

ARMY WINTER SPORTS ASSOCIATION
FIRST REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2014

INTRODUCTION

1. The Army Winter Sports Association (AWSA) was founded (as the Army Ski Association) in 1947. Since then it has encouraged generations of Army service personnel to take to the snow and ice. It has been instrumental in organising competitions from novice to the highest levels of proficiency. Many of its members have gone on to represent the Army and their country at the Olympic Winter Games and in other national and international events.
2. The AWSA's task, as it was in 1947, is to encourage service personnel to participate in Winter Sports; to develop their skills in a chosen discipline; and to test themselves in demanding conditions, thereby fostering self-discipline, fitness, courage and teamwork. Winter Sports contribute directly to military output and fighting spirit, are an essential part of decompression from operations and remain an important element of the moral component.
3. The Association has some 1500 members and a full programme of events. It receives direction from the Combined Services Sports Board (CSSB) and the Army Sports Control Board (ASCB).
4. **AWSA Disciplines.** The AWSA comprises 8 different Disciplines detailed below:
 - a. Alpine.
 - b. Bobsleigh.
 - c. Cresta.
 - d. Luge.
 - e. Nordic (Biathlon and Cross Country).
 - f. Skeleton.
 - g. Snowboard.
 - h. Telemark.
5. **Charitable Status.** The AWSA is a Public Limited Company number 7890840 and achieved Charitable Status in March 2012 Charity Number 1146256. This charter reflects the legal construct laid down in the regulations with the Charity Commission and Companies House.

MISSION

6. The AWSA is to encourage and facilitate, amongst all ranks of the Army, wide participation and high achievement in Winter Sports in order to foster the ethos of the Army and promote its good image.

CORE OBJECTIVES

7. The Core Objectives of the Association are to:
 - a. Establish a capable and effective organisation to manage and develop success in Army Winter Sports.

- b. Encourage succession planning for coaches, race officials, managers, Chairman and Secretaries.
- c. Ensure all Army Winter Sports activity is well run and organised, challenging and technically compliant.
- d. Broaden and strengthen the instructor base for all Disciplines
- e. Select strong Army teams to achieve success at the Inter Services competitions.
- f. Achieve maximum participation in all activities and competitions and encourage greater participation by novice, female and junior ranks.
- g. Encourage the development and manage the careers of elite athletes and support competitors on the international circuit.
- h. Deliver an annual balanced budget and ensure the AWSA is financially stable for the long term, including enduring sponsorship arrangements.
- i. Review competition venues and costs to ensure value for money.
- j. Maintain a communications plan that promotes the AWSA and members' interests.
- k. Assist in the development of athletes in the Combined Services Disabled Ski Team (CSDST).

ORGANISATION

8. **Governance Structure.** The AWSA governance structure comprises an Executive (Trustees) and Management Committee as detailed below.

9. **The Executive (Trustees).**

a. **General.** The Executive will direct the overall conduct of AWSA activities. In particular, it will direct policy, develop and manage major sponsorship and manage the Public (PF) and non-public (NPF) budgets through a screening process. The Executive will comprise:

(1) **Chairman.** The Chairman, who is to be a serving senior officer with a strong interest in winter sports, will be nominated and approved by the Director of the Army Sport Control Board. He is responsible for the supervision of the Association's finances and for the overall management of the Association's business. Currently Lt Gen JG Lorimer DSO MBE.

(2) There will be normally a total of four other Trustees, comprising the Vice Chairman, Sponsorship Secretary and the Public Fund Manager.

(a) **Vice Chairman. (Trustee).** Currently Brig ASD Harrison DSO MBE

(b) **Director Fundraising & Protocol. (Trustee).** Currently Lt Col JA Scott MBE SCOTS

(c) **Public Fund Manager. (Trustee).** Currently Lt Col SAJ Davis RAPTC.

(d) **Trustee.** Currently Brig (Retired) R Haldenby.

