



Annual Report 2017/2018

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Volunteers

The Board thanks all our volunteers for their hard work this year and recognizes their vital contributions. You are awesome, capable and always happy. You are the heart of this club!

Chelsea Nordiq would not function without our volunteer members! Our athletes would not be nearly as successful if it wasn't for the dedicated volunteer coaches, proficient volunteer race officials, efficient volunteer event organizers, sweet bakers, safe drivers, happy cheering crowds, and of course dedicated volunteer 'volunteer coordinators' for all our club events!

This report is another proof that the volunteer power can achieve amazing things! Please read, enjoy and celebrate yourselves!

The Board has a vision of a big and happy volunteer force that is known as the best supported, best funded and with the most fun together, as working the hardest and laughing the most. When people come to Chelsea Nordiq events and watch our teams, athletes and volunteers operate they are envious and want to duplicate what we are doing. Our wax trailer is a good example of this, it is by far the best in the country and we get a lot of attention because of it. Making sure that we have glitter for our cheeks is as important as having the right wax.

Thank you to all of you who spread the passion and the spirit of volunteering for Chelsea Nordiq.

Volunteer support at club events

We found many new club members to fill important volunteer functions this year and we managed to run all club events. The Board noticed however that we continue to struggle with filling many volunteer positions and we had to spread the many event jobs over fewer volunteers this year. This is not healthy in the long term and the Board wants to reverse this trend.

We are not alone! Many other organizations suffer from the same symptom and it turns out that our volunteers are sometimes also their volunteers. The municipality has had some meetings on creating a physical literacy policy and this topic has come up from all sports organizations in Chelsea. The Board will continue to work with other organizations and the municipality to address this. In the meantime, we will have to seriously consider minimum volunteer hours. If you are interested in discussing this, please come to the AGM in May (see date below) and participate in the discussion.

Volunteering opportunities

Here is your chance to make a difference! We need you in these positions now:

- **Uniform Coordinator.** This individual has a knack for managing inventory, products and sales with a sense for nordic fashion. Anybody who wants to try out running a mini business without the risk of losing money is welcome, too. Budding uniform designers would also be considered.
- **Volunteer Coordinator.** This individual would organize the volunteer force and help the event coordinators manage their volunteering. This individual would maximize the use of the iVolunteer software and work with the Board on an awesome volunteer recognition program.
- **Biathlon – Program Coordinators (2).** We would like to introduce into the Biathlon program the successful model of how we run the nordic and adventure programs. The two coordinators would support the Coach (Eric) and the Biathlon Program Director (Pierre) by communicating with the teams, organizing the program's participation at races and events and organizing the maintenance of facilities and equipment. If you are a parent in the air rifle program or the .22 program, please consider this role.

If one of these roles sparks your interest, please contact Moe (headcoach@chelseanordiq.ca)

Athletes' Achievements and Performance

Chelsea Nordiq's "Satellite" Athletes

Laura Leclair qualified for the World U23 Championships and achieved top result of 15th place in the skate sprint!! She continued to show consistent and strong racing throughout the European B-Tour.

Will Dumas was nominated for Laval University's *Prix Jean-Marie de Koninck Award* for academic and athletic achievements. He also raced to become the national champion in the Canadian College and University Nordic Championships.

Teo Sanchez qualified and participated in the Biathlon World Junior Championships and represented Canada on the Junior International Biathlon Union Tour #1.

Alexandre Dupuis continued to train for his 4th consecutive season in Canmore, Alberta with Team R.A.D. (Real Athletic Development). He still follows his goal to progress to Biathlon Canada's national team. In a strong senior men's field, Alex placed 6th in the Pursuit race at the 2018 Canadian Biathlon Nationals.

Bravo Laura, Will, Teo and Alex! The Chelsea Nordiq ski and biathlon nation is proud of all of you and will cheer and support you on your journey to more successes!

Nordic Racing

This year the Chelsea Nordiq Nordic Race program worked together with the Skinouk ski club to create a larger training group for the nordic race juveniles and older athletes. This partnership helped Skinouk to bridge a coaching shortage and helped Chelsea Nordiq provide larger training groups for each age group.

The racing season for Chelsea Nordiq athletes was one of the most successful – if not the most successful – season. Chelsea Nordiq athletes won multiple Québec Cup medals and many athletes placed in the top 10 of their category.

