to the financial position of strength it is in today, and giving the ability for us to progress strongly in the coming years.

Finally, Alan Ashfield has stepped down from the board. Alan has been around since the beginning of ESC, and has had a pivotal role in the development of the Coaching scheme. He will remain involved in the coaching scheme over the next 12 months.

We wish them all well in the future, and thank them for their valuable efforts and help over the years.



Welcome: New chairman Stewart Smith (centre) with new Board members David Hart (left) and Barry Spouge (right).

The board welcomed two new members David Hart and Barry Spouge. David is the former Coaching Committee Leader and Barry is the Chairman and Director of Norfolk Ski Club Ltd and producer of the much-loved *Piste* magazine. They join Clive Newell, Nigel Matthews and the newly elected Chairman Stewart Smith.

There was one vote at the AGM. Coaching Scheme representative Kevin Smallwood (53 votes) was elected to the Council over Peter Hanford Styring (42 votes).

Continued on pages 6-7

INbrief

English Alpine Championships 2005

Following the cancellation of this year's Alpine Championship, the organising committee undertook to consider the question of offering a refund of entry fees once the costs of arranging the event had been taken into account.

Continued on page 4

The Piste 2005/06 season

Issues of The Piste will be published as follows:

■ **October/November issue**
Published end September 2005.

■ **December/January issue**
Published end November 2005.

■ **February/March issue**
Published end January 2006

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LOOK OUT FOR THE PISTE...

Watch out for our first issue published late September (October/November issue). Yes it's that time again when we start laying our plans for the forthcoming ski & board season.

Starting in the October/November issue we will have a regular Fitness column to keep you on your toes, provided by **Carl Petersen**, a physical therapist, fitness coach, formerly the physio and fitness coach for Alpine Canada from 1984-1997. Carl has recently published a book called 'Fit to Ski', further information can be found at www.citysportsphysio.com

We are aiming for early season interviews with **Chemmy Alcott**, **Alain Baxter** and the other Baxter, **Noel**, about the 2005/06 FIS/Audi World Cup season and the build up to the 2006 Olympics. In the first issue we will be featuring the Swiss resort of Zermatt which I visited in February.

We hope to get an interview with **Bodie Miller**. At this stage we are still talking to him about it, so watch this space. As you know Bodie is a bit of a maverick so anything could happen.

I'll be talking to **Tim Fawke**, the England Team Coach, about this year's England Alpine Squad.

We would like to include a regular 'Club Feature' so any of you budding journalists out there send us an article on your ski club together with some photographs. Plus, our usual updates on the world of Freestyle.

We also aim to get articles from **Graham Bell** and **Konrad Bartelski** about, among other things, the state of British skiing and what the future holds for Team GB.



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We also attend as many dryslope race meetings in the Summer as possible. We will have a good selection of our stock at these races, but if you have any special needs, please phone us in advance.

Thomson junior bursaries launched for 2005

Thomson Ski and Snowboarding have agreed to provide eight training bursaries for the Children 1 and Children 2 age categories in the Snowsport England / Thomson Grand Prix Series for the fourth year running.

The bursaries are awarded to the Grand Prix Series winners in each of the four years of Children's racing (male and female). This season the years will be 1994-91.

Girls; Harriet Steggles, Natalia Harte, Alessia Thomas-Jackson, Emily Evans.

Boys; Edward Gardner, Gerard Flahive, Thomas Kirton, Zak Jesse

The bursaries will be for two weeks fully inclusive training at the British Ski Academy in Les Houches near Chamonix in France.

■ Visit www.thomsonski.co.uk, www.snowsportengland.org.uk or call 0121 501 2314.



Winners: Last year's top skiers with Chemmy Alcott (centre).

How TJ earned U-15s top spot for skiers

TJ Baldwin has proved himself the best Under-15 skier in Britain by winning all four individual titles at the British Alpine Children's Championships held in Meribel, France.

This is a very rare feat having only ever been achieved twice before, the last time in 1998.

Races were held over three days, with early morning starts to ensure hard icy conditions throughout, on the 1992 Olympic race piste.

The first day of racing saw over 140 boys compete in the Slalom. 14-year-old TJ, from Tharston, Norfolk, was almost in a class of his own.

"Slalom was the one I wanted the most," said TJ. "It's the most difficult, as one mistake can cost you the race. My skis worked really well and I really enjoyed the first run."

