

Snowsport England Freestyle AGM Report 2003/4

The Freestyle events started only a few weeks after the AGM last year with the 3 Regions competition/All England at Rossindale on June 1st. For the first time big air was included in the event which meant that there were 3 freestyle events – Moguls, Big Air & Acro.

June was also the month where we started to make use of the water ramp facility at Sheffield Ski Village, the particular aim was to encourage more younger skiers to take part in the activities on the water ramp. Water ramps are a very useful way of coaching people to perform jumps and different type of tricks, after all if you land incorrectly it hurts a lot less than on a plastic slope. Unfortunately due mechanical break down of the filtration pumps we were unable to continue using the facility past July. However, the facility has now been repaired and should be fully operational by April 2004.

At the start of July we saw the start of the AIM Series competitions for Freestyle skiing. In the past this had just been an event for snowboarders, however it was now opened up to skiers with the first competition taking place at High Wycombe and including Big Air, Slope Style & Ski Cross. AIM (standing for Artificial, Indoor and Mountain) takes an active role in promoting the sport of Freestyle. Quite a lot of time is spent going to schools with the aim of encouraging youngsters to take up skiing and enter the various competitions that are on offer. This is done by providing free lessons at the AIMS events, the lessons taking place in the morning, with the competitions in the afternoon. Later in the year there were also competitions at Xscape Milton Keynes and the new indoor slope at Castleford, both providing excellent conditions for a true snow competition of Big Air and Ski Cross.

The middle of July saw the Freestyle teams start their training camp in Tignes for 3 weeks. While this was mainly aimed at squad members many others also took part in the excellent training that was offered. In total there were 28 participants. During the morning training took place on the glacier, while in the afternoon many other complimentary activities, like mountain biking, hydrospeed, volleyball etc took place in the afternoon. At the end of the last week we even organised a Moguls and Big Air competition.



Freestyle Park Tignes Summer 2003

October saw Eric Berthon (3 time world champion in moguls and ex-French team coach) come to Sheffield to train the Yorkshire Freestyle Squad, England Squad and have an open session for both local club members and any other interested parties. As a result of this training weekend more youngsters will be taking part in the summer training program in Tignes this summer.



Eric Berthon with The Yorkshire Squad

November marked the annual Daily Mail Ski & Snowboard show that took place at Olympia, London. Taking part in the demo/competition were a number of Freestyle squad members, both past and present. Later in the month Andy Bennett, British Squad member (ex England Squad member) managed to attain 16th place in the first ever FIS Half Pipe world cup in Saas Fee.

This year saw some good opportunities for acro skiers. The two competitions were enjoyed although it would be great to have more opportunities like this for them. The highlight was probably the day at Telford. The day consisted of a demonstration and then a extremely well attended workshop of four 1 hour sessions. The day received nothing but praise from those who took part and there are future events in the pipeline

January saw the first ever British Slopestyle competition which took place in Deux Alpes, France. Despite the wind and cold temperatures Mike Wakefield managed first place with Andy Bennett taking 2nd place. The main British New School competition will take place at the end of March and will include Half Pipe, Slope Style, Big Air and Ski Cross. At the end of the same week and in Oberstdorf, Germany the British Moguls competition will take place.



Paddy Graham – British Slope Style January 2004 Deux Alpes, France

Freestyle Activities During 2003/4 Season

Competitions;

Sheffield, May 2003 – Mini Moguls 68
Kendal, May 2003 – Moguls 21, Big Air 17
All England Rossindale, June 2003 – Moguls 52, Acro 4, Big Air 16
Stoke, July 2003 – Big Air 11, Acro 4, Slope Style 11
High Wycombe AIMS, July 2003 – Big Air, Slope Style & Ski Cross – see www.aimseries.com
British Champs Tignes, July 2003 – Moguls 7, Big Air 12
Midlothian, AIMS, July 2003 – Big Air – see www.aimseries.com
Milton Keynes, AIMS, August 2003 – Big Air, Ski Cross – see www.aimseries.com
Sheffield, AIMS, August 2003 – Big Air, Ski Cross, Half Pipe – see www.aimseries.com
British Artificial Champs Sheffield, September 2002 – Moguls 15, Big Air 17
Halifax, AIMS, September 2003 – Big Air – see www.aimseries.com
Castleford, AIMS, October 2003 – Big Air – see www.aimseries.com
British Slopestyle, Deux Alpes, AIMS, January 2004 – Slope Style – see www.aimseries.com

Officials Training;

Skilful Skiing Course, Kendal, June 2003 – 4 participants
ASFSPC Revalidation, Sheffield, June 2003 – 9 participants
Judges Course Sheffield, November 2003 – 7 Participants

Training;

Tignes Eric Berthon, July 2003 – 28 Participants
Squad Fitness Testing – 3 sessions in May, August & October 2003
Open Training Session with Eric Berthon, Sheffield September 2003 – 22 Participants + open session

Sponsors for 2003/4: Eric Berthon, Carrs of Sheffield, Exxon Aviation, Helly Hansen, Sharks Ski Club, Sheffield Ski Village