Magalie D'Aoust and Sienna Brennan came #1 and #3 overall in the Québec Cup in the Juvenile category. Sienna Brennan was also honoured with the 'Révélation de l'année' title and went on to become the overall aggregate national champion for girls born in 2003. Congratulations, Sienna!

7 of Chelsea Nordiq's athletes qualified for heats at the National Championships, which is the most the club has ever qualified, including a 4th place by Stella Duncan!

As a result Chelsea Nordiq ranked as the 3rd best Québec club heading into last Québec Cup and helped the province of Québec to win the provincial banner at the National Championship. Considering all Chelsea Nordiq and Skinouk athletes combined, this training group would rank as one of the top 10 clubs at National Championships. Congratulations to the nordic race athletes and coaches for achieving this outstanding performance!

Track Attack



The Atoms, PeeWee and Midget age groups on the racing side make up a program called Track Attack. The program's focus is the introduction to racing, but still a whole lot of skill development. The program's coordinators count on a good mix of skill development and games to maximize the fun! All three groups had excellent participation in all race events and won the best club's banner for the boys at this year's NORAMs in Joliette in February. Track Attack started their season with a dryland training camp in Morin Heights in November and ended the program with a backcountry ski at sunset in fresh snow in March.

New – Chelsea Nordiq Mountain Bike Program

Last year was a first for Chelsea Nordiq and mountain biking. With 36 children registered ranging in ages 8-13 and five super awesome (Moe's sentiment), dedicated coaches and many helpful parents, Chelsea Nordiq's mountain biking program was off to a good start. The program started in May and ended in late August, meeting every Tuesday and Saturday.

We began with parking lot skills, riding obstacles such as bridges and teeter-totters, followed by some group rides on paved bike trails. We explored many areas of the Gatineau Park and developed a weekly progression in skills and terrain. We also had a group that joined Camp Fortune's very challenging sunset series races every Tuesday.

Finally, our season ended at Mont Ste Marie for a day of riding and BBQ with much discussion on how to make this year's season even bigger and better! A huge thanks to Tony Picard, Serge Coté and Francois Rainville for making this happen.

New – Kugluktuk Exchange (Senior Adventure)

[See more pictures and follow the current visit of the exchange here](#)

The senior adventure team secured an exchange partner through the [Canada Sports Friendship Exchange Programs \(CSFEP\)](#) and received some funding towards the exchange (a portion of the flight tickets). On January 12th the SA team organized a fundraising concert that featured amazing musical talents of local youth participating in the exchange and their friends. Jim Hargreave's (owner of [Le Resto](#) in Chelsea) gave a presentation on his experience in the North. It was not only interesting and educational, but also immensely helped the Chelsea group to raise \$1,275! Thanks Jim!

Our visitors from Kugluktuk arrived on March 1st and stayed until March 7th. The activities of the group included Parliament Hill, including Question Period in the House of Commons and meeting the MP for Hull, Greg Fergus and Elizabeth May, leader of the Green Party.



The first winter outing started at P6 where Moe taught everyone the basics of skate skiing. Of course the group also checked out the Mackenzie King Estate ruins and the waterfalls down the Lauriault trail. The group visited the farm in Brennan's Hill for sledding, snowball fights, a wagon ride, hot chocolate and an intense game of keep-up. The group spent one night Mr. E's cabin in Val-des-Monts playing games, performing sketches or songs and showing off our musical talents and finished off the next morning with pancake breakfast.

The group indulged in traditional poutine, visited Rideau Hall and skated on the Rideau Hall ice rink! The group visited NS (Nunavut Sivuniksavut) a cultural and academic school for Inuit youth and enjoyed a scavenger hunt all around Ottawa followed by a few hours at the mall. The group also went to Altitude Gym for some rock climbing, went bowling and played a little bit of pool, in which the students from Nunavut were amazing at.

On the last full day of the trip, the group visited the Franklin expedition exhibit at the Canadian Museum of History, we spent a couple hours there visiting not only that exhibit but also the First Peoples Hall and even the Children's Museum for those who were feeling nostalgic. The group closed off the visit with downhill skiing at Vorlage and an amazing potluck food dinner and dance at the Cascades Club! Thank you so much to Doozy Candles for your gifts!

