

# Adaptive Snowsports Milton Keynes

## Disability Snowsports UK – Local Group

### Slope Organiser's Report AGM 2011

#### 1. Introduction

Overall this has been a successful year for the group. I have enjoyed the smiles and ecstatic feedback from skiers, GHI and parents/carers on what a wonderful session they have had. We have sufficient equipment to meet 95% of skiers needs. The adaptive Snowsports School started up and has been a huge success thanks to Charlie.

#### 2. Safety

There are 2 incidents to report this year.

21<sup>st</sup> November

Incident – skier had an on slope collision with a snowboarder coming off a jump. The skier was taken off the slope in the sledge due to an ankle injury which was later confirmed as a sprain. The same ankle has been injured previously.

The skier was passing under the jump within the run out area, as the snowboard came over the jump neither party could avoid each other. A review of the incident concluded this was a 50-50 responsibility for the collision. The lesson to be learnt is avoiding the run off area under jumps, which is already in the skier code of conduct for freestyle parks. A full copy of the report is attached.

12<sup>th</sup> December

Incident – A skier was travelling up the lift in a biski with an instructor behind, when he came to the top, the lift person slipped and missed releasing the biski from the lift. There was no second person covering the E-stop and the skier was dragged round the return wheel falling over and sustaining a cut to his forehead.

I take full responsibility for this incident; I had assumed that the lift was automatically covered with 2 people at the top. This is my fault I should have checked this. The lesson learnt, which was implemented immediately, is to always have a second e-stop person at the top of the lift. A full copy of the report is attached.

#### 3. Numbers

The number of skiers, guides, helpers and instructors has reduced over the past 4 years.

#### **Totals**

Year	GHI	Skier	Total
07/08	701	452	1153
08/09	637	414	1051
09/10	504	384	888
10/11	383	348	731

My thoughts on this reduction of skiers are:

- a) Access to adaptive lessons via the adaptive ski school in Milton Keynes, hence skiers do not come to the local group first.
- b) Adaptive lessons & local groups are available at Hemel Hempstead, Castlford, Tamworth and Chill Factor, which means people don't have to travel to Milton Keynes.
- c) People are spending less on leisure activities due to the current economic climate.

The reduction in GHI is most likely due to the above factors. The ratio of skiers to GHI is nearing 1:1 so we are getting to the point of needing a drive to recruit new volunteers to keep the same level of service. We are dependent on a pool of maybe 50 GHI if that (without checking the names) to run the sessions.

#### **4. Training**

The following people have been supported in exams with national training subsidies for adaptive instructor qualifications:

Sam Colby –	Basi Adaptive Level 2
Peter Thorpe -	Basi Adaptive Level 1
David Thomas -	Basi Adaptive Level 1

Hemel Hempstead ran an open training session in September for anyone to come along and have a go with the equipment and they plan a further session on 20<sup>th</sup> November. This was a very successful event.

At Milton Keynes we have not run any training sessions outside of the normal Sunday sessions. Where possible I have tried to increase people's experience through who they ski with, and when numbers allow add in extra people for training.

It would be helpful to have a member of the committee who was responsible for training, with a remit to organise regular sessions. The free form format that Hemel Hempstead used is something easy to copy. Rachel Easton is developing a Volunteer Training trainer's manual so that Adaptive instructors can deliver the Volunteer training to the same standard as the course.

#### **5. Slope Report**

The condition of the snow has improved over the past 6 months with the temperature being colder.

#### **6. Sno!zone**

Relationships with the slope are very good. I have not had any further issues with the equipment and jumps being left on top of it, since the beginning of the year.

#### **7. Skiers**

We have had many successes this year with skiers improving and learning more about skiing, many people are coming off the slopes after the sessions very happy. This makes my job worth while when 60 or more people have gone skiing for the night and enjoyed it.

## 8. 2012 Calendar Proposal

ASMK 2012 Calendar

Dates: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month unless marked \*

January	8 <sup>th</sup>
February	12 <sup>th</sup>
March	11 <sup>th</sup>
April	1 <sup>st*</sup>
May	13 <sup>th</sup>
June	10 <sup>th</sup>
July	8 <sup>th</sup>
August	12 <sup>th</sup>
September	9 <sup>th</sup>
October	14 <sup>th</sup>
November	11 <sup>th</sup>
December	9 <sup>th</sup>

Dates subject to agreement by Sno!zone

Please note at the moment we have a risk that we do not have a deputy slope organiser who could cover me if I am not available. The options at this current time are:

- a. Bridget would be asked if she could cover
- b. The date would be moved
- c. The session would be cancelled.

## 9. Thank you

I would like to say a big thank you to all the Instructors & volunteers for their hard work over the past year supporting the monthly sessions. It can't be done without you.

## 10. Summary

The challenges I see for the group in 2012 are as follows:

- a) Zero accidents
- b) Retain and recruit GHI
- c) Organise and run training sessions outside the Sunday sessions.
- d) Develop deputy / stand in slope organisers

These are the things I will be working on as slope organiser.