

HUNTLY NORDIC SKI CLUB
Secretary's Report for AGM 2011.

MEMBERSHIP:

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

2010/11 – 125 members (24 family, 77 adults (42 male, 35 female), 48 juniors (38 male, 10 female).

HIGHLIGHTS / ACHIEVEMENTS.

- World Junior & U23 Championships, Otepää, Estonia. Callum Smith made his World Cup debut in Otepää joining Andrews Musgrave & Young the week prior to the World Juniors. All three along with Sarah Young raced at these championships. The best result was Andrew Musgrave's excellent 6th place in the U23 15km FT. He went on to place 12th in the 30km Pursuit. Despite flu hitting the team all put in creditable performances.
- The highlight of the year were the World Championships at the home of cross-country skiing at the Holmenkollen in Oslo. Six Huntly skiers competed: Andrew Musgrave, Posy Musgrave, Callum Smith, Andrew Young & Sarah Young for Great Britain & PJ Barron for Ireland. Roy Young was the British Team leader. Callum Smith gained a podium place with a second in the 10km Qualifying race & Sarah Young had an excellent 6th place in her 5km Qualifying race. But the highlight was Andrew Musgrave's 26th place in the Sprints becoming the first ever British X/C skier to make the top 30 in a World Championships. Posy & Andrew Musgrave competed in the blue riband events the ladies 30km & men's 50km over one of the most demanding courses in the world & in doing so both became one of the few, & possibly only skiers to take part in every race.
- Earlier in the winter Michael May & Ruaridh Newman formed part of a four-strong British Team at the European Youth Olympic Festival at Liberec in the Czech Republic & turned in some good results at their first major championships.
- Over the New year Posy Musgrave was invited to take part in the Tour de China. The sprints took place in the Olympic Birds Nest Stadium.
- Huntly skiers were in action at the British Championships in Ruhpolding. Posy Musgrave won the Ladies 10km CT & Stuart Gray took both the Boys 5km CT & 5km FT titles. Olwen Thorn once again won the Sprints. Posy & Olwen formed part of a composite civilian/RAF ladies team that claimed third place in the relay. Posy took part in her first Biathlon race where she came 7th despite a less than perfect shooting!
- Numerous Huntly skiers are part of the British Senior & Junior Cross-country Ski Teams and/or be members of the BNDS.
- Roy Young continues in his role as Head Coach to the British Teams.
- Very bad luck hit Alex Standen when he broke his ankle early in the season. Also Lynne Gray saw a premature end to her season when she tore knee ligaments while training. The good news is that both have returned to fulltime training in preparation for the new season.
- Olwen Thorn made her World Cup biathlon debut in the ladies relay at Hochfilzen, Austria in Dec 2010.
- Hilary Musgrave, Sandy Thorn, Roy & Eileen Young joined Jayne Osgood & Dave Graham successfully completing the 42km Engadin.
- British Rollerski Champs, Hayes (July): Daniel Coursey & Beth Maclean became U14 British champions..
- Scottish Rollerski Champs, Huntly (Sept): Posy Musgrave won the Senior Ladies title while Duncan Gibb (U14), Beth Maclean (U14) & Oliver Newman (U12) won their respective junior races.
- Scottish Rollerski Series 2011 : Despite a late season surge Duncan Gibb (U14) was just unable to catch Fergus Newman (U12) in a very competitive U14/U12 age category. Lynne Gray convincingly won the U14 girls title despite another late season surge by Beth Maclean.
- GB Rollerski Series 2010: U14 boys won by Fergus Newman & U14 girls won by Beth Maclean.

LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS / EVENTS: 107 skiable days in the Clash (62 good, 45 marginal).

- Malcolm Cooper sneaked the Golden Boot for the second year in a row sking the Haute Root on the 24th Nov 2010.
- 8th Jan 2011 - We had our best ever turnout for a Ski Orienteering event (34). Rick Newman set the fastest time on the long course. A lot of orienteers took part & enjoyed the event & want to help improve it this winter. It was also a very suitable event for our non-racing members.
- 16th Jan 2011 – Clash Dash. Thawing conditions meant a change from the usual 1.3km skate course to a longer 2.5km classic course past the Orange Mast. 21 starters. Katy Homyer (Highland) set the overall fastest time while Oliver Newman was fastest male. These two became the winners of the Clashinarroch Quaich & Cup as there was insufficient snow for the Club Champs.
- During the mid-season snow drought Colin Miller & Peter Thorn led a field visit to the Clash for a University student to assist with his thesis. We hunted elusive snow patches & provided him with snow data.
- The following weekend in blizzard condition gave a final 9-day flurry to the Clash season. The blizzards diverted our mountain tour to the lower level Clash moorland which had a real arctic feel.
- Thursday Club sessions continue to be well attended.

CLUB EQUIPMENT.

- We continue our programme of replacing & increasing the stock & plan to buy sorely needed classic rollerskis
- The club received 10 flag banners from Marine Technical Limits which look great at our events.
- Club needs to progress a grant application for buying a new snowmobile.

TRAINING/COACHING.

- 16 members have joined the SnSc Nordic Performance Scheme. We have 9 L1, 6 L2 & 1 L4 coaches. 12 of these are new, addition club coaches. The club subsidised this training. We are now able to offer more sessions to the club & various groups such as after schools clubs & monthly JDS sessions. Congratulations & thank you to all our coaches for their efforts.
- Thursday Club sessions continue to be well attended & is an opportunity for all members to benefit from our coaches.

JUNIORS.

- The Huntly JDS will continue to run by the Centre with support from the Club.

CLASHINDARROCH.

- The old portacabin was removed from the forest.
- Discussions have taken place with Vattenfall over the Community Fund that will result from the Clash Wind Farm (£80-90,000 per annum).
- No progress has been made on getting a new snowmobile.
- Hilary Musgrave visited Finland as part of a Huntly Development trust initiative to develop mutually beneficial links. No progress was made in attracting a Finnish coach however one possible development is the construction of a Finnish style wooden shelter/hut in the Clash.

SKI CENTRE.

- The Centre is now zero budgeted by the Council but continues to operate normally. Various national sporting bodies & politicians expressed support for the Centre. Negotiations continue, involving SnSc in finding a longer term solution for the management of the Centre.

GOVERNING BODIES.

- Snowsport Scotland have drafted a new constitution that they hope to have agreed at their Nov AGM. This is the first step in their move to charitable status.
- British Ski & Snowboard (BSS) have published a new draft constitution on their website.
- Peter Thorn continues as Chair/Secretary of the SnSc Nordic Committee & is also the Scottish rep on the BSS Nordic Discipline Committee. He has also been involved in discussions on the above new constitutions.

Peter Thorn (Secretary, HNSC)