The departure day of the guests from Nunavut started off with a walk on the Sugarbush trail, throwing snowballs reflecting on the week they've had and making a giant dream catcher. At the time of writing this report, the Chelsea Nordiq group is in Nunavut. We wish them an exciting time and hope they share their adventure with all of us.

On April 16th the Chelsea skiers went on a long trip to visit Kugluktuk. Their trip included, the Nattiq Frolics Ceremonies & cook-off, iglu building, skidoo races, skinning & carving, drum & dance, jigging and Northern Lights.



Jackrabbit Highlights

The Jackrabbits and Bunnyrabbits had a chilly start to the season with the first two weekends cancelled for the Bunnyrabbit and the younger Jackrabbit groups. Despite the cancellations, the season progressed smoothly and even extended beyond the formal 8 week program by many coaches and assistants who were able to offer make up lessons.

The program was fortunate to have a fantastic group of volunteer coaches and assistants that helped to teach the young skiers new skills and who fostered a welcoming environment for learning and making new friends. The Jamboree at the end of the season was an exciting time to show off new and improved ski skills and techniques with fun races and activities for both Saturday and Sunday groups coming together under perfect weather and snow conditions. A HUGE thank you to all who volunteered with the program!

Biathlon Bears and Racing Bears - Air Rifle

Despite a difficult start period, the Air Rifle Biathlon Program finally got going and saw many Chelsea Nordiq biathletes win Coupe Quebec medals throughout the season. A very big thank you goes to Denise Veinotte & Martin LeGuerrier for leading the Air Rifle Program through races & practices.

Biathlon Racing - .22 calibre

This year the biathlon program had more widespread success than any previous year! The Chelsea Nordiq biathletes won many Coupe Quebec and even National Championships medals. A young team headed to World Youth championships trials in Whistler with very positive results.

Many Chelsea Nordiq biathletes & coaches were honoured with awards at the End-of-Season Gala of the Federation Quebecois de Biathlon: Oliver Holder (Male Athlete of the Year & Overall Sr. Boy Coupe Quebec winner), Piaper Veinotte (Overall Youth Women Coupe Quebec winner), Pierre Dupuis (FQB Official of the Year), Eric Schryer (FQB Coach of the Year), and all of Chelsea Nordiq for the FQB Event of the Year for Coupe Quebec #5.

Chelsea Nordiq athletes won a grand total of 12 medals this National Biathlon Championships at Charlo, NB! Zachary Connelly (Senior Boy: Sprint – Silver, Pursuit – Silver, Individual – Bronze, Relay – Silver), Oliver Holder (Senior Boy: Sprint – Bronze, Relay – Silver), Mzia Lee Pottie (Youth Women: Individual – Bronze), Piaper Veinotte (Senior Men / Women Relay – Bronze), Teo Sanchez (Junior Men / Women Relay – Silver, Junior Men: Mass Start – Silver, Pursuit – Silver), Mathieu Racette (Masters Men (35+) Individual – Bronze)

This just in: Mzia Lee-Pottie, Oliver Holder and Zach Connelly were just selected into the Biathlon Canada Under 20 National Development Team! Congratulations – Chelsea Nordiq is proud of you and wishes you continued success on the national and international stages!

Chelsea Nordiq at the Canadian Ski Marathon (Colin Bunge)

This may have been the best year ever for the Chelsea Nordiq skiers in the Canadian Ski Marathon!! Second year in a row of winning the Youth Club Challenge, but the real satisfaction is in how many of our skiers took the opportunity to push themselves in this awesome event. Success in this event is setting yourself up to give it your best shot. The outcomes beyond that may or may not be within your control. Chelsea Nordiq had 59 skiers in the Youth club challenge this year, who skied a total of 267 sections giving us the highest overall average number of sections per skier. Nice work!

This year the snow conditions were amazing and the CSM used a new route starting at Mont Tremblant. It made for a beautiful and comparatively easy first day. In the dorm and at Gold Camp we were very well represented. Special congratulations to the youth skiers that completed their Coureur Des Bois levels. They skied the entire 160 km in 2 days - Karina Carlson, Zach Wysoczansky, Isaac Bunge and Liam Maguire-Burke. Well done Chelsea Nordiq!

