

Snowsport England



Annual Report 2009



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I think it would be fair to say that 2009/10 has been a very challenging period for the organisation. A continuing struggling financial climate, the eventual demise of Snowsport GB and now the setting up of a new National Governing Body to replace SSGB, have all been challenging to say the least. We also have our 4-year funding from Sport England, of which the first year is now completed, which has been a major part of our operations.

So first things first, the demise of Snowsport GB followed an intense period of activity for your Board. A major financial restructuring of SSGB was necessary, this was undertaken and many individuals and organisations pledged funds to assist in the restructuring, including Snowsport England. Following the final agreement, which ensured that SSE was involved in the decision making process at both financial and Board level, the task of getting SSGB back to providing training programmes and services to the athletes coming up to a new season and the Olympics began. After a period of time more skeletons came out of the SSGB cupboard and the problem then faced another financial hurdle. Views on the sustainability of SSGB were taken and finally SSGB went into administration and unfortunately the individuals and organisations that pledged funds were left losing their investment.

With a new World Cup season and the Winter Olympics on the horizon, in stepped the British Olympic Association (BOA) to set up an interim body registered with FIS to ensure that the athletes chosen were able to compete knowing that the funds for this were available through the BOA. Whilst funds are provided for the athletes, it did not cover the cost of Coaches, this meant that the Coaches who trained the athletes were not able to attend.

Snowsport England stepped in to canvass friends, contacts and businesses appealing for funds to assist with the Coaches costs etc. To our great surprise these people and organisations came through with an amazing amount of funds considering the prevailing business climate, some £10,250 was raised, mainly by Peter Stratton. This appeal meant that we were able to support the Coaches and athletes through the Olympic Games.

Our sincere thanks go to Inghams, Crystal, SnOasis, TK Maxx, Norfolk Line, Erna Low, Peak Retreats, Holiday Extras and Ski Verbier for their support.

Now the discussions start in earnest to bring together a new Governing Body for the GB Squads, to meet the criteria, gain approval from FIS and potential funding providers.

On top of this we continued to work with Sport England on our programme of Growing and Sustaining skiing in England. With the current financial climate skiing has been badly hit in terms of those taking part and those considering it as a sport or recreation. Hopefully Tim can bring you up to date with our current progress. As part of this we welcome on board our two Development Officers, Vickie Pullin and Jan Doyle, who have had a huge amount of work to get through and are now supporting clubs throughout England with phase 2 of the project. This goes someway to my aim of creating better communications and providing assistance to clubs in promoting snowsports.

SnOasis is still on the horizon, a number of issues have delayed the start of the project but we are continuing negotiations with them on a partnership agreement.

Finally I would like to extend my gratitude to members of the Board for their continued efforts and support in what has been a difficult year, also to Tim Fawke our CEO, who has continued to make strenuous efforts on behalf of the membership, Mike Barker, our Head Coach along with Muriel Ryding and the Alpine Squad Management Committee and to all Key Committee Leaders and members who do an enormous amount of work behind the scenes, without all of these people we would not be able to run an organisation that provides its membership with one of the best of services.

We should not forget the office staff, Sara, Jenny, Julie and Marie, who man the office, the workload has increased but as ever they continue to work tirelessly on behalf of the membership.

We still have many goals to achieve, and as ever we will continue to work hard to achieve our aims and to grow the snowsport experience.

BARRY SPOUGE

COMMERCIAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

It's difficult to say anything other than "2009 – What a disappointment!"

With the global financial collapse late 2008/09 and little sign of recovery until the odd glimmer of hope as I write this report, it was virtually impossible to gain support for our endeavours during the past year.

Most PLC's have been fighting to stay afloat and sponsorship, advertising contributions and promotions have been pretty hard to come by.

That said, we did manage to keep a number of our "old friends", and their continued support towards The Piste magazine and the SSE website is very much appreciated.

Last Spring, Intravel (which, ironically, was taken over by Inghams - our 2008 GP Sponsor) kindly agreed to support our Nordic members and Thule (the car accessories manufacturer) very generously donated one of their latest Roof Boxes as a prize for the 2009 GP Series. They also donated a selection of Ski Racks and Ski & Boot Luggage for prize items in various competitions.

The Cross Channel operators have continued with various support for teams and coaches and Norfolkline Ferries (Dover – Dunkirk) have offered deals for coaches (vehicles not people!) on their service this year, where we have groups of skiers travelling together to competitions (please contact Peter Stratton for details)

Superbreak (the hotel booking agency) offered a unique promotion to SSE throughout 2009, for members wishing to arrange hotel accommodation in the UK and Europe when en route to events and competitions. But (at the time of writing) I am not aware of the success or otherwise of this offer. Likewise, a number of ski tour operators (including Inghams, Directski.com, skiweekends.com) provided promotions and discounts for SSE members but, sadly, they tell me they generated "the square route of zero!"

Disappointing when we offer to support them in return but, no doubt, everyone involved with SSE has their own chalet in the Alps and perhaps doesn't need such offers! If you want to know where and what was offered, they were included in either or both of The Piste magazine and the SSE website.

This brings me onto the point raised in last year's report, which said that unless we *act as a club* (of interested/willing members) then it will become increasingly more difficult to get support from third parties.

That said, with the strategic review now underway, we hope to have a far better understanding of what SSE members expect from the National Governing Body by the time we head into the Autumn.

I would just like to add my thanks to the following companies who (at the eleventh hour and fifty-ninth minute!) came to the rescue of the ski & board coaches (people not vehicles!) who were supporting the GB Team in Vancouver at the 2010 Winter Olympics. Over £10 000 was raised in the weekend before they were scheduled to fly to Canada, which helped to cover the shortfall in the costs to get these guys in place in time for the various events. Our thanks goes to:-

Inghams
Crystal (TUI/Thomson Ski)
Erna Low
Peak Retreats
Ski Verbier
Norfolkline Ferries
TKMAxx
SnOasis
HolidayExtras

Here's to a happier, more positive AND prosperous 2010/11

Peter Stratton, Commercial Director.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Principal activity

The principal activity of the company (which is more commonly known as Snowsport England) remains the promotion of Snow Sports through participation in the disciplines of alpine skiing, freestyle and Nordic at all levels up to British Teamstandard and by the organisation of competitions, support for skiing in schools and national coaching scheme activities for instructors, coaches and officials.