(3) **The Secretary** is responsible for organizing the Meetings and producing and publishing the minutes. Currently Lt Col (Retd) MK Allen.

b. **Terms of Reference.**

(1) To provide strategy and policy in furtherance of the aims and objectives of the Association.

(2) To consider and allocate funds to Association activities.

(3) To approve nominations for President, Chairman and Secretary of the Association and Discipline Chairmen.

c. **Frequency of Meetings.** The Trustees shall meet in plenary session at least three times a year, preferably 4.

d. **Quorum.** A quorum will have been achieved when the Chairman and at least two representatives are present.

e. **Accountability.** The Executive is accountable to the ASCB for the proper conduct of its business and national sport bodies for the correct application of their rules.

10. **Management Committee.** The Executive will manage AWSA activity through a Management Committee which will meet twice annually, usually in April and October. In 2013 the Meetings were held on 30 Apr 13 and 29 Oct 13 respectively. The Committee comprises the following:

a. The Executive.

b. General Secretary of the BFG Sport Board.

c. Chairmen of the eight individual Disciplines.

d. Exercise Controllers of EXs SPARTAN HIKE (SH) and PIPEDOWN (PDN).

e. Editor and Webmaster.

f. Chairman of the CSDST or a representative. (Non-voting).

g. Co-opted members as required. (Non-voting).

11. **Purpose of the Management Committee.** The roles are as follows:

a. Ensure the efficient management of AWSA activities.

b. Direct the future sustainment of AWSA activities.

c. Ensure coherence across the Army WS activities.

12. **AWSA Annual General Meeting (AGM).** The AGM usually coincides with the second Management Meeting and is the forthcoming Season's Launch; it is normally held in late October each year and is open to all members of the AWSA. In 2013, it was held on 29 Oct 13.

FINANCIAL POLICIES

13. **General.** The Trustees are responsible for the financial health and good financial management of the AWSA.

14. **Priorities for Expenditure.** The priority for the use of Charity funds for the 13/14 period was as follows:

- a. Funding Army competitions of Recognised and Approved winter sports at an appropriate standard and level of safety.
- b. Promoting the excellence, reputation and prestige of the AWSA as the governing body of Army Winter Sports.
- c. Assisting in the defrayal of costs of athletes representing the Army at Inter Service competitions.
- d. Maintaining a reserve to ensure subsequent years competitions can be conducted should income reduce.
- e. Supporting elite athletes at national and international competitions.

15. **Expenditure.** The Trustees agreed the following:

- a. **Events.** The main Army Championships (Alpine, Snowboard, Telemark, Nordic, Cresta and Ice Sports) were each provided funds to run the events in accordance with the direction provided by the Trustees.
- b. **Protocol.** A maximum of £25K could be spent on Protocol, which included VIP hosting at Army events, the Chairman's Dinner and the 2013 Cocktail Party.
- c. **Communications.** Funding for communications (Website and annual Magazine) was not to exceed £9K.
- d. **Grants.** The Charity made grants as determined by the Trustees, which complied with the objects of the Charity and the priorities for expenditure detailed in Paragraph 15 above. For the 13/14 Season the Trustees agreed the following grants:

(1) British Biathlon Union - £25K.

(2) Combined Services Disabled Ski Team (CSDST). £5K.

16. **Income.** Income for the AWSA was provided with income from Membership Subscriptions, ASCB and CSWSA Grants and from donations from various companies in the UK through Team Army and from Thales. There was also some income from investment dividends and bank interest.

17. **Reserves.** The Charity will endeavour to hold a financial reserve sufficient to cover the minimum running costs of one-year's Army Winter Sports events. This reserve will be drawn down only with the specific agreement of the Trustees. A proportion of the Reserve, as determined from time to time by the Trustees, may be held in Investments.

18. **Investments.** The Charity may invest for the purpose of medium term growth (2 – 5 years) with a strong emphasis on securing capital, income is not a requirement.