Club Events

Coupe Québec Biathlon Race in Chelsea

148 athletes registered for the Biathlon Coupe Quebec #5 hosted by Chelsea Nordiq on 24-25 February 2018. Each day 70 volunteers provided support to the competitions under challenging weather conditions, including race officials, race site set-up, results recorders, trail marshals and shuttle service drivers. Chelsea Nordiq's Crockpot Army received amazing feedback again this year from all the participants, athletes, coaches, volunteers and officials. The event won the Event of The Year award from FQB.

Super Sprint Jeunesse

Chelsea Nordiq hosted its Super 5th Sprint Jeunesse Race! 217 athletes – between 7 and 18 years old with a smattering of masters – competed in this a fast, challenging and dynamic cross-country ski race.



The race course was a 850 m sprint race for skate skiers designed by Chelsea Nordiq volunteers as a fun course with many hill features and sharp turns. The race course was simple enough for first time racers to enjoy the race experience and challenging enough for the experienced youth to set themselves apart from their competitors. Rob Lafleur's grooming expertise in challenging snow conditions ensured a great experience for everyone right through to the last race.

The race took place in the Snow Park next to Chelsea's Meredith Centre. The creation of that space was the result of a partnership between the Chelsea municipality, the Meredith Centre and Chelsea Nordiq to create more outdoor sport and play spaces.

The event was organized with the help of over 100 volunteers from Chelsea Nordiq and many of the participating clubs. Wakefield's Pat Audet was this year's chief of event supported by a strong team of Chelseaites, who are experienced sprint race organizers: Olaf Jensen, Dan Mallett and Vic Veinotte. The race organizing team was well supported by Chelsea Nordiq's headcoach Maurice Samm.

This is one of the regional events hosted by Chelsea Nordiq that creates positive experiences for our youth and contributes to Chelsea Nordiq's mission "Ski for Life", which is shared with the municipality's goals around enabling more physical activity in Chelsea and having a community that is active for life.

Chelsea's Mayor Caryl Green personally supported the racers and their families by volunteering during the event and handing out medals to the proud winners of each age-category.

The race format for a sprint race is fun and exciting. To make sure many of the younger skiers are not getting discouraged, the organizers chose a King's Court format where all racers get the same amount of races regardless of their ranking. After racing for an initial timed sprint qualifier to determine

subsequent heat placements, the 217 athletes from 5 clubs competed in a series of three 6-person heats where the top 2 finishers in each race move to a faster heat in the next round; finishers 3 and 4 remain in the same heat, and finishers 5 and 6 move to a slower heat. This way there is no elimination and everyone races all event long.

Cookiebeiner “Race”

Well, it’s really a race but Chelsea Nordiq’s most fun family event. Cookie-loving skiers of all ages ski to check points (Gatineau Park Lodges) to collect cookies at their own pace. Skiers can ski as short or as long a distance they want while collecting cookies along the way from the first checkpoint at 3.5 km to the last at 26 km round trip. This year’s Cookiebeiner generated over \$3 300 in profit. There were 390 participants from Chelsea Nordiq, Nakkertok and Skinouk, including our Jackrabbits! Over 3 200 cookies were provided by Chelsea Nordiq families and about 45 volunteers helped to make the day a huge success.

By the way, the Cookiebeiner takes its name from the Birkebeiner Loppet, a Norwegian cross-country race that honours the historic event of the rescue of the two-year old Haakon Haakonsson by a then rebellious party (with the same name) from Lillehammer to Trondheim (a 350km distance) in 1147. The name comes from the fact that the rebels were so poor that they made their shoes of birch (Birke) bark. First they were mocked about it, but then adopted the Birkebeiner name for themselves as they came to power in 1184!



SkiSwap

The Chelsea Nordiq Ski Swap was another success this year- raising over \$18,000 for our athletes. And, like in the past, it was also a great time where people got some quality used gear, made a bit of money, talked to friends, and had some amazing chili and baked goods.

The big highlight this year (thanks to Colin Bunge) was the new location at Philemon Wright High School. With two huge gyms, there was a lot more room to display gear and for people to move around- making it a bit more or a relaxed experience.

