

Chair's AGM report 2023

Another busy and successful year for the club, with a good number of activities and more to come over the forthcoming winter.

We continue to offer most of our activities at Hayes (which, disappointingly, is now in the expanded ULEZ zone), with coaching sessions roughly every fortnight throughout the year and where we hold four British Roller Ski races. We had a bit of controversy with the roller ski specification for the first skate race, but this was largely sorted for the second race. Participant numbers at Hayes have been reasonable, but it would be nice to get back to the 50+ people we used to have in races.

Still concentrating on Hayes, we invested over £4 000 to upgrade equipment, with the purchase of a large number of new boots and bindings to make them compatible, and we also bought new, adjustable, poles. This released equipment for use by the Cambridge Group, which is now well-established.

Back in the winter, we introduced a new, early-season on-snow coaching trip to Seefeld/Leutasch in December, which was hampered by the limited amount of early-season snow in the Alps, a problem which continued for the popular and well-attended Club trip to Ramsau in January. A few Club members raced at the Masters World Championships in Seefeld in March and we had other Club members racing in all corners of the world.

We've increased the number of Club walks to three, with two new venues, and these have all proved to be popular and fun, and there were a few other Club events, too.

Looking forwards, we have three formal Club on-snow trips coming up: we're running the early-season event again but moving to Norway for better snow; we have the Ramsau week once more, and then, in early February, we have a touring trip to the popular Engadin Valley. Adding to this, there are the World Winter Masters Games immediately after the Ramsau week, the Masters World Championships in Finland in February, and other less formal race trips.

So, in terms of activities, I would say that we're now doing everything we should be doing as a cross-country ski club. I thank all the members of the Club Committee, and all our volunteers and coaches, who make these happen.

I will just repeat two things. It would be great if we could get a few more qualified coaches (and we will pay towards the qualification costs), and one or two more members on the Club Committee would be very welcome.

So, in summary, a good year!

Adam