



Yad Moss News

October 2022

Winter 21/22 turned out to be poor at Yad Moss with only 3 days skiing, our second worst season since 1988. It was perhaps a case of 'Sod's Law' after the previous winter when Covid restrictions prevented us from running the tow just as the heavy snow and great weather were arriving.



Storm Arwen, November 2022

Storm Arwen at the end of November brought strong northerly winds accompanied by the heaviest falls of the season. The combination of the unusual wind direction and the wet snow brought down thousands of trees and knocked out electricity supplies across Scotland and North East England. Our operators suffered days of serious disruption but eventually got the tow up and running on the 9th December with 37 skiers and lots of snow at the top.

After a series of near misses, the next skiable conditions did not materialise until the 20th February with 40 skiers and boarders at Yad Moss. As so often happens the last couple of hours were the best as the sun came out and we enjoyed some thin but fun skiing with tremendous views across the high Pennines.



The last day of the season was the 1st April. It started well but unexpectedly the snow melted quickly and we had to call an early halt after lunch. The week before had been particularly warm and the snow must have fallen onto unusually warm ground, melting quickly from bottom up. And so ended a generally disappointing ski season in the UK and indeed much of the Alps.

The latest news from Yad Moss is that ticket prices are remaining unchanged for the 10th year running! Despite rising fuel and other costs an adult season ticket is still only £55. Returning adult season ticket holders enjoy a discount and pay £40. Meanwhile Junior skiers and boarders (under 18) pay just £10 for a season pass. If you attended three or more working parties this summer you will actually ski for **FREE!** All our Membership and ticket details are available at <https://yadmoss.co.uk/join-us/>

The other good news this year is that we received a Covid recovery grant in the Spring thanks to the generous support of Sport England. The Sport England funding will help improve snow holding and queue management around the bottom of the run. In other projects we are repairing fencing at the cross-over and at the summit where Storm Arwen caused some damage last November.



The new five-foot chestnut paling courtesy of Sport England should improve user management, snow capture and shelter in the queuing area



In some areas near the ticket office rails are preferred because of their resilience






A petrol auger makes light(er) work of digging the post holes

We've had an idea to identify a 'green' ski run from the top of the hill to the bottom of the tow. The intention is to mark an easier route particularly on thin snow days when there are few drifts to push about with the piste basher. The course we have surveyed follows gentle ground that avoids large drop offs, peat hags, bumps or the type of narrow gulleys that characterise some of the other runs at Yad Moss. From the top of the tow exit right and follow the green tipped poles traversing across to the 'enclosure' fence. Follow the fence down on smooth(ish) ground for 280m before traversing back north west towards Pylon 3 and the cross over. From there turn left and ski down 'Sunset Boulevard' back to the ticket office. The run is about 830m long. We intend to cut the grass to make it as easy to ski as possible. We'll see if it works!



The new 'Green' route. The top half is marked with poles as far as the 'cross-over'

Recently we have been sorting through some of the club archives. In the 1980s before the Poma tow was installed the then Carlisle Ski Club was still developing the two rope tows at Yad Moss as well as running the dry slope in Carlisle, instructing, race training, organising social events and running some great trips to the Alps and Scotland. Here are a couple of extracts about Yad Moss from the rather fabulously illustrated Club newsletter circa 1987.

YAD MOSS - Report of seasons skiing

There was no snow in September, October or November. The first snowfall arrived on Boxing Day and there was skiing then on through to the end of January with some very good weather marred by persistent rope breakages on Sid's Tow and a seized Yad Moss 2,000 tow.

When the Yadfathers departed for La Plagne messages came by telephone every evening reporting further breakages and seizing up of the engine. On arrival back from La Plagne the new rope for Sid's Tow had arrived and was spliced in one desperate weekend (and the French didn't seem to notice it missing!). The gearbox on the 2,000 Tow was found to have seized - the spare gearbox up there was installed and a new clutch and gearbox for the Yad Moss Ski Tow have been obtained and will be installed this summer.

Then all the snow departed!!