Day 2 saw a slightly reduced field for the speed event, the Super G, with over 130 competitors on a very long icy and bumpy course.

TJ flew down the course to set a time that was never bettered, eventually winning by just under 0.5 secs from his training partner Aaron Tipping from Sidcup.



Trophy table: TJ Baldwin.

But disaster almost struck TJ later in the day as he crashed on ice and suffered facial lacerations, a bang to the head and a groin strain – earning him a visit to the local medical centre.

Still suffering from his injuries, TJ was drawn unlucky No 13 in the final event, the Giant Slalom. Skiing in pain from his leg, he snatched victory by 0.1 secs.

"My groin was hurting so much just before the start that I nearly pulled

out of the 2nd run, but I knew I just needed a top 5 finish to ensure I won the overall title" he said.

Winning all three events also gave TJ maximum points to win the coveted overall Combined Championship.

He also picked up two team prizes for the British Ski Academy to bring his tally to six British titles.

And he was part of the victorious Children 2 Boys team and Children 2 Club team (mixed) again scoring maximum points.

TJ's last race in the Children's age group was with the British Children's Ski team in a top French international race, La Scarafioti, in which he finished ninth.

He now moves up into the Junior 1 category and will start international FIS racing in December.

TJ has recently learnt of his selection for the Great Britain Youth team of five boys and one girl in the Junior 1 age group (born 89-90).

He has also been selected for the England 'A' team, a select group of four boys who are still at school, the rest of the team being older full-time members.

Continued from page 1

Championships refund scheme

The calculations have now been completed and the Board of Snowsport England has made available the following options for all those who paid for entries into this year's race series:

- An immediate refund of 40% of the entry fees paid, or
- A discount of 50% on the cost of entries to the 2006 Alpine Championships which are to take place in Puy St Vincent, starting on Sunday 2 April 2006.

All those who require a cash refund should contact Snowsport England by post at Area Library Building, Queensway Mall, The Cornbow, Halesowen, West Midlands, B63 4AJ or by e-mail to ian@snowsportengland.org.uk stating to whom the refund cheque should be payable.

David Pyle, Chief of Championships

High standards at Sun Valley

The FIS Masters (over 30 yrs) World Criterium took place in Sun Valley, Idaho in April.

John Williams, of Norfolk Ski Club, and John Ferguson, from Glasgow, attended the series of races, including Slalom, Giant Slalom and SuperG. There was also a GS, the final race of the FIS Masters Cup, a series of races run over the winter in many countries.

The gradient for the A category men (30 – 54 yrs) was described as challenging and the SuperG was fast.

The standard of performance was excellent and showed the Brits what they must and can aspire to.

Sun Valley itself is a wonderful resort and has many links to Austrian ski schools. It is reached from Boise airport across miles of empty plains.

The mountains in the resort are modest but because the resort is so



Aspirations: John Williams.

high the whole length of the runs provide excellent skiing even in the April sunshine which we had lots of.

■ Next year the FIS Masters WC is in Alp d'Huez, France. Check out www.mastersski.com

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Ski market continues to expand - survey

The ski market has continued growing – despite predictions some years ago that it would face a decline in popularity – and rose by 3.8% in winter 2004-05, according to the Ski Industry Report 2005 from Crystal Ski.

It was the third successive year in which the number of skiers travelling abroad on ski and snowboard holidays from the UK exceeded one million.

The number of independent travellers continued to rise in line with expectation and grew from 314,000 to 330,000. However, the number of passengers carried by tour operators also rose significantly, from 600,000 to 626,000.

Notably, for the first time in 10 years, we have seen a fall in the number of seats available to airports servicing short-haul ski destinations. Significantly, no-frills airlines cut their capacity on ski routes for the first time ever, down from 904,000 to 824,000, with operators like EasyJet withdrawing from key alpine target airports like Zurich.

Scheduled airlines also offered 70,000

fewer seats, down from 1.14 million to 1.07 million. The only aviation sector to increase capacity was tour operators' charter airlines, which rose from 397,000 to 401,000.

The destinations chosen by holidaymakers were consistent with



2003-04. France, Switzerland, Italy and Andorra all recorded small falls, but France remained the most popular ski destination, taking 36.1% of skiers, down from 36.5% in 2004-05.

Austria rose for the 2nd year running and remains the UK's second most popular ski destination, taking 20.1% of holidaymakers, up from 19.8% in 2003/04. Italy remains in third place at 15.7%, down from 16% and Andorra fourth at 13.7% down from 13.8%.

