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**To: Snowsport Scotland member clubs from the Honorary President**

September 30<sup>th</sup> 2005

Dear Scottish Snowsportsmen and Snowsportswomen,

When, a few years ago I was gently shunted into the Honorary Presidential siding I expected little more than to simmer gently, tank-engine-Thomas style, in the autumn sunlight. Apart from keeping the SnSc image bright at the Holyrood Cross Party Sports Group and in one or to other national and international quarters, I expected only to be wheeled out occasionally to cut anniversary cakes and the like.

I was surprised, therefore, but also rather flattered to be asked to come back out of retirement to take over the Alpine Racing Committee for a year and to groom a successor. I am told that at its last meeting the Board approved my appointment and general plans.

I must confess that I have been rather dismayed by the state in which I have found things but am reasonably confident that the right help can be recruited to put matters back on track.

It was almost coincidentally that I discovered quite how far "Bob" – the British/UK ski administration review and "modernisation" process, had proceeded. And when I asked folk how they felt about it was horrified to find that very few knew anything substantial about measures which are still officially scheduled to be presented for ratification on November 7<sup>th</sup> of this year and adoption in 2006. The proposals for restructuring would appear to see most of Snowsport Scotland's independence, operations and hence funding subsumed within a single UK structure. It would also appear that our Board of Directors is in favour of the general proposal. I could find no reference to the matter in any electronic or hard copy publications from the office although there are some documents on the Snowsport GB web site which all of us need to read quite carefully.

I may no longer be active in the sense of being a Director of Snowsport Scotland but despite nearly four decades of involvement with Scottish skiing I still retain a passionate belief in the original aims of our governing body. More than just incidentally SnSc enjoys firm support from sportScotland which acts on behalf of the Scottish Executive to help administer Scotland's sport, a matter devolved to the Scottish Parliament under a ministerial portfolio.

The urgency of the published "Bob" timetable has forced me to by-pass usual channels which could take far too long to call an official general meeting. For this I accept full personal responsibility.

Thus it is that I urgently ask you to be represented at a meeting of SnSc member clubs to be held ahead of this year's AGM on 20/10/05 at 7.30 pm in the Royal George Hotel in Perth and to spend some time beforehand reading the information published on the Snowsport GB website and of which I attach my own digest. I must emphasise that this meeting is unofficial and has no constitutional status.

Unfortunately I leave well before first light tomorrow to attend international school sport meetings on the other side of the Atlantic, will certainly be unavoidably away until after the middle of October and may not even be back in time to be present at the meeting.

In my absence and following a series of discussions with some of my long-term friends in Scottish skiing I have asked Tony Trayner to act with them on my behalf.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the status quo and to consider various proposals for appropriate action.

Pending my return please feel free to talk to Tony on 079 66 000 432.

Yours with great sincerity and all my very best wishes,

John Clayton