

## Tourism Body Plans to Approach Olympic Committee To Host 'Alternative Winter Olympics' with Snow Angels, Snowmen and Snowballs

### *Royal Deeside and the Cairngorms bid to hold Alternative Winter Olympics*

Plans are afoot in Royal Deeside and the Cairngorms to approach the International Olympic Committee to pitch the area as the perfect locations for an 'Alternative Winter Olympics' event. While the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics in February will include ski jumping, figure skating and bob sleighing, the Royal Deeside and the Cairngorms Destination Management Organisation (DMO) aims to offer something different. The Royal Deeside Alternative Winter Olympics plans include synchronised snow angels, snowball lobbing - distance event, speed snow shovelling, snowman building, volley(snow)ball and snow long jump.

Willing winter sports professionals at the peak of their fitness will demonstrate the fledgling 'Winter Olympic' sports today (Friday 8 January 2010) at midday in Aboyne at the heart of Royal Deeside.

Ken Howie, a director of the Royal Deeside and the Cairngorms DMO says, "Of course Royal Deeside and the Cairngorms offers all the usual snow sports and we're already having a bumper winter season, but the Olympics has a tradition of including new sports and we're offering a selection of sports we Scots can excel at most winters."

Ken continues, "The recent icy temperatures and heavy snowfall are attracting an increasing number of visitors to the area for the excellent snow sports available in Royal Deeside and the Cairngorms. We're fortunate in the part of the world to be well equipped to keep the roads as accessible as possible and we're known for our après ski hospitality."

“It is a magnificent setting at all times of the year and the snow only adds to the beauty of the area, so those who are not taking part can still enjoy it in full winter wonderland. However, if the temperature does plunge to as low as -20 as the forecasters are predicting, the beach volleyball event won’t be taking place in the traditional bikini attire!”

Participants in the “Alternative Winter Olympics” can dream of taking home gold, silver or bronze for the fastest show shovelling of a drive way, by lobbing their snowball the furthest, having the best snow angel or plunging the furthest or deepest into the snow pit in the long jump.

Deeside Activity Park is also holding a free snowman building competition for families on Sunday 10 January at 11am. Each family will race against the clock to create the weirdest and wackiest snowman they can come up with. The winning family will be given vouchers to return to Deeside Activity Park

Royal Deeside and the Cairngorms is the official Destination Management Organisation (DMO) for tourism businesses in the areas of Royal Deeside, Donside and the Eastern Cairngorms. For further information visit [www.discoverroyaldeeside.com](http://www.discoverroyaldeeside.com) or call 013397 55283.

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