America and Canada continued their

steady pattern of growth seen over the last few years, rising to 6% in 2004/05 from 5.8% the previous winter.

But the biggest increase was seen in Bulgaria, up from 2.1% of the ski market to 2.8%. With its low prices attracting entry-level skiers this is a positive sign for the ski market.

Crystal Ski predicts the ski market will continue to grow and that the growth seen over the last years is in line with the increase in people taking active holidays.

Specifically in 2005-06 Crystal forecasts more ski holidays to:

- The USA, aided by the favourable dollar rate and new twice weekly direct flights to Denver.

- Central and Eastern European ski resorts, with new routes to Serbia and Bulgaria.

The trend towards specialist ski operators is also expected to continue. As customers are increasingly well-travelled and knowledgeable about skiing, Crystal believes ski holiday sales by the general travel agent are in terminal decline.

Club members turn out in force for Grand Prix

The new slope development and the forthcoming All England Championships in September brought one of the largest competitive race fields ever at the club in recent years, when Norfolk hosted a Club National at the beginning of June – the third Thomson Grand Prix race for 2005.

These were top class events with the best racers in the country competing in every age group, with an impressive 35 Norfolk racers competing.

The event showed the results of those long hours of training which resulted in last year's regional series win for the team and this season's current first place in the summer league.

The Norfolk race organizers (RAT – Norfolk Race Action Team) wish to thank all the volunteers from both Norfolk and other clubs, from as far a field as Southampton and Pendle for their invaluable help in putting on this event.

Special thanks must also go to Kevin Mercer for the work done to extend the start area – it made the handling of racers at the top of the slope much easier and safer; and to Megs, Yvonne, Janet, Dee, Jan, Fi and Kimberley for providing the catering which was widely proclaimed as the best on the race circuit.



Action: A Norfolk competitor attacks the course.

The event was attended by race equipment suppliers Ski Bartlett, Snowfit and SnowSun, all of who braved the weather to provide essential supplies to racers in need of retail therapy.

SNOWSPORT ENGLAND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2005

Snowsports – the

Development plan

Snowsport England has a new short-term Development Plan outlining the pathway for English Snowsports May 2005- May 2006.

The Development Plan sets the work plan for the coming year and takes into account the ongoing discussions and plans surrounding modernisation. The Plan is to be reviewed in September 2005.

It outlines the Mission, Key Objectives, Actions and Key Performance Indicators.

Mission

To provide people in England with the opportunity to participate in snowsports from start to the highest level aspired.

Performance

Former English, and now successful member of the British Land Ski Team, Ed Drake, was one of 10 to receive a Sports Aid London Special Achievement Award at The Grand Temple, Freemasons Hall, London, in June.

The award was given in recognition of the exceptional results Ed has achieved during his successful 2004-2005 season, including British Junior Champion and the only British Male to qualify for the Junior World Championships.

The evening was also held to celebrate the achievements of many of London's most talented athletes. Sports Aid donated 246 grants to younger sports people.

Presentations

Clive Newall and **Trish Ball** gave three presentations on the futures of Snowsport England.

■ **The financial future** - Clive Newall gave an overview of the financial strategy and the proposed changes to accounting system reporting.

■ **The Development Plan** - Trish Ball set the Plan and actions for Snowsport England over the next 12 months; this is available on the website.

■ **Child Welfare** - Trish Ball outlined the work and aims of the Child Welfare Management Group and the Child Protection Policy.

Awards

The sixth year's presentation for services to skiing was made to **Ron Batley** for all his hard work for the Alpine Racing Committee.

Other awards were also made to **Sandy Telling** standing down as Chairman, **Alan Ashfield** standing down as Director, **Ralph White** standing down as the Leader of the Nordic Committee, and **Gordon Cole** standing down as Chief of Alpine Championships; later a presentation was also made to **Graham Pickles** standing down as Treasurer.

Key Objectives

■ Organisational Structure

Understandable and accessible membership and structure.

- Effective corporate governance.
- Clear communications.
- Defined roles and boundaries for members and staff.

■ Quality Coaching

Create a quality coaching scheme across all disciplines.

- Clear pathways for coach progression.
- Development of a continual professional development programme.
- Cost effective coaching scheme.
- Producing quality and consistent course materials.

way ahead

■ Development

Providing opportunities for participation at grassroots through club development, slopes and schools.

