



Summary of Annual Report 2015/2016

Board of Directors

Board Activities

During last year's AGM members elected a new Board of Directors, which consists of 10 members. The Board oversees the finances and programming of the club and provides direction to Chelsea Nordiq's head coach, who also attends the Board but who does not vote when it comes to decisions. The Table below lists the current members of the Board, their functions and their status with regards to this year's elections.

Strategic Exercise

Normally, the Board meets regularly between May and December and only picks up regular activities again in April. During the busy skiing season the Board typically deals with critical business items by email. Not this year, though! The Board scheduled additional meetings during ski season to explore and analyze potential new strategic directions for the club.

The Board held three strategic planning sessions facilitated by Julie Westeinde to explore current strengths of the club and to capture the spirit and nature of our community that keeps us energized. The sessions also identified potential areas of improvement and growth. During the last session the Board combined everything into an action plan to achieve the strategic goals of the club. We are hoping to present this document before the AGM and invite you to read it and come to the AGM to discuss the club's future direction.

Thank You Volunteers!

Besides the Board of Directors, many other important club functions have been fulfilled by the same volunteers for many years. For example Stew McIntosh, our head waxer, purchasing expert and team trip coordinator, Jenny Sanchez, our registrar; Pablo Sanchez, our IT guru and Chantale Lortie, who is representing Chelsea Nordiq on the Association des clubs de Biathlon du Quebec and who also sits on the Board of Biathlon Ontario. And then there are Richard Holder who has managed the ski-swap for the second year as well as Dan Mallett who has ran the Super Sprint Jeunesse for the third year in a row. And, of course, Jill Kearney who organizes the Chelsea Nordiq volunteers.

Although Chelsea Nordiq has some paid coaches, the club would not function without our volunteer members. Our athletes would not be nearly as successful if it wasn't for the countless volunteer coaches and coach assistants, volunteer program coordinators, volunteer race officials, event organizers, bakers, drivers, cheering crowds, and of course 'volunteer' volunteer coordinators for nordic and biathlon events.

The Board thanks all volunteers for their hard work this year and recognizes their vital contributions.

Athletes' Achievements and Performance

Nordic Racing

This year the Chelsea Nordiq Cross Country Race team had a lot of success. We had athletes in more races in more places than ever before. For the first time Chelsea Nordiq had athletes in every category

at Canadian Championships taking 17 athletes to Whitehorse. After Nationals, Laura Leclair was ranked 2nd in Canada in her age group and Alia Sanger was ranked 8th.

This year marks the first time that Chelsea Nordiq has had nordic ski athletes race in Europe! Laura Leclair qualified for a Junior B tour in Europe and skied 6 races, 3 at the German National Championships and 3 in the Alpine cup in Switzerland. She ended the tour as the top Canadian athlete. Chelsea Alumni Will Dumas also qualified for World Junior Championships as a sprinter.

There was lots of excitement on the Ontario and Quebec Cup series this year with Chelsea Nordiq once again receiving many medals. Chelsea Nordiq received 6 gold medals, 6 silver medals, 8 bronze medals and 38 top ten finishes.

In local racing there were many awards with Chelsea Nordiq winning the National Capital District award for best team. In local racing we won 31 gold medals, 38 silver medals, 23 bronze medals. Chelsea Nordiq also received 32 awards at the Quebec Midget NORAMS, making it one of the strongest teams at the event.

[Biathlon Bears and Racing Bears - Air Rifle](#)

On February 27-28, 10 Chelsea Nordiq biathletes competed in the Ontario Biathlon Air Rifle Championship at the Highlands Nordic Centre near Collingwood, ON - some for medals (those who live in Ottawa) and some for awards and coach's chocolates. Chelsea Nordiq Junior Boys swept the podium on both race days. Kudos for Liam and Chris Pawluck who completed their first races and shot all clean over two days! Congratulations to Zach Connelly and Thomas Trudel who won the Ontario Championships in their respective age group. Thanks to Alexandre Dumond for making this the best possible finish to the biathlon season!

