

London & South-East Regional Snowsports Association

Chairman's Report 2008

ALPINE:

I say this every year but I do believe it to be true that all our skiers are getting better and better and raising the standards ever higher. We have had another successful regional series during the summer months, thanks to the hard work of many such as Sally, Alan, Keith and many other volunteers. It was great to hand out lots of medals and trophies at the end of season race, including the Memorial Award in honour of Eve Alcott which went to the Fenwick family. It was great having Chemmy and Ed at the race held in Brentwood and I know she also was impressed at the standard of skiing and generosity of everyone who welcomed her to the race, bought some of clothing and supported the auction. Awards of bags from Snow & Rock for the "Superstars" fitness competition held at each event went down really well and the overall prize of £250 was thanks to the generosity of its sponsors, Snow & Rock, Amajaro and Body Factor (who say they may be entering a team next year). Ski Bartlett, who once again provided loads of prizes for the race series along with Travel plan who I have recently heard have closed down. However James Gambrill is confident that his new venture will be successful and he wants to continue to support L&SERSA events. Another successful RAKS school race was run by Sally and her numerous helpers and many skiers competed at the Tri-regional event at Brentwood.

A big thank-you to everyone for your hard work and support at all the events!

It was wonderful to see so many L&SERSA athletes improving over the weeks and to see or hear about some standing on the podium at numerous national races around the country and abroad. The most recent successes were at the Schools races held in Hillend where Surbiton High School (Surrey) girls team came 1st and 5th. Max Moss skied his socks off to help bring his school, Sir Joseph Williamsons School, in 1st (boys) and he came second overall. Many of our athletes have been selected to the English Squads and the British Squads to represent their country here and abroad. 2 athletes, well known, both on dry slope and snow (Marc and Paul Telling), have set up their own Academy and are continuing to run camps around the country. Marc even had time to slot in a win at the All England Championships.

FREESTYLE/SNOWBOARDING:

I attended a wonderful event in August put on by Vince (our snowboarding representative) and Kathryn who works tirelessly as the freestyle coach and is forming a L&SERSA Freestyle Squad. The event, run in August, was supported by 50 or 60 freestyle skiers and snowboarders. It was great fun with music and graffiti artists and good to see the other side of the sport and us being involved.

I hope both Kathryn & Vince will be doing it again next year and I expect they will give us more details later.

NORDIC:

Yet again we have some Nordic representation on the committee through Gregg Bell. I hope that both the region and Nordic skiing will gain from improved communication – I certainly see information regularly on the website and I note that there is lot of interest in the British Telemark Team. I hope the regional committee may be able to provide some assistance in promoting these snowsports more.

FINANCES:

As usual, John Curtis our treasurer, has done a sterling job and will provide us with the yearly financial summary. The SSE has asked to receive a copy of the accounts this year. I leave him to provide the details. Many thanks to everyone for raising the money and to John for the all the hard work he has done.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Good communication between the regional body and the media and local authorities is becoming more important. Fortunately, this year we were able to work on this thanks to the hard work of Ann Bushnell, Nigel Brain and others. Both, the press liaison and marketing positions on the committee are very time consuming and hence requiring a great deal of commitment. This year we gained some new sponsors and they were happy to see us have regular reports in the press and on radio, even before we held them. Many thanks to Ann for working so hard and successfully developing the contacts with the press and radio – long may it continue.

The website, as mentioned earlier, has become a key source of information and keeping it up to date is a big task. Well-done Alan for keeping it up to date and interesting! I have received comment from others in different regions that recommend our site for the quality of information. I'm sure Alan

would not be averse to a little assistance to ensure our website remains one of the best.

I'm sure I will have missed out several key aspects of a very busy year, but I hope you all feel like me that we are moving in the right direction and opening the sport to a wider audience. I hope all our efforts will enable us to develop better contacts with other organisations and so have a say in setting sports policy.

Thanks to everyone who supports our clubs and the region, in whatever capacity, many thanks for all your hard work. It makes my job so much easier.

Sandy Telling