- A tangible increase in Snowsport participation.
- To support regional and club development.
- Communication and marketing of Snowsports.

■ Performance

Providing effective and efficient performance pathways from club to English and British teams.

- Equitable and measurable selection policies.
- Identification and supporting athletes in gaining funding.

■ Equity

Ensuring all activities in Snowsport England are underpinned by Equity and Fairness.

- Implementation of Child Welfare Policy.
- HR policies and procedures.
- Clearly outlined appeals and complaints procedures.
- Recognition of volunteers' contribution towards Snowsport England.

The Plan has been produced following close consultation with Sport England who is currently in consultation with Snowsport England about funding key areas associated with the Plan.

Full details of actions and implementation can be found on the website.

Sponsorship

For the fourth year running, Thomson Ski and Snowboarding has agreed to provide eight training bursaries for the Children 1 & Children 2 age categories in the Snowsport England Grand Prix Series (see page 3).

The Thomson Grand Prix have attracted other sponsorships this season – Racer Ready are

providing series winner T-shirts and photographs designed by Positive Attitude.

Racer Ready Magazine has provided Britain's racers with quality results and coverage of all the seasons' events and comprehensive reports can be found on the website www.racer-ready.co.uk

Office changes

There have been some changes in head office. The Board have appointed **Trish Ball** as the Chief Executive, while **Andrew Jolly** will remain as Company Secretary.

The office roles and responsibilities have recently been reviewed. **Ian Holloway** is the newly appointed accounts administrator, **Jenny Wyatt** has taken full administration responsibility of the Coaching Scheme, and **June Hale** has responsibility of the Membership Scheme.

Modernisation arriving shortly!

Feedback call on slope surfaces

Facilities

England is seeing several facilities changes over the next 12 months.

But there has been concern voiced to the governing body about the potential effects these changes could have on grassroots skiing.

All John Nike slopes are planned to move over to Permasnow, with work on Swadlincote having started on 20 June.

At present, there is no confirmed system for inserting racing poles. Snowsport England has spoken with John Nike, who demonstrated some of the prototypes for poles, and highlighted that in conjunction with site managers, they are working to develop a system for racing.

The slope surface is currently unproven; Arrows have been invited to a testing day in July.

Snowsport England would like to receive positive or negative feedback from members about all different slope surfaces to aid in the preparation of a full assessment that developments may have on the future of English skiing. Information should be sent to the office.

Resolutions

The ordinary resolutions accepting the Report and Accounts, the Annual Report and the re-appointment of the auditor were passed unanimously.

Appointments

The members of the Council accepted the nomination of **David Durgan** as Chairman of Coaching and **Adam Pinney** as Chairman of Nordic.

They join **Gillian Hall**, **Martin Carr** and **Gillian Gilyead** as unopposed leaders of Alpine, Freestyle and Schools respectively.

*It is not because things are difficult that we do not dare;
It is because we do not dare that they are difficult - Seneca 4BC-65AD*

The time is 2.30am and I can't get to sleep. Why? I've just driven for two and half-hours.

Well, I'll tell you why. My heart is still pounding, my spirits are high and my body is battered. Have I had a near death experience? No, I have competed in the Saab-Salomon Skiercross at the Xscape Milton Keynes.

Until tonight I always thought the greatest adrenaline rush of my life was free-falling from a perfectly good aeroplane two and a half miles up. But nothing can prepare your mind or body to the onslaught and rush of a Skiercross.

Four in a line. Go. Pole, skate and push to get to the first turn. Locked together around the turn, pushing, punching and loads of elbow. Look down ... whose skis are whose?

Around the next turn, too tight, someone's pushed out of the course. Over the water jump, who's landed on my skis? Get off! Round the next turn, 360 off the drop off (that felt good). Next turn and straight. Decision time, do I ride the triple rollers or go for it. Go for it. Hit (and I mean hit) the first roller, pop off the top lip, tuck up. Look down to see your skis right on someone's shoulder (he chose to ride the rollers).

Landed, hands everywhere, posture nowhere to be seen – awesome. Pull yourself together here it comes. God that's close, hit the take off for the table top, shoulder to shoulder

suspended in the air with another skier. Out-jumped the landing area. Whoaaaaa ... Thank God, the finish line. I have skied for 22 seconds. My heart is bursting, my hands are shaking, but it is so good to be alive!