The Ski Swap is a big event to organize and many people were already working on it weeks and months in advance to make it a success- from getting the food and silent auction organized, to working with retailers, to ensuring that your equipment will be properly registered and tracked right through to check out. A great big thanks the chiefs and assistants who put in a lot of hours to make the day a success.



The day itself was another great demonstration of Chelsea Nordiq athletes, coaches and parents coming together to host a hugely successful community event. Thanks to everyone that volunteered at the swap.

This was the first year under our belt at the new location and with a new skiswap coordinator. George Claydon managed the operation extremely well and the location allows us to focus on getting even more gear selection by promoting the event in

Ottawa and Gatineau – this year. The skiswap team might consider inviting more partners and vendors to participate and will also look into whether technology can help us to be more efficient.

This year we didn't close down [Chelsea Nordiq ***Online*** Ski and Bike Swap](#) on Facebook leading up to the actual Ski Swap because we felt that the possible losses were minimal, and that it made more sense to keep the service active for our Club community. We also used the Online version to promote the Real-life Swap.

If this report inspired you or you have other ideas to contribute to the Skiswap success story, please contact George at skiswap@chelseanordiq.ca

Ski-at-school Program

This year was not a good year in terms of snow conditions, which resulted in Chelsea Nordiq having to cancel a number of school sessions because of lack of snow. In addition, it remains a challenge to get the Quebec schools involved because of an ongoing lawsuit having to do with how extra-curricular activities are funded.

On the positive side, we still made a small profit to subsidize the grooming for the Meredith Centre and extending our boots sizes. This year we hired a 'lead instructor', which brought consistency and efficiency to the planning and operation of the ski-school.

Facilities & Equipment

Chelsea Nordiq's Kubota and Groomer Equipment

Chelsea Nordiq's Kubota and groomer equipment required some minor mechanical efforts this year and received a few equipment modifications and new grooming attachments. Stew McIntosh and Vic Veinotte also figured out transportation methods to use the groomer at the Meredith Centre and other events.

The yellow hydraulic grooming drag needed repairs from last season. So, instead of just performing a repair the drag was modified. The result was better performance, maneuverability and the addition of snow-combs to the tail end for awesome corduroy tracks. The unit became much more effective. Another bonus, the new scaled down size now allows for it to be stored in the Chelsea Nordiq's container alongside the Kubota.

The club purchased a newly fabricated snow-roller with snow-combing capabilities (imagine, two-in-one!) This masterpiece seemed to be our most popular and easiest way to keep our trails in tip-top shape. The cost was \$1800, for which we received \$600 in sponsorship contributions from the Ontario Mountain Bike Association (OMBA) and from the Gatineau Loppet.



We learned how to effectively transport the Kubota and roller. Thanks to Chelsea Municipality for the use of their flat-deck trailer. We were able to perform initial grooming at the Meredith Center while we also provided a service to the

Gatineau Loppet by grooming at the Dome Golf Course for the Gatineau Loppet Fatbike Race.

During Chelsea Nordiq's Coupe Québec Biathlon Race, the Kubota was practical for hauling equipment while setting-up, during the race and for tear-down (See Photo). Also, rumor has it that Chelsea Nordiq had the best groomed trails throughout the entire weekend despite the challenging weather we faced during that time.

The Dome Golf Course maintenance shop and crew were a big help! While the Kubota was on-site, they provided an indoor heated storage facility. This was a great time to finally de-ice the machine and tracks after some severe cold weather. In addition, they performed a complete inspection, oil change and installed a block heater. We created another great partnership which made future maintenance by their mechanic a possibility.

For the next year(s) the club needs to focus on maintaining the space and the equipment. A paint job for the container would avoid corrosion and the plywood floor inserts should be lifted so they as well as the container floor can be aerated following this long and snowy winter. And some upgrades to prevent the container's wood floor from rotting. A huge thank you to Stew who still has some great ideas in mind to get even more value out of this equipment! If this report inspired you to help, please contact ste at skiroom@chelseanordic.ca

Meredith Centre

Last fall, five club members came out to volunteer their time during 2 Saturday afternoons to prepare the trails used for the Jackrabbit program and the Chelsea Sprint Race for the 2017/2018 season. They cut new growth on existing trails, widened the trails and cut a new 150 metre trail section on the North side of the stadium. Devin Brennan brought his small backhoe for one of the afternoons and smoothed out parts of the trail by removing some boulders. The Meredith Centre trails were used this winter by the Jackrabbit Program, the Chelsea Sprints and the Chelsea Masters for Juniors Sprints.