Income in 2009 was 39% higher than in the previous year, largely due to the impact of the Sport England Award Grant and running the British Development Team. This award is funding two sports development officers who are working on a plan to increase participation in snowsports. There is also some support for the Alpine squads, a grant programme that is designed to assist a range of disciplines, activities and regions, as well as facilitating a significant grant for SnowCamp.

SnowCamp is an innovative programme designed to offer disadvantaged young people opportunities to participate in a personal development programme centred around snowsports, and we are delighted to be widening participation in this way. Finally, there is funding within the grant for a review of Snowsport facilities in England and the development of a facilities strategy.

The downturn in the economy has been the constant backdrop to the ongoing activities of Snowsport England this year, and it is all the more pleasing that we have achieved a surplus of £16,520. There was a slight reduction overall in registrations and renewals of performers and coaches amounting to 4.2%, but this is set against a backdrop of a reduction in participation rates of 14% indicated by the latest Sport England survey material and supported by news from the industry. The new coaching scheme appears to have become well established and we were pleased to offer an extended coaching conference as an additional part of the programme this year.

During the year, a loan was granted to The British Ski and Snowsport Federation, trading as Snowsport GB, at a time when the financial difficulties being experienced by that organisation threatened to become overwhelming in the run-up to the Winter Olympics in Vancouver. Although it was hoped that this loan, as part of a package of support, would be sufficient, this was not to be the case, and Snowsport GB was placed into administration in February 2010. As a result, the decision has been made to fully provide for this loan, pending the outcome of the administrator's report. Therefore the surplus of £16,250 is reduced to a deficit of £6,518 after tax, which has been taken to the income and expenditure reserve.

Once again, Snowsport England has been exceptionally well supported by staff and the many volunteers who give up so much of their free time. We are very grateful for this outstanding commitment, as we are for the continued support of sponsors. In particular, we would like to recognise the exceptional support of sponsors who gave funds generously to help get English athletes to the Olympics, and we hope to be able to continue attracting sponsorship for our activities and our athletes.

JENNIFER DENNING

CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT

2009 has been a very challenging year for Snowsports in Britain. With financial crisis in the economy and SSGB it has meant a lot of additional work for me and the Board. I hope this will all be resolved in 2010 but it has put athletes in extremely bad circumstances which cannot be allowed to happen again. This will be one of our aims for 2010 in helping to organise a new NGB.

Apart from this aspect the organisation has been incredibly busy and had a very successful year. There has been a lot of new projects that we have been working on and partnerships created and I have reported on these below.

Strategic Partners **Sport England**

This is now a major part of the business and we have developed a good working relationship with Sport England and our Relationship Manager has worked hard to understand Snowsports and support us to deliver our interventions. We will be issuing reports on the progress of the grant bi-annually. This will start with the first annual review which we have with Sport England in May 2010. Once this has been completed a public report will be produced.

The main focus for me this year has been recruiting the Development Officers and getting them working on the interventions which we agreed with Sport England. These are:

1. Increasing Participation
2. Clubs and Coaching
3. Developing the talent pool
4. Children and Young People (PESSYP)

Sport England had an independent company (AHL) complete an audit of Snowsport England and we were given an amber rating. We then completed the online assurance process and got a green rating. There are various action points that need completing and I am confident that these will be completed and we will retain our green rating.

Development Officers

The new Development Officers came into post in August. We had an extremely large amount of applications for the posts and carried out a 2 stage interview process. From this we recruited Jan Doyle and Vickie Pullin. They have been working extremely hard since they started and both bring different skills to the job which makes them a great team. It has taken a bit of time to get things up and running but you will see from their report they have made great progress.

Snowcamp

Snowcamp is an integral part of the Sport England grant funding and they have delivered more than what was originally agreed. The Snowcamp London and Graduate Programme have been a success and there are ambitious plans for 2010. The aim is through our support of the charity, this will give them more credibility and this will enable them to raise additional funds so they can expand further.

Through our link with Sport England we are now developing links with other strategic partners and we will be looking to develop these over the next year as they will be key in helping us deliver against our interventions. The partners we now have a relationship with are: Sports Coach UK, Skills Active, BUC (British Universities and Colleges), CCPR and Sporting Equals. I will be looking to develop other new partnerships which would be beneficially to Snowsport England and Snowsports.

Head Office

Things have settled down slightly in the office but the major change this year is a new accounts package which should help the office to be more efficient. This has taken a lot work to sort out and a huge amount of support from Karen Richardson which has been invaluable. The appearance of the Social Services Team next door has been fine and has had little impact on the Snowsport England office.

Key Projects - Child Protection

This is still a major focus for Snowsport England and we are continuing to develop our resources and policies to help make the sport a fun and safe place for children. This is being done with support from the CPSU (Child Protection in Sport Unit) and through working with other Governing Bodies. We submitted our advance standards in December 2009. This was assessed and out of the 3 standards we passed 2 and need a few additional elements in the other one. So I am confident we will pass in 2010.

The Child Welfare Working Group has a new chair in Ian Fawcett. I am looking forward to Ian taking the group forward over the next year and would like to thank David Hart for all the hard work he has done as the previous chair. The main area of concern for 2010 will be the new Vetting and Barring scheme which we are still waiting for the sport specific guidance on.

Key Projects - UK Snowsports

Snowsport England has managed to develop the materials and courses for the UK Snowsports and deliver Tutor Training Says in 2010. This saw a very positive response about the new materials. We will be developing this further during 2010 to make sure that we deliver courses that are of high quality and are consistent.

We will be producing a UK Snowsports website so it is easier to find the relevant courses people are looking for.

Key Project - Snow Mark

Midland Ski Club achieved their accreditation in 2009 and were presented with their certificates at the British Ski and Board show in Birmingham. We have had a huge increase in the number of clubs working towards this and I am confident we will achieve our target of 20 clubs by 2013.

