

## ERSA Chair Report – 2014

September 2014

Thank you to everyone who has made 2014 another successful year. The summer has continued to be busy not just in the region but across the country.

With so many races it is impossible to mention everyone that has had success at many levels. There is certainly the choice out there for racers depending on what you want to achieve and get out of the sport.

We made a few small changes earlier in the season and these worked well. Next year we need to make more to continue developing as a region. Over the Winter we will be looking at the race formats and how they can be improved especially the team events. Therefore it is very important that we have your feedback both positive and negative, we need ideas and we need them sooner rather than later so that we have time to get everything sorted in time. Last Winter we looked at changing the format of the team events but unfortunately due to lack of help we were not able progress that area in time. Please speak to either myself or other committee members or just email [chair@ersa.co.uk](mailto:chair@ersa.co.uk).

This year we opened up the races to everyone and it has worked well and this is something that we will continue in 2015, so please encourage others to attend the races.

We are still short of information about other none racing event taking place at the slopes in the region. I would still like to develop this and provide more information on the website. We have had queries from people about other types of snowsports and it would be great to have more information available on the website or Facebook page.

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, Steve Lambert, Jo Ogden, Tania Barton, Tim Bingham. And there are many more. They all put in a tremendous amount of work to ensure the races continue to run smoothly. Also thank you to many other members who have stepped forward this season to help out in other ways and reduce the amount a few people have to cover.

I must also thank our main sponsors Team Evolution and Ski Bartlett for their continued support this season. They have had a huge input to how the season has developed and we are already talking about improvements for 2015.

We continue 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 invest the money back into the region. Over the next few weeks we will look at the costs for 2015 and do our utmost to avoid any increases but having kept the entry fee the same for many years it is something we do have to look at.

So what of the future? We will continue to offer value for money at our races both regional and the national races. 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. I would also like to thank Nigel Riches who is stepping

down as chair of Norfolk club this year for his support over the years, that has been greatly appreciated. We have to think about succession planning so please step forward and help. We are also looking for people who are happy to step into the chief of race and/or referee roles at the regional races. We also need them at the national races and this is a very good introduction.

SnowSport England have their AGM on the 1<sup>st</sup> November. There has been an extensive governance review taking place over the past year and the recommendations are being presented at this meeting, hopefully we will start to see some serious changes. There is still a lot of concern about the national racing and how we develop our athletes in the future and it is known at the board level about the challenges relating to the key committees ASC and ROTP and the lack of direction and with the changes we should see some major changes in the way they are managed and in turn how the sport develops. As chair of the region this has been the one disappointing area and I strongly recommend you read about the changes and ensure you get a vote.

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.

Don't forget the various places we post information;

[www.ersa.co.uk](http://www.ersa.co.uk)

[www.facebook.com/groups/176045660875](https://www.facebook.com/groups/176045660875)

[www.twitter.com/ersa\\_region](https://www.twitter.com/ersa_region)

Bernard Wright  
ERSA Chair