

HUNTLY NORDIC SKI CLUB  
Secretary's Report for AGM 2010.

**MEMBERSHIP:**

2008/09 – 104 members (22 family, 61 adults (34 male, 27 female), 49 juniors (31 male, 18 female).

2009/10 – 111 members (23 family, 67 adults (34 male, 33 female), 46 juniors (33 male, 11 female).

**HIGHLIGHTS / ACHIEVEMENTS.**

- A special year with our snowiest winter in the Clash & three Huntly skiers competed at the 2010 Vancouver Olympics.
- Vancouver Olympic Games 2010: Andrew Musgrave & Andrew Young (GB) & PJ Barron (representing Ireland). Musgrave produced the best ever result (in percentage terms) by a British cross-country skier 8.73% behind the winner. Young's performances placed him 8<sup>th</sup> in the British all-time list. PJ produced the best ever Irish Olympic result. Callum Smith obtained the Olympic qualification criteria but Britain only had two Olympic places for males. Posy Musgrave, Sarah Young & Alex Standen were also serious challengers for Olympic places.
- Roy Young was GB Cross-Country Team Leader at Olympics & as British Team Head Coach bears a large responsibility for the current success of British cross-country skiers.
- Andrew Musgrave returned from Vancouver on excellent form & won the 10km F Junior race at the Norwegian Championships.
- Six Huntly skiers competed at the World Junior & U23 Championships, Hinterzarten, Germany: Andrew Musgrave, William Newman, Callum Smith, Alex Standen, Andrew Young, Sarah Young,
- British Champs, Ruhpolding: Posy Musgrave dominated Senior Ladies races winning 10km Classic & 6km Pursuit. Olwen Thorn won the Ladies Sprint. Dave Lamb came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Men's 15km Classic. In the girls competition Iona Gatenby won the 5km classic & came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 4km Pursuit. Stuart Gray obtained two 3<sup>rd</sup>s in the boys races. Olwen Thorn achieved a 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Ladies 12.5km Individual Biathlon.
- Andrew Musgrave competed in the prestigious 50km Holmenkollen race – despite breaking a ski early on he went to finish in 49<sup>th</sup> place.
- At end of season races in Finland Posy Musgrave obtained a World Cup qualifier & Sarah Young just missed out by 2 seconds.
- U26 European Biathlon Championships, Otepaa, Estonia. Olwen Thorn had an excellent 21<sup>st</sup> place (13% behind winner) in the Ladies 15km Individual. This was one of several Biathlon World Cup qualifying standards she achieved throughout the season.
- Oliver & Fergus Newman commenced their international racing careers at the Koaslauf Kinder 2km F in Austria finishing just inside the top half of the field.
- British Rollerski Champs, Cairngorm Hill Climb (June): Callum Smith & Sarah Young became British Rollerski senior champions.
- Scottish Rollerski Champs, Cairngorm Classic (Sept): Olwen Thorn won the Senior Ladies & Beth Maclean the U14 girls races.
- Scottish Rollerski Series: Dave Horsley won the male vets & Beth Maclean topped the U14 girls table.
- GB Rollerski Series 2010: best places were Angus Maclean 2<sup>nd</sup> U14 boy (Harry Nicholls 1pt behind), Beth Maclean 2<sup>nd</sup> U14 girl.
- Andrew Musgrave won Aberdeenshire Sports Personality of the Year 2010.
- Peter Thorn was awarded the Snowsport Scotland Ski Person of the Year for 2009.

**LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS / EVENTS:** 118 skiable days in the Clash (108 good, 10 marginal).

- Malcolm Cooper won the Golden Boot & the Haute Route Challenge on rather marginal snow on the 18<sup>th</sup> Dec 2009.
- Problem was not lack of snow – but too much! Despite setting out a course the Ski Orienteering was cancelled because of heavy snowfall. The Clash Dash sprints were moved to Huntly where by dint of hard manual pisting (the Huntly Sidesteppers) classic sprints were held around the Ski Centre (Britain's only City Centre Sprints) in temperatures of -14°C.
- In February we held our Open Championships on snow for the first time since 2006. Several of the club were missing due to some ski race in Vancouver. Their race may have been more prestigious but we had more snow. 19 adults & 32 juniors took part.
- Clashindarroch Cup & Quaich were presented to William Newman & Katy Homyer (Highland Nordic) for their wins in the HNSC Open Championships in the Clashindarroch. This is the first time these trophies have been presented for this race.
- Every JDS session took place on snow at either the Ski Centre or in the Clash. Each of the sessions had an Olympic sports theme the final session having a spectacular closing ceremony with parade, songs & just like Vancouver – rain.
- A well attended Mountain Tour took place over The Buck.
- We held three rollerski races. Huntly Sprints (38 entries), Clash Hill Climb (17), Huntly Rollerski Champs (41 entries).
- Thursday Club sessions continue to be well attended.
- Dave Horsley, John & Andrew Shanks continue with the "Beach Boulevard" Rollerski Group in Aberdeen & Dunecht.

**GOVERNING BODIES.**

- Snowsport GB went bankrupt just before the Olympics. A new governing body has been set up, British Ski & Snowboard (BSS). The former SSGB Nordic Executive continued to function & has recently been endorsed as the Nordic Discipline Committee of the BSS. Time will tell if the new governing body fulfils its promise of being a more representative governing body than its predecessor.
- Peter Thorn continues as Chair/Secretary of the SnSc Nordic Committee & is also the Scottish rep on the BSS Nordic Discipline Committee.
- Roy Young has taken up a full time position as Head Coach to the British Nordic Team.

**CLUB EQUIPMENT.**

- We continue our programme of replacing & increasing the stock. Over the past two years we have purchased a large number of rollerski wheels which now allows us to have a dedicated set of wheels for use in our races.

**TRAINING.**

- Eileen Y, Claire N, Sandy T, Andy M & others are thanked for their efforts with "Coaching for Coaches" & After School Clubs
- The SnSc Nordic Coaching scheme has been in operation for about one year.

**JUNIORS.**

- The Club will continue to provide support for the Huntly JDS, Primary & Secondary After Schools Clubs (sponsorship from Risertec).
- Huntly continues to feed skiers into the BNDS.

**CLASHINDARROCH.**

- The decision on Vattenfall's Clashindarroch windfarm should be known in November. The Club has maintained contact with Vattenfall to ensure minimal impact on the ski trails should the project go ahead.
- Existing snowmobile is in bad state. Club will pursue options for buying a new one.
- The Forestry Commission have asked Club to remove old hut from forest.
- Forestry Commission will continue with their maintenance work on the ski trails but have tight constraints on their budget.

**SKI CENTRE.**

- Nothing new to report but there may be changes in the way it is managed – we must stay aware of Council plans. The current economic climate may lead to severe cuts in recreation.

**THE SEASON AHEAD.**

- Club skiers will be involved in World Cup races, World Senior & Junior Champs, European Youth Olympics. Several of our skiers are training/skiing full-time.
- Hilary Musgrave went on a fact finding mission with the Huntly Development Trust to Finland. One of the main aims to check the feasibility of attracting a Finnish coach to Huntly (Leader II funding).
- There have been tentative proposals by Huntly Development Trust with cycling governing bodies to put in a cycle track in Huntly. This would link with the existing rollerski track.

Peter Thorn (Secretary, HNSC)