3 Clubs Accredited,
18 Clubs working towards.

Along with the Chairman I would like to thank all the volunteers in the Regions and Key Committees who have stepped up the work and are helping hugely in trying to develop Snowsports. Snowsport England would not be able to operate without your help and support.

I would also like to thank the Board and especially the Chairman and Finance Director for the large amount of work they do which has meant 2009 was a successful year despite the obvious issues.

I have immensely enjoyed my second year as Chief Executive even with the challenges that have presented themselves and feel I have learnt a great deal in the past two years. There continues to be new challenges and I am still learning a lot. I feel we are really starting to make progress over the last year and think this will become more obvious in the year ahead.

TIM FAWKE

DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS

So I cover the South of the country (or most of it), with Jan covering mainly the North. We started post last August, and the main objective was to meet and greet as many people as possible in a short period of time. This meant leasing with clubs, members, facilities, regions and committees, and anyone else involved in snowsports. With Goals set (based around the whole sport plan) we set on our way to help deliver our intervention's around England.....

Early events included the National School Sports Conference which created plenty of interest and questions from schools wanting to know how to get groups of children from their schools involved in Snowsports. The British Ski and Board Show was a great opportunity to meet many more people from the affiliated clubs and again there was lots of interest from members of the public about how to get involved in the sport in this country. We now have factsheets on the 10 priority clubs and facilities and will develop regional factsheets about the clubs and facilities for future events. Leaflets are also at the design stage to show the competitive ski pathway. The event at Birmingham is in the planning stages to become more club focussed and to cover areas important to them.

The launch of Snowsport England (SSE) 10 priority clubs and facilities in February and timed to coincide with the Winter Olympic Games created a wide range of interest in SSE from the media with many interviews with newspapers, radio stations and local television news programmes. Draft Action Plans for 5 of the 6 are written and the CSPs fully engaged.

Three Universities were consulted regarding what support they need from SSE and areas to potentially work together. A meeting with Sport England (SE) and British University and College Sport has resulted in an Action Plan to work with a core of ten (could increase to a maximum of 20). Universities linked to the priority clubs and facilities to encourage them to affiliate to SSE. With the support of BUCS and SE the points system will be explored with meetings planned with BUSC. The BUIISC events are growing year on year with very successful finals at Castlford this year. It is envisaged the number of regional heats will need to increase next year due to growing demand from the University Snowsports Clubs and identified as an area SSE could possibly support.

Safety guidance was requested for students on Snowsport holidays. Research identified a safety programme Wasteland Ski were developing with the support of family and friends of a student who tragically died whilst on a university ski holiday. Information leaflets and a supporting website are being developed which will be available to all students. Wasteland Ski has welcomed the support and promotion of the message and information from SSE.

Meetings with two of the north regions have taken place- WMSA and NWSF. Both have agreed in principal to the writing of Regional Development Plans. WMSA have identified people to form a sub group to undertake this area of work which will include the support of the development officers.

There has been meeting's with all the southern Regions: L&SERSA, ERSAs, SRSA and SWSA – so far we have 3 regional development plans.

Working closely with the regions is helping to create good communication links between the NGB the Region, clubs and its members. This is something we are building on all the time all over England.

Snowmark operating procedures have been written and implemented and include a withdrawal and appeals process. The criteria has been updated and now includes changes of criteria which have been implemented in the cross sport Clubmark Scheme. Midland Ski Club achieved Snowmark taking the total to three. One of these clubs is being supported through their re-accreditation (accreditation lasts for 3 years.) Seventeen clubs are now registered as working towards Snowmark.

Each relevant CSP has been informed and the clubs should receive additional support locally. The WMSA clubs are invited to meet with the development officer prior to the start of regional meetings to receive advice and support and to share good practice between each other re Snowmark.

Templates and resources for clubs and universities are in draft format to support their clubs development. Funding opportunities are being communicated to clubs via email, CSP newsletters and regional meetings. Two clubs have successfully obtained funding for equipment replacement and to increase participation. A number of coaching bursaries are pending and a Nordic Funding Plan is on hold until the end of the winter competition period.

Nine Sport Unlimited plans have been written and approved for Greater Manchester. The activity will take place in the summer term for beginners, improvers and racers from at least nine high schools. A competition will take place at the end of the activity and from this it is hoped schools will progress to the ESSKIA programme. Similar activity is planned at Rossendale and Castletford Sno!zone.

Kent has also been successful with a year of sports unlimited funding. The funding is aimed at a local school, as an introduction into skiing and racing with pathways into the club.

Gloucester was the pilot study for the sports unlimited programmes which was one of the first ones completed coming into our roles, with a huge success story, it has influenced others in the South. With active Gloucester wanting to repeat on their success the facility has now build a relationship with their CSP and hope to continue programmes like this in the near future and others wishing to follow.

A school Club link pack is at design stage and a Children and Young People Offer is being developed with the Youth Sport Trust (YST.) As part of this SSE has been accepted into the I eXcel Programme. This will offer recognition, support and mentoring for athletes competing and training at a national level within their school and local area.

A new SSE newsletter has been launched and is now up and running, with a hugely positive amount of feedback we hope to continue improving the ways of communication within the world of Snowsports, and keeping everyone up to date with the latest news. This is a follow on to the great work of the Piste.

The development of snowboarding is underway, with a hugely positive amount of feedback from all parties involved, I think this is a really exciting time for Snowboarding, and with a very good team of people working for different partners, SSE is looking forward to offering all the support we can, with the help of the Development Officers.

SSE and Sports Coach UK are working hard with sport structures to help develop performance pathways and coaching structures - with progress moving on all the time, watch this space...

A number of Snowsport Tour Operators have responded to communication and expressed an interest to promote SSE and its clubs and activities on their website or in brochures or magazines. Each express their preference would be to create a link to the SSE website. Until the SSE website has undergone its planned major changes the link will be to the recently launched monthly SSE newsletters section of the site with a link from here to the clubs and their contacts.

Much of the work now being undertaken is being focussed on the priority clubs and facilities including CSP engagement (14 in the North and 7 in the South.) Through the Regional Groups there is the opportunity for other clubs and facilities to find out more about this work and replicate where appropriate.

