

RACHEL EASTON

Development Officer Report Annual Review

This past year has been very busy for the ski schools across the UK. In November we started 2 new ski schools at Milton Keynes and Tamworth. We employed a lead instructor at each centre 3 days a week to start the ski schools. With great local groups already running at these centres it was a smooth transition into the slopes due to the long established relationships that already existed.

Through the year all the lead instructors worked hard to go out and promote DSUK and show people that skiing is possible. As a result the ski school numbers are growing and we have now increased the lead instructor's days at all the slopes to full time. We are employing many part time staff to help deliver lessons so that we can try to offer lessons 7 days a week at the centres.

The ski instructors are working closely with the local groups to ensure people have the opportunity to go recreational skiing when they are ready to move into the group. Skiers who attend the local groups are also getting the opportunity to have a private lesson to improve their skills which they can go away and work on when with the local group. This relationship will continue to grow as the ski schools grow larger.

Chill Factore is the largest ski school with 7 part time instructors helping to deliver lessons and in the past year 1064 private and group lesson took place with over 1500 people accessing disabled skiing.

Castleford does not have a lead instructor at the moment and is being run by Dave Whitehead who is the lead instructor for Chill Factore. 120 lessons were delivered by part time instructors. We are looking to get a lead instructor in Castleford from September to move the ski school forward.

Hemel Hempstead has delivered 421 lessons and the lead instructor Nicholas Hatherly now has 3 part time instructors to help deliver lessons.

Central Belt lead instructor Keira Young was working for DSUK 4 days a week and now is full time since July. 251 lessons have been delivered this year.

Milton Keynes lead instructor Charlie Laine is now full time since July and 155 lessons have been delivered since November with some newly qualified instructors helping part time as the ski school gets busier.

Tamworth has delivered 112 lessons since November and Holly Oughton is working hard to promote the ski school and increase the lessons. Holly has been fulltime since July.

My job as development officer has been very busy travelling around the country supporting the staff and the ski schools. We are always trying to get the message out to the community that disabled skiing is a great sport and accessible to everyone. We hope to move to helping the dry slopes around the country set up their own ski schools and also work with any new indoor slopes that may pop up in the future.

As the ski schools have got busier and we are receiving more enquiries it has been hard for the ski instructors to teach and keep up with all the bookings and enquiries. This coming year we are aiming to have a central booking system for all the ski schools, this will mean that the ski instructors can get more hours on the slopes teaching, which they love to do. The central booking system will help with all enquiries from people including advice and support to anyone with a disability wishing to go skiing in the UK or abroad.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all the lead instructors, the part time instructors, the slope management and everyone who has helped to make the ski schools a success.