
ALTIUS NORDIC SKI CLUB

This has been a very difficult year for Altius Nordic Ski Club. As we began Fiscal 2019-2020, we had newly been removed from our home at the jumps in Calgary, and had yet to build any of the facilities in Red Deer. We ended the Winter session early due to COVID-19, and due to timing issues, we were unable to get a Whistler trip going, nor were we able to have any competitions. COVID-19 continues to give us troubles in the upcoming year, as we have to drastically change how we do camps, the facilities we can use, and we have had to place a moratorium on travel until it is safe to proceed.

It is safe to say that this is the most difficult couple of years the club has faced in a long time, if ever.

Despite this, we have been successful in finding ways of keeping the club going. In many ways, we are building the framework upon which the club can emerge and become stronger.

First, in conjunction with the other ski jump organizations, we were able to build a 40m jump and a temporary 20m jump in Red Deer. This summer, we plan on making the 20m permanent, and continuing to build the infrastructure to support long term jumping at the Red Deer facility as we await further work with Calgary-based projects.

Second, we have worked to get our financial house in order. This has been a process of removing expenses or finding less expensive ways of delivering our programming. We have also used Zone4, and subsequently Uplifter, to run our finances for our programs, relying on pre-payment rather than invoicing systems for program fees. We also projected trip fees and used those to collect deposits to collect most of the money in advance.

Third, we have worked hard to increase our social media presence. Our post reach is upwards of 2,000 people, although averaging 100-200 per post, without any spend. We are getting positive feedback from other groups about the Stay at Home Challenges that Wes was doing.

The next year is going to still have difficulties. There are still a number of things that we can improve with the club, and the restrictions imposed upon us by COVID-19 will continue to affect us at least through the summer, if not beyond. However, with the work that has been done in two of the toughest years, we will be able to recruit and rebuild the club, and focus on a successful future for Ski Jumping in Canada alongside our partners.

Kirk Schmidt

President, Altius Nordic Ski Club