

It has certainly been a busy and exciting time since I took over as the ESC Freestyle Key Committee Chair last May. At the start of last year we had 3 skiers take part in the Olympics in Salt Lake City, of these 2 were English Skiers - Joanne Bromfield and Sam Temple.

English skiers Alex Murphy, Chris David, Andy David, Martin Nankoo & Tom Last have all taken part in FIS Europa Cup mogul and dual mogul competitions (one level down from World Cup), the best score coming from Andy David scoring 19 in Slovakia. For those of you unfamiliar with the scoring system, the maximum theoretical score is 30, although this can never in practice be achieved. From left to right are Tom Last, Andy David, Alex Murphy, Chris David, Simon Ashton (Squad Manager) and Martin Nankoo. The photo being taken from the bottom of the Europa Cup moguls course in Isola 2000.



While the current England Freestyle Squad have been busy in Europe ex England Squad member Andy Bennett, who is now a member of the British Freestyle A Squad has been training in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, this being the place where the British Squad train. England Squad members go to Tignes, France twice a year for a training camp run by Eric Berthon, the ex French World Cup winner, the camps runs in Summer and Autumn.

Freestyle now incorporates Aerials, Moguls, Dual Moguls, Half Pipe, Big Air and Ski Cross at a FIS level. This year alone there have been many New School events (New School being Half Pipe, Big Air and Ski Cross) mainly at World Cup, but also some at Europa Cup events. There is lots of interest from TV companies to cover these events at present and so this would lead to a greater participation in these events, especially when you consider some of the prizes and money being given away!

Recently I have spent many weekends in the Alps judging at Europa Cup events increasing UK involvement with competitions. For the first time in history GBR now has its own FIS A Level TD, Iain MacKay (who used to be the Chair of ESC Freestyle until the early 90's).

This year the World Junior Champs took place in Marble Mountain, Newfoundland Canada. Representing Great Britain were Alex Murphy, Tom Last and Andy Bennett. Unfortunately Alex fell during his run, but Tom scored 14.02 and Andy 16.58 in the moguls. Tom managed to take a very creditable 14<sup>th</sup> place in only his second Half Pipe competition. Both Tom and Alex are members of the English Freestyle A Team.

During the past year we have been able to cut our costs of running competitions and other events by using technology to the best of use. Computers now play a vital role in the running of Freestyle competitions as well as the most obvious benefits of e-mail and web sites. Due to these savings we have been able to increase the proportion of money that goes towards the

squads, and hence to the participation of the squad members in training camps and competitions abroad.

This year there will be a record 8 competitors taking part in the Europa Cup finals in Andorra, 6 of which are members of the England Freestyle Squad. Details of all the results and freestyle related information can be found by looking at [www.freestylesnowsports.co.uk](http://www.freestylesnowsports.co.uk)

We have recently been able to get a grant from ExxonMobil for the purchase of wet suits for use at the aerials training facility at Sheffield. While the slope at Sheffield has some wet suits these have mainly been for teenage boys and men, with little for the younger ones or girls. We now intend to address this issue and are now in a position of purchasing some more suitable suits for use at the facility.

For those of you that are not familiar with the water ramp at Sheffield, it is used as a training ground, for the practice of aerial manoeuvres for both traditional aerials and new school events. While its use is not without dangers it is much safer to practice jumps on it and then on snow.

This year we are going to concentrate on improving the grass roots growth of Freestyle. Last year we ran a number of mini competitions at Sheffield aimed at getting younger kids involved with freestyle skiing. It was to our surprise that more than 70 took part in these competitions...we will continue with this during the following years...

It is with a note of sadness that I finish my round up of the year. Some of the people who have been involved with freestyle for a long time just cannot accept the changes that are happening in our sport. While FIS have dropped Acro as a freestyle sport they have added three new ones, specifically Half pipe, Big Air and Ski Cross. We must all live to accept that we live in a changing world and that change is inevitable. Perhaps we could achieve even more if I did not have to spend part of my time fighting certain people.

## **ESC Freestyle Committee Activities During 2002**

### *Competitions;*

Moguls Tour Bromley, May 2002 – Moguls 6  
North of England Champs, May 2002 – Moguls 47, Acro 11  
Moguls Tour Kendal, June 2002 – Moguls 16, Big Air 14  
Moguls Tour Stoke, July 2002 – Moguls 14, Acro 6  
Mini Moguls Sheffield, July 2002 – Moguls 62  
Moguls Tour Sheffield, August 2002 – Moguls 13, Big Air 11  
British Artificial Champs Sheffield, September 2002 – Moguls 9, Big Air 10, Acro 9, Aerials 11  
Moguls Tour Final Sheffield, October 2002 – Moguls 4, Big Air 2  
Mini Moguls Sheffield, October 2002 – Moguls 75

### *Officials Training;*

Technical Delegate Course Sheffield, April 2002  
Judges Update Course Sheffield, December 2002 – 9 Participants

### *Training;*

Tignes Eric Berthon, July 2002 – 10 Participants  
Tignes Eric Berthon, Oct 2002 – 6 Participants  
Squad Fitness Testing – 3 sessions in May, August & October 2002  
Open Training Session with Eric Berthon, Sheffield September 2002 – 15 Participants