The Chelsea Nordiq biathletes participated in three Coupe Quebec races this year, where the Junior Boys and Juvenile Boys and Girls collected a total of 20 medals (9 gold, 5 silver and 6 bronze). Julien White had 5 medals, Zach Connelly had 4 (in his first racing season) and Christoph Lohmann had 3 Medals. For Sabine Lamothe, Thomas Trudel and Samuel Tennier this was their first racing season and each of them had two medals. Simon Leclair and Nathan Chen rounded up the count with one medal each.

Biathlon Racing - .22 calibre

Over the 3 Coupe Québec races Chelsea Nordiq athletes won 74 medals (29 Gold, 23 Silver, and 22 Bronze). Chelsea Nordiq's strength was further recognized during the awards banquet of the Fédération Québécoise de Biathlon (formerly called ACBQ) where 4 Chelsea athletes were celebrated for their achievements in Québec: Teo Sanchez won the title for top Youth men, Piaper Veinotte won the title for best Senior Girls Athlete, Oliver Holder won the title of best Senior Boys Athlete and Christoph Lohmann won the award of most improved athlete.

At the Canadian National Biathlon Championships in Valcartier, 12 athletes represented Chelsea Nordiq including Leilani Tam von Burg and Alex Dupuis. After a slow start with slushy snow, this strong contingent won 12 medals including 5 Gold, 5 Silver and 2 Bronze. We had 20 top 5 finishes in 4 races. Two Chelsea-only relay teams won a 4th and 5th place in their respective categories. Leilani Tam von Burg won 3 Gold Medals and a Silver, Alex Dupuis won 2 Silvers and 1 Gold.

Teo Sanchez competed at the Junior World Biathlon Championships in Romania. In a strong field of almost 100 competitors, he finished all races in the top 20. With Teo's help Canada confirmed its international presence and finished in a strong 5th place.

Leilani Tam von Burg and Alexandre Dupuis raced in several races in Europe and generally had middle of the pack results, which is very good at the international level. Both Leilani and Alexandre reached the podium during Czech Cups. You can follow Leilani here <http://www.leilanitamvonburg.com/>

50th Canadian Ski Marathon (CSM) – Buckingham to Lachute, QC (Colin Bunge)

Every year the CSM is challenging and memorable. This year was the 50th anniversary and it was no exception – pushing the extremes of what can be done. This year the special CSM challenge included plus 10 degree temperatures, hours of rain, two broken groomers blocking a trail, the monumental logistical undertaking of shuttling 1700 wet skiers around a closed section of the trail (or back to the dorms). Not to mention a massive snow storm Friday night and all the rain turning the roads into ice sheets through the rest of the weekend.

But the show did go on, and many memories were made of triumphs and of digging deeply to overcome challenging odds. The old adage is so true, "I'll never do that again... until next year" 😊

Chelsea Nordiq came in as the Runner-Up in the 2016 Youth Club Challenge with 181 Sections skied. We had a total of 50 skiers registered who skied an average of 3.62 Sections. This year Bastienne Duncan-Chatelain, Zachary Wysoczanskyj and Liam Maguire completed their Bronze Award (skied all sections) and Isaac Bunge completed his Silver Award.

Club Events & Activities

Skiswap

This season's Skiswap took place at the Camp Fortune Lodge – a location that offers more space and a better flow of people. This year's skiswap also introduced electronic payments via 3 Credit card readers and 2 cash tills, which meant minimal line ups. A cello recital as entertainment and fat bike demos as well as having the bar at Camp Fortune open made this a whole new experience for clients. Over 150 volunteers helped to make sales. Overall we had very positive responses from lots of happy buyers and sellers! After all sales and payouts were counted, this SkiSwap had the biggest profit ever of over \$20,000.

Super Sprint Jeunesse

This year's version of the Chelsea Super Sprint Jeunesse was held on the exciting Ski Tour Canada World Cup course in Jacques Cartier Park. Through the club's representation on the organizing committee for the world cup (ENGNE) Chelsea Nordiq was graciously offered the use of the facility to host the 3rd edition of the Super Sprints. The event took place on March 28th as part of the Gatineau Loppet as an official Snow Kidz event sanctioned by FIS. As a result of this sanctioning the club received over \$1000 of race organizing equipment such as slalom poles, v-boards, a canopy and various other items that will be used for future events.