Keeping the membership informed of progress and areas to work together is key, hopefully this will be achieved by attending regional meetings, committees, priority clubs and facilities and also replicated through key external partners including CSPs, NGB forums, YST, BUCS and SE and keeping the whole network informed via updates on the SSE website, SSE Newsletter and the Piste magazine.

JAN DOYLE AND VICKIE PULLIN

COACHING COMMITTEE

Continuing the policy from last year of meeting only when there was an item or items requiring all members of the Coaching Committee to get together; the committee did not meet as an entire group. All communication was done by email.

The Technical Panel continues to deal with all of the 'technical' matter relating to coaching. The Chair of Coaching is a member of the Technical Panel and the Technical panel has representatives on the Coaching Committee.

The Coaching Committee supported and made inputs into the new Nordic Coaching Awards which are now almost at the stage of being launched. It was hoped that the awards would be 'UK' Awards but because of difficulties negotiating with Snowsport Scotland the awards at the present time are Snowsport England (and Snowsport Wales). Recognition and appreciation has to go to the small group of people who have spent so much time and effort 'getting the awards right.'

The Coaching Committee organised a meeting with representatives from the Alpine Technical Panel and the Schools and Youth Committee to discuss the SSE statement in relation to the wearing of helmets for snowsports. SEE has publicly stated its support of the FIS statement (Feb 2006) relating to the wearing of helmets. It had been suggested that this might need to be clarified and expanded upon because of the different nature of skiing in the UK and for the large number of school and youth groups skiing. After a lot of useful discussion, reference to reports, statistics etc and expanded statement was agreed to be submitted to the SSE Board for their approval.

[This statement was ultimately rejected by the Board on the grounds that they could not support its implementation]

The Chair would like to thank all of those committee members and those outside the committee who have provided help and support during the year.

NIGEL MATTHEWS

ALPINE SKIING COMMITTEE

Another successful year for the racing community, with good numbers turning out for both national and regional races. With another new indoor snow centre being opened, its good to see so many racing on both indoor and outdoor surfaces. I would also like to thank all the volunteers who have given up their weekends to help make our races so successful.

I personally would like to make a special thank you to Gill Hall for all her hard work and dedication within ASC over the last few years, and look forward to continuing her good work in 2010.

English Alpine Champs 2010

Another very successful year, with the introduction of 2 NJR races which proved very popular. All FIS and NJR races were full, with 25 international nations turning up to race.

The Children's races and Mini races also attracted high entries. Bormio is proving very popular with both racers, clubs and spectators. This year the races were split over 2 different slopes within Bormio, both of which were well prepared by our Italian hosts to provide some fantastic racing.

Unfortunately this year we had to cancel the ski cross due to lack of numbers, but after the Olympic Games giving good coverage to Ski Cross, it may be something which is looked at for another year.

I would like to thank Kev Webb, Chief of Championships for all his hard work and to the team for all their support.

England Alpine Ski Team 2009/10

In 2009 we were pleased to welcome Kelly Sage as Team Physio / Assistant Coach.

Training Camps: We ran the early winter camp slightly differently this year in order to take advantage of more races. We took two weeks in early December and two weeks in early January. The February Junior camp ran again with a week's training before the English Championships. Also attending were the British Development Team. A three week training and racing camp was held in Meribel, France for the British Land Championships.

Thanks to Muriel Ryding for working very hard to keep the costs within the affordable limits of our athletes. Thanks also to Mike's very careful budgeting, and the hard work of the House Mums, especially Jane Thompson who this year has given time and effort on most of the camps.

Future Developments:

Programme 2010/11: Next year's programme will include 18 on-snow weeks for training and racing with a supporting dry land fitness programme.

Performance Pathway. With the input from the SSE project focused on the development and support of the sport at club level and in response to the uncertainties brought about by the collapse of SnowsportGB we will be putting together what we hope will be a simple guide to the progression route for athletes registered with SSE. We must stress at the outset we feel that the success of our athletes is based on their experience at club level. We want to work with the clubs to form a strong and coherent pathway that is simple, clear and understood by all.

To this end we hope to introduce several new aspects to the programme. Namely a Female British Development Team to offer the same type of facility as the current male Part Time England Alpine Development Team (Junior),

Artificial Slope Races

The 2009 All England Championships was run at Sunderland. Thanks must go to all the organising committee for a good weekend of racing. 2010 will see the All England go to Norfolk.

In 2009 we lost the Inghams GP sponsorship due to the recession, and new sponsorship was unable to be found at short notice. Thanks to Bartletts for sponsoring the series and the All England, it was much appreciated by all.

The Club National Series was again very successful with many races being held up and down the country. Again thanks to Peter Calvert for calculating the results of the series, and congratulations to Norfolk the overall winners.

We are hoping to be able to announce a new sponsor for 2010 very shortly.

In 2010 we have changed the number of GP races, with 2 indoor and 3 outdoor, we have also, where possible avoided key exam time and the month of August.

Olympics 2010

Congratulations to David Ryding, Ed Drake, Chemmy Alcott and Andy Noble who went to the Olympic games. We all watched with anticipation each time one of them raced, especially as many English racers were racing in Bormio at the same time!

ANDREA GRANT

FREESTYLE REPORT

As an end of year report there have been some highs and many lows.

Hannah Handford Styring and Tom Smith have entered their first European Mogul events in Germany and achieved their initial goals which should help their future development and aspirations.

Ellie Koyander was successful in her bid to gain entry to the Olympic Games. She coped very well with the pressure and in her subsequent World Cup events went from strength to strength. She must now be a good prospect for a medal at the 2014 games. Good funding has obviously helped and of course she is very fortunate to be able to access snow regularly in the USA. Good luck to her and her coaches in future.

