

ARMY WINTER SPORTS ASSOCIATION
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2019

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 1600 members and a full programme of events. It receives direction from the UK Armed Forces Sports Board (UKAFSB) 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 Armed Forces Para Snowsport Team (AFPST).

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 it is Maj Gen C McClean CBE.

(2) There will be normally a total of 3 other Trustees, comprising the Vice Chairman, Sponsorship Secretary and the Public Fund Manager.

(a) **Vice Chairman. (Trustee).** Currently Brig MP Moore CBE.

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

(c) **Director Fundraising & Protocol. (Trustee).** Currently Lt Col C Sargent GG

(d) **Public Fund Manager.** Currently Lieutenant Colonel J Rhodes RLC.

(3) **The Secretary** is responsible for organising the Meetings and producing and publishing the minutes. Currently Lt Col (Retd) SAJ Davis.

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.

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 May and October. In 2018 the Meetings were held on 3 May 18 and 26 Nov 18 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 AFPST 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 2018, it was held in Piccadilly, London on 26 Nov 18.

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 18/19 period was as follows:

- a. Funding Army competitions of Category 2 and Category 3 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 for 18/19:

- 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 £23K could be spent on Protocol, which included VIP hosting at Army events, the Chairman's Dinner and the 2018 Cocktail Party.
- c. **Communications.** Funding for communications (Website and annual Magazine) was not to exceed £11K.
- 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 17/18 Season the Trustees agreed the following grants:
 - (1) Elite Athletes – up to £2K.
 - (2) Armed Forces Para Snowsports Team (AFPST) - £3K.

16. **Income.** Income for the AWSA was provided from Membership Subscriptions, ASCB and UKAFWSA Grants and from donations from various companies in the UK through Team Army and from Saab and Thales and Friends of the AWSA. 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. **18/19 Financial Overview.** In detail, there was an excess of income over expenditure of some **£1870**. This was in accord with the Trustees' plan. The report has been filed with Companies House.

LT GEN PNYM SANDERS CBE DSO – PRESIDENT'S REPORT 17/18

20. Seventy years of the Army Winter Sports Association; what an achievement! I suspect that Field Marshal Montgomery and his team will be looking down on us with tremendous pride in all that has been achieved since 1947. From its early days with only 2 sports (Alpine and Nordic), the AWSA has grown to today's 8 Disciplines and a comprehensive calendar of events. Once again,

my thanks go out to everyone over the years, who have helped develop the AWSA into what it is today.

21. 2019 was another very positive and successful year for the AWSA. The Management Team has continued to work tremendously hard to enable this success and I would like to acknowledge some key personnel: first, the Chairman of the Association, Major General Colin McClean, who has continued to provide exceptionally strong support as DLE; the Vice Chairman, Brigadier Martin Moore, now in his fourth season, who – despite a very busy day job – has worked tirelessly to support the AWSA; and finally, the background team of Lt Col (Retd) Steve Davis (Secretary), Lt Col ‘Sarge’ Sargent (Sponsorship), Lt Col James Rhodes (PF Manager), who have remained the bedrock of the Association. On behalf of all the athletes, coaches and officials who have benefited from your dedication and hard work, thank you.

22. I was delighted to see that the attendance levels at all events continued to be very high this season, with demand still outstripping supply. The task of providing winter sport for all soldiers continues to remain a harsh financial challenge. However, the figures indicate that due to the hard work of all the organising committees, the drive and determination of team captains and the application and courage of the competitors, we are succeeding.

23. In the 2019 Inter-Services Championships, we had a far better season to 2018 winning 8 of the 12 male/female team events; back to where we were 2-years ago. Of particular note Pte Poth was the outstanding male Alpine Athlete winning the overall Best Athlete award.

24. Our elite athletes continue to thrive, with Pte Rob Poth selected onto the Dalancy programme with the GB Alpine team, Sgt Amanda Lightfoot on the Biathlon World Cup circuit, Pte Miles Cawood who has been selected onto the GB Snowboard circuit, LSgt Lamin Deen and Pte Nick Gleeson on the Bobsleigh World Cup Circuit and Gdsm Raymond Thompson and Sgt Danielle Scott, who represent GB in Luge. We wish them the very best in their quests as they progress towards qualification for the 2022 Olympic Winter Games.

25. Army Winter Sports is hugely important to the retention of our officers and soldiers and I am delighted that it continues to flourish, despite the increasing strain on financial budgets. I look forward to seeing athletes, coaches, officials and support staff next season, either on snow or ice, or perhaps even both. Good luck for the new season ahead.

SUMMARY

26. It has been an excellent 18/19 season. The AWSA continues to be in very good order and the very best of wishes to everyone.

SAJ Davis

SAJ DAVIS
Lt Col (Retd)
Secretary for Chairman
7 Dec 20