

# Katie's Ski Tracks



## Making the Impossible Possible

for children from disadvantaged backgrounds be it through life-threatening or life-limiting medical conditions, disability or extreme social problems.

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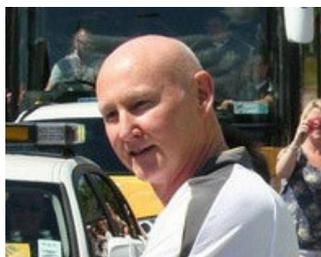
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### Contact No's

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### From the Chairman, Martin Newman MBE.

#### 2015 Katie's Ski Tracks 25<sup>th</sup> Silver Jubilee Anniversary Snow Ball

WHAT 25! Can't believe it's been nearly 25-years since Katie's Ski Tracks, then of course Ski Across was formed. To mark this momentous and prestigious occasion we will be holding a Silver Jubilee Snow Ball at one of the fine banqueting suites overlooking Aintree Racecourse Liverpool September 2015. We just know this will be a wonderful occasion as our initial 2013 Ball with just over 100 very happy diners was a tremendous success and so many of you keep asking when will we be holding the next one. Again this will be an optional black tie event at £50 per ticket and we are aiming for 250 covers this time at least equating to 25 tables at 10-persons per table. Ideally you might consider purchasing your own table, more details will be published on our website [www.katiesskitracks.org](http://www.katiesskitracks.org) and face book. Please keep checking for more information.

### Group Organiser Michelle Dooley

**Planning for the 2014 ski trip to Italy** 21st February – 2<sup>nd</sup> March is now well under way. Great progress has been made in particular on the helper carer side as we are again entertaining the usual criteria of around 11-new helpers bringing to the group fresh new ideas and enthusiasm, in other words 11-big kids!

If you wish to apply please contact [info@katiesskitracks.org](mailto:info@katiesskitracks.org) ASAP. As for the children well this is always a much slower process as we endeavour to match as near perfect the ratio of helpers, care and instruction to the children's ability, illness and methods of skiing and to match this to the adaptive equipment available to them. The Scottish contingent is now complete and the Welsh not far behind, so we are plugging away with the English flag just now. Again if you know of a youngster that you think is in need of a unique Katie's skiing opportunity please contact us ASAP. We would like to thank everyone, Trusts Foundations, companies and groups and all individuals for their very generous funding giving these youngsters these life changing opportunities.



## A plea from Andy - Fundraising Manager

Each year the cost of the trip to Italy gets more expensive and each year fundraising gets harder. There are a lot more charities in competition for the money that Trusts have to offer this means we are awarded fewer grants and they are getting smaller as Trusts try to spread their funds across more applicants. The impact for Katie's is quite simple if we don't raise enough money a trip cannot proceed, this means 20 very deserving children will not experience the thrills of a 10 day winter adventure in the Italian South Tirol and quite frankly that is unacceptable. Everyone that reads this has the ability to help Make the Impossible Possible for these needy children by raising some much needed money either by making a donation, getting sponsored or organising a fund raising event. Remember a £5.00 donation is £5.00 we wouldn't have without your generosity. There are a plethora of things you can get sponsorship for from a sponsored silence to running the London Marathon. From experience I know that running a fundraising event can be good fun and very rewarding so please give it a go. If you are enthused to help but don't know how give me a ring on 07868 660756 or drop me an email at [helpkaties@gmail.com](mailto:helpkaties@gmail.com). Thank you for your help in the future.

## New Website.

Our webmaster Tony McElroy has spent all of his recent spare time creating a new website for Katie's Ski Tracks. Tony is a very busy man and his work for Katie's is voluntary . I know at times he has found it hard to find time to complete the new website. His commitment and perseverance has ensured a superb new site that will raise the profile and portray a very professional image to all who use it. Keep your eyes peeled for the launch and prepare to be amazed. All at Katie's are indebted to Tony for all his hard work.

[www.katiesskitracks.org](http://www.katiesskitracks.org)

## PLEASE HELP US MAKE THE IMPOSSIBLE POSSIBLE FOR NATASHA.



The Kartski is an a superb new piece of adaptive ski equipment, that allows the rider to snowplough, snowplough stop and snowplough turn. Effectively learning to ski with the same progression as able bodied skiers. Natasha a Young 13 year old girl suffering with visual perception problems, but with fine motor skills has applied to travel with Katie's, and will benefit enormously from the use of a Kartski unfortunately Katie's does not posses one. Natasha will not be able to join us in February 2014 unless we can purchase for her this specialised adaptive Kartski at approximately £6,000. This special ski will then be available for many other

children on future groups. If you have any Ideas of how to help ring Andy on 07868 660756

## 2013 Annual Raffle

This years annual raffle raised a little over £1726.00 Many thanks to all those who sold tickets and an even bigger thanks to all those who bought tickets. If you didn't get any tickets to sell and feel a little left out, ring Michelle and complain make sure your on the selling list for next year. This years lucky prize winners were:-

1st prize ticket no 3091 Karen Simpson - £135

2nd prize ticket no 1137 Tom Green - £70.00

3rd prize ticket no 1674 Michelle (Jacobs) - £30.00

## Filming with ITV Granada

On Thursday 29th of August ITV Granada made a short documentary about Katie's Ski Tracks in particular the after effect and impact that the week in Italy has had on Children's lives. The filming took place at Chill Factor, Manchester and featured; Megan Baynhan, Luke Percy, Idris Vicars and of course their mums and dads. The filming lasted for about 3 hours to produce a 3 minute documentary. Below is a little about the stars who were there. The picture on the right shows Michelle discussing technical issues with the film crew.



### Chill Factor, Manchester:- The Stars who were there.

Top left - Megan Baynham  
Mid left - Luke Percy  
Mid Right - Idris Vicars

The whole point of the film was to follow the progress and document how a trip to Italy with Katie's had impacted on the lives of the children, family and carers all of who now consider themselves a part of Katie's Ski Tracks extended family.



The excitement of being back on the snow was evident for all to see and whether you learn with skis and poles, a slider or a bi-ski the skills and technique are not forgotten, the children were soon up the pommel and whooping down the slope. Megs has been skiing on a dry slope since her return from Italy so her Mum and Dad were used to the speed and shouts. Luke and Idris had not skied since Italy and although they are seasoned skiers there were a few nervous looks

from their mums for who this was a first.



An excerpt from the post filming email sent by Vicky Grimes, ITV Granada:- "Everyone was so lovely and so helpful. The children were absolute stars and did a great job. Jim (cameraman) and I both really enjoyed it."



## Hotel Argentum in the Summer.

Many will have stayed at the Hotel Argentum on one of Katie's trips to Italy and have fond memories of the snow covered mountains and the ski slope at the back of the hotel. This year I visited the hotel at the height of the summer, the hotel was bathed in glorious sunshine and the slope that so many have learned to ski on was a luscious green meadow. The difference between summer and winter seasons is quite amazing. I have revisited many ski areas in the summer and am always surprised at the transformation, for the most the slopes that had been covered with skiing holiday makers in the winter is the home for grazing cows in the summer. I took a couple of photographs and wondered how many would recognise the views without their white winter coats. I also walked through the village, visited the small church and took some pictures looking out



at the end of the valley. The views in summer are just as spectacular as they are in the winter but of course there is no need for gloves and hats a pair of shorts and sandals suffice in the hot South Tirol summer sunshine.