For the club (Christchurch Ski Racers) a mixed night – 3rd places for Kirsty and George Schmidt, but I take my hat off to Ian Elliott (45 years old and aka "The Hillingdon Hustler") who out-jumped any of the youngsters here tonight but unfortunately pushed the limits too far and pulled an injury. However he did ask after the last race "when's the next one?".

Just realised that firstly, as a family, then with club members, we have travelled to all three indoor Snow Centres this year, but, not only that, we have competed in Slalom, Freestyle and now Skiercross – and the season has not even started.

Well done Xscape and Snowdome.

By the way I am 37 years old, that means I am classed as a "master", you know the old geezers who can't do it anymore, well bring it on. I thought racing again would be hard and exhilarating but nothing compares to a Skiercross. Hold on I have responsibilities as a father, a coach, an employer and a husband with a mortgage – but for one night I was 18 again.

Darren Schmidt ASPC,
Christchurch Ski Racers

The 2005 Scottish Freestyle Ski Championships were held at the Lecht in March .

There was snow aplenty and competitors travelled from all parts of Scotland to be challenged by a strong contingent from the English Freestyle capital, Sheffield.

The moguls event was a challenge between the senior competitors, Euan Stobie (22, Edinburgh) the reigning Scottish Mogul Champion, Jack Mallalieu (28, Aviemore) current British Mogul Champion, and Simon Bates (28, Edinburgh) just returned from the World Cup mogul tour.

Stobie reinforced his superiority in the air taking the Big Air title, where his back flips, loops and off-axis jumps could not be bettered. Second and third places were a close contest between Ian Booth (16, Alford), and Bates.

MOGULS

1 Simon Bates 24.44	1 st Senior Edinburgh
2 Jack Mallalieu 22.58	2 nd Senior Aviemore
3 Euan Stobie 21.60	3 rd Senior Edinburgh
4 Andrew Longley 17.69	1 st Junior Sheffield
5 Mike Hewson 17.57	2 nd Junior Banchory
6 Ian Booth 16.77	3 rd Junior Alford
9 Ellie Koyander 10.37	1 st Female Derbyshire

BIG AIR

1 Euan Stobie 165
2 Ian Booth 141
3 Simon Bates 140

Alpine Racers: have we seen an end to Bumping?

For those who don't know what is meant by "Bumping", it is not as might occur in a Skier X race when up to four competitors start at the same time, ski the same course and may collide or bump one another inadvertently.

Bumping in this sense is having been accepted as a valid entry into a race, then finding out, usually only hours before the event, that you cannot race having had your place take by a higher ranking British athlete.

To put it in context, this is an

Alpine phenomenon.

Bumping will not happen in BASS races or to my knowledge to female athletes. It should not happen in British FIS races unless too many other nations have taken up their quotas. To my knowledge this has never happened.

The problem occurs with the quota system in FIS races mainly in the Alps but could potentially happen anywhere. Each nation has a quota or maximum number of entries permitted in any FIS race.

When all the other nations

have stated their entries within their permitted quota, then the home nation can fill the rest of the places up to usually 140 in total. This can make it very hard sometimes for good young athletes to get into popular races in the alpine countries.

Bumping is nothing to do with the race organisers, but in our case with the British system. British athletes who hold a FIS licence must first be registered with their home nation England, Northern Ireland, Scotland or Wales.

There is a British squad, Home Nations full time squad and the Home Nations squads. Within all these squads there are various rankings whereby the better athletes get preferred status when entering races. This can make it very hard to get into races if you are not in a squad.

The system is elitist, but this is not the problem, it cannot be any other way if we want to attain international and Olympic achievement. The elitism has to be part of the system, and with this comes

FREESTYLE

Why we should treat pupils with sensitivity

I have just completed my freestyle revalidation at Sheffield.

I should have known when it was suggested that I took a wet suit we would be exploring something new for me – the water ramp.

As I stood at the top I realised how some of my classes feel when we take them to the top of Kendal slope for the first time.

I looked down what seemed to be an endless steep run leading into a ramp that could throw me into the air 20ft above the cold water.

The next bit was OK – just like racing down a smooth slope gathering speed – then came the compression at the bottom and the momentary realisation that there was no way out.

Flying was OK, but then I looked down to see where I was going to land – mistake – I didn't actually land in a belly flop but my face took a fair impact with the water. I surfaced with a great feeling of relief, then discovered that you can't swim with skis on. The Sharks did throw me a ring and dragged me over to the steps.