19. **13/14 Financial Overview.** In detail, there was an excess of income over expenditure of £1.4K, which was in accord with that approved by the Trustees. The report has been filed with Companies House.

LT GEN LORIMER DSO MBE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 13/14

20. On a more personal note, although an operational tour in Afghanistan kept me away from the mountains of Europe for the 13/14 season, I followed the progress of our athletes closely from Kabul and was in regular contact with the Trustees and Executive Committee. Most pleasing was the high level of participation, more particularly in one or two corners of the Army, where the habit of taking part in Winter Sports has seemed lost. This must be kept up.

21. In the 2014 Inter Service competitions, we were forced to share the team spoils with athletes from the other two Services, to a greater extent than I would have liked. In Alpine, the Army Ladies proved their dominance at Meribel, whilst the Men, despite some winning performances from individuals, were beaten into second place by the RAF. The Army snowboarders managed to win the men's combined inter-Service prize, with the ladies coming in just behind the RAF. In Ice Sports, and despite our Olympic achievements, the RAF is proving hard to beat in both Bobsleigh and Skeleton, although our clean-sweep in Luge proves that we continue to have plenty of talent on the ice. The Trustees have agreed plans to re-invigorate our efforts in all three of these disciplines in the coming year. In Cresta, we were narrowly beaten by the Royal Navy and Royal Marines, although it is heartening to hear that we have some talented 'young blood' emerging. The good news is that the Army continues to dominate Nordic and Telemark racing, although neither discipline should take the emerging Royal Navy and Royal Marines team for granted once they set their sights on a goal.

22. I was hugely proud of the part our athletes played in Sochi at both the 2014 Olympic Winter Games and Paralympic Games. We were represented in Bobsleigh by LSgt Lamin Deen and Cpl Paula Walker, in Nordic skiing by Cpl Amanda Lightfoot and LBdr Lee Jackson, and in the Paralympic programme by Sgt (Retd) Mick Brennan. Their stories and tales from those who narrowly missed selection for Team GB are well described in the Snow and Ice Magazine. I commend them all for their skill and commitment at the pinnacle of their various winter sports. It is fair to say that few of them would have become involved in winter sport had they not caught the bug in the Army; they are an inspiration for us all.

GENERAL SIR PETER WALL GCB CBE ADC GEN AWSA PRESIDENT'S REPORT 13/14

23. As the President of the Army Winter Sports Association in this Olympic year I was enormously proud of the part our athletes played in Sochi. The athletes are detailed in the Chairman's report above. I commend them all for their skill and commitment at the pinnacle of their various winter sports.

24. Whilst our Olympians set the tone at the elite level, I am also heartened by the participation by many hundreds of soldiers and officers at lower levels, noting that every event run by the AWSA this year was over-subscribed. Our efforts to swell participation are paying dividends. Well done! Sport promotes exactly the right sort of challenge including leadership, teamwork, physical courage, fitness and good administration, founded on a desire to win that is fundamental to success on military operations. Hence the importance of strong involvement in winter sports across the Army, regular and reserve.

25. This has been my final season as President and I am delighted that my successor as CGS, General Sir Nick Carter, has agreed to step into the post on my departure; I am confident that he will find the experience as invigorating as I have. The Trustees have asked me to stay on as an Honorary Life President, an invitation I have accepted with great pleasure. So I look forward to continuing to follow our 8 disciplines closely and perhaps visit the occasional event. As I 'sign off' as President I would like to congratulate all our athletes for getting involved, commend our volunteer officials who spend so much of their spare time making all this happen and, in particular, thank the small number of staff in the AWSA who keep the organization running so smoothly. I also express my sincere gratitude to our sponsors and donors without whom Army winter sport would not be accessible by so many. I wish you all the very best for the forthcoming season.

SUMMARY

26. It has been another very good 13/14 season; the AWSA is in good order.

MK Allen

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Lt Col (Retd)
Secretary for Chairman
19 Dec 14

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