Andrew Longley began the season in high spirits achieving a first ever podium for a British mogul skier. After some excellent training in Perisher Blue Cow, Australia he entered the Continental Cup at Mt. Buller, Victoria and in very difficult conditions overcame very stiff opposition to take second place, a fantastic outcome and a wonderful way to end a very hard-working trip to Australia. Andrew's pre-season training had gone well and this was followed up with some excellent test results for both strength and fitness, thank to Leeds Metropolitan University for their help and support. Pre- European training took him to Zermatt and then Finland . The Finland results didn't help his bid for a place at Vancouver, however World Cups in Calgary and Deer Valley were much improved. His confidence was dealt a blow when not selected for the Olympics and this came through in his results in Europa Cup events in Chatel and Oberjoch. I am pleased to report that he is now positive and ready for Summer training. A trip to The Brits in Laax and victory in the Ski Cross event has made him more determined than ever to compete on the World Cup Mogul events 2010-11. Good luck to him. A down side to his season has been a lack of funding, thanks however to BDV and FAISSE for their help and support.

A bright note is that GB has had two competitors at each World Cup event, pretty good, I think!

Ben Parkes has continued to compete at selected Europa Cup events and has done very well compared with last season, however , his university education is his obvious priority.

Jack Smith is also at University and has not been able to compete this season due to injury, I am sure he will be back next season.

Ben Cavet has had some fantastic results at Europa Cup events and hopefully will continue to compete for GB in the future. Living in Morzine he continues to have the support of the Evian and Chatel Freestyle Club and the French Coaches. When some technical problems are solved he will be a tremendous competitor at the highest level.

Max Willis emerged onto the Europa Cup scene in Oberjoch and made it through to the finals in his first event, tremendous result. Injury stopped him competing for the remainder of the season, but again gives a big boost for next season.

Alex Houston along with Hannah competed in numerous European events and showed some promise for the future. This year will be very demanding as far as her education is concerned and I hope she will be able to continue to compete.

At the Europa Cup event in Oberjoch, Germany GB had four male competitors, a very healthy entry and tremendously encouraging for the future of GB moguls.

On the home front Snozone Castleford continue to support us by building moguls every fortnight. They also sponsor coaches and skiers, allowing them regular training access. These sessions are well attended by both athletes and members of the public. Thanks to Martin Carr for all his hard work and organisational skills. Thanks also to Pete HS for all his coaching and enabling team members to access training facilities at The English Institute of Sport, Sheffield.

As I said there have been low moments but these have been overshadowed by all the positives, the number of GB mogul skiers at European events, Olympic athlete, the future looks much brighter for English Mogul Skiers.

Finally how about when the new governing body for GB skiers emerges, a GB Ski Team where all athletes are on a par and there are no longer divisions between freestyle and alpine, a team where everyone has the same support and opportunities.

Well done to everyone and most particularly the unsung heroes, the parents.

Jeff Fozzard, Moguls

Park & Pipe is still going well at grass roots level, with new squads forming in the South of England to join the established one in Yorkshire.

The England team had a quiet year, FIS had no world cup halfpipe events in Europe or anywhere else preferring to concentrate on the Snowboard events in this Olympic year. The European Open suffered from poor weather, with the Slopestyle finals being decided down the hill in a rail jam & the Halfpipe competition abandoned at the semi final stage.

I had hoped to bring the team together in some training events but for various reasons this proved not possible & we will try again in 2010/11 season.

Some notable personal performances should be noted, at the Brits the England team performed well in the half pipe taking places 3rd to 7th & 9th (1st & 2nd going to members of the GB squad) & just one person outside the squad taking the 8th spot.

In the Women's competition young Katie Summerhayes went from strength to strength & is without doubt the top English skier of the season. She won all the Brits tour events throughout the year except the Halfpipe where she was 2nd, she also entered the European open for the first time, qualifying 3rd for the Slopestyle final & coming 3rd in the rail jam final. Her Salomon team mate James Woods trained in America in the 1st part of the season & did very well at the Aspen Open coming 5th overall. He also qualified for the European finals & came 4th in the rail jam final. James had a very good Brits coming 1st in Slopestyle, 2nd in Big Air & 3rd in the Halfpipe, making him the best all round British skier.

Other England members qualifying for the European Halfpipe semis included Joe Hides & Peter Speight. Josh Birch won his first national championships winning both the indoor & outdoor Brits tour slopestyle events in the late Summer.

Youngest team member Tyler Harding continues consistently improve making all three finals at the Brits coming 6th in the Halfpipe & 7th in both Slopestyle & Big Air.

Park & Pipe continues to be the most popular/accessible form of freestyle skiing in England with most dry & indoor slopes offering at least one weekly session of Slopestyle type riding. Most snow resorts abroad have some form of freestyle park that holiday skiers can access. Clubs running formal coaching sessions are more rare but there are trained coaches operating across England. Pat Sharples touring "Grom camps" have brought "star" coaches to several slopes across England & have proved very popular. Competitions tend mostly to be either unregulated local affairs or the commercially run Brits tour which has 6 events in the UK & the week long championships in Switzerland.

The only FIS regulated competitions are WorldCup half pipe events which is the least accessible park & pipe option to English skiers due to lack of halfpipe facilities home & abroad. Only one dry slope in England has a half pipe & around 10 boast some form of quarter pipe. Only major freestyle resorts on the continent offer good quality halfpipes.

Some members of the English team (Josh Fawcett , Rob Machon , Katie Sommerhayes) were able to join the British team for a few days halfpipe training in Avoriaz prior to the French World cup in January 09. Katie was too young to have competed but was able to fore-run the event. Josh & Rob took part coming 23rd & 32nd. James Woods focused on Slopestyle this year & won the Verbier Ride event. All the team of course are top 10 Brits performers. Several attended the recent European Orage Half pipe & Slopestyle championships in Switzerland (March 09) where Jo Hides was the youngest competitor.

In the last 2 years there has been no dedicated lead to the P&P squad so Paul Webb has agreed to step in to act as SSE P&P rep. He is looking to bring in a closer bond among team members & some core training / structured competition opportunities. Clearly while Slopestyle & Big air are barely acknowledged by FIS & even Half pipe is not yet an accepted Olympic discipline most funding will have to come from the squad members or commercial sponsorship. Paul is exploring options & will meet with the 2009/10 squad once selection in April has been completed & the new squad announced. Paul has been able to see squad members in action at the French World cup & at the 2009 Brits in Laax.

