Snowsports Club

2017-2018 Semester 1 Report

Performance
St Andrews Snowsports (SAS) has had an extremely busy and successful first semester of this academic year, retaining many existing competitors from previous years as well as recruiting many first-year racers, freestylers and complete beginners. Our race team, after having weekly training with their provided coach, has competed as SUDS, BUDS and for the first time, Kings, which is the first time the competition has been available for Scottish Universities to compete in. The Scottish University Dryslope Championship (SUDS) mainly acts as an introduction to competitive University Snowsports to those who haven’t experienced it before. SAS performed extremely well, with six of our racers, Sarah Cuthbert, Lily Longton, Marissa McMahon, Chloe Herman, Henry Lafferty and Nico La Framboise being placed in the top 30 competitors for both slalom and duals. The British Dryslope Championship (BUDS), which takes place in Edinburgh, is easily our biggest competition of the semester with over 200 students from other British Universities competing. SAS took 20 competitors, with all but one qualifying for the GS and 3 competitors, our Race Captain Sarah Cuthbert, Lily Longton and Adam Robertson qualifying for the slalom run. As mentioned previously, Kings was only introduced to Scottish Universities this Autumn, with the competition itself consisting of a friendly round of duals, which acts as a great confidence builder for both racing and team bonding. With this being our first Kings, we only entered one team with the hope of taking more competitors to the next event next semester.

Our Freestyle Captain, Will Welford, has also been running regular training sessions at Aberdeen Dryslope every Thursday, where participants, both beginners and seasoned freestylers, receive coaching. Will has taken a team of competitors to both SUDS and BUDS, with 4 members competing at SUDS, with Max Cutting coming 4th place in the results of the rail jam - an amazing achievement. The number of freestylers competing at BUDS was supposed to be six, however, due to injuries we were only able to take four competitors, with Max Cutting progressing to the semi-finals for Slopestyle, and Will Welford, Jasper Geddes and Ellie Fowler progressing through to the semi-finals in the Big Air. Will is wanting to run airbag sessions next semester as well as looking to going to trampoline parks to aid progression alongside training in Aberdeen.

Our Recreational Captain, Rory Wood, has been coordinating and transporting athletes to a series of block lessons for complete beginners and/or for students wanting to re-familiarise themselves with the sport. These lessons have been extremely successful, with everyone progressing up several skill levels since September. Special mention must be made of Alex Brown, who completed all levels within three weeks. Rory is hoping to take multiple ski trips up to the Scottish Highlands next semester (weather permitting).

Trips, Events and Recreational Sports Development
This year we have managed to secure around 330 members, a similar number to last year. Throughout this semester we have had multiple socials, aiming to attract members from all aspects of the club. Our social secretaries, Ella Steinart and Matthew Collins, have provided multiple opportunities to get people involved with the club, from our Freshers’ Week social, to more relaxed socials like a screening of our sponsor FACTION’s “This is Home” short film. The committee is now looking forward to perhaps the most important event of our social calendar, the Ski Trip, taking place between 20 and 27 January 2018, where we are taking just under 300 students to Alpe D’Huez.

Community Engagement and Fundraising
This year, our Vice President, Lily Longton, has overseen charities and fundraising, and she has chosen two charities for SAS to partner with this year, with the hope to continue a strong partnership in the future. Our first charity is Protect our Winter (POW) who raise awareness of the impact of climate change and the effects it is having on our colder climates. Our second charity partner is Disability Snowsports UK, aiming to provide opportunities for the physically impaired with phenomenal effects. In the past, we have increased costs for our Sinners tickets with proceeds going to these charities, and Lily has more ideas and plans to fundraise next semester.
Alumni
We have already had a large Alumni social event earlier this semester, as Alumni annually come and support competitors at BUDS every year in Edinburgh. This offers a great opportunity in the semester for them to come back and get a look first-hand at how our competitive teams are progressing, as well as catching up with members of the committee. Lily is starting to plan our annual Alumni Weekend, which usually takes place at the end of April, which is a time where most of our Alumni manage to take time off to come and visit us in St Andrews.

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