



The Ski Club of Ireland & The Ski Club of Ireland Limited

A short history



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At last year's Annual General Meeting, Niall Carroll undertook to write a Memorandum to explain the structure of the Ski Club of Ireland and of the Ski Club of Ireland Limited (which is a limited company and the parent body to the Ski Club) and to describe the relationship between these two bodies. Niall is a former President of the Ski Club and is Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Ski Club of Ireland Limited.

To set in context the establishment of the Ski Club of Ireland Limited, I think it might be helpful and, hopefully, of interest to members if I gave a brief history of the Ski Club and described how it has developed over the years. I became even keener to do this when I heard the answer given to the question "How many Presidents has the Ski Club had?" at the Club's quiz at the recent end-of-season party. The official answer given was 16; the correct answer is 18 and, for the record, I set out below the names of all the Presidents of the Ski Club since its foundation:-

Term	President
1964 - 66	John Hurley
1967 - 69	Arthur Gibney
1970 - 71	Noel Stephenson
1972 - 74	Noreen Gaillagher
1974 - 76	Niall Carroll
1977 - 78	Len Gaillagher
1979 - 80	John Leonard
1981 - 82	Mel Columb
1983 - 84	Eddie Sythes
1985 - 86	Helen Keogh
1987 - 88	Arthur Emmis
1989 - 90	Rosemary Mayrhuber
1991 - 92	John Barrett
1993 - 94	Peter D'Arcy
1995 - 96	Frank Lee
1997 - 98	Robert Norwood
1999 - 00	Anne O'Connor
2001 - 02	Antony Levingson

John Hurley, the first President, has just recently retired as Professor of Organisation and Psychology at Dublin City University. Arthur Gibney is the well known architect and artist and a former Chairman of the Arts Council. Sadly, both Noel Stephenson and Noreen Gaillagher are deceased.

Birth of the Ski Club in 1964

The Ski Club of Ireland was formed when a number of people who had met on a ski holiday abroad came together socially after their return. These social meetings became regular events and these people organised their ski holidays together again for the following and subsequent years. They met others, told their friends and the group expanded. In 1964 they formed a Club – the Ski Club of Ireland, with a badge showing a white chalet on a green background. To enhance their social evenings and expand membership gluhwein parties were held at the Royal Hibernian Hotel in Dawson Street, Dublin (now closed for over 20 years). These went on into the mid '70's.

The first ski trip of the new Club was to Erwald in 1964 and the later trips were mostly to St. Anton in Austria. There had been an earlier ski club called The Irish Ski Club but this closed down sometime before the Ski Club of Ireland was formed. A Mr. Derek Englander was the leading light in that Club.

Meanwhile, there was a small artificial ski slope in the Park Hotel, Virginia, Co. Cavan, put in by its owner, Mr. Barry MacDonnell. The slope was about 30 feet long and the members of the early Ski Club used to go to Virginia to practice for the upcoming season. On Mr. MacDonnell's early death in 1967 some members of the Ski Club got together and bought the ski matting from the Park Hotel and proceeded to establish a ski slope and ski school at the Dublin Gas Company Spots and Social Club's premises at Knockrabo on Mount Anville Road, Goatstown in Dublin. As a vehicle for doing this, these members and their friends put some money together and formed a company called the Ski Club of Ireland Limited. The Ski Club itself also subscribed for shares and owned 16% of the Company. This Ski Club of Ireland Limited was a different company to the Ski Club of Ireland Limited company that exists today.

Additional matting was bought from a company in Dublin called Chemplast, which was owned by Mervyn and Pat Phelan of The Dublin Button Company (both keen skiers and members of the Ski Club). Chemplast and the Ski Club of Ireland Limited had jointly acquired from an Italian company a licence and a mould to manufacture the matting. The lower portion of the sloped embankment built to hold the ski matting is still visible at Knockrabo. Rent of £200 a year was paid for the facilities at Knockrabo, which included use of two rooms in the Knockrabo mansion (now burnt down). The Dublin Gas Company Sports and Social Club had a small bar in the building, which the Ski Club members also occasionally frequented.