The plan for the next season is to extend the trails behind the Meredith Centre to the border of the Chelsea Elementary school. In order for this to happen a bridge will need to be built across a culvert and more brush and trees will need to be cleared. Let us know if you are in for a few afternoons of trail pioneering.



Francois Rainville created Chelsea Nordiq signage that marks the club's presence on the Meredith Centre terrain. He also prepared a sign for the biathlon range or to hang on one of the storage containers (near Marshall hill at Camp Fortune, or at the Meredith Centre).

Fall Cleanup at the Biathlon Range

Last year saw two heavy rain storms destroying many of the Camp Fortune race trails and bridges near the biathlon range. Chelsea Nordiq volunteers inspected trails and bridges and worked with the NCC and Camp Fortune to plan and complete the repairs. All trails have been restored, but some of the bridges could not and will not be restored.

Board Activities

New – Newsletter



We have a Newsletter - once a month a short update on important events or achievements will come to your mailbox or to your mobile device.

We will try to balance the need for important communication and the overdose of emails to [All-CN] members.

If you have an suggestions for a story or an important event (ideally with a picture and a link, please send it to vp@chelseanordiq.ca.

Member Survey

The Board of Directors surveyed Club membership in March 2018 to understand how the past season unfolded. Over 140 responses were received which is a high response rate that gave us enough input from all programs and across first-year to 15-year members to supply relevant feedback.

Some of the things we learned:

- Members really appreciate the coaches.
- All programs want the benefit of 'real' coaching
- All programs are asking for more insight into other programs as they grow through the club
- Members love the sense of community & being with like-minded folks, our club philosophy of ski for life and inclusion, "where you want to be, where you want to ski"
- Need better use of Rider's Roost and our training/race trails
- Improve our club communication

The current Board of Directors will recommend that these areas are being considered for the 2018-2019 season and that specific action plans will be created by working committees to make the necessary improvements in the areas identified by the survey.

The full survey analysis is available in the club archives to any member who is interested.

Program Directors

At last year's Annual General Meeting you agreed to create three dedicated Program Directors (Nordic Race, Nordic Adventure, Biathlon). This has created a great dynamic and made the club operations more effective. The Board will suggest to add a fourth Program Director for the Jackrabbit program this year.

Striking a Practice and Race Partnership with the Skinouk Ski club

The Board discussed and created a new partnership with the Skinouk club on short notice caused by a sudden coaching shortage at Skinouk (see more information under Nordic Race). The partnership may evolve this year and both clubs are hoping that this partnership creates a practice and race community of athletes, volunteers and coaches that allows the athletes to keep their 'home' club membership.

Both clubs hope that this will avoid athletes switching clubs 'when it counts' and allows junior coaches to continue their race qualifications during the season. Chelsea Nordiq will benefit from leveraging the services of its highly qualified Nordic coaches and the Executive Director to the benefit of a larger group of athletes making its operations more sustainable.

Sponsorships

This was an area where we were not able to make significant progress despite starting the year with the intent to launch a sponsorship program. In early fall of 2017, we created a sponsorship package which outlined different levels of sponsorship we were willing and able to offer. We received a verbal commitment for multi-year sponsorship from a local sports store but did not convert this into a tangible arrangement. We did receive sponsorship money to purchase club banners (approximately \$1000).

For next year, the sponsorship package is defined and ready. It is suggested to take it out to key merchants and organizations with a focus on signing a few multi-year sponsors who can become part (and help cover the expense) of our wax trailer graphics or renovating the Rider's Roost, restoring race trails, and biathlon range improvements where the sponsors can receive signage as part of the offering.

Partnership with Camp Fortune and NCC

As a result of last summer's floods washing out trails and bridges, the Board established better relationships with the NCC and Camp Fortune. Chelsea Nordiq agreed with NCC and CF on a new protocol of approving any work on trails or bridges. Chelsea Nordiq is the steward for the facilities it uses (range, trails, roost) under a Camp Fortune Lease and NCC ownership.