The day was great, in the end I did six jumps.

But it made me think that we should be sensitive to how our pupils



Up and under: Freestyle at Sheffield.

feel when we do something new and lead them gently through each progression.

My thanks to Simon Ashton, Martin Carr, and everyone at Sheffield who made it such a good revalidation day.

Bob Park

The 2005 British Mogul Championships were held in Oberstdorf, Germany over Easter weekend.

FIS DUAL MOGULS (qualification points out of 30)

- 1 Grischa Weber GER 22.70
- 2 Christoph Stark GER 23.71
- 3 Stephan Zant GER 22.26
- 7 Simon Bates GBR 20.08
- 15 Jack Mallalieu GBR 15.41
- 30 Martin Nankoo GBR 2.56

BRITISH DUAL MOGULS

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| MEN | WOMEN |
| 1 Martin Nankoo | 1 Ellie Koyander |
| 2 Jack Mallalieu | 2 Kate Williams |
| 3 Simon Bates | |
| 4 Andrew Longley | |

FIS MOGULS (points out of 30)

- 1 Christoph Stark GER 23.02
- 2 Gerhard Blochl GER 22.72
- 3 Vaclav Novak CZE 22.26
- 9 Martin Nankoo GBR 17.55
- 10 Simon Bates GBR 16.64
- 19 Jack Mallalieu GBR 10.93

BRITISH MOGULS

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| MEN | WOMEN |
| 1 Simon Bates 22.04 | 1 Kate Williams 6.31 |
| 2 Jack Mallalieu 9.13 | 2 Ellie Koyander 2.56 |
| 3 Martin Nankoo 8.12 | |
| 4 Andrew Longley 4.61 | |

FIS SKICROSS (qualification times in seconds)

- 1 Simon Willmann GER 24.83
- 2 Thomas Zangerl AUT 25.48
- 3 Thorsten Gotze GER 24.89
- 17 Angus Morrison GBR 26.10
- 26 Simon Bates GBR 28.19

Well, let's hope so!

privilege and therefore responsibility.

All the squads have coaches and management structures. Therefore it is their responsibility to ensure that the privileges of their athletes are not abused. It is totally incomprehensible that their athletes can be entered for races at the last minute, when they are supposed to have training/racing programmes.

Is this abuse of privilege down to poor coaching, bad management or thoughtlessness?

The athletes being Bumped have planned programmes, organised their race entries, through SSGB and sorted their travel and accommodation all at their own expense. What a kick in the teeth to be told that they can't race especially when they have arrived at the race meeting.

Although with consideration, proper planning and modern technology this can all change.

Performance Director of Snowsports GB Mark Tilston has agreed to put on to the SSGB website all the squad's

race plans including their first and second choice events so that all athletes and their coaches can see all the squads' programmes, maximising quota potential and avoiding Bumping.

If Mark can make this work, and he if anyone is in a position to, then hopefully gone are the days of lone athletes travelling around the Alps by bus, train or hitching to races, only to find that they have been bumped.

So here's to modern technology, and good

management, although the saving in the office at SSGB involved in not having to inform athletes that they can't race is bound to be a plus for modernisation.

Let's hope that the coaches and management systems of the squads will understand their responsibilities to all British athletes and refrain from abusing the privileges they hold on behalf of their athletes. When this happens then all the British athletes will rightfully feel part of Team GB.

Graham Pickles



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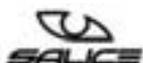
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Carrs of Sheffield



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0121 501 2314

COURSE DIARY DATES 2005

CLUB INSTRUCTOR TRAINING COURSES (2 DAYS)

This course will be held predominately outdoors / on skis and will address:

- Safety considerations
- The basic principles of instructing
- Examples of instructional activities
- Examples of teaching methods

Emphasis throughout the course will be the SAFE introduction of beginners to skiing on artificial slopes.

10-11 September	Tamworth Snowdome, Tamworth, Staffs 01827 67905
17-18 September	Gloucester Ski & Snowboard Centre, Gloucester 08702 400375
8-9 October	Silksworth Sports Complex, Sunderland 0191 553 5785

ASSESSMENT FOR CLUB INSTRUCTOR AWARD (1 DAY)

A one-day Assessment for Candidates wishing to become Club Instructors. The award is aimed at skiers who wish to introduce beginners to skiing at their local ski centre or within their local ski club.