The Ski Slope at Knockrabo

The Ski Club through its members assisted the owners of that company in running the ski school at Knockrabo for about six years. Indeed, over that time, the Ski Club gradually began to run the entire operation. The ski school had about 10 ski instructors, some of whom still teach at Kilterman. Many of these instructors received their training and ski instructor qualifications (BASI, Grade III) by taking a number of two-week courses and examinations in the Alps (Saas Fee, Cervinia, Gortzens) run by BASI, the British Association of Ski Instructors. Ski classes at Knockrabo cost about £2.00 for a series of 5 lessons. The instructors wore a traditional red sweater with white armbands and black trim.

The Knockrabo slope was just a bit bigger than the current beginner slope at Kilterman, but much steeper. A wooden extension to the slope was later added. The slope was flood-lit and there was a rope tow-lift. The skis and boots were second-hand rentals brought back by Ski Club members from Tony Pangratz's ski hire shop in St. Anton – one pair per member to avoid queries by the Irish Customs. They were paid for!

Ski Club Acquires the Knockrabo Ski Slope

In 1974, the Ski Club, after extensive negotiations with the Company's shareholders, took over the Ski Club of Ireland Limited, acquiring all of its shares and, therefore, became sole owners of the ski school at Knockrabo. At the same time, the Ski Club revised its Constitution, reducing the Committee from 15 to ten, and introduced the two year term of office and the staggered election procedure whereby half of the Committee are elected each year.

By this time, the Ski Club had acquired the "Gnat". This was a small four-wheel drive vehicle, with pulley wheels and gear mechanism mounted on the back axle, which was used in the Dublin mountains when snow conditions were suitable, both for transport and as a mobile ski tow.

Shortly after that, Pat Quinn, the founder of Quinnsworth Supermarkets, bought a hotel in Kilterman, known then as the Opperman Country Club (which had run into financial difficulties), and renamed it the Dublin Sports Hotel. Amongst other sports facilities, he proceeded to establish a ski slope at the Hotel in the location of the current ski slope. The ski matting used was made by a British company called Ski Mat Limited, and this was laid directly on the grass of the slope. The ski matting and the skis and boots were leased by the Hotel from a British company known as Associated Leisure Limited. Instructors from the Ski Club of Ireland, while still teaching at Knockrabo, also acted as instructors at the Pat Quinn slope at the Dublin Sports Hotel.

However, after about a year, the Dublin Sports Hotel also became insolvent. After lengthy negotiations, the Ski Club of Ireland bought from Associated Leisure all the ski slope's assets, including almost 200 sets of skis and boots, for £10,000, despite the fact that Associated Leisure claimed to have already sold the assets to the Crystal Palace ski slope in London. The Ski Club raised this £10,000 by borrowing £7,000 from some members and adding this to approximately £3,000 of its own resources, raised through running ski holidays abroad, discos at Knockrabo, from membership subscriptions and from the ski school at Knockrabo.

The Ski Club also entered into a rental agreement with the new owner of the Hotel (Mr. Paddy Cosgrave) for use of the land at Kilterman as a ski slope.

Discos and Holidays

The discos which the Ski Club ran at Knockrabo were held on the third Friday of every month in the winter, and were one of the best known discos of that era in Dublin. For £1.50 at the door, one was served a chicken or lamb curry supper (made by members of the Ski Club) and, as well as the disco, had unlimited free wine and free beer for the rest of the evening. The main reason the wine and beer were free was to avoid the need for a bar licence.

The Ski Club's official ski holidays abroad were also highly popular and in the 70's usually consisted of between 70 and 90 members on any one trip. The holidays were mostly to St. Anton and always lasted for two weeks. A feature of the trips was the Ski Club parties held in the resort; initially there was just one party but in later years parties were held on the first Tuesday, first Friday and second Tuesday of the fortnight. Not just would the 70 or so Ski Club members attend but they would also invite their ski school classmates and other friends made in the resort.

