

Hello and welcome to our 40th Annual General Meeting. Thank you for taking part as your views and participation are so important to us, to enable us to build an ever stronger organisation and grow the services and support we can provide.

Looking back and looking forward

DSUK has been around for 40 years. Starting from the passionate belief of David Morris, a consultant paediatrician and adviser to the National Spastics Society (now Scope) that the movement from skiing could have valuable benefits in enhancing coordination, balance and self-awareness in young people with Cerebral Palsy. These ideas were met with resistance but a pilot scheme proved incredible benefits. Over the last 40 years, a small and passionately dedicated team further developed these ideas and formed The Uphill Ski Club as an independent charity.

Over the years, our activities widened so that all disabled people, regardless of disability, injury or experience could access the benefits of snowsport. It is on the foundation of this amazing legacy that we built our new strategy for 2019-2021.

In launching our new strategy last year, I commented on the scale of its ambition. It is ambitious – and rightly so. It is our job to ensure DSUK has the strategy, resources, skills and people to deliver for the next 40 years. Growing and developing to meet the needs of anyone who wants to try adaptive snowsports.

Many of the strategic activities this past year have focused on building the foundations required to achieve our longer-term goals. Not all of them are visible or noticeable to everybody yet, but they are summarised in this report and position us well for achieving our future goals. But the team has delivered an amazingly successful year, meeting or making excellent progress against all our aims and objectives.

I am delighted that the team have so enthusiastically faced the challenges that often accompany change and would like to formally extend my thanks and acknowledgment to the whole staff team, Trustee and volunteers for their incredible efforts. I feel very proud to work with you all.

In short, our first year of the new strategy is one to be celebrated. Everyone involved in DSUK is committed to ensuring that we are here to enabling all disabled people to participate in snowsport, regardless of disability, injury, or experience, both in the UK and on holidays overseas. We will continue to work tirelessly to ensure DSUK is ready and able to embrace the opportunities of the next forty years.

Thank you and fond farewells ...

DSUK is supported by a dedicated team of trustees who volunteer their time to ensure the organisation is well governed. At this AGM and in line with our best practice governance, we must bid a sad farewell to two Trustees, both of whom have so generously served their maximum term.

Don McCutchan

Don McCutchan is an Orthopaedic and Spinal Surgeon working in Sussex. He trained in the Royal Army Medical Corps and NHS. Having been persuaded by his daughters to undertake BASI qualifications including Adaptive, he was delighted to become a Trustee of DSUK in 2014. Don was Safeguarding champion along with his other trustee duties. I'm delighted that Don will continue to act as a regular helper at the DSUK local group in Hemel Hempstead and on our holidays.

John Dickinson-Lilley

John Dickinson-Lilley became involved with DSUK in 2012 through the indoor school at Hemel Hempstead and progressed to become a member of Para-Snowsport GB's Alpine Ski Team. John served as a Trustee of DSUK as well as acting as a Director for British Parasnowsport. Recently John has joined Stonewall as an LGBT Sports Champion. I'd like to thank John for all he has done for DSUK and wish him all the best in the future.

We thank them both for the many years of service to DSUK and wish them the very best.

... and a warm welcome

It's my pleasure to nominate John Patchett. It is the view of the board that John's extensive experience in both Finance and Risk will be a strong addition to the board and you are invited to vote on John's appointment. Please see his biography for more information.

The Trustees will also be looking to appoint further Trustees over the coming year. We are particularly interested to hear from members, and volunteers involved with our local groups in order to strengthen representations from these areas on the board. If you would be interested in joining the board of DSUK, please email me at Claire.Pimm@disabilitysnowsport.org.uk, copying in Catherine.Rose@disabilitysnowsport.org.uk