10 September	The Ackers, Smallheath, Birmingham 0121 772 511
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ASSI TRAINING COURSES (2 DAYS)

This course will take place predominately outdoors and will address:

- Revision of teaching methods
- Revision of safety factors
- Investigation of and training in the essential elements of skiing which link ploughing and parallel skiing.
- This course also serves to refresh the Club Instructor Award for a period of three years and is a pre-requisite for those wishing to complete the ASSI Award.

10-11 September	Silksworth Sports Complex, Sunderland 0191 553 5785
8-9 October	Gloucester Ski & Snowboard Centre, Gloucester 08702 400375

ASSI EXAMINATION (1 DAY EXAMINATION)

This Examination will take place predominately outdoors on skis where the appointed Examiners will ask to see:

- Log book records

Continued in facing page

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COURSE DIARY DATES 2005

■ Practical illustrations of personal skill showing understanding of the principles which underpin skilful skiing

■ The candidates ability to observe peers performances and provide feedback which serves to improve their performances of the TASK which has been set by the Examiners.

If any ski centres have enough instructors to go through to Examination then the ski centre manager or organiser needs to get in touch with Head Office for details.

The following Examinations have been set for 2005:

24 September	Hemel Ski Centre, St Albans Hill, Hemel Hempstead, Herts	0121 501 2314
1 October	Sunderland Ski Centre, Silksworth Sports Complex, Tyne & Wear	0121 501 2314
5 November	Gosling Ski Centre, Welwyn Garden City, Herts	0121 501 2314

CI, Snr CI and ASSI REFRESHER COURSES (1 DAY)

In order that Snowsport England's appointed staff can meet and appraise all our Instructors and Coaches, all qualified persons are required to attend Refresher Courses. Instructors may attend these as often as they wish but must attend at least once every three years in order to revalidate their qualification.

These courses enable Instructors to clarify their own views and keep up to date with Snowsport England's current policies. All qualifications are valid for one period of three years.

25 September	Hemel Ski Centre, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire	0121 501 2314
1 October	Bromley Ski Centre, Orpington, Kent	0121 501 2314
2 October	Sunderland Ski Centre, Silksworth Sports Complex.	0121 501 2314
29 October	Wycombe Summit Ski Centre, High Wycombe	0121 501 2314
6 November	Gosling Ski Centre, Welwyn Garden City, Herts	0121 501 2314
12 November	Swadlincote Ski Centre, Derbyshire	0121 501 2314

ASSI COURSE - WEEKENDER (OVER 2 WEEKENDS PLUS 1 ASSESSMENT DAY)

An alternative to the present method of becoming an Artificial Slope Ski Instructor. Two consecutive weekend courses (plus one day assessment) which takes you straight to ASSI once 20 hours supervised instruction has been completed.

Ski centres can organise these courses therefore either contact your local ski centre to enquire if they are holding a course. Alternatively phone Snowsport England to see if they have any dates on 0121 501 2314

DISABILITIES AWARENESS COURSE

This course is open to all Club Instructors, Snr Club Instructors, ASSIs and Coaches who wish to be involved in teaching courses for skiers with disabilities.

4 September	Bromley Ski Centre, Orpington, Kent	0121 501 2314
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SKI BINDING SEMINARS

Seminars will begin at 6.30pm and finish at 8.30pm. A certificate of attendance will be sent by the organisers. There will also be a ski test for those wishing to attend after the seminars at Milton Keynes and Castleford. There is a tick box on the booking form.

7 September	Xscape at Milton Keynes	0121 501 2314
15 September	Xscape at Castleford	0121 501 2314
28 September	Salomon at Basingstoke	0121 501 2314

NORDIC COURSES AND EVENTS

3-4 September	Roller Ski Skills Training/Fun races. Hetton Lyons, Durham Adam Pinney 01582 823960 aapinney@tinyworld.co.uk
10 - 11 September	Nordic Downhill/Telemark Skills and Coaching Award Course Details to be announced.
1-2nd October	Roller Ski Skills Training/Fun races. Salt Ayre Track, nr Lancaster Grahame Aspinall /Nicola Leeming 01484 846490
November-December	On-snow Race Training Week Details to be announced. Fiona Crossley 01274 562998 fcross@waitrose.com

✓ For the full calendar (including dates for SCO courses), please get in touch with Snowsport England Head Office on 0121 501 2314 or log on to our website at www.snowsportengland.org.uk

Coaching Scheme Conference date set

The Snowsport England Coaching Committee invite all members of the Snowsport England Coaching Scheme to attend the 2005 Coaching Scheme Conference, which is being held at the National Sports Centre at Lilleshall in Shropshire, on **8 October**.