The event was a tremendous success with a record number of 201 skiers, which is twice the number of the previous year. The event included the hard work of over 80 volunteers, live music by the world famous Fiddleheads, Klister the CCC Mascot, four teams of skijorers, amazing chilli provided by Les Fougères, food and drinks provided by Famille Charles IGA, and prizes for almost every skier provided by Greg Christie, Bernie Sander (LAZL), Gatineau Loppet entries, Bougey Doozy Candles, Chelsea Shawarma, MEC gift certificates, Les Saisons Café, Boulangerie dans un Village, la Cigale and Chelsea Nordiq. After expenses the club generated over \$4,000 from the event! In addition, we now have 300 new bibs made possible through local sponsors (IGA, Greg Christie, LAZL, Lixar and Physiosport) thanks to Eric Leclair.

There were many special moments during the day and evening that need special mentioning such as the course designers who added the special "Super Sprint" features that included a jump with flames and a slalom course; Pierre Gravel the MC who kept everyone informed was tireless in both languages throughout the event; the Fiddleheads who entertained and created a special feeling under the big tent for over 350 skiers and parents and the 3 members of the French National Team who graciously showed up to present medals and sign autographs. Overall the event was flawless! A huge thanks goes out to all of the volunteers who ran a world class event!

Membership

During the 2015/16 skiing season Chelsea Nordiq had a total of 755 members.

New Ski-at-school Program kicks off first successful year

We did it! Or rather: Paul Place did it! The first 14 classes visited the Chelsea Nordiq Ski School this year and over 400 children from 4 schools learned skate skiing skills. After securing enough grants to purchase equipment we tasked Stew McIntosh to source 40 pairs of boots, bindings and skis. Stew managed a manufacturer discount of over 60% from Rossignol.

Paul coordinated the scheduling of school classes and coaches for each of the sessions and even wrote the required reports to the funding agencies. He provided all pictures and documents for the ski school page on Chelsea Nordiq's new web page and even made a video at the end of the season to boost interest in more schools next falls.

We moved the ski school to the Meredith Centre (rather than Chalet Des Erables) because it is a lot easier to access and the new Chelsea Snow Park is ideal for the ski school students. Please pass on the word to teachers of grades 5 and 6 in any school around us. Students pay \$17 for a session. Groups of 25 or less participants pay a flat rate. We can even accommodate mobility impaired students!

We are thinking of expanding the age group we are targeting next year and are actively writing grants to buy more boots and skis. If you are interested in helping us with the ski school as a coach or as a grant writer, please contact Frank Lohmann or Rhonda Hynds.

[A new location for Jack- and Bunnyrabbits and the Ski-at-school Program](#)

With the support from the Board, Head coach Maurice Samm negotiated hard to secure an agreement between Chelsea Nordiq, the Chelsea Municipality and David Meredith (land owner) for the use of the trails located in a hilly and forested area directly adjacent to the Meredith Community Centre. The trails feature large flat open (stadium) areas ideal for games as well as gently sloped hills for the more capable skiers.

This year the Jack- and Bunnyrabbit program used this space and the Board heard a lot of positive feedback. The Meredith Centre offers ample parking and turnaround space for school buses, which is great for the ski-at-school program that also runs on the new trails. The Ski-at-school program also benefits from heated storage rooms for the equipment (warm boots) and universal access washrooms and facilities to host up to 40 participants per session.

This cooperation is just one example of important regional partnerships Chelsea Nordiq has created and maintained this year.

[A New Groomer](#)

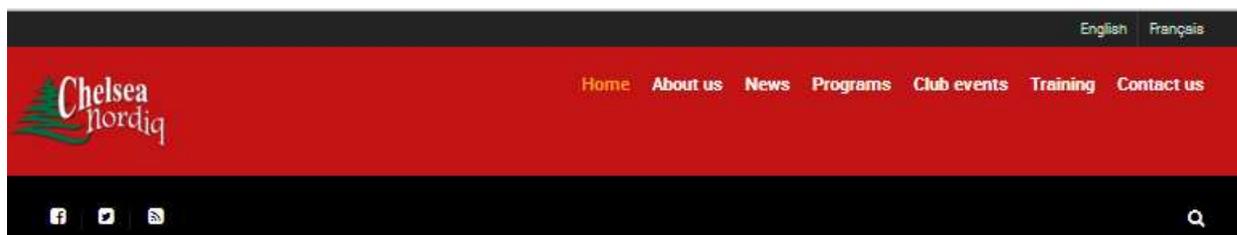
This year's relatively warm winter and late snow start has underlined the difficulty for Chelsea Nordiq to get the stadium (around Chalet Des Erables) and the Biathlon Range ready early in the season and to keep them skiable and groomed. That is why the Board approved the purchase of a Groomer