On one occasion for a trip to Kitzbuhel in 1976 the Ski Club persuaded Irish Distillers to provide 40 bottles of whiskey free to promote the sale of Irish whiskey abroad! Despite some very successful parties, a number of bottles were left over which were later applied most enjoyably to a formal end-of-season dinner in Kilterman, involving venison (from cullings of Wicklow's deerherd), flaming baked Alaska and liberal Irish coffees.

The Move to Kilterman

It was ironic that the Ski Club bought the assets in Kilterman on Holy Thursday in 1975 and on the following day, Good Friday, it started to snow heavily throughout Dublin! Much work had to be done that summer by Ski Club members to prepare the ski slope which, as a result of the long drawn out receivership of the Dublin Sports Hotel, had become almost invisible as a result of the grass growing through the ski mat. No underlay had been laid. The ski slope was almost as long as today's slope and was flood-lit. It was equipped with a ski tow, but Pat Quinn's people had never succeeded in getting the ski tow to work. This was left to the Ski Club to do after the Club had acquired the slope.

The ski slope at Kilterman was officially opened in October, 1975, with a very large attendance of over 500 public spectators ranking 3 to 4 deep up both sides of the ski slope. The attendance included the Ambassadors of all the European Winter sports countries and a number of TDs, together with the press and camera crews from both RTE's News and Sports departments.

The slope was opened by Sir Basil Goulding who, like Lady Valerie Goulding, was a very keen skier and one of the original shareholders in the limited company. Sir Basil, in front of the large crowd, skied on his own from top to bottom. Then the instructors put on an exhibition of formation and ballet skiing. Hans Kuwall, the Austrian-born head of the Hill End slope in Edinburgh and Director of Ski Instruction in Scotland, trained the instructors for this exhibition. The opening of the ski slope was the first item on the 9 o'clock TV news that Sunday evening.

Unfortunately, the Ski Mat matting in Kilterman was a moulded material which was very brittle and proceeded to shed its bristles at a fast rate. It had to be entirely replaced with Dendix over the following two years. The Dendix ski matting was made by a company called Dendix Brushes Limited from Wales, whose main business then was making the long plastic brushing material used in car washes.

During that winter, the Ski Club bought over 100 pairs of new skis for £900 from the receiver of "the Mountain Hut", a mountaineering/outdoor sports shop in Dublin. A number of skis were sold to Club members and the Ski Club recouped all its outlay.

The Ski Club ran its first end-of-season races in March 1976 and that also appeared in the main 9 o'clock news that evening. Over the following years, the Club held Official Openings to the ski season each October, with the instructors giving an exhibition of formation and advanced skiing, including jumps, spread-eagles and ballet. The full ski-teaching progression of each class, from beginners walking on the flat to short-swings and racing turns, was demonstrated live on the slope with the instructors acting as pupils and a full commentary over the PA system. The public were also invited to have a free class. The instructors wore a green sweater with white horizontal stripe.

Incidentally, about 20 members from the Knockrabo days are still involved in the Ski Club at Kilterman today.

Demand for Ski Lessons

Business at the ski slope increased by 50% p.a. for the first five years, and by about 25% p.a. for the next 10 years. This was a result of heavy marketing and promotion, using flyers, posters, car stickers, luggage labels and direct mailshots, as well as hosting Cheese and Wine Receptions in a Harcourt Street Hotel, holding Film Shows in Carroll's Theatre and Tea Dances in a premises in Nassau Street.

As a result, there was a need for many more ski instructors. The Ski Club's better skiers were encouraged to take BASI training courses (Gotzens, Elaine) and get their BASI qualifications. In parallel with this, the Ski Club brought Hans Kuwall and his fellow BASI trainers (John Hynes, Pat Finlater and others) to Kilterman to undertake training and assessment and award qualifications, where merited, as artificial ski slope instructors (ASSI).