Paul Webb, Park & Pipe

MARTIN CARR

NORDIC KEY COMMITTEE

The NKC has continued to organise the same events as it has done for several years, except that, for 2009, Telemark events were organised through SSE. Participation in most events was down a little compared with the same events in 2008, both on the training and on the racing side. There does not seem to be a particular reason for this and the result of an analysis of events carried out by a sub-committee of the NKC was that people wanted to keep the events unchanged. The differences on participation levels were, however, generally small and this could be down to a few people deciding not to attend certain events this year. Despite this, events overall continued to make a profit.

The April on-snow SSE event at Kvitavtn, Norway, which has been a great success in skiing terms for several years, reverted to one week but again made a profit of over £1000. A review of this event showed that improvements should be made to its organisation and running so, as a result of this, the NKC agreed to 'employ' an organiser for the 2010. The employment will mean that the organiser's travel, accommodation and coaching costs will be paid for, as long as the event remains in profit. It is hoped that this will improve the running of the event and participation numbers are already up compared to last year.

Once again one coach failed to submit his invoice for coaching done in 2009 until 2010, which had the result that the anticipated surplus available to the NKC had to be reduced. All event organisers will be instructed to ensure that this will not recur.

Two major activities were on-going during 2009: the first was the updating of the Nordic Development Coaching Schemes with, in particular, a change from 5 to 4 levels of qualification. This exercise has now been completed and the new syllabuses have been finalised. The second was the updating and improving of the Nordic Proficiency Scheme, which has been made easier for coaches to run and for it to be administered. The NKC authorised money to be spent on printing new documents, certificates, etc. related to the Scheme and the aim is to increase the number of people applying to be assessed. One important development has been to link the Coaching Scheme with the Proficiency Scheme in two ways: firstly that coaching candidates must have a 3-star (or equivalent) Proficiency award and, secondly, part of the assessment for a Coaching award will involve the candidate demonstrating their ability to assess skiers for Proficiency awards. A further development, although not yet implemented, could be to use Proficiency awards to decide which group participants should be allocated to on training courses.

The NKC Coaching Panel has been working hard to develop a new Performance Coaching qualification scheme but this has proved more difficult than originally anticipated so work continues. The aim was to develop a scheme which would be acceptable to all Home Nations but, in the absence of progress by SSE Nordic, Snowsport Scotland proposed and is now running their own Performance Coaching scheme. SSE Nordic commented on this because it was not considered to be entirely suitable for application in England, and there were plans to hold meetings with SnSC to discuss a single scheme. To date, however, no such meeting has taken place.

The Nordic Downhill/Telemark Coaching Scheme is also in the process of being updated and further developed. It had been hoped to run a Level 3 coaching course in Kvitavtn in April 2010 but it was decided that this would be premature (a Mountain Leader's course will be offered instead). The new scheme should be ready for implementation later this year, however.

Finally, congratulations must be given to young skier Fiona Hughes of the Yorkshire Dales Cross Country Ski Club who was one member of the three skier British cross country ski team sent to the Winter Olympics in Vancouver; the only English cross-country skier and the first British lady to reach the Olympic qualification standard for more than 20 years.

ADAM PINNEY

SCHOOLS AND YOUTH COMMITTEE

The committee has met three times since the last AGM and its membership has not changed during that time. There are 18 individuals on this key advisory committee that represent Local Authorities, Schools, Youth Services, Independent Schools, the English Schools Ski Association and the Outdoor Education Advisers Panel. As mentioned in last year's report, the members hold qualifications and experience as Snowsports England Coaches, Deputy Headteachers, Outdoor Education Advisers, BASI Instructors, and teachers that regularly organise school ski trips.

The group decided, at its June 2009 meeting, to strongly recommend the use of helmets by all school and youth group snowsports courses. It further endorsed this position at its October 2009 meeting by agreeing a statement for the SSE Board to consider. A separate meeting between some members of the SSE Board and a representative of the Schools & Youth Committee in November 2009 agreed a change to the stated policy, but this was rejected by the full Board on the 23rd November. The committee regrets this decision and believes that this will devalue the relevance and importance of Snowsport England as far as educational skiing is concerned.

The committee has continued to work with Tutors who deliver the Snowsports Course Organisers Course in order to monitor the training, syllabus and quality of presentation. The Alpine Ski Course Leader Award remains the qualification of choice, for most English Local Authorities, for any of their staff wishing to lead children and/or young people on snow.

The terms of reference for the group remain the same as agreed in 2008. It is disappointing that the Board for Snowsport England has been unable to accept the group's guidance on the use of helmets by young people. The committee is a major source of up to date advice and guidance to those who are not involved in the world of Learning Outside the Classroom. The committee's stated aim is designed to encourage an increase of children and young people participating in snowsports and to seek high quality experiences on snow for them.

Future plans for the group include the development of ways to encourage young people to take more responsibility on the slopes, the creation of a pack of 'educational activities', a Young Leaders Award, ways to encourage volunteering, guidance for group leaders to consider including those with special needs and the issue of teacher/snowboard leadership on school trips.

MARTIN TOMLINSON

Footnote: The Board respectfully disagrees with the Schools Committee on helmets, and the decision to follow the policy of the FIS was made after consulting widely.

