



**PRESS RELEASE**

**News Release**

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**CAIRNGORM BIATHLON and NORDIC SKI CLUB SCORES WITH SPORTSMATCH**

Cairngorm Biathlon and Nordic Ski Club (CBNSC) will be able to encourage local children to take up the sport of Nordic and Biathlon, thanks to an award of £8,300 from SPORTSMATCH and sponsorship of £12,500 from Broadland Properties under the sports sponsorship scheme, SPORTSMATCH. Mr Tim Walker, Principle of Glenmore Lodge will present the cheque on behalf of sportscotland.

Funded by the Scottish Executive and administered by sportscotland, SPORTSMATCH was launched in 1992 to encourage businesses to sponsor community sport projects. Today, SPORTSMATCH partners a wide range of businesses of all sizes, matching their sponsorship £ for £ and publicly acknowledging their contribution to sport in the community.

The sponsorship fee of £12,500 and the SPORTSMATCH award of £8,130 will be used to develop the club by funding all the equipment needed in setting up a new club, a foreign snow training camp and coaching.

Alastair Dempster, Chairman of sportscotland said, "Cairngorm Biathlon and Nordic Ski Club is one of more than 1,000 sports groups throughout Scotland to have benefited from SPORTSMATCH. Our thanks go to Broadland Properties Ltd for this sponsorship. This is a great example of how businesses working in partnership with sports organisations and SPORTSMATCH can make a significant contribution to community sport, enhancing the lives of many young people in Scotland."

Mr John Guthrie, of Broadland Properties Ltd said "Broadland Properties Ltd is pleased to be able to contribute to the development of Biathlon and Nordic skiing in the Cairngorms of Scotland and we look forward to watching local youngsters and adults, enjoy the sport."

Taking up the position of Head Coach is 6 times Olympian Mike Dixon MBE BEM who is a founder member of the CBNSC along with Alastair Dargie, the club's Assistant Coach.

As Britain's most experienced and successful Biathlete, Mike Dixon commanded the great privilege and honour of Great Britain Flag Bearer at 3 Olympic Opening Ceremonies. Mike's achievements include 12th, 13th and 21st placing at Olympics and in 2004 he won the tough BBC reality endurance programme "Hercules". He was awarded the Winter Sports Person in 1992 and received a BEM in 1992 followed by a MBE 1998. He was instrumental in the winning success of Kath Joy in the BBC's programme "The Challenge" in 2004 where Mike coached the novice skier.

Alastair Dargie was a former member of the Scottish Nordic Squad, British Nordic Squad and a Director for the British Biathlon Union. As a former British Roller-ski champion he was a Roller-ski World Cup Team Captain and reached a credible position of 29th in a Roller-skiing World Cup.

The CBNSC entered a team into the British Championships in Ruhpolding, Germany in February and up against 43 teams, won the British National 4 x 7.5km Biathlon relay. This is the first time any civilian team has won this title! There are high hopes for next year as already there is great potential with the youth of the club, in particular Alastair Duncan who has been selected for the British Junior Development Team.

Mike Dixon, Chairman of Cairngorm Biathlon and Nordic Ski Club said "The support that we have received from Broadland Properties Ltd, combined with the SPORTSMATCH Award, means that we can encourage more youngsters to be able take up the sport of Biathlon and Nordic skiing and increase membership of the club. Having devoted 18 years to Biathlon, I am keen to pass on my knowledge to the youth, in this fun and demanding sport. Nordic skiing (cross-country skiing) and Biathlon are viewed by leading experts as one of the most demanding sports there is. Nordic skiing could be likened to running or walking on snow, the CBNSC will use 'roller-skies' to simulate skiing on snow and there will be training camps abroad for on snow training. In the Biathlon, (Nordic-skiing and sports rifle target shooting) it is an amazing feat, that a person skis to his/her maximum, stop, calms their heart beat as much as possible in a race, then shoot at 5 targets with a .22 rifle and continue to ski on."

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