New Treasurer

Marc Gervais resigned from the Board and passed on the treasurer's duties and powers to interim appointed Treasurer Matt Fantin. Matt has been doing a great job of learning and applying Marc's budget and reporting spreadsheet. Matt is seeking election at this May's AGM and he has already gained the Board's confidence in operating the club's finances.

2018 Board Elections

Are you a new Board member?

Board members don't have to be super-fast skiers or former Olympians, but we won't hold that against anybody either. If you are passionate about skiing and love spending time outdoors and are not shy about setting directions and taking decisions for the club, the club would benefit from you being a Board member.

The Board would like to encourage francophone members and the ladies of the club to think about being a Board member because the current Board is not very gender and language balanced!

Even better, if you bring a specific professional skill (finance, legal, policy, proposal writing) we can easily align responsibilities with your personal skills and preferences. The Board meets at least once a month for 2 hours between April and November and takes most decisions online during the ski season.

Here is a list of club-related activities, for which the club would ideally have designated Directors:

- **Program Director, Jackrabbit.** The Jackrabbit program is the entry point for most of our club members. The board realizes the importance of this program but struggles to put enough emphasis on JR program activities. We would like to make this a Program Director position to effectively engage with one the largest group of skiers.
- **Director, Volunteering.** This Director would implement our new volunteering vision and manage activities and tools to facilitate volunteering and to recognize volunteers.

- **Director, Grants & Fundraising.** This Director would create teams of visionaries, writers and senior club members to search out grants to support our current and future club activities – and to write winning proposals for these grants. There are plenty of grants and funding possibilities out there to help the club with our awesome program, coaches and infrastructure.
- **Director, Trails & Facilities.** This Director would coordinate with other club members the work necessary to maintain and upgrade the roost (Chalet des bénévoles), the stadium, the biathlon range & trails, the Meredith Centre snow park and its trails.
- **Director, Communications & Marketing.** This Director would work with other club members and coordinate the club’s public relations needs (get our name out there and make us more visible in the community) and to give direction as to which kind of content is needed on the CN website, social media and in a newsletter and maybe write a few articles in local papers.

Elections

This year’s Annual General Meeting (AGM), which will be held on **May 14th at 18:30 at the Cascades Club**. At the AGM you will have the chance to elect new Directors or re-elect current Directors. The table below lists the current members of the Board, their functions and their status with regards to this year’s elections.

Board members are elected for 2 year terms and asked to renew their commitment every year. Our charter stipulates that – besides the 4 Executive Positions (President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary) and the 3 Program Directors – the Board has to have at least 3 additional Directors but can have up to 5 additional Directors. Below you can see the Board positions available this year.

This is a good time to consider your candidacy. Please let the Secretary, (secretary@chleseanordiq.ca) or the President (president@chelseanordiq.ca) know if you are interested to serve on the Board.

We need one week notice, which means that May 7th is your deadline to apply – please indicate which positions you are applying for.

Current Member	Position	Status for 2017-2018 Season	
1 Frank Lohmann	President	Year 2 of second 2-year term	position available
2 Carolyn Raab	Vice President	Year 1 of fourth 2-year term	
3 Marc Gervais	Treasurer – outgoing	Year 2 of second 2-year term	position available
	Matt Fantin	Treasurer – provisory	Appointed pro-tem seeks election
4 Megan Nichols	Secretary	Year 1 of first 2-year term	
5 Pierre Dupuis	Program Director - Biathlon	Year 2 of third 2-year term	seeks re-election
6 Vic Veinotte	Program Director - Nordic	Year 2 of first 2-year term	seeks re-election
7 Nick Anning	Program Director - Adventure	Year 2 of first 2-year term	seeks re-election
8 Vacant	Proposed JR Program Director		position available
9 Pat Audet	Director	Year 1 of second 2-year term	
10 Jamie Kallio	Director	Year 1 of second 2-year term	
11 Michael Billowits	Director	Year 1 of second 2-year term	
12 Vacant	Director		position available
	Maurice Samm	Exec. Director & Headcoach	Ex officio N/A

Membership

During the 2017/18 skiing season Chelsea Nordiq had a total of 741 members, which is 9 fewer members than the previous year. However, the club's active membership increased again by 2% from 421 to 429, which is above our 5-year average. This year the gender balance went in favour of the female athletes with 52% female and 48% male. Our Chelsea-based active membership has finally surpassed the mid-mark and sits now at 56%, with 34% coming from the Ottawa/Gatineau and 10% from Wakefield and LaPeche.

