

ERSA Chair Report – 2012

September 2012

This year John Curtis is standing down from the ERSA committee. Many of you will know John and he has been involved with skiing for many years and supported the region in various capacities and is still a member of Brentwood team. Now with Daniel at University John has more time on his hands. I would like to thank John for his support and guidance over the years.

Thanks also to all parents, racers, officials, clubs, race managers and committee members for their support of another successful season in ERSA. I would especially like to mention Ian Mawson, Steve Lambert, Don Daley, Andrew Upton and Janet Jenkins for their tireless work in the background to ensure the ERSA season went as well as it did. There is a lot of work done during the season in the background and over the winter months to ensure we can run such a successful series of races.

We have also had another very good year with the sponsors and thanks to Team Evolution, Ski Bartlett's, Zaini Hats, Atomic, Racer Ready for their support not only with prizes but guidance throughout the year. The support will be continuing into 2013.

We have had another very busy season packed with races at all levels and each of the regional races has been very well attended. It is good to see so many new racers coming on board and giving the races a try and at the same time several of the more established racers going up against each other. This year we introduced the Team Evolution Pro Slalom top 32 head to head race and this has worked well, the aim being to give the top racers something to aspire to and hopefully push to the next step. This year we started the season of with the regions first ever Schools race. This proved far more popular than we had anticipated and ran incredibly well on the day, with lots of new racers taking part.

In the region this year there were five club nationals and as a group we ran a GS event at the end of each race and created a mini series over the five races. Despite some challenges getting them off the ground with the fantastic support of the home clubs we got there and everyone that took part seemed to have a great time and the feedback was excellent. Thanks to all the club for getting that going this year, something different to the club nationals.

While the races have been very successful again this year we still need to look to the future and how we can continue to give value for money and provide a strong grass roots structure and foundation for those wanting to progress further up the ladder. The landscape continues to be very challenging all round and as organisers we need to look at ways to improve what we offer parents and racers, we can't stand still. Over the Winter we will continue discussions about what we can implement next year, while keeping the races fun. I am also very conscious that we need to do more to help with the development pathways and encourage more racers to take those next steps and hopefully we can continue moving in the right direction next year.

Several of the regions racers have performed very well and been selected for the various national squads, the England Artificial and British Children's teams, well done to everyone there.

Communication is still a key factor in any organisation and from the feedback I have received we continue to improve here but as with everything there is still plenty we can be doing to make it better. This year was also the first meeting held with the Snowsport England Chairman and CEO and

several the regional chairs. This was a good meeting and there was a frank exchange of views and ideas and I am sure will continue to develop in the future.

Not everything has been perfect but in the coming year we hope that we can continue to improve things and continue to keep you up to date using various means including the ERSA website.

As always if you have any feedback please feel free to contact me, Bernie Wright on 07776 201437, chair@ersa.co.uk or at any race. If you just want to meet for a chat let me know and let's see what we can arrange.

Bernard Wright
ERSA Chair