

London & South-East Regional Snowsports Association Chairman's Report 2009



INTRODUCTION

What a year!! So many things happening!! Many of them outside the influence of the region but which could affect us all.

- Ø Snowsport England (SSE) announced the provision of additional funding from Sport England – just under 1 million pounds has been provided to assist in the development of the sport. During July there was a meeting of the regional chairs with SSE plus their consultants to determine where the key focus areas were at regional level.
- Ø Will this provide more funding for the future where it is needed?
- Ø Snowsport GB (SSGB) on its knees financially and having to be rescued by the goodwill of many within the snowsport fraternity. This caused a lack of continuity for our best athletes on the international circuit and a huge loss of confidence as well as no programme in a year leading up to the Olympics.
- Ø Will this affect the way Snowsports at the elite level is organised in future?
- Ø SSGB's problems resulted in the top athletes and all involved down to the smallest club finding ways to help the individual athletes. Ed Drake has been assisted by club involvement in raising funds any way they can, regional involvement running an Invitation Slalom Race at the newly opened Hemel Snowcentre to raise money and commercial organisations who support Ed such as Scott Dunn and the Ski Club of Great Britain running a highly successful corporate event during October.
- Ø Will this be a continuing trend with athletes having to spend time away from training to obtain their own funding?

DISCIPLINES: (ALPINE/NORDIC/FREESTYLE):

The past 12 months have, yet again, seen the standard of performance of our skiers in all disciplines at club, regional and national level rise even higher. We had another successful regional series during the summer months, although the numbers were down slightly; Freestyle ran their second event at Bromley – “No Snow Who Cares-2?; Nordic has had similar success stories with roller-ski events and trips abroad. The success of all these events is due to the hard work and organisation of many people but especially a few key people within each of the disciplines. You all know their names.

In alpine I would like to thank Sally & Rod Woods, Alan & Jean Sandell, Keith Evans and Royd & Gwenderlyne Southall. These along with a host of other volunteers, parents and of course the athletes can be proud of the events which have been put on and enjoyed by so many. Please bear that in mind it is always good to have more helpers and new people willing to learn some of the skills needed to run these events.

Also I must not forget to mention, Kathryn Harris, Vince Chan and Nigel Brain all of whom have work tirelessly to improve and maintain the running of both the Freestyle club nights and Freestyle/Snowboarding events. Equally, in Nordic skiing we have Gregg Bell, Iain Ballantyne and Paddy Fields, to name just a few, who provide the energy, resources and organisation to ensure cross country skiing and roller skiing is available for all who want to have a go in our region.

One other group needing special mention is our friends and fellow athletes in the Southern Ski Club for the Disabled. They have been involved with the region in various guises for several years. They have recently achieved charity status and I know their goal is to increase the numbers of disabled athletes they can help. I would like to congratulate Jules Goble and Ian Edwards for all their hard work and thank them for keeping us abreast of developments in Adaptive skiing.

As is usual with these things the organisation is provided by the few for the many. I sense that now is a time when we need to be looking to train some new people to take over some of the roles since quite a few have been working in the sport for a long time and now have no children to support at the races and possibly other hobbies to follow. I would like to take this opportunity to ask those who have younger children to step forward and offer to take on some of the roles so that the sport can continue for years to come. I believe this applies to all the disciplines and all the committees.

I had hoped early in the season that both Chemmy and Ed would be able to attend at least one event, but as you all know they have had to busy themselves with fund-raising and publicity events to ensure they have enough finances and sponsorship to pay for a full programme of training and racing prior to the Olympics. Hopefully Ed will be able to visit some clubs when in the country to advise on coaching and to tell us how his training is coming along.

DEVELOPMENT PLANS

As usual John Curtis, our regional treasurer, has done a sterling job and will provide us with the yearly financial summary in his report. The SSE receives a copy of the accounts each year and I hope they notice that this year we have spent a large amount of money investing in our coaches since without them the sport has no future. L&SERSA Development plans have been put in place to tie in with the SSE Development plans which, are supported financially by Sport England. Hopefully some of that money will come to our region to assist in further development. For those of you who want more detail do visit our website - www.lserasa.org

I'm sure I will have missed out several key aspects of a very busy year, but I hope you all feel, as I do, that the region is moving in the right direction and opening the sport to a wider audience, through our clubs and affiliated organisations.

I hope our efforts will enable us to develop better contacts with other organisations and so provide more opportunities to expand and improve the sport. Thanks to everyone who supports our clubs and the region, in whatever capacity, many thanks for all your hard work. It has made my job so much easier.

Sandy Telling

Nov 2009