When the Ski Club moved to Kilterman first, it had the use of two rooms at the end of the bedroom block of the Hotel as an office, and for the storage and issuing of ski and boots. Over the following few years, three extra rooms along the bedroom block were acquired from the Hotel. Later on, a hut owned by the Hotel was moved to the end of the bedroom block and that, plus the five rooms, became the headquarters of the ski school for the next few years.

The First Regrading

In 1981, under the guidance of Mel Columb and John Leonard, the Ski Club undertook the first regrading of the slope at Kilterman. New Dendix matting was also put down, and a ramp was built at the top of the slope. The top of the slope was turned 15 degrees to the right to more or less its current position. Members may remember the sausage-type banks and moggils and the hut at the top of the slope. Most importantly, the main Poma lift was installed. Needless to say, this was an expensive operation and again a loan was raised from members. An improved slope and increased activity necessitated a supply of new skis and boots, and this was a matter at which John Leonard became the Club's expert. During that time the financial management of the Ski Club continued to be a key focus.

International Racing Commences

It was about this time, that the Club first commenced international racing. Under John Rapple's leadership, ably supported by Jimmy Shortt, the Ski Club's junior racers began to ski competitively against other ski clubs in Scotland. Following from that, in 1981 the Ski Club held its first international inter-club racing event at Kilterman.

More Social Activities

From the social point of view, the Club had ceased to run discos at Knockrabo, but for a ten-year period from the late 70's to the late 80's, it ran very successful parties at Kilterman in the summer, either by the side of the lake, in front of the Hotel, or at the foot of the ski slope. These were run, generally on Midsummer's Night in June, with a marquee and a live band. Again, with true Ski Club hospitality, the fare consisted of barbecued steak with wine, salads and boiled potatoes, all finished off with fresh strawberries and cream. The Club ran a wine and beer bar at the foot of the slope, but no longer free! This particular event became popular, not just for members of the Ski Club, but as a pleasant and fashionable mid-summer event for many non-skiers.

The Hotel had changed hands about three times by the mid-80's - the current owner is the Ski Club's sixth landlord. Of the first three owners that the Ski Club dealt with, two got into financial difficulty. As did the owner before the Club's arrival.

In 1985, and for the following few years, the Ski Club held some very successful winter sports fashion shows at the hotel in Kilterman, under the direction of well-known member, Cllcs of Naas. Winter sports fashions from the leading shops in Grafton Street and elsewhere in Dublin were paraded by some of Dublin's best known models. At one of these, the Ski Club launched its first ski instructor uniform (yellow and navy with red) with a green and navy with white version for members. The child model was a certain Catherine Roche.

These uniforms were designed by students at the National College of Art. A new Ski Club logo was also introduced which was designed by Len Gallagher. This had a skier in green outline, formed from the letters SCI, skiing inside a large white shamrock.

The Formation of the Limited Company

In 1983, a limited company was formed which acquired all the assets and undertakings of the Ski Club of Ireland from its members. Simultaneously, the Ski Club revised its Constitution to recognise this and make a number of other amendments. The reason the limited company was formed and the manner in which the limited company operates is described further in this Memorandum. This company was not then called the Ski Club of Ireland Limited because, as already referred to, a company of that name already existed, though owned by the Ski Club. An application was later made to the Registrar of Companies and permission granted (which is quite unusual) for the new company to take the other company's name. The older company became dormant and was later struck off the Companies Register.

Purchase at the Scalp

In 1986, the Ski Club began to acquire a 12-acre site (bought in two lots) just beyond the Scalp on the left of the road to Enniskerry, as a new location for the ski slope. Planning permission was obtained from the Wicklow and Dublin County Councils. However, an appeal to An Bord Pleanála was lodged and after an oral hearing the objection was upheld by An Bord Pleanála, and the planning permission was withdrawn.

Summer work parties were a regular feature for many years at Kilterman. Most of the work involved laying and joining the Dendix mats by hand from the top to the bottom of the slope. Some years, to save money, the Dendix was bought, not in mats but in strips, and then assembled into mats on work benches outside the Club's rooms in the Hotel block.

