

## ERSA Chair Report – 2013

September 2013

It has been another excellent year in the region with lots happening through the winter season and even more during the summer season.

Congratulations to the ERSA A team for winning the SSE Inter Regional event last Sunday at Norfolk. Last weekend it was also the British Champs at Norfolk and we held the ERSA Combi event for the U12/U10 age group, both of which were an incredible success and thanks to everyone from ERSA who helped make the event run so well. It is a credit to Norfolk that in the last ten years the top two highest attended British Champs have been held at Norfolk! Congratulations to Michael Molloy for winning both the British and All England Championships in the same year, something very few people have achieved.

As a region we continue to have a very good and popular race series even more so this year with many racers from outside the region trying to take part in our races. There has been a lot of support at all the races from racers and parents and this has worked very well in the year we introduced the stubbies for the U10 racers. Initially there was a lot of concern about how they would be received but the overwhelming response has been excellent and many improvements have been seen. With the race format we offer it has been very good to see so many of the top racers continue to support the region and show the less experienced athletes what can be achieved. We will certainly not rest on our laurels and we continue to work with our sponsors, Paul and Sally, and all clubs in the region to continue the development of our athletes. We are certainly doing something right as the region is often used as a benchmark and SSE have been able to utilise our experiences while developing their future.

I would still like to build up the information and understanding of what else happens in the region. For example there is now a strong Telemark presence at Hemel and continued Freestyle at Norfolk and Hemel. However I am conscious that it is difficult to get much information about other disciplines and will continue to work on that during the coming year.

Thanks to all the parents, racers, clubs, race managers, officials and committee members for their support over the year. Again I would like to mention the fantastic support in the background from Andrew Upton, Ian Mawson, Janet Jenkins and Steve Lambert. They all put in a tremendous amount of work to ensure the races continue to run smoothly.

I must also thank our main sponsors Team Evolution and Ski Barlett for their continued support this season. They have had a huge input to how the season has developed and we hope this continues into 2014.

The future of Bassingbourn slope is still up in the air and over the winter discussions will continue and hopefully next year we will be able to return.

We have continued to offer value for money at the regional races and the club nationals held in the region. With the increase in numbers it has given us greater flexibility to plough more money back into the region. For example, the regional first coaching day at Norfolk was very successful, heavily subsidised by ERSA, but certainly something very beneficial for people. Also we have also had to replace and update some of the timing equipment to ensure we stay ahead of the game.

So what of the future? We will continue to offer value for money at our races both regional and the national races. Over the winter we will be looking closely at the costs of running the races, we have certainly seen prices rise quite a bit this year but we still want to ensure we provide a good offering to the regional members. At the same time we will ensure we try different things to help develop the athletes as well as keeping an interest.

Still more help is needed on the committee to share work out during the year and thanks to those new members who are coming on board to lend their support, advice and ensure we keep the close contact with each club.

As always if you have any feedback please feel free to contact me, Bernie Wright on 07776 201437, [chair@ersa.co.uk](mailto: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