UK SNOWSPORT COURSES 2009

COURSE	DATE	VENUE	NO. OF PARTICIPANTS
Level 4 Coach (Development)			
Level 3 Coach			
	October/November Training Course	Sharks Ski Club	14
	10 th /11 th /31 st October and 1 st November	Stoke Ski Centre	6
Level 3 Performance Coach			
Level 2 Performance Coach			
	8 th -10 th May	Kendal Ski Club	12
	25 th – 27 th May	The Snow Centre, Hemel	13
	30 th Oct – 1 st Nov	Snowtrax	11
	5 th September	Kendal (Examination)	9
L2 Performance Coach Refresher			
Level 1 Training Course			
	25 th /26 th February	Bowles Outdoor Centre	2
	5 th /6 th March	Telford Ski Centre	3
	4 th /5 th April	Knockhatch Ski Centre	7
	25 th /26 th April	Snowtrax	14
	25 th /26 th April	Suffolk Ski Centre	7
	25 th /26 th April	The Ackers	11
	25 th /26 th April	Folkestone Ski Centre	5
	17 th -19 th June	Gloucester Ski Centre	11
	6 th /7 th June	Bromley Ski Centre	Cancelled
	6 th /7 th June	Ski Rossendale	Cancelled
	20 th /21 st June	Avon Ski Centre	17
	27 th /28 th June	Chill Factor	6
	27 th /28 th June	Sunderland	6
	11 th /12 th July	The Snow Centre, Hemel	8
	11 th /12 th July	Southampton Ski Centre	5
	25 th /26 th July	Folkestone Ski Centre	2
	25 th /26 th July	Norfolk Ski Centre	5
	30 th /31 st July	Sandown Ski Centre	11
	1 st /2 nd August	North Staffs Ski Club	6
	5 th /6 th September	Bassingbourn	9
	5 th /6 th September	Castleford	11
	12 th /13 th September	Pendle Ski Club	Cancelled
	12 th /13 th September	The Snow Centre, Hemel	Cancelled
	16 th /17 th September	Bowles Outdoor Centre	1
	3 rd /4 th October	The Ackers	13
	10 th /11 th October	Brentwood Park	9
	10 th /11 th October	Avon Ski Centre	9
	17 th /18 th October	Bromley Ski Centre	7
	24 th /25 th October	The Snow Centre	5
	25 th /26 th November	Stoke Ski Centre	12
	28 th /29 th November	Torquay Alpine Ski Club	7
	3 rd /4 th December	Stoke Ski Centre	12

Level 1 Assessment			
Awards & Licences Sent Out	January		14
	February		6
	March		3
	April		11
	May		5
	June		6
	July		4
	August		5
	September		5
	November		4
	December		22
Level 2 Training Course			
	25 th /26 th April	Kendal Ski Club	6
	10 th /17 th May	Bassingbourn	7
	28 th June & 5 th July	Bassingbourn	6
	4 th /5 th July	The Snow Centre, Hemel	4
	4 th /5 th July	Sunderland	Cancelled
	18 th /19 th July	Chill Factor	Cancelled
	19 th /20 th September	The Snow Centre, Hemel	Cancelled
	26 th /27 th September	Bromley Ski Centre	4
	7 th /8 th November	The Snow Centre, Hemel	4
	21 st /22 nd November	Castleford	12
Level 1 & 2 Refresher Courses			
	23 rd May	Chill Factor	Cancelled
	14 th June	Kendal Ski Club	7
	18 th July	Southampton Ski Centre	7
	26 th July	Sunderland	Cancelled
	6 th September	Kendal Ski Club	9
	20 th September	Pendle Ski Club	Cancelled
	26 th September	Chill Factor	4
	4 th October	Kendal Ski Club	12
	11 th October	Gloucester Ski Centre	Cancelled
	23 rd October	Sunderland	3
	1 st November	Norfolk Ski Club	11
	15 th November	The Snow Centre, Hemel	10
	22 nd November	Brentwood Ski Centre	9
	14 th November	North Staffs Ski Club	10
	29 th November	Lions Ski Club (Castleford)	11
	6 th December	Gloucester Ski Centre	Cancelled
	13 th December	The Snow Centre, Hemel	Cancelled
	20 th December	Knockhatch Ski Centre	2
Level 2 Examinations			
	25 th July	Sunderland Ski Centre	Cancelled
	27 th September	Chill Factor	Cancelled
	3 rd October	Bromley Ski Centre	4
	14 th November	The Snow Centre, Hemel	7
	12 th December	The Snow Centre, Hemel	Cancelled
	4 th October	Ski Rossendale	Cancelled
L1 & L2 Tutor Training Day			
(for Coaches who wish to become L1 Tutors and for L1 Tutors who wish to become L2 Tutors)			
	7 th June	Chill Factor	24
Tutor Briefing Day			

Tutor Revalidation (1 day)			
Tutors revalidated at the Training Days			
Snowboard Level 1 Training Course			
	15 th /16 th November	Gloucester Ski Centre	7
Snowboard Level 2 Training Course			
	19 th /20 th September	Chill Factor	Cancelled
Snowboard Refresher Course for L1 and L2			
	27 th September	Torquay Alpine Club	6
Coaching Conference			
	19 th /20 th September	The Snow Centre, Hemel	63
Coaches Revalidation (1 day)			
	19 th /20 th September	The Snow Centre. Hemel	39
Course Setters Course			
Disability Awareness Course			

SCO Courses		
Date	Venue	No of participants
3 rd January	Aosta Italy (in conjunction with ASCL Course)	4
17 th January	Newbury, Berkshire	8
19 th January	Aosta Italy (in conjunction with ASCL Course)	5
22 nd & 29 th January	Eastbourne	17
7 th February	Newbury, Berkshire	7
14 th February	Aosta, Italy (in conjunction with ASCL Course)	5
7 th March	Newbury, Berkshire	10
14 th March	St Wilfrid's School, Blackburn	6
16 th March	Mansfield, Nottingham	8
19 th March	Eastbourne	55
28 th March	Aosta, Italy	6
4 th April	Aosta, Italy	4
11 th April	Aosta, Italy	6
12 th May	Bristol	6
10 th June	Berkhamsted School, Herts	12
23 rd June	Mansfield, Nottingham	14
6 th September	Chill Factore, Manchester	7
24 th September	Horsham, West Sussex	10
27 th September	Kings Hawford School, Worcester	5
3 rd October	The Stonehenge School, Amesbury, Wilts	9
3 rd October	Brentwood Ski Centre	10
4 th October	Chill Factore, Manchester	5
21 st October	Mansfield, Nottingham	13
2 nd November	Bristol	5
5 th November	Sir John Hunt Community College, Devon	8
7 th November	Suffolk Ski Centre	7
7 th & 8 th November	Calshot Activities Centre	7
21 st and 22 nd November	Calshot Activities Centre	7
7 th November	PGL, Surrey	19
10 th November	Gosling Sports Park, Herts	12
12 th November	Perlethorpe Centre, Nottingham	8
14 th November	Gaynes School, Sussex	13
18 th November	Aosta, Italy	17
20 th November	County Hall, Preston	14
21 st November	Ski Club of Great Britain	3
21 st November	Newbury, Berkshire	2
24 th November & 1 st December	Haybridge High School	7
28 th November	Lions Ski Club	9
5 th December	Danbury Outdoor Centre, Essex	10
5 th December	Castleshaw Centre, Oldham	3
8 th December	The Stables Centre, Worcester	5
9 th December	Denbies Vineyard, Dorking	15
12 th December	Aosta, Italy (in conjunction with ASCL Course)	8
14 th December	Wycombe High School, Bucks	5
26 th December	Aosta Valley (in conjunction with ASCL Course)	5