DEVELOPMENTS THIS SUMMER

If you were a member last year you will remember that a decision to install a tow at Edenside was postponed but in view of the enormous success of the new slope at Kendal a decision has been taken by the Committee to go ahead and install a rope tow for Edenside at an approximate cost of £2,000 for next season (which is a much cheaper version than the tow initially proposed).

YAD MOSS SAFETY

We try and make our tows as safe as possible and we want to avoid a serious accident, but there have been some 'near misses'. Enclosed with this newsletter is a short length of string. This must be used to fasten your clip to your Yad Moss safety belt. This is intended to be a weak link which will break if all else fails. PLEASE USE IT !!! Here are some other safety hints:

1. Beware of loose clothing - in particular anorak toggles wrapping round the rope.
2. Unclip your hook & get off the tow well before the stop gate at the top.
3. Only use approved hooks on the rope.
4. Remember where the stop-buttons are.
5. Report any failure of a safety device to the duty Yadfater.
6. Park your car well off the road.
7. Beware of holes and sudden drops in the snow.
8. Don't ski off-piste in bad weather.
9. Make yourself familiar with the location of our rescue equipment, stretchers, first aid etc. (in the Yad Moss 2000 Hut.)
10. No smoking in or around the huts - the fire engine might ruin the piste!!!



YAD MOSS REPORT

We have had many good days skiing at Yad Moss so far this season and one amazing weekend in January with more than 100 skiers on the Saturday and 200 on Sunday. Why is it so many people only think of skiing at Yad Moss when it snows in Carlisle?

The snow and the weather were superb but we had to spend time digging out the rope which, in places, was buried under 5 feet of snow!

YAD MOSS

For the benefit of our newer members the Club operates two rope tows on Burnhope Seat in the Pennines on Saturdays and Sundays whenever there is any snow. You can actually grab hold of the rope and it will pull you up the hill, but Mark Hillmann has invented a quick release clip to stop your right arm stretching too far up the hill. The clips (£1.00) and belts (£4.00) are available from Mark Hillmann, Meadow View, Thurstonfield (76 562).

This year the working parties have put a new (second hand) Diesel engine onto the top (Sid's) tow, more snow fencing and a ladies powder room is now provided! It is on the 2000 foot contour and Mark believes it should have a place in the Guinness Book of Records as the highest flushing toilet in England. There has been a good deal of debate as to whether it will still flush when the snow has drifted over it - undeterred Mark has an emergency chemical loo (with anti freeze) just in case And how do you make Auntie freeze Snow reports should feature on the Dorine Machine (Carlisle 60341) every weekend (and certain Thursdays and Bank Holidays) when there is any snow at all.

Our Yad Moss Ski area is 7 miles south east of Alston on the B 6277. You can just see the bottom anchor post (a sawn off telegraph post) up on the hillside to the left of the road. Please take a shovel and park well off the road as it is vital that we maintain our good relations with the Police and snow-plough operators.

David and Wendy Byatt who live about a mile from our slope at High Ashgill (Alston 941) will provide bed and breakfast for £6.50 per person. Evening meal by arrangement about £3.50.



Did you know ?

- The North Pennines is a **UNESCO Global Geopark**, highlighting its globally important earth heritage.
- The ski area lies entirely within the **North Pennine Moors Special Protection Area**. This is an enormous collection of semi-natural habitats extending from West Yorkshire to the Scottish border. It is of European significance for upland breeding species such as Black Grouse and birds of prey such as Hen Harrier and Merlin.
- **Cross Fell**, the large flat topped hill opposite Yad Moss, is the highest point in England (893m), outside the Lake District. Famous for the '**Helm Wind**' which blows down its steep western side into the Eden Valley, it is the highest area of land, at this latitude, between England and the Ural Mountains, 3,580km to the east!
- In 1979 **snow** was still visible from the M6, on the western flank of Cross Fell, at the end of August. Members of the Carlisle ski club skied there on the 2nd July!. There is a reference to this event in the recent book 'The Vanishing Ice' by Iain Cameron.
- The route of the proposed **Cumberland and Cleveland Railway** between Middleton in Teesdale and Alston would have crossed the county boundary and then run on the opposite side of the South Tyne valley from Yad Moss.



We wish you a safe Autumn and hope for good conditions this winter.

Yadmoss.co.uk