More Marketing

In 1985, 1986 and 1988 the Ski Club published an annual magazine to mark the opening of the season (under the editorship of Len and Pat Gallagher). These were crammed with interesting and amusing articles written both by members and non-members (including the well-known journalist Kevin Myers) and loads of photos of Ski Club members at Kilterman and abroad. The magazine, which was free to members, was available in a number of shops throughout Dublin.

Ski lessons during the day for schools commenced in the early '80's and have developed since then into a significant part of the Club's ski school activities. Many good Club members and future racers learnt their skiing in this manner, including a 12-year old Derek Tate (now a BASH I ski trainer and manager of his own ski school).

Irish Association of Ski Instructors

So that Ireland would have its own independent Ski Instructor body and because of the need for a continuing supply of ski instructors, in 1988, the Ski Club established the Irish Association of Ski Instructors, now renamed as the Irish Association of Snowsports Instructors.

The October Official Openings of the ski season ceased with the beginning of the Ski Club's international races in 1988. These developed into the Ski Club's FIS-recognised races in 1992, which have continued since then with increasing success and with top racers from the UK attending and competing for FIS points. These races earned great recognition for the Ski Club and for its racing team.

In 1990, a small tow was installed on the nursery slope for beginners. This was waist high and had little bars on the cable to grip as one was pulled slowly up the slope.

Major Improvements to the Ski Slope

In 1992, a major regrading of the ski slope at Kilterman was undertaken, transforming what existed then into what one sees today. The gradients of the slope were changed very considerably by scooping out ground at the lower end of the slope establishing the banks across the slope and building up the ramp at the top. This exercise involved major excavations and earth moving. The slope was lengthened and the intermediate slope was created. The sprinkler, drainage and recycling systems were installed. A second nursery slope was established. The main lift was extended and the new lift at the intermediate slope was installed. All the gradients on the slopes were carefully calculated and constructed by Mel Columb and Frank Lee, and the work was assisted by the technical expertise of John Leonard and John Breen.

This regrading and development was very substantial and took place over the summer months. The cost was significant and the financing involved raising a much larger loan from members of the Ski Club. All of the loans were repaid within the next few years.

Lease from the Hotel

At the same time, detailed and intensive negotiations took place with the then owner of the hotel (Mr. Chuck Feeney's representative) resulting in the Ski Club entering into a 35 year lease with the Hotel in 1992. Arising from this agreement the Ski Club gave up the use of the five rooms in the bedroom block and moved the hut from the base of the bedroom block to where the ski and boot issuing room is currently located. That hut was simultaneously extended and forms most of what is currently seen at Kilterman today. A further extension and the two maintenance cabins were added some years later. Permission was also given by the Hotel to the Ski Club to build a clubhouse at the foot of the ski slope and the Hotel agreed to support the Ski Club's application for planning permission.

The Ski Association of Ireland

In 1993, the Ski Club established a Steering Committee to re-vitalise the Ski Association of Ireland, which is an independent governing body for skiing in Ireland and is affiliated to FIS (Federation Internationale du Ski). The Ski Association of Ireland had been formed some 20 years earlier and is the body to which other ski clubs in Ireland were expected to affiliate. The former UCD Ski Club and the former Trinity Ski Club had affiliated to the Ski Association of Ireland in the early 70's as well as the Ski Club of Ireland. By 1993 the Ski Association of Ireland had not met for about 20 years but to keep the Association's affiliation to FIS alive the Ski Club used to pay its FIS fees for it each year. This later enabled Bob McKee from Stowe in Vermont to ski for Ireland in international races.

The re-establishment of the Ski Association of Ireland (now renamed The Snowsports Association of Ireland) was essential in facilitating the Ski Club's racers to participate in international racing abroad. The Club's first FIS-recognised races took place at Kilterman in October, 1992.