ASCL Courses

Date of Course	Venue	Course Organiser	No of Participants
27 th Dec to 3 rd January	Aosta, Italy	Interski	8
28 th Dec to 2 nd January	Kitzbuhl, Austria	Skiing Europe	8
3 rd – 9 th January	Aosta, Italy	Interski	9
5 th – 10 th January	Mayrhofen, Austria	Hourmont	8
14 th – 20 th February	Aosta, Italy	Interski	8
14 th – 20 th February	Gressoney, Italy	Lions Ski Club	9
28 th March – 3 rd April	Italy	Interski	8
4 th -10 th April	Italy	Interski	7
5 th – 11 th April	Maria Alm	HTS	7
5 th – 11 th April	Maria Alm	HTS	6
5 th – 11 th April	Maria Alm	HTS	6
11 th – 17 th April	Italy	Interski	6
12 th – 17 th April	Switzerland	Skiing Europe	5
13 th – 19 th December	Aosta, Italy	Interski	8
26 th – 31 st December	Italy	Interski	8
28 th Dec – 3 rd Jan 2010	Kitzbuhel	Skiing Europe	7

MEMBERS 2009

	NUMBER	MEMBERSHIP
Clubs	83	17219
Schools & Educational Establishment	112	1680
Slopes	10	
Trade & Other	1	
Handicapped Skiing Clubs	2	
COACHING SCHEME MEMBERS		
Alpine Performers	1087	
Freestyle Performers	149	
Nordic Performers	24	
Snowboard Performers	44	
L1 Trainee Instructors	215	
L1 Instructors	355	
L1 Senior Instructors	18	
L2 Instructors	322	
Level 4 Coaches	89	
Officials – Alpine	82	
Level 2, 3 and 4 Performance Coaches	108	
Officials - Freestyle	9	
Officials – Nordic	5	
Freestyle Instructors	21	
Nordic Instructors	63	
Snowboard Instructors	38	
SCO/ASCL	428	
Individual Members	6	

The Coaching Scheme figures represents the people registered in **EACH** category - e.g. people who are registered in 2 or more categories are counted twice (i.e. Alpine Performer and L1 Instructor).

Total Membership for 2009 - 2596

MEMBERSHIP BREAKDOWN (CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS) 2009

	SRSA	SWSA	WMSA	LSERSA	ERSA	NESA	EMSA	NWSF	YSF	MISC/ TRADE	NON REGIONAL	ESSKIA	TOTAL	
CLUBS	11	8	8	20	10	7	No longer a region	12	5		4		85	
SCHOOLS/ EDUCATION													112	1680*
HANDICAPPED SKIING CLUBS	See page 19 for details													
OTHER (SLOPES/ TRADE & OTHER	1	1	2	2	2	0		0	1	1	0		10	
NUMBER OF MEMBERS REPRESENTED IN CLUBS	283	628	1639	1797	4974	655			2651	1341		3251	1680	18899

* based upon an average of 15 per school

Sponsors and Supporters

Snowsport England would like to thank the following companies, organisations and individuals who have supported our work in 2008, by providing sponsorship in cash or kind or by supporting or running our activities.

Atomic UK (Alpine – Grand Prix)
Bartletts (Nordic – race bibs)

Eric Berthon (Freestyle)
Beyond X (Alpine Team)

Carrs of Sheffield Ltd (Freestyle)
CCPR
Chill Factor, Manchester (Alpine)
CHS Hourmont (Child Protection)
Crystal
Directski.com
Erna Low
Gales of Harlow (Alpine Squad)
Gloucester Ski Centre
Gosling Ski and Snowboard Centre
Helly Hanson (Alpine Team and Freestyle)
HolidayExtras
Holmenkol (Alpine Team)
Hotel Saaserhoff
Impington Village College (Freestyle)
Inghams
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Integrated Handheld Solutions Limited
Interski
K2 (Freestyle)
Kendal Ski Club (Coaching)

Leisure Shack (Alpine Team)
Norfolkline

P & O Ferries (Alpine Squad)
Peak Retreats
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Salomon Taylor Made Ltd

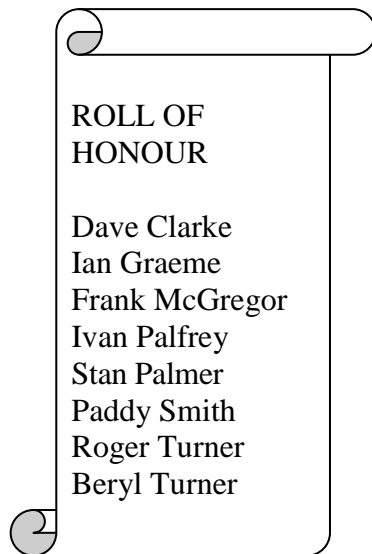
Sea France (Freestyle)
Sheffield Sharks Ski Club (Freestyle & Nordic)
Sheffield Ski Village (Freestyle & Nordic)
Ski Bartlett (Alpine Team and Slope Races)
Ski Out of Blue (Alpine Team)
Skiweekends.com
Ski Verbier
SnOasis
David Spiers (Freestyle)
Solution for Feet (Alpine)
SuperBreak

Tamworth Snowdome (Snowsport England)
TASS
The Snow Centre (Hemel)
TK Maxx
Thule
Waymark Holidays (Nordic)
Wasteland (Alpine)

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Nigel Matthews	Director
Peter Stratton	Director
David Richardson	Director
Karen Richardson	Director
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