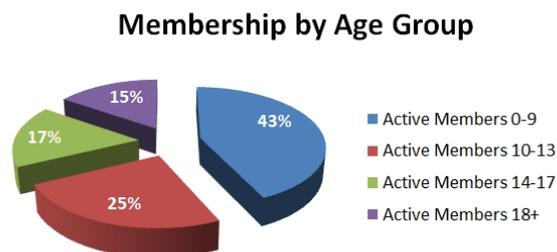


Table 1 shows our membership by age of registered active athletes over the years:

Age of Active Members	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16	2014/15
Active Members 0-9	43%	42%	46.2%	47.0%
Active Members 10-13	25%	25%	28.4%	26.8%
Active Members 14-17	17%	17%	12.1%	11.4%
Active Members 18+	15%	16%	13.3%	14.8%

With a slight increase in active membership, the trend in the age groups shows that the Jackrabbit group is recovering and that we retain the older age groups well.

Table 2 shows the numbers by program and over the last four years:

	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16	2014/15	2013/14
# of Active Members	429	421	405	447	385
Bunnyrabbits	31	32	31	40	43
Jackrabbits	138	125	126	181	170
Adventure Rabbits (9-11)	22	20	0	18	20
Junior Adventure (12-13)	18	18	25	28	20
Senior Adventure (14-18)	38	15	22	19	12
Track-Attack – Atoms	19	34	28	19	18
Track-Attack – Peewees	37	36	27	44	40
Track-Attack – Midgets	25	22	27	23	22
Nordic Race (all)	36	38	44	38	37
Biathlon .22	22	27	27	27	19
Biathlon Racing Bears	3	11	12	16	17
Biathlon Bears	21	11	16	19	10
Masters & Coordinators	42	47	40	48	45

Financial Report

The Implementation of our strategic plan over the last two years called for investments in coaching, programs and supporting capital assets acquisitions providing value added to our programs. The board kept the expense side of the budget within the budget despite a few unforeseen expenses caused by the necessary trail and bridge repairs after the floods last summer.

The numbers in the table are not final and a complete report will be presented at the AGM. But they should be should be pretty close to what will be presented at the AGM.

It is clear that we need to continue and strengthen efforts in grant and fund raising. A better and more organized approach to the financials or trip planning and ski swap has helped control expenses and will these efforts will have to continue.

Financial Summary 2017-2018

Revenues		Comments
Program Revenues	\$246,000	-6.1%
Fundraising	\$33,000	-20% (budget)
Grants/Sponsorships	\$28,000	(as budgeted)
Expenses		
Central Club Expenses	\$110,000	-1%
Coaching Expenses	\$94,000	(as budgeted)
Program Expenses	\$104,000	-7%
Surplus or Deficit	\$0	We budgeted a surplus, but trends in account reconciliation currently indicates that we will come in balanced or in a small deficit
Equity	\$116,541	

Acknowledgments

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge the contributions of all the authors of the updates and highlights. Even the writing of a report like this cannot be done without the help of our army of volunteers. So in closing this report, I would like to send a huge thank you to all the contributing authors - in no particular order:

Anne Hofmann, Matt Fantin, Patty Chevalier, Jamie Kallio, Pierre Dupuis, Chantale Lortie, Katie McMahon, Carolyn Raab, the Kugluktuk Exchange Blog Author, Jenny Sanchez, Stew McIntosh, Maurice Samm, George Claydon, Pat Audet, Eric Schryer, Colin Bunge (special mention for the fastest response), Tony Picard, and anyone who mentioned something to me during the last year that I felt was noteworthy enough for the entire club to know.

Each time for the last four years, when I read the respective annual report one last time before we send it out, I feel really proud of what Chelsea Nordiq volunteers and paid coaches achieve in that one season.

Well done Chelsea Nordiq for 2017/18!

See you in the winter and don't forget to tank up on volunteer power over the summer.

Sincerely

Frank Lohmann

President, Chelsea Nordiq, Ski & Biathlon Club