In selecting a groomer that was right for Chelsea Nordiq, we studied many options. We learned that there are many grooming solutions. We considered snowmobiles, ATVs, RTVs and we even looked at a \$250,000 "Pisten Bully". Unfortunately, the "Pisten Bully" would only allow us to groom wide snow covered trails ☺. It also would not get all our volunteers out this summer for some fun trail clearing around the Chalet Des Erables. We considered Kawasaki, Bombardier, Polaris, Honda, John Deere and Kubota. And then settled – at a 10th of the cost of a "Pisten Bully" – for a second hand 2012 Kubota RTV with a 1100cc Diesel engine with just 148 hours on it! The price included delivery and a hydraulic snow grooming system. This side-by-side machine is the most practical one for Chelsea Nordiq – ready for use all year-round.

The grooming apparatus will require a few modifications to perfect it for our requirements, plus we are currently looking for a trailer (or a sponsor) to haul the groomer between the Chalet Des Erables and the Meredith Centre. Planning for a storage garage is also underway.

[A new website](#)

Carolyn Raab coordinated the club's new website at chelseanordiq.ca. The website is bilingual and meant to capture important information for existing and potential new club members. It describes the programs and has a newsfeed. The training website remains the same (for now).



[Senior Athletes = Junior Coaches](#)

Chelsea Nordiq can't thank all its parent and volunteer coaches enough for their passion and their dedication to lifelong skiing and the love of outdoors. This year we had some of our senior athletes emerge as new (paid) coaches who have helped out in programs where there was a shortage of parent coaches. Liam Veinotte helped Olaf Jensen with the Track Attack Midgets and Maya Holder helped with the Junior Adventurers. The ski-at-school program was also supported by many new junior coaches.

[Renovating Rider's Roost and Improving the Stadium at Chalet Des Erables](#)

The renovation of the Riders Roost has continued and the space has now become a flexible space - usable for meetings, athlete warm-up or rifle and equipment storage. The highlights of this year included a new trophy case built by Dave Bradley, new baseboard heaters and a new pellet stove, a pop corn maker and hot beverage urn for the coldest days as well as a fridge, microwave and coffee maker.

The Board has also authorized the purchase of lights for the stadium area that will facilitate technical sessions at the Chalet Des Erables. Combined with the use of the new groomer, this space will become a great hub for each of the program's training activities.

[Biathlon Race](#)

Despite many senior members of the Quebec provincial team being absent because of their mandatory participation to a NORAM in Jericho, VT on the same weekend, we had the same amount of registrations as last year (126) and collected over \$4,000 from registrations. This race was the first time Chelsea Nordiq hosted the regional final of the Jeux du Quebec with 23 registered participants between 11 and 18 from the region eligible for Jeux du Quebec medals. Over the two race days Lise Riberdy organized the volunteers for 120 jobs, which included race and range officials as well as drivers for the shuttle vans sponsored by Otto's BMW and Subaru of Ottawa.

Financial Report

After introducing some controls and regular reviews of the budget last year, the Treasurer Marc Gervais has managed once again this year to keep the finances in the green. Even with slightly declining membership numbers it looks like a tiny surplus (although some expenses are still only estimates as some invoices are still outstanding). Full details were presented at the AGM and are available to members upon request. Contact treasurer@chelseanordiq.ca

Annual General Meeting

Please don't forget about the **Annual General Meeting on May 4th at 19:00 at the Cascades Club.**

The members present will elect new board members or re-elect current Board members, find out more details about the items in this report, discuss priorities for the next year - and have some wine and cheese.

If you would like to stand for election to the board of directors, please inform the Secretary of the Club (Frank Lohmann) at secretary@chelseanordiq.ca no later than April 27, 2016.