The Conference aims to provide an opportunity for Snowsport England Coaching Scheme members to get together to hear about developments within Snowsport England, with a view to opening minds and enhancing perceptions, enabling you to develop in whatever fields you

may be involved in.

Details about speakers, cost and the programme will be available shortly. Meanwhile if you have any queries please contact Head Office on info@snowsportengland.org.uk or 0121501 2314.

■ Due to the popularity of the last Course Setters Course, a further date has been set for **24 September** at Hemel Ski Centre. If you would like to attend, please contact Jenny at Head Office on 0121 501 2314.

New bid to modernise our Federation

Background

As many people will be aware, until 1964 the Ski Club of Great Britain (SCGB) was the governing body of British skiing, but then government funding regulations required the National Ski Federation of Great Britain to be founded.

In the ensuing 40 years, the "Federation" has undergone several changes in both name and structure.

During this time, with support from the Sports Councils, the four Home Nation Governing Bodies have been formed.

The independent Alpine Clubs have become BARSC and the armed forces have come together to become CSWSA.

These groups together with BASI (the instructors), the SCGB and more recently the British Snowboard Association are now the Member Groups and voting stakeholders of the present British Ski and Snowboard Federation, which trades as Snowsports GB.

In the spring of 2004, in response to a UK Sports Council initiative and with the support of BSSF Congress, a Modernisation Working Group (MWG) was set up. Its membership consists of one nominee from each of the nine Member Groups with Fiona McNeilly as Chairman, funded by Snowsport GB.

The remit was to review the current activity and scope of all Member Groups and the Federation, assess their effectiveness and efficiency and identify broad areas of work where these could be improved.

Alternatively, to report back with sound reasons why modernisation is not appropriate at this time. It was implied that future Sports Council funding would be dependent upon this exercise being carried out efficiently.

It became clear almost immediately that the MWG felt the future of British snowsport would be best served by a British organisation that operates from the top down, serves the needs of the members and is organised with proper representation for all interest groups and disciplines.

However, it was acknowledged that a great deal of work would need to be done to effect such a radical change.

It is to be emphasised that this is a proposal to create a new nationwide, multi-sport, fully inclusive and equitable organisation and is not merely an updating of the existing Federation structure (to avoid confusion we are using the working title of "Bob").

Current status

Much work has been done and is continuing in order to bring this proposal to fruition.

The Annual General Meeting of the Federation in May 2005 unanimously accepted the principle and authorised the work to continue, laying out an ambitious timetable for a completed proposal for membership consideration by November 2005 with a view, if approved, to final implementation in spring of 2006.

This is the start of the next Olympic

cycle, which has funding as well as planning implications for any sports governing body.

Current involvement

Snowsport England has been involved in the modernisation project for the past 12 months, represented by Sandy Telling in his capacity as Chairman and Trish Ball.

Both Sandy and Trish have represented Snowsport England on the Modernisation Working Party and have presented the proposals to the Council and the Board.

The Modernisation Working Party is still in existence and a number of volunteer and professional steering groups have been set up to manage the project.

Snowsport England has representatives on each group; more detailed information is available on Snowsport England's website.

Any questions about any of these groups should be sent to head office on info@snowsportengland.org.uk.

By creating the new organisation, the membership of British skiing and snowboarding will be better served than in the past.

One organisation will be able to buy in and offer better services in areas such as information, insurance, publications, websites etc and cut out much of the present duplication of time and effort.

There will be more direct links between members, both as individuals and as clubs, to the governing body who in turn will be answerable back to the membership.

It will also be able to provide a seamless progression for competitors, officials and professionals from grass roots to elite level.

CONTACTS

■ If you have any particular ideas or opinions on the subject, the MWG would be happy to receive them. Please make contact only via your own Member Group representative who is:

Trish Ball - Chief Executive - trish@snowsportengland.org.uk
(0121 501 2314)

Stewart Smith - Chairman Snowsport England -
info@snowsportengland.org.uk (0121 501 2314)

Current Information

More details will be available shortly on various websites including:

www.snowsportgb.com
www.snowsportengland.org.uk