The Last 10 Years

The members will mostly be aware of the Ski Club's progress since then, but perhaps a few important developments should be highlighted.

Club and international racing by the Ski Club's (and the Irish) ski team has gone from strength to strength with many great successes and much recognition for Ireland. Snowboarding has become a welcome and rapidly growing new activity. Ski training for the Special Olympics squad and Kindergarten classes have become regular features of the Club's activities.

One and a half acres of land at the top of the slope were acquired by the Ski Club with a view to extending the slope in due course, accommodating snowboarding and possibly incorporating mogtills. The Ski Club's administration systems were computerised and a very high standard of service is provided by its dedicated office staff.

It could be said that the Ski Club of Ireland's ski slope at Kilternan has truly become a major national amenity.

Mr. Feeney sold the Hotel in autumn 2001 to a Mr. Hugh O'Regan. A meeting has already been held with the new owner about acquiring additional land to the right of the slope and building a clubhouse at the bottom.

The Ski Club of Ireland and The Ski Club of Ireland Limited

The main reason a limited company was formed to acquire the assets and undertakings of the Ski Club was to provide legal protection to the members of the Ski Club in the event that they might be sued for damages that could arise from the operations of the Ski Club and the ski school at Kilternan. Under a Club structure, a party who claims to have been injured may sue any member of a club personally for the damage that the alleged injured party has suffered. When a company owns the business, the claims are made against the company, and the agents of the company are indemnified by the company in respect to any such claims. As a result, any litigation is made against the Ski Club of Ireland Limited and the company's policy and practice is to defend itself vigorously against such claims.

The members of the Ski Club, by a series of Extraordinary General Meetings in 1982 and 1983 and after considerable legal advice, agreed to transfer all the assets and undertaking of the Ski Club of Ireland to the Ski Club of Ireland Limited. This company was a company limited by guarantee and it was a feature of the arrangement that all Presidents of the Ski Club would be invited to become guarantors of the company after they retire from their presidency.

To form a company limited by guarantee there must be at least seven guarantors and when the Ski Club of Ireland was formed it so happened that there were exactly seven former Presidents available at that time. The Company also needed Directors which, in the case of clubs, are usually known as Trustees, and the Ski Club of Ireland Limited must have between three and five Trustees. As well as agreeing that each retiring President must be invited to become a guarantor, it was also agreed that a mechanism could be put in place so that, where practical, the Trustee positions would rotate amongst the guarantors. However, no guarantor can be obliged to become a Trustee.

Responsibilities of the Trustees

The Trustees hold the assets of the Ski Club of Ireland in trust for its members and are obliged to act in the best interests of the members of the Ski Club. So, apart from providing protection to the members of the Club from potential litigation, the Limited Company also is the legal party that holds the members' assets in trust for them. In the extremely unlikely situation that an AGM was never held or a Committee failed to meet, become grossly depleted or resigned or were otherwise negligent in the management of the Ski Club, it would be the duty of the Trustees to see to it that a management body was put in place to continue to run the Ski Club and ensure that its facilities would be available to its members.

The Trustees not only have these responsibilities but also have legal responsibility under the Companies Acts and, in their positions as Directors, can be held responsible for breaches of Company Law. It is the Trustees, for example, that must sign letters of representation to the Ski Club's auditors, sign the audited accounts of the Ski Club of Ireland Limited, and make the annual returns to the Companies Office. It is the responsibility of the Trustees ultimately to defend the Company and the Club against litigation and to ensure the Ski Club's assets are adequately protected and insured. If the Club had no Treasurer, for example, it would be up to the Trustees to see to it that the Club's accounts were properly kept and the Club's funds were adequately protected. The Trustees, in their position as Company Directors, are also responsible under health and safety, environmental protection and other legislation.

The Limited Company has a Memorandum of Association and Articles of Association. In parallel with this, the Ski Club of Ireland has its own Constitution, under which it elects a Committee and Officers every year. Legally, it is the Trustees of the Ski Club of Ireland Limited that must endorse the appointment of this Committee as the Management Committee of the Club for the following year. Naturally, this has always happened.

Responsibilities of the Ski Club Committee

It is the responsibility of the Committee to run the Ski Club throughout the year and to look after all the day-to-day and year-to-year operations of the Club. This includes, for example, setting the membership subscriptions and ski school rates, marketing the Club's facilities and services, setting and operating an annual budget, keeping monthly accounts, keeping the Club's records, running the ski school, appointing racing, office, maintenance, social, safety, etc., committees, and ensuring these committees carry out their delegated tasks, safe-guarding the Club's assets, carrying out improvements to the Club's facilities and generally running the Ski Club for its members. The Trustees are not involved in any of these activities though they may be consulted from time-to-time and will be kept informed on important matters. However, to incur capital expenditure above a certain figure or to enter into long-term contracts (e.g. lease obligations) or other commitments of a major nature, including borrowings, the Committee must get the approval of the Trustees.

In practice, the Trustees endeavour to meet the Ski Club Committee or the Officers of the Committee at least once per annum so that they can be briefed on how the Club has gone during the season and to discuss any major issues.

Long-term Planning

Being a body of a more permanent nature than the Committee the Trustees are well positioned to develop, with the President of the time, longer-term plans for the Club's future. Whenever major developments are contemplated by the Trustees, it has been the practice to consult with all former Presidents and, naturally, also with the current President and through him/her with the Committee of the time. This took place, for example, before the purchase of the 12 acres at the Scalp and prior to the major development at the slope in 1992.

Continuous Commitment

One of the impressive features of the Ski Club is the continued involvement of former Presidents in the development of the Ski Club and skiing in Ireland. It says a lot for their commitment to the Ski Club that, happily, all 14 of the Presidents that the Club has had since it moved to Kilternan are still involved in the Ski Club in one capacity or another.

As all have been Presidents of the Ski Club at various times throughout its life, they are in many respects representative of both the Club's achievements in the past and its ambitions for the future.

John Barrett and Peter D'Arcy have for years been heavily involved in running the Snowsports Association of Ireland ("SAI"). Robert Norwood and Anne O'Connor have now been appointed to the SAI Committee. Len Gallagher (a former Trustee) has been Chairman of the Irish Snowsports Instructors Association and is also a Committee member of the SAI. Eddie Sythes, as well as being a Trustee, is very involved in the Irish Special Olympics Movement. Mel Cohumb (a Trustee) and Frank Lee and, up to recently, John Leonard, have been deeply involved in the main improvements to the ski slope over the years. Frank Lee is also very active running the Ski Club's racing programme. Anne O'Connor, as well as being on the SAI, continues to be an active member of the Ski School's administration, while Helen Keogh is Honorary Secretary of the Limited Company. Including the three other Trustees (Niall Carroll, Arthur Emnis and Rosemary Mayhuber) and the current President, Antony Levingston, that covers everybody!

Everyone of the Company's guarantors and Trustees have been elected to the position of President by the members of the Ski Club and have, therefore, been appointed to their positions in a very democratic manner. The current President likewise will be invited to become a guarantor when he retires. Rotation of the Trustees took place some years ago and will happen again in the near future, but with many Presidents active in so many different areas it is difficult to ask them to take on also the additional legal responsibility of becoming a Trustee.

It is important to make one final point. The Trustees do not involve themselves in the running of the Ski Club in any operational sense. When former Presidents perform certain functions or carry out some task within the Club they almost always do so in their capacity as a member of a Club sub-committee or as an agent or advisor of the main Committee in some way, and not in their capacity as a guarantor or as a Trustee of the limited company. The Trustees only act as Trustees on fairly formal occasions and are not involved in the day-to-day running of the Ski Club.

The Committee runs the Ski Club and we are all, as members, grateful to all the Committee members over the years who have developed the Club so well. To continue the success of the Ski Club into the future, it is important that members take an interest in their Club by supporting the